



Cold Truth

Mariah Stewart

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From *New York Times* bestselling author Mariah Stewart comes a novel of sexy romantic suspense for fans of Nora Roberts, Catherine Coulter, and Karen Robards.

TRUTH HAS DEADLY CONSEQUENCES

Twenty-six years ago, even before a series of brutal murders rocked the idyllic town of Bowers Inlet, Cassie Burke lost her parents, her sister, and nearly her own life to a transient befriended by her father. Back then, Cassie was a scared kid—now she's a homicide cop. Back then, the suspect was caught and convicted—he died in prison. But now the killing has started again. And all signs indicate that the Bayside Strangler has come back for more.

With too many victims and too few suspects, Cassie has her hands full investigating the case, while working through the old trauma it has brought to the surface. Luckily, FBI agent Rick Cisco is dispatched to lend support. Together, Cassie and Rick must uncover the link between the dark past and the dangerous present to bring this small town's long nightmare to an end. If they fail, an elusive fiend will slip back into the shadows . . . to watch and wait—and kill another day.

In matters of crime, there are many versions of the truth.

BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Mariah Stewart's *Hard Truth*.

Cold Truth Details

Date : Published (first published August 30th 2005)

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Author : Mariah Stewart

Format : Kindle Edition 400 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Mystery, Suspense

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From Reader Review Cold Truth for online ebook

Donna says

The Bayside Strangler appears to have made his way to the town of Bowers Inlet. Detective Cass Burke responds to a scene where the dead body is a dark haired woman who has been raped and strangled. Taunting notes are being sent to the police chief who was an officer 26 years ago when similar notes were written after a family's murder. More women's bodies are found as the town wants answers about a possible serial killer. And Cass learns that her mother's murder was an eerily similar crime scene from 26 years ago.

The story is told from several points of view, including the killer's. Even when the killer was narrowed down to 4 possible suspects, Mariah Stewart didn't give enough information to figure it out until she was ready to tell. Not much romance in this book and it was a quick and easy read.

Anna Mcfadden says

26 years ago inBowers Inlet, after Cassie Burke almost lost her life from the attack that she lost her parents, and her sister, they had found ta transient that was befriended by her father in the shed cover in blood. He arrested and convicted—he died in prison. there was a few other killings and the newspeople tag the perp as the Bayside Strangler. Now Cassie is a homicide cop and the killing has started again.

With too many victims and too few suspects, Cassie has her hands full investigating the case, while working through the old trauma it has brought to the surface. Luckily, FBI agent Rick Cisco is dispatched to lend support

Heather Beecher says

Hardly able to finish it. Dialogue unbelievable.

Jen says

Got to page 134 and TSTL characters caused rage-quit. If you don't mind stupidity in your female law enforcement characters, you may like this book. I don't enjoy it when 1) law enforcement is showcased as stupid/incompetent, 2) when females are written as dumb, especially when they are supposed to be smart or are in law enforcement and 3) being in the crazy killer's head.

Not my type of book and not reading anymore by this author. I tried two and both irked. Another reviewer said the cop female MC went off by herself and got caught by the bad guy. The last book I read by this author, same thing happened and Our Hero had to save the FBI chick from the bad guy and her own stupidity. I assume this book has the hero saving the chick as well. Not my idea of a good book. I don't do damsels in distress.

Women need help at times, men do too. But it shouldn't be the men saving the women all the time. Not if the women are supposed to be tough. Don't claim they are tough and then have them need saving.

1 star. Not for me. May be for someone else.

Laura K says

This book was very slow at the beginning but I stuck with it and did get interested. My favorite quote, ""Everyone has a choice. You get into situations, places you don't want to be, you have a choice. You can deal with it, make it your own, or you can fight against it relentlessly. Smart is knowing when to stop fighting. Strong is knowing when to move past it and take what you have and turn it into something you can live with."

Jay Jessmer says

I have absolutely loved every Mariah Stewart trilogy/series that I have read. I am now getting around to her "Truth" series, and this first installment is setting up another winner. There is something about her writing that is so addictive.

