



## The Dead Will Tell

*Linda Castillo*

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## **The Dead Will Tell** Linda Castillo

Everyone in Painters Mill knows the abandoned Hochstetler farm is haunted. But only a handful of the residents remember the terrible secrets lost in the muted/hushed whispers of time—and now death is stalking them, seemingly from the grave.

On a late-night shift, Chief of Police Kate Burkholder is called to the scene of an apparent suicide—an old man found hanging from the rafters in his dilapidated barn. But evidence quickly points to murder and Kate finds herself chasing a singularly difficult and elusive trail of evidence that somehow points back to the tragedy of that long ago incident. Meanwhile, Kate has moved in with state agent John Tomasetti and for the first time in so long, they're both happy; a bliss quickly shattered when one of the men responsible for the murders of Tomasetti's family four years ago is found not guilty, and walks away a free man. Will Tomasetti be pulled back to his own haunted past?

When a second man is found dead—also seemingly by his own hand—Kate discovers a link in the case that sends the investigation in a direction no one could imagine and revealing the horrifying truth of what really happened that terrible night thirty-five years ago, when an Amish father and his four children perished—and his young wife disappeared without a trace.

And, as Kate knows—the past never truly dies . . . in *The Dead Will Tell* by Linda Castillo

## **The Dead Will Tell Details**

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Author : Linda Castillo

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## From Reader Review The Dead Will Tell for online ebook

### **Julie says**

The Kate Burkholder series just keeps getting better! A string of murders is somehow connected to a horrific thirty-five year old unsolved crime. Could the victims be seeking revenge? I loved the ghost story element in this book (although I quickly realized that ghosts don't leave footprints). Every time I thought I had things figured out, there were twists and turns in the plot that completely surprised me.

There is unrest between Kate and Tomasetti that added some angst to the overall story, but the outcome of their conflict is so worth it. In addition to the gruesome murders both past and present, Painters Mill is besieged by a deluge, and the cold and damp of the ceaseless rain adds a gloomy element to the story. The conclusion of the novel was far more twisted than I could have predicted and getting there was ever so much fun.

I received a complimentary copy of this book via the Amazon Vine program.

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### **Sherri Thacker says**

I love this whole series that Kate Burkholder is in but this book didn't pull me in like the others did. Not sure why but I just expected more. This is the 6th book in this series. I hated to not finish it but it just wasn't holding my interest so I threw in the towel. DNF at page 172

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### **Liz says**

I'm continuing to enjoy this series. Castillo's strength is in the descriptions she paints. You literally feel you are at the scene. Note that some of these scenes are extremely graphic, so this is not a book for the squeamish.

This is the first of the Burkholder books I've listened to. The narrator does a very good job. And the book is told at a nice steady pace, so it makes it easy to listen and stay focused (important to me on the road). I figured out some aspects of the mystery early on but there were still some twists I didn't see.

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### **Mary Beth \*Traveling Sister\* says**

I just love this series. It is one of my faves!

Highly recommended

My review is on the first book Sworn to Silence, which will give you in more detail what this series is about. Each book in the series is a different story that is a great thriller and mystery.

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### **Maureen DeLuca says**

This is a SOLID 4.5 read and I'm adding another 1/2 star because it is one of the best series out there. If, for some reason, you never started the Kate Burkholder series-- do yourself a favor and pick up book number one and enjoy the ride. Being that the characters are constantly growing and evolving it is best to start this series from book one ( IMO)

There isn't any more to say except " Great read Linda Castillo" and keep on writing!!!!

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### **Kaceey - Traveling Sister says**

No. 6 in the series. Oh how I love this!

Taking place in the Pennsylvania Amish countryside, It's a two-for-one.

You get a murder mystery wrapped up with an insider's look at the Amish culture.

Kate, the local sheriff attempts to solve a series of related homicides that have a common thread leading back to a horrific murder of an Amish family over 30 years ago.

Do you believe in ghosts?

Can the Ghost of the Amish mother be back seeking revenge or justice?

I highly recommend this series, from start to finish.

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### **Tanya Lamnin says**

Spoilers below, so beware.

