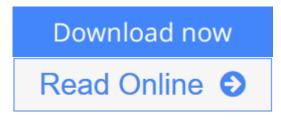


Faking It

By Jennifer Crusie



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LOVE AND DECEPTION HAVE A LOT IN COMMON.

Meet the Goodnights, a respectable family who run a respectable art gallery-and have for generations. There's Gwen, the matriarch who likes to escape reality, Eve the oldest daughter who has a slight identity problem (she has two), Nadine, the granddaughter who's ready to follow in the family footsteps as soon as she can find a set that isn't leading off a cliff. And lastly, Matilda, the youngest daughter, has inherited the secret locked down in the basement of the Goodnight Gallery, the secret she's willing to do almost anything to keep, even break into a house in the dead of night to steal back her past.

THE RISKS ARE INTOXICATING.

Meet the Dempseys, or at least meet Davy, a reformed con man who's just been ripped off for a cool three million by his financial manager, who then gallantly turned it over to Clea Lewis, the most beautiful sociopath Davy ever slept with. Davy wants the money back, but more than that he'll do anything to keep Clea from winning, including break into her house in the dead of night to steal back his future.

AND IF YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT THEM, THEY BOTH PAY OFF.

One collision in a closet later, Tilda and Davy reluctantly join forces to combat Clea, suspicious art collectors, a disgruntled heir, and an exasperated hitman, all the while coping with a mutant dachshund, a juke box stuck in the sixties, questionable sex, and the growing realization that they can't turn their backs on the people they were meant to be...or the people they were born to love.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review Setting: Columbus, Ohio

Sensuality: 7

Mural artist Tilda Goodnight is struggling to pay off the mortgage on the family business and keep the Goodnight secrets safely hidden. Juggling her life gets even more complicated when she hides in Clea Lewis's closet and collides with sexy Davy Dempsey. Tilda is in Clea's bedroom to steal back a forged painting; Davy's there to steal Clea's account codes and retrieve the \$3 million the larcenous blonde stole from him. Somehow, Tilda finds herself exchanging a mind-blowing kiss with her fellow burglar, and when Davy follows her home and rents a room from her mother, she's forced to deal with the charming con man. Everyone in Tilda's world is pretending to be someone else, including her daydreaming mother, her splitpersonality sister, and her cross-dressing ex-brother-in-law. All of them, including Tilda and Davy, are *Faking It*. What will happen when all the secrets are out and everyone knows the truth about everyone else? Will Davy recover his 3 million? Will Tilda recover all the forged paintings and find her true artistic calling? Will Tilda's mother run off to Aruba with a hit man named Ford? And exactly what is the difference between a man labeled a "doughnut" and one who deserves the title "muffin"?

Faking It is a hilarious, warm novel with a cast of quirky and wonderful characters that endear while they charm. Readers who met the Dempsey siblings in Crusie's *Welcome To Temptation* will be delighted to revisit the family and discover what happens to Davy Dempsey when he meets his romantic nemesis, Tilda Goodnight. --*Lois Faye Dyer*

From Publishers Weekly

Bestseller Crusie (Fast Women, etc.) takes readers on another smooth ride in her latest romantic caper. At the wheel this time is fab art forger Matilda Goodnight, whose chance encounter in a closet with cute con man/thief Davy Dempsey leads to madcap mayhem and breathless romance. He's trying to steal back the money he filched from Clea Lewis, ex-girlfriend (and possible husband killer), who had taken it right back. Tilda just wants her last "Scarlet" painting, which Clea has bought to impress Mason Phipps, her rich artobsessed beau. It's the last of six forgeries Tilda did for Tony, her now deceased gallery-owner dad, and Tilda is determined to preserve her newly squeaky-clean reputation. Confused yet? It gets wackier, because the whole Goodnight clan and supporting cast are as enormously engaging as the loopy plot. There's Tilda's mother, Gwen; her sister, Eve/Louise, a split-personality teacher/diva; her gay ex-brother-in-law, Andrew; and her precocious teenage niece, Nadine. Add a host of shady characters and would-be hitmen, and the breezy plot thickens and puffs up like the light airy doughnuts all Goodnight women are attracted to but eventually forsake for muffins: "Muffins are for the long haul and they always taste good. They don't have that oh-my-God-I-have-to-have-that thing that the doughnuts have going for them, but you still want them the next morning." Finally, defying all odds, Crusie answers the burning questions she poses can liars and thieves fall in love, live happily ever after and stay out of jail? while confirming the dangers of dating doughnuts.

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From Library Journal

First introduced in Welcome to Temptation, the brother of wacky filmmaker sisters Sophie and Amy Dempsey gets his own story with hilarious and entertaining results. Davy Dempsey is a man on a mission: to

recover some money owed him. In a hilarious botched burglary, he ends up stuck in a closet with Matilda Goodnight. She's at the same house attempting to steal back a painting that was not only never paid for but already has a shady past. Later, Davy rents a room from Matilda's mother, and soon he and Matilda are working together to recover their property and trying mighty hard to resist their growing attraction to each other. It doesn't take much for readers to figure out that Davy and Matilda are fated to live happily ever after. What makes the novel work is Crusie's talent for writing wacky romantic plots that shine with generous amounts of humor and enormous good cheer. Her usual assortment of secondary characters is here, along with a couple of loose ends that might give fans a chance to revisit this clan of entertaining souls once again. Fans of Crusie won't be disappointed in her newest work, which is an essential purchase for any public library with romance readers. - Margaret Hanes, Sterling Heights P.L., MI Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Hatch:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled Faking It. Try to make the book Faking It as your close friend. It means that it can to get your friend when you experience alone and beside those of course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortuned for yourself. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , we should make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

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