Great story, great characters and a quick moving plot make this a first rate page-turner. We get new additions to her ever expanding cast of characters along with a nice smattering of some old friends, including one of my favorites, Annie McCall. I really liked the separate branches of investigation from two different sets of players. I liked both pairings (Cassie & Rick/Regan & Mitch), and hope to see more of them in the next books. Although this is pretty much Cassie's story, I think Regan has the makings of a terrific heroine. Stewart has a knack for bleeding the ending of one chapter into the next that force you to keep reading. It seems like the chapters always end with something that makes the reader want to keep going. One of my favorite characteristics of her writing style is that when the story is carried along by narration vs. dialogue, it never seems to bog things down. The narrative is typically crucial to the storyline and carries a tone of suspense in itself. The dialogue itself never drags on and is a great cross between banter, plot advancement and character development.

Although this is classified as thriller/romance, the romance is at a minimum which helps with the pacing. A very wise decision on her part as I think more focus on the romance part would have decreased the overall feel of this one. It was enjoyable to me to feel the building chemistry rather than read about it.

I am very much looking forward to the remainder of this series. If you have not yet delved into the works of Mariah Stewart, I would recommend her highly!!

Jessica says

Though I don't have especially bad things to say about this I also don't have especially good things to say about it either. The book was a quick easy read but I wasn't especially drawn in by the plot. We spend probably at least half the book with no suspects/clues/leads, and it feels a little like the police were bungling along hoping they tripped over the killer. Then we get a group that are all potential suspects for no real reason other than some circumstance. But we get literally 0 hints that would let you solve the mystery until

magically by random circumstance a character who's been working at least near if not on the case finally decides to mention that one of the four was the perpetrator of a peeping tom crime against her. Did she not think that was relevant weeks prior when the potential suspects first showed up? So we have a mystery that couldn't really be solved. For some reason the writing didn't really click for me. It wasn't bad but I just couldn't connect emotionally with the plot or any of the characters. Thus the thriller aspect fell flat for me as well. The writing of the characters felt a little odd to me. We have two couples (though not really in a romantic way for most of the book) that sort of reminded me of a dna helix. They were more or less totally separate entities except for brief moments where they came together to...well not really add a whole lot since like i said the mystery was more or less unsolveable. For a fair amount of the book I felt like the characters were so bland to me that I actually couldn't keep their names straight and separate from each other. Especially the two FBI men, they were pretty much interchangeable for me. Since the thriller was flat for me the ending climax wasn't really exciting. I did find it somewhat interesting that she threw tidbits from another trilogy (I vaguely remembered the name since I have the first book in it) into this one but it was background info, not really relevant to this story. What I found curious is that both that trilogy and this one are part of a larger series attributed to a character that is mentioned maybe 5 times in this book. Curiouser is that I had the second book in this series and bought this one because I hate reading out of order. But upon reading the blurb for the second I'm not really sure how that one ties into the next. I saw in a couple reviews the more secondary "couple" shows up but they don't appear to be a strong enough thread to really make me say they're part of a series. I'm trying to decide between reading the next book in this mini series and trying the other one I have by this author to see whether her earlier work clicks for me more.

Bottom line: nothing awful but nothing in this made me want to recommend it to people if they didn't ask

Kathie says

This police procedural chasing a serial killer is actually blah and unmemorable. Intentionally or not, the author paints cops as bumbling, territorial, and stupid.

This was my first book by this author and based on previous reviews about her other books having similar themes of women in law enforcement doing something stupid and needing saving, I think I'll pass on her work in the future.

Brenda Audiobooks Only says

Narrated by Anna Fields - Narration 5*s

Reviewed for AAR's Speaking of Audiobooks - <http://www.likesbooks.com/blog/?p=7437>

I wanted to listen to this Mariah Stewart book primarily for narrator Anna Fields. I expected to enjoy her narration but I was also hoping there might be a thread of romance in this suspense story. I was right about Anna Fields but I was wrong about a possible romance angle.

Though I see the word thriller associated with Cold Truth, it falls into a slot just above cozy mystery – maybe serious cozy mystery?

At the age of six, Cassie Burke came home to find her parents and sister murdered. A vagrant was tried and

convicted of the murders, but shortly thereafter a serial killer, dubbed The Bayside Strangler, began killing women in the general area. Then the murders stopped as abruptly as they had started.

Now 26 years later, Cassie is a police officer and a copy cat of the Bayside Strangler is murdering women in the vicinity – or could it be that the original killer is back? FBI agent Rick Cisco joins in the hunt while Cassie's past tragedy haunts her in the wake of these new murders. The killer is eventually identified through some interesting means before he's taken down. Cassie and Rick do become attached and walk into the sunset together at the end, but that's it for the romance.

