



## Poison Pen

*Sheila Lowe*

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Lindsey Alexander, a top Hollywood publicist, has apparently committed suicide. Her friend and business manager isn't so sure, and he retains Claudia to examine the purported suicide note. Claudia was well acquainted with Lindsey, having experienced her ruthless self-promotion first-hand. As the story progresses, Claudia discovers Lindsey's secret side business, and the questions begin to mount, along with possible suspects who include a U.S. senator and a Beverly Hills plastic surgeon. Claudia meets up with Detective Joel Jovanic, whose skepticism about handwriting analysis immediately puts them at odds.

## Poison Pen Details

Date : Published January 21st 2016 by Suspense Publishing

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Author : Sheila Lowe

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Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

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## **From Reader Review Poison Pen for online ebook**

### **Patty says**

Interesting book and I loved the premise, but I had a terrible time finishing this one. I'm going to give her next book a try because I liked the main characters but could build absolutely no empathy with the victim. Made it hard to care "who dunnit".

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### **Toni Osborne says**

Book 1, in the Forensic Handwriting Mystery

Mystery novels have always been at the heart of my reading and of course my preferred chose. It is very refreshing when one comes along with a new storyline and definitely having a forensic handwriting analyst teaming up with a detective should do the trick. What makes this novel interesting above all is that the author, an expert in the field has skillfully injected into her plot fascinating information about the intricacies of graphology.

This crisp and gritty novel is a well- written story populated with many intriguing and richly drawn characters. The protagonist, Claudia Rose is an intelligent, resourceful and above all independent person who often assists the police in analyzing and identifying the writer and his/ hers psychological state at the time of writing. The story is slow going at first but once it bursts into life and gets its going beat we are into a plot filled with action admirably paced. For excitement, a few twists throw curves to derail us, some include blackmail, violence and all that good stuff needed to make a mystery a very suspenseful one. This turn out to be quite a page-turner with some graphic scenes, it may be a little salty at time for some but if you are not into murder mystery this whodunit may not be for you.

I surely enjoyed following Claudia and trying to solve the mystery along with her.

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### **Roger says**

My first read from author Sheila Lowe and the first book in the Forensic Handwriting Series. I'd gotten this book back in 2013 because the premise sounded good, but one thing lead to another and I'm finally reading it. Good, well-written mystery. The characters likable & attention holding. The plot and the sub-plot were both well-developed. I'll definitely be reading more in this series.

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### **Jennifer says**

Interesting concept, but a little darker than the cozy mystery I was expecting. I am fascinated with the idea of handwriting analysis. I like Claudia and Joel and their relationship. I was very surprised that Lillian was the one that killed Lindsey. That Ivan's death and the stalking of Claudia were unrelated to her death was

surprising, but I am glad that the Senator was found guilty of something.

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### **Rogue Reader says**

Handwriting analysis interesting and certainly seems a lucrative profession as presented here. Addled lifestyles of best friends are bizarre.

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### **Elizabeth Kennedy says**

I had this book on my to be read pile for a while and read it mostly due to having had surgery and I needed a paperback to read because it would weigh less than a hardcover. I AM SO GLAD I DID! Claudia Rose, the main character, is so real, so relatable and so well written! I love the spunkiness, the drive to not be a victim, yet bad things happen, she doesn't always win and she makes mistakes. The budding relationship between her and Joel is sweet and believable too. I had been given two other books in the series as a gift, and I will read the next one now, but have ordered the rest so I can follow Claudia's adventures. I just wasn't thrilled with the celebrity setting, or I would have given this 5 stars.

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### **Linda Smatzny says**

This is the first book in the Forensic Handwriting Mystery series featuring Claudia Rose. Claudia is asked to look at a suicide note and determine if it was written by the deceased. While trying to do her job Claudia is attacked several times. She also learns the case involves power & sex which are prime motives for murder.

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### **Hitessh Panchal says**

Frankly speaking , I Picked up this book with an impression, that there would be some learning along about handwriting analysis and enjoying a good mystery.

The Author did drop some of the features, but this book entirely does not categorises under "*Handwriting Forensic*"

Anyway, it was **not** entirely a waste of Time. Can be read once. You cannot expect a Master Story from this one.

There are five more in the series and I still do intend to pick the rest one by one as and when my mood permits.

You won't miss anything though , if you skip this one and you won't be entirely disappointed too if you read this one, *without having pre-notion about the Subject that the book promises*.

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### **Peg Brantley says**

When you consider that this is Ms. Lowe's first foray into fiction, it really is amazing. I fell in love her protagonist right away and with the added interest of handwriting analysis, the series is one I'm looking forward to continuing.