I liked this mystery all the way up to the very end. But the idiotic ending blew me away. Hoch, who was 14 at the time his mother disappeared, blithely marries his half-sister who, everyone says, is his mother's spitting image and doesn't realize it? The two men killed remember raping the young woman but can't process the fact that the person standing in front of them with a gun is not a "ghost," but her DAUGHTER? Who hides in plain sight for years as "Hannah" and the owner of a popular business, and no-one in the tiny community goes, oh, she sure looks like her husband's dead mother? Really? Stupid.

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### **Sue says**

I was so fortunate to win a copy of "The Dead Will Tell" (Kate Burkholder, #6) by Linda Costillo through the Goodreads Giveaway Contest. This novel has it all; mystery, suspense, murder, serial-killer thriller. This novel grabbed my interest right from the beginning and didn't let go until I read the last word.

Fourteen year old Billy Hochstetler and his little eight year old brother, heard something in the middle of the night. Billy goes downstairs to investigate and found his dutch parents at the mercy of two English speaking

gunmen demanding cash. What follows is that his father, Willis is shot and killed. Billy and his other younger four siblings are locked in the basement. Billy manages to escape, but his siblings die in a fire in the house. His mother, Wanetta is kidnapped and never seen again. An unsolved murder that happened thirty five years ago.

Police Chief Kate Burkholder have their hands full when three brutal murders occur within a short period of time. Wooden Amish dolls are found left by the serial killer with each victim, indicating a connection to the unsolved murder of an Amish family that took place over 30 years ago.

Kate must work with rapid speed to find the killer before more lives are lost. All victims had received cryptic paper messages. "The notes tell a story." There were no suspects...no motive or murder weapon.

I was glad that her troubled relationship with her boyfriend, John Tomasetti, was limited and did not distort from the plot of the novel.

The Dead Will Tell is a real page-turner. The language complemented the setting for the novel. I have to admit that the whodunnit was not a surprise, I figured it out well before the conclusion. But I found this novel to be an excellent thriller. I will definitely go back and read the previous novels in the series, starting with "Pray for Silence."

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### **Diane S ? says**

3.5 Another series that I anxiously await the next and newest installment. A good mix of mystery, personality and personal relationships, and the Amish culture.

A look at an evil done to an Amish family in the past that has a high cost for the perpetrators in the future. The long and far reaching effects of hatred and revenge. A good, solid and quick read.

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### **Brenda says**

Four months previously, Chief of Police Kate Burkholder had moved into the farmhouse with State Agent John Tomasetti; their love had blossomed to the stage where Kate felt able to make the commitment. Tomasetti was still tortured by his past, but was coming to terms with those demons – that was, until one of the men responsible for his torment was released from jail on a technicality, walking free.

Confused and uncertain as to how to pacify Tomasetti's anger and grief, Kate was torn when she was suddenly called to the scene of a suicide. But she needed to do her job – and as she worked the scene with her team, with shocking certainty the evidence pointed to a horrific and gruesome murder. As the investigation proceeded and a second person was found, also dead under suspicious circumstances, gradually it seemed like there were links to a long ago unsolved case where a family of Amish were murdered – father and four small children, with the mother vanishing without trace. Thirty five years ago it was, and there had been one survivor, fourteen year old William Hochstetler. He had since made a life of his own, but the deaths of his family had haunted him for years.

With Tomasetti tense and unsettled and Kate working around the clock on her latest case, the tension between the two (when they managed to touch base) was great. But Kate had to trust he wouldn't do anything stupid – he wouldn't, would he? Putting him to the back of her mind was difficult, but she needed to do so to be able to focus completely on her job. With the clock ticking, the secrets were gradually coming to the surface. But was there a murderer out there that wouldn't stop until some weird agenda was completed? Kate felt she was one step behind – would she catch up?

This was another brilliant thriller by Linda Castillo. Absolutely gripping – the twist at the end totally blew me away; I certainly didn't expect it! The pace was fast, the plot intricate – once again she hasn't disappointed. Highly recommended.

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### **Rae says**

The Dead Will Tell, the sixth book in the Kate Burkholder series by Linda Castillo, is about a 30-year-old unsolved murder in Painter's Mill. When the dead seem to come back to life, tensions run high, and Kate Burkholder is on the case.

As with Castillo's other books in this series, I thoroughly enjoyed this book! It was an exciting cat and mouse game, trying to figure out who the killer was before they struck again. The writing was impeccable, and the pacing was wonderful.

The Dead Will Tell opened on an intense scene, replaying the scenes of