For me, Anna Fields was the saving grace. Her ability to define characters and deliver a story made *Cold Truth* an easy listen while I sat back, admired her talent, and wished for a dollop of romance to go with my mystery.

Jane Stewart says

Serial killer police procedural. OK, but nothing special or different. One instance of heroine stupidity. No romance.

GENRE CONFUSION:

The author's bio talks about awards for romantic suspense and contemporary romance. So that's what I thought I was getting when I bought the book *Cold Truth*. Unfortunately *Cold Truth* has NO ROMANCE. Now as I look at the author's website, I don't find any clear distinction about which of her books are romances. So I'm frustrated. Anyway I gave 4 stars to her book *Mercy Street*, which I labeled "mystery with a little romance." Because I liked it and wanted to try another, I bought *Cold Truth* which was a mistake.

STORY BRIEF:

The Bayside Strangler rapes and strangles women with long dark hair near the small town of Bowers Inlet. He moved away and over the next 26 years he killed women wherever he went. Recently he returned to Bowers Inlet and resumed killing women there.

26 years ago, Cass was 6 years old. Her father, mother and sister were killed in their home. Cass was stabbed but survived. Now as a police detective she is investigating the recent murders. The FBI sends agent Rick to help Cass. The story is a police procedural "mystery" because murders occur, and we are watching officials slowly uncover clues and evidence to catch the killer. It's also a "thriller" because we are in the killer's head as he thinks about what he's done and what he's going to do next. But we don't learn his identity until the end.

REVIEWER'S OPINION (WITH A PARTIAL SPOILER) (I don't give away the bad guy's name):
I was disappointed that it was not the genre I expected. If you're looking for "romantic suspense" forget it. I'm trying to be fair and judge it as a "mystery thriller" which I believe is "ok." There were no major problems other than one instance of stupidity on the heroine's part. She went off by herself when she knew she was a target and got caught by the bad guy. He told her he had a hostage but Cass never even asked him for proof of life before she did what he asked. That bothered me.

The plot, methods, motives, and events were well thought out (other than the stupidity). But it felt like "another one of those serial killer stories." There was nothing special or different. I wasn't emotionally engaged.

DATA:

Story length: 373 pages. Swearing language: strong, including religious swear words. Sexual content: none. Setting: current day Bowers Inlet and other towns in New Jersey. Copyright: 2005. Genre: mystery thriller.

Tracy Stackhouse says

Of course it's a four!

No Mariah Stewart I have read is less and some are even greater. If you haven't become a fan, start now

Ada Iaboni says

This one should get 3.5 stars.

A very intriguing, long term story that goes back 26 years!

It was a very well put together story that kept me reading and reading fast.

Judy Parker Cohen says

never read anything by this author I liked this book Now I am starting another by her

Victorian Vickie says

Great psychological thriller!! It kept me on my toes!

Dotti Elrick says

I enjoyed Cold Truth. It was a quick read and as with the other Mariah Stewart books I've read it was more romance than thriller. But it was a nice story.

Cassandra Burke is a detective in the small Jersey Shore town of Bowers Inlet. One of only two detectives in the small town. When a very prolific serial killer decides to take his show on the road he comes home, home to Bowers Inlet. The small police force is overwhelmed with the string of murdered women that start showing up. It becomes even worse when the only other detective up and quits in the middle of the case. The chief of police has no choice but to bring in some help. He asks the FBI to take a look at this case. That brings Agent Rick Cisco to town.

When the killer's letters to the police are made public, true crime writer Regan Landry, recognizes the form of the letters as being the same as some her father has in his files. Regan's father, Josh Landry was also a writer and was killed by Archer Lowell in an earlier book, Dead Even.

When her calls to the police chief in Bowers Inlet go unanswered. she calls the FBI saying she has information concerning a possible serial killer. When agent Mitchell Peyton shows up to help her go through

her fathers files, they soon realize just how busy this killer has been.

Cass, Rick, Mitchell and Regan get together with FBI profiler Anne Marie McCall and decide that this killer started his spree in Bowers Inlet. Some twenty years earlier, around the time another tragic murder happened in town. Annie thinks that this murder was the trigger that started him on his spree. He may have returned to town to finish off what he started.

I love the way this author develops her characters, you fall for them early in the book and feel what they feel. While it's heavy on the romance, there is still some good detective work going on and one really creepy killer. I cant wait to read the next one.
