



# Slow Curve on the Coquihalla

*R.E. Donald*

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## **Slow Curve on the Coquihalla** R.E. Donald

When a well respected truck driver, the owner of a family trucking business, is found dead in his truck down a steep embankment along the Coquihalla highway that winds through the mountains in British Columbia, his distraught daughter wants to know how and why he died. Not long afterwards, while driving the same highway, her husband's brakes are tampered with, almost creating another fatal accident on a treacherous incline. This compels Hunter Rayne, a fellow trucker and retired RCMP detective, to help her find answers.

As he uncovers signs of illegal cross border activity originating in a Seattle warehouse, Hunter recruits an old friend, an outlaw biker, to infiltrate what appears to be an international smuggling ring. But while Hunter follows up clues and waits for critical information from his old friend, the wily biker starts to play his own angles.

Finally, putting all the pieces together, there in the dark on the same uphill curve on the Coquihalla highway, Hunter risks it all to confront the murderer.

Slow Curve on the Coquihalla is the first in a traditional mystery series featuring "semi-" professional sleuth, Hunter Rayne. After serving over 20 years in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and becoming a skilled detective, Hunter resigned from the force and took to the road as a long haul trucker. His ex-wife is convinced he is running away from the personal tragedy that made him leave a job he loved. Hunter himself doesn't know why, he only knows he has to keep following the white lines.

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"Those were the best mysteries I've read in a long time!! As soon as I finished the first one I bought the second and felt empty when I finished it! The characters were awesome and so there that I somehow think they are in my life."

"I think that Hunter Rayne would make a great TV detective, driving around the country in his rig visiting different states and helping to solve crimes. He is that interesting of a character."

"The Hero to me is the heart of the story ..."

"I hope to see the Hunter Rayne series become movies and audio books."

## **Slow Curve on the Coquihalla Details**

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Author : R.E. Donald

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# From Reader Review *Slow Curve on the Coquihalla* for online ebook

## Literary Chanteuse says

Not having read a lot of mysteries set in my neck of the woods in Canada I was thrilled to read this one. It also centers around trucking which just happens to be a member of my family's profession so again something familiar to me. I loved that it mentioned so many areas in detail that I knew well and the author had an excellent handle on the ins and outs of the trucking business as well as the fitting characters. The Hero to me is the heart of the story and having only just discovered a second book in this series I'm anxious to read more.

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## Bill says

Disclaimer (I'll start this review by saying that the author sent me a copy because she thought it might suit my taste and asked for my comments when I read it). Having said that, let's get into the book. Basically *Slow Curve on the Coquihalla* by R.E. Donald follows an ex-RCMP officer, Hunter Rayne, who has quit the force and now works as a long haul truck driver. A friend who owns a trucking company is found dead at the bottom of a ravine, possibly due to a driving accident or maybe due to murder? His daughter, Suzanne, asks for Hunter's help in finding out the cause of his death. That is the gist of the story. What did I like about the story. Firstly, I liked the setting, the interior of British Columbia. While I live on Vancouver Island, it was still nicely close to home and I enjoyed the descriptions of the area and just the overall setting. I liked many of the characters. Hunter is interesting, trying to deal with his past, maintain contact with his teenage daughters (he's divorced) and not sure how to go about it. His boss, El, is a strong woman who works in the trucking industry; has her soft spots but also her tough side. Suzanne and her two girls, trying to cope with the death of her father and also to keep his trucking business working, is lovely and like Hunter, I wanted to protect her. Sorry, the ex biker and wild child, is fun and loud. Hunter likes him, uses him to help in his investigation but still doesn't quite trust him. The dialogue was natural and the writing intelligent. Unlike many mysteries, we don't have to follow a trail of bodies, which is nice. We can get to know Hunter, his friends and the story in a well-crafted, interesting story. Even the ending was satisfying. There are other books in this series and I will check them out as well. (4 stars)

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## Karen says

R.E. Donald, Canadian author of *Slow Curve on the Coquihalla*, has taken two Canadian traditions and meshed them into an intriguing mystery. The writing flows at a steady pace from beginning to end, keeping the reader just out of reach of the answer to the mystery of who, how and why.

This traditional 'who done it' will keep most readers scratching their head. Was it a shipper in the US, a disgruntled employee, or maybe a jealous friend? Will Hunter Rayne find the answers before it's too late? With well developed characters, plot twists and veiled clues this story travels from Canada to the US and back again on a winding route to the final conclusion.