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### **Leslie says**

I liked the forensic handwriting aspect of this cozy. A bit too much about the love life of the protagonist but that seems to be the norm these days... I did manage to figure out who the culprit was about three-quarters of the way through but the true motive escaped me completely.

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### **Lori Cimino says**

This is the first in a series written by Sheila Lowe. I usually read strictly cozy mysteries which this is not. But it was so good, so page turningly good I couldn't put it down. I love the main character Claudia who is a hand writing analyzer expert. I found this concept so fascinating. Add in a murder, a list of whose who suspects and Jovanic the detective on the case and you are reading a thriller of a story. I am definitely ready to dive into the next book in the series. Thanks Sheila for a most entertaining book.

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### **rivka says**

I enjoyed this -- sympathetic and interesting characters; fast-paced plot that unrolls neatly, with surprises that keep coming; and I always enjoy books set in my part of L.A.

But I'm unlikely to pick up the next book in the series. Not unless it ends up being another free ebook. Too much depended on the hocus-pocus of handwriting analysis, which I found annoying.

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### **Em\*bedded-in-books\* says**

A cozy mystery after a long time. Thoroughly enjoyed this one, and lapped in the details about handwriting analysis. This one starts with the death of an influential Hollywood promotional lady who's found drowned in an inebriated state in her bath tub. initially deemed a suicide, other deaths follow and secrets of the rich and influential are exposed. The detecting team here is a handwriting expert, a former friend of the dead lady, and a charismatic police detective. The end was satisfactory.

3.5 stars, not quite 4.

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## **Glenda Bixler says**

Poison Pen: A  
Forensic Handwriting Mystery  
By Sheila Lowe  
Obsidian  
300 Pages

Are you a "forensic" fan like I am? Well, then you definitely will enjoy the debut of Sheila Lowe's new forensic handwriting mystery series, starting with Poison Pen.

Through a bit of serendipity, I had the opportunity to read both Poison Pen and the follow-up book, Written in Blood this past weekend--what an enjoyable opportunity!

Claudia Rose, our forensic expert, was pulled into action when her former college friend was found dead in her hot tub, seemingly as a suicide. Only her alleged note,

### **IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED**

did not match the personality of Lindsey Alexander. Indeed, most people who knew her would not be surprised if she were murdered--their surprise was that she had supposedly committed suicide!

There was only one man who seemed to mourn Lindsey's death--Ivan, her business associate, friend and executor of her will. From the personal side, Ivan was sure that Lindsey had not committed suicide; from a business side, the insurance company refused to pay on a suicide. There was no choice; Ivan had to convince Claudia that she must help him prove whether the suicide note was authentic.

Claudia, as well Kelly, her best friend, had been "burned" once too often by Lindsey and couldn't even pretend to know why they had attended her funeral. But with Ivan's pleas, Claudia forced her memories back to college days when she and Lindsey were still friends and agreed. The one thing she required, however, was hard to find--she needed samples of Lindsey's handwriting in block printing, as the suicide note had been created.

Ivan pointed out that this was a very important reason to assume that the note had been faked--Lindsey always wrote in cursive; in fact, trying to find similar documents forced further and further involvement as Claudia worked with Ivan to find needed evidence. That is, until Ivan was murdered!

And when Kelly admitted that she was afraid she "might" have killed Lindsey, while she has also discovered that another good friend, Zeb, had written Lindsey a threatening letter, Claudia is pulled in well beyond her original task of authenticating writing. On the other hand, working with Detective Joel Jovanic and finding a mutual attraction developing between them, placed her in a difficult spot where loyalty to her two friends forced her to make difficult choices. Especially when Claudia finds she could very well be the next victim!

This is a whodunit that will wrap you tight--into trying to solve the mystery along with Claudia. Even though I was narrowing down my own suspects, I wasn't quite sure what had happened until the very end--after all, among many others, there was the senator who had been blackmailed by Lindsey, or her brother who had once been Lindsey's partner in her schemes!

Poison Pen is a page-turner that will keep you reading! Enjoy!

And, now...I'm on to reading Written in Blood!

G. A. Bixler

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### **Carole Barkley says**

Interesting ideas about how handwriting analysis can be used for screening job applicants—and suspects.

But this book has some problems:

- too much description of the characters and what they are wearing.
- the very predictable introduction of the attractive police detective with whom the heroine clashes and of course ends up getting romantically involved.
- the heroine's insistence on acting foolishly and getting herself in dangerous situations, so as to exercise her "independence."
- heavy doses of sex and sexual aberration
- at the end of the story, with clues the size of a mountain, the heroine couldn't immediately identify the guilty party.

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