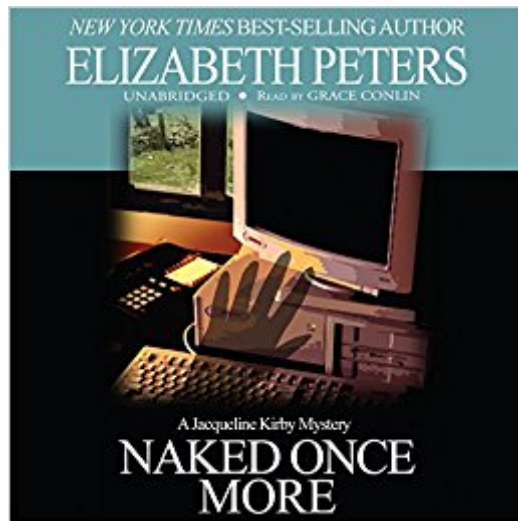




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# **Naked Once More (Jacqueline Kirby Mysteries, Book 4)**



## Synopsis

The chance to pen the sequel to the blockbuster *Naked in the Ice* is the opportunity of a lifetime for Jacqueline Kirby. But when she starts digging through the missing author's past, a series of nasty accidents occur.

## Book Information

Series: Jacqueline Kirby Mysteries

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 50 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Jacqueline Kirby, spirited librarian-turned-romance writer ( *Die for Love* ), returns to lightheartedly skewer the publishing world in the latest from the prolific Peters, who as Barbara Michaels also writes romantic suspense novels. Outspoken Jacqueline wins a competition to write the sequel for a major bestseller whose author, Kathleen Darcy, has been declared legally dead seven years after disappearing in the Appalachian hills near her home. But soon Jacqueline, ensconced with her word processor in Kathleen's home town, begins to have accidents paralleling those that once befell Kathleen. While writing on deadline, Jacqueline must also figure out who's after her and, of course, determine what really happened to Kathleen Darcy. Among those she suspects of more recent murder are Kathleen's pompous brother, a handsome former suitor, an ex-lover, another romance writer with an ego to match her oversized body, and a greedy literary agent. Thankfully Jacqueline's forthright manner earns her more friends than enemies as she risks mortal danger to unmask the culprit with panache and mastery remarkably similar to Peters's own. Major ad/promo; author tour. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A charmerfunny, suspenseful, a provocative mystery." -- Phyllis A. Whitney"An expertly made fun read." -- Washington Post Book World"Kirby...is a great companion to spend a couple of days with...Peters knows how to knit a good yarn" -- Chicago Sun-Times"Such marvelous fun...you'll want to read it at a gulp. But don't... Peters isn't merely magnificent. She's also sneaky." -- Charlotte MacLeod --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This review originally published in [...] Rated 2.5 of 5When I requested this book (two, almost three years ago!) I hadn't read many mysteries but this was among those that was going to start me down that path. I lost the book when the Kindle it was on gave up its digital ghost and only recently figured out how to find most (but not all) of my lost books. I've since read a number of mysteries and have gotten much more familiar with the genre, which I think is probably a good thing. This mystery follows Jacqueline Kirby, a best-selling romance author who is invited, along with a number of other romance authors to being considered to write the sequel to "Naked on the Ice" - a massive best-seller - when the author of this is declared legally dead (her body was never recovered after the discovery of an auto accident near a river). Jacqueline is selected for the opportunity to write the sequel and chooses to move to the original author's home town to better get in touch with the author's feelings and intentions, and to be able to review any possible notes the author may have left behind. But Jacqueline soon receives threatening letters and an attempt on her life. But when the local bookstore owner is found dead in a homicide made to look like an accident, Jacqueline knows that there is something deeper going on and spends more time researching the murders than she does on the book. Her discovery shocks everyone and Jacqueline makes the big reveal in a classic drawing-room scene. Since reading the book I discovered that this is the fourth in a Jacqueline Kirby series and it's really nice to note that not once, while reading this, did I feel that I was missing out or that I really should have read the first three books to really understand this. I've long felt that you shouldn't HAVE to read books 1-3 to enjoy book 4. And author Peters shows that this can be the case. I was captured by the story very early on with the introduction of the characters (living and dead) and the challenge of writing a sequel to a best-seller by a different author. And I was quite rooted in the story as we approached the climax and denouement, eager to see who was the culprit was. But I was bored and listless through the middle portion of the book. There was too much story that didn't move the action forward or reveal any great clues and it wasn't until the murder of the local book store owner that the story got interesting again. This was one of those "yeah...okay" books. Nothing horrible here, but nothing that makes me eager to read another Elizabeth Peters

book. I'll also note that it really drives me crazy to read improper English usage in a published novel. This is a reprint so I must assume this improper language is a hold-over from the earliest publication. Peters writes: "He shouldn't of run off that way." Looking for a good book? If you like mysteries and you want to see a romance author in the middle of a mystery, *Naked Once More*, by Elizabeth Peters is a fine choice for a weekend read. I received a digital copy of this book from the publisher, through Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review.

I am so sad that there are no more Jacqueline Kirby books since they always made me laugh with their wit. That said, this was a good end to the series. It was a challenging mystery; I was surprised at the ending. I laughed at some of Jacqueline's observations. It also skewered the publishing industry, not so gently. If you've enjoyed other books in the series, you'll like this one. If you like well-written mysteries with clever humor, read the series.

A few years ago I read an omnibus volume collecting the first three Jacqueline Kirby mysteries. I enjoyed that volume so much that I made a mental note to pick up the fourth (and, unfortunately, last) Kirby novel when my reading schedule permitted. That time finally came and I am happy to report that the book does not disappoint. Like many of Peters' books this one can be enjoyed on a number of levels. As a well plotted mystery it has enough plot twists and red herrings to satisfy most mystery lovers and only in a few instances is plausibility ever in question. It also works as humor; the author clearly was having a good time writing this. It's also an expose of sorts, exposing the unpleasant side of the publishing business. And given that it revolves around the sequel to a famous novel one wonders if there was a not a bit of autobiographical material mixed in. One also wonders how much the fuss surrounding the sequel to *Gone with the Wind* influenced the book? Was Peters ever in the running for that plum gig? In any event the book is highly recommended. One doesn't really need to read the previous Kirby books to enjoy this one. It is a sequel of sorts to the previous "Die for Love" but the connection is fairly tenuous. The Kindle edition is perfectly formatted. One annoyance that can't be blamed on Kindle formatting was the use, several times, of "shouldn't of". English teachers worldwide must have shaken their heads wearily.

This is the fourth and final book with Jacqueline Kirby as the reluctant, unusual detective. In this one, Jacqueline is chosen to write a sequel to one of her favorite books. During the process, she has to solve the mystery of what happened to the author of the book and other events. I enjoyed rereading the book as much as I did the first time I read it. I wish there had been more books written

with this detective.

Her character development is delightful ... I've enjoyed the Peabody series and I'm now looking forward to reading her other Jacqueline Kirby books

I am an Elizabeth Peters fan from way back, and this was my introduction to a very different character. Clever plot, as always; memorable, cheerfully mad characters as always, and enough twists and turns to satisfy any mystery reader. Excellent book. I keep a spare copy just in case I discover any friend has not yet read it. Can't think of a better summer read.

Elizabeth writes a fun mystery to read with archetypical character types, convoluted family relationships and enough twists and turns to pull one into a whole different world for the duration. The eccentric main character is an irreverent delight. Although ready for the resolution, I was sorry to see the story end and would be happy to read about the outrageous heroine in other books.

I absolutely love the Elizabeth Peters series. So o o interesting. Fantastic author.

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