This is a great read for anyone who likes mystery, intrigue and those that are looking for good reads from up

and coming Canadian authors. I have the second Hunter Rayne novel, Ice on the Grapevine, on my list to read. I'm hoping to get to it very soon.

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### **Sue says**

I received a free download of Slow Curve on the Coquihalla (A Hunter Rayne highway mystery,#1) by R.E. Donald in exchange for a honest review.

I enjoy reading mystery suspense thrillers and I was not disappointed with this novel.It was well written and the pace was steady and involving.

Randy Danyluk,a well respected truck driver, the owner of a family trucking business, is found dead in his truck down a steep embankment along the Coquihalla highway that winds through the mountains in British Columbia. His daughter Suzanne wants to know how and why he died. Not long afterwards, while driving the same highway, her husband's brakes are tampered with, almost creating another fatal accident.Hunter Rayne, a fellow trucker and retired RCMP detective, and friend of Randy takes it upon himself to investigate and find answers to this unfortunate accident.

When Hunter uncovers signs of illegal cross border activity originating in a Seattle warehouse, Hunter recruits an old friend, Dan Sorenson (Sorry) an outlaw biker, to infiltrate what appears to be an international smuggling ring. But while Hunter follows up clues and waits for critical information from his old friend, Sorry does his own thing.

Hunter finally risks it all to confront the murderer.

I enjoyed reading all the details regarding the Trucking industry as my husband is in this field.This is a well written who-dun-it mystery novel, and I was guessing until the end.Well done.A very enjoyable read.

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### **Lori says**

I enjoyed this book very much. I live in Kamloops so it was nice to hear about the surrounding areas. I will be looking for that curve next time I drive the Coq. Can't wait to find the next book!

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### **Neen says**

2.75. I had a hard time getting into this. It took me a long time to finish it. The premise of a former Mountie turned trucker, who gets pulled into a mystery, was unique, but I didn't connect with Hunter. Also, there were a lot of characters to keep track of, and I sometimes had a hard time remembering who was who. I don't think I'll be continuing the series.

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## **Ginney Etherton says**

This is what I call dick-lit, as opposed to chick-lit, with lots of truck talk. That's not a slam, and since I live on the Northwest coast I can relate. We all deal with trucks one way or another, and I learned something about long hauls.

The funny thing is, the whole time I was reading this book I thought R.E. Donald was male. For a guy, he did an excellent job of getting the female characters right. The introspectives and actions of all characters give readers a full understanding of their motives. That was unexpected from a male author in a mystery involving truck drivers.

I'm sorry, Ruth E. Donald, for presuming you were a man. It's a compliment to you that I read the book with such interest that I didn't read "about the author" first.

There are a number of typos that stopped me, unfortunately. I read the e-version, which could use editing and resubmitting. One thing, when "correct" use of ellipsis marks and full justification collide in e-books, ending punctuation gets left on the next line. Omitting the last space would read better. Another confusing thing is the lack of commas when using multiple adjectives, and hyphenization for modifiers. Clarity suffered.

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## **Marti says**

I found this interesting because it is about long distance truck drivers. The owner of the company dies in a mysterious and freak accident. By chance, one of the employees is a former Mountie, and he begins to research what happened. He is a divorced father of two teenage girls, who wants to spend more time with them. The owner's daughter is trying to hold everything together.

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## **Steve says**

Hunter Rayne is a former RCMP officer, now a truck driver in western Canada. He has two teenage daughters but is unattached. A straight-shooter good guy, he radiates that, making his friend and opposite 'Sorry' Sorenson, a man comfortable in the seamier world of the low-life an interesting counter to Rayne. The story opens with the death of a fellow driver, a good man and owner of a trucking company. The RCMP deems it an accident, but the victim's daughter asks Rayne to find out why this happened to such a good, experienced driver. The pursuit begins and takes time. To avoid spoilers, I liked the Hunter/Sorry tandem and Hunter's issues with his daughters. The mystery was good enough for me to finish, but not as good as Sundown on Top of the World, with what was for me a more interesting setting and more intriguing characters around the case. One or both stand alone. I would read Rayne again, but there are others I'd put well before him.

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## **Kathleen Schmitt says**

Slow Curve on the Coquihalla by R. E. Donald

Another mystery in Donald's intriguing Hunter Rayne series. Rayne is a retired RCMP officer, living in North Vancouver. In his new life he drives The Blue Knight, a semi-truck, on long-haul freight pickups and deliveries. In and out among these treks, he discovers mysteries and crimes that need to be solved. Rayne,

himself a likeable, responsible fellow, has a tendency to get hooked once he has taken up the chase, and he doesn't let go until he has solved it and turned the information over to the RCMP. Divorced, with two young adult daughters, he has not quite figured out how to find a new life; all he wants is the quiet and solitude of the long-haul freighter.

