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Beverly Connor

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Clymene O'Riley is in prison for killing her husband-though Diane Fallon is sure she killed another, and suspects she may have left a veritable graveyard of dead men in her wake. Either way, Diane was happy to help put her behind bars. So when Clymene informs her that one of the prison guards may be in danger from a serial killer, Diane is suspicious. And when Clymene escapes from jail, Diane becomes the prime suspect in a bloody murder that puts her in the path of an angry killer who wants her dead...

Dead Hunt Details

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From Reader Review Dead Hunt for online ebook

Susan says

As usual, Diane Fallon is busier than humanly conceivable. She has a cold-blooded murderess tasking her to protect one of her prison guards. She has a major scandal with the provenance of some Egyptian artifacts purchased by the museum. And as usual, she is surrounded by a rather large number of mean people. Fairly suspenseful in spite of the implausibility.

Erin says

I'm a big fan of the Diane Fallon books, but this one wasn't my favorite. Not sure if I wasn't paying as close attention to all the little details, but this book had so many random twists & turns it lost me a few times. But it still kept my attention, for the most part.

Denise says

4.0 out of 5 stars Multifaceted mystery keeps the reader turning the pages..., August 3, 2009

This review is from: Dead Hunt (Diane Fallon Forensic Investigation, No. 5) (Paperback)

This fifth in the series is another entertaining and educational read. The author, pedigreed herself, has written a character who is smart and spunky. Diane Fallon is the director of a museum of natural history (RiverTrail) and also heads another division housed in the same large building - a crime lab that has everything from an osteology laboratory (her own specialty) to DNA analysis. In addition to being an expert in many of the forensic sciences, she is a caver and is physically fit as well. This happens to be a good thing for Diane because she is nearly murdered, kidnapped, or imprisoned in every novel! Despite all the bruises and injuries she suffers as she escapes these attempts on her life, she usually manages to help the FBI or the local police solve the mystery.

In this investigation, Diane visits a female prisoner who has an urgent request. When this convicted murderer subsequently escapes, Diane and her museum and lab employees are drawn into the mystery of this "Black Widow" with no past. A parallel investigation involves the museum under suspicion of purchasing questionable antiquities.

Because of the combination of the natural history museum and the crime lab, the reader learns many interesting facts about different subjects in each book - in this one are tidbits of Egyptian archeology, osteology, medicine, police investigation, forensic art/sculpture and facial recognition, DNA analysis, etc.

Although these are not what I consider heart stopping, suspenseful thrillers, I think most readers will enjoy the science and also develop a fondness for Diane and the other recurring characters in this series and won't want to miss this one. I'm looking forward to Scattered Graves (Diane Fallon Forensic Investigation, No. 6).

I also think it's a series that should be read in order, so start with One Grave Too Many (Diane Fallon Forensic Investigation, No. 1) so you can get the full background on Diane Fallon and how all this came about.

Carol Turner says

Must be the same as the others in the series. Good, but not spectacular. I'll probably continue reading this series.

Samantha says

Another excellent instalment in the Diane Fallon series I find them ridiculous but gripping reads, this one has a particularly high body count and I'm amazed she is still alive after the number of times she has been attacked. Kept me guessing the whole way through and I'm not sure at the end that I got it properly sorted in my head with the number of different Clymenes there were and who did what!

Trina says

I'm not sure what to say about this book. It's a good potboiler mystery without too much description of the gore. But it isn't something that I'm going to go back and reread.

Throughout the series, I've liked the idea of having the murders mixed with the museum mysteries through the past few books. But it's starting to get a little old for me. This time, most of the museum staff wears Richard III t-shirts in support of a colleague who is accused of dealing in stolen artifacts.

The murder half of the mystery is about a black widow who escapes from prison and somehow blood that matches her DNA winds up in Diane's apartment. Which means that Diane must be a murderer according to her enemies. Even though they seem to have known her for several years. And she never murdered anyone before. Bleh.

I do like Connor's books better than a lot of more popular forensics mystery writers (see: Kathy Reichs).

Norman says

Great Series.

I started this series last year and enjoy following Diane Fallon and her team. It's always an adventure. I put Beverly Connor among my favorite authors. If you like series mystery you will enjoy reading these books.

Jane says

Connors excels at setting up nice twisty plots. Sometimes, as in this book, the twisty plots don't always get as

fully resolved as I'd like. With so much going on, she sometimes loses or drops one of the story threads and I'm left scratching my head a little.

That being said, Diane Fallon is a hugely competent heroine and I appreciate that. She runs a Natural History Museum as well as a crime lab, and as strange as the mix sounds, it works well to diversify the mysteries from book to book. Good effort.

Diane says

Great read - twists and turns and lots of red herrings tossed in for good measure. A couple of intertwining cases involving the museum. A lot of angst in this book and lots of forensics to keep your mind reeling! Just exactly who is behind all the goings on?

2 thumbs up and 5 stars

Elvan says

Another fun read dealing with stolen Egyptian antiquities and some fairly complex revenge attacks. It was nice to see the new DNA lab put to use so effectively. I continue to enjoy the witty dialogue, the forensics and the strong characters in Connor's novels. They get into sometimes unbelievable situations but she carries the reader with her intricate plots. Good stuff.

Clif Ramile says

I liked it very much, since I was reading in the middle of a series. The one thing I missed was the dramatics clearing up too the end. It seemed to be lacking there, otherwise a good read.

Michelle Palmer says

Good mystery and who dunnit. Enjoyed the characters as they are developing. Had been a while since I've read any from the series, forgot how much I enjoyed them

Baoyi says

Diane Fallon once again brings us through her life as museum director and forensic anthropologist. Dead Hunt is one exciting thriller, that's for sure. The intricate plot-weaving by Clymene O' Riley - Iris - is almost genius. It's not that the sibling plot hasn't been used before, but Beverly Connor really knows how to build up the suspense and blow the readers' minds even before the Big Reveal. Her sub plots also complicate matters because they usually don't form part of the big conspiracy even though all the clues point to it. It's a

wonderful page- turner, as are all Connor's other Diane Fallon forensic investigations.

Andy Plonka says

An new wrinkle in the serial killer plot, though the bits about antiquities are more interesting than the major plot.

Gail says

Diane Fallon is the director of the museum in a small town in Georgia. In addition, she's the director of the crime lab, housed at the museum. She administers both with knowledge, understanding, and expertise; to me she is too much the perfect, flawless administrator. Yes she works very hard but also seems to make no mistake.

Nevertheless, her expertise and knowledge and ability to work the politics and with various law enforcement makes for really great suspense stories.

In this book, she's asked by an FBI profiler to interview a convicted murderer -- a black widow -- because the profiler believes that the prisoner has had multiple identities and murders. Shortly after Diane's trip to the prison, the woman escapes and a complicated, fascinating mystery begins. This one is a page turner.

Weaving into the story is a subplot of looted archaeological treasures that threatens the reputation of the museum.

Fascinating story with lots of interesting and unexpected twists and turns.