Rayne is surrounded by a small but consistent circle of friends: his landlord, retired lawyer, who lives upstairs and from time to time passes out wise advice; El, the owner of the dispatching service Rayne is part of, her good will and despite her desire to help solve a mystery getting out of hand and causing Rayne problems; and Sorry (Sorenson), the biker with the cobra tattoo who helps Rayne out but has a lot of trouble with impulse control. This crew inevitably provides an entertaining story.

In *Slow Curve on the Coquihalla*, Hunter Rayne gets involved with an apparent accidental death of a dispatcher in Kamloops, BC. The problem is, the curve was gentle and the truck's speed was maybe 10 mph. The dispatcher's daughter and Rayne combine with his usual crew to provide a fast-paced and entertaining story to discover the hidden crime.

R. E. Donald weaves an intricate and intriguing plot and creates in-depth characters who readers come to feel like are friends. For a great mystery/crime story, read: *Slow Curve on the Coquihalla*.

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## **Toni Osborne says**

Book 1, in the Hunter Rayne Highway Mystery

This who-done-it is a well-crafted mystery that brings us into the life of a long distance trucker Hunter Rayne, an ex- Mountie officer, who took the open road with his semi "The Blue Knight". Rayne hauls north and south between Canada and the US and travels most of the time on one of the most scenic and dangerous route in Canada known as the Coquihalla.

As the wheels spin on the highway we have fascinating information about the trucking industry. To set the stage the author has taken quite a bit of time and has provided a lot of picky details about the business and the routine of the drivers. Some may find this tedious I found it interesting. As the story unravels we come to the exciting part: a crash.... was it an accident or perhaps a murder on the mountain.... Of course kicks in is the old detective habit of poking your nose into it and it is exactly what Rayne did. Up a gear and the unofficial investigation is on with the help of friends Rayne will get to the bottom and will get his man...

I enjoyed reading this book. It is quite a different style of mystery, one that is not too complicated to follow, is easy to figure out the denouement and has a cast of colourful characters to entertain us and a steady suspense throughout.

I admit, the experience is a bit of a soap opera but "hey" it's a good read and quite entertaining.

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## **Steve says**

Never thought I would enjoy a truck driver based mystery, but I sure did. The characters were very down to

earth and well fleshed out. The mystery kept me guessing until the last few pages, not like some that give it away 3/4 of the way through so they can do an immense capture and wrap up escapade. I'll definitely continue to follow this series.

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### **Nancy says**

Takes place in Canada and is about a truck driver who used to be with the RCMP. So definitely a departure for me. It was a very masculine story, so I was surprised when I read that the author was a female Canadian. A truck driver's vehicle is found down a hill, somewhat damaged with the driver behind the wheel dead. His daughter asks Hunter, an ex policeman and current employee, to check into her father's death. There are some things that don't make sense. Like why such an experienced driver would crash, why there are no skid marks, and he didn't appear to fall asleep at the wheel, or have a heart attack.

It is not easy to investigate because Hunter is not a RCMP anymore. He doesn't have their resources at hand and has to figure things out on his own. It takes quite awhile, but he, of course, succeeds.

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### **Cathy Geha says**

This is the story of a retired RCMP sergeant, Hunter Rayne, who after retiring has become a long haul trucker. Randy Danyuk, a veteran trucker liked by everyone and owning his own trucking company dies suddenly on the Coquilhalla without a medical or mechanical explanation. The daughter of the trucker asks Hunter to do some sleuthing and that is just what he does. The story discusses what it must be like to be on long hauls, the grapevine that can be tapped into by truckers, the fact that truckers look out for one another and while informing the reader of these things it also deals with relationships, love, and the idea that family is very important. The ending is well crafted and will probably be a surprise for many. The author worked in the transportation industry and has brought her knowledge with her when writing. I did not know much about this type of work so enjoyed learning more about it. The book was originally written in 1995 which may explain why sometimes I felt that I was stepping back into the past. I am thankful to have won this book through a LibrayThing giveaway and would gladly read other books by this author.

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### **Lee Holz says**

Former Sgt. Hunter Rayne of the Royal Mounted Canadian Police is retired. Nevertheless, *Slow Curve On The Coquihalla* is a police procedural as well as a first rate who-done-it. Author Donald plays fair with her clues in this well crafted mystery. Interesting characters and occasionally lyric descriptions of the Canadian West are a bonus. All in all a very enjoyable read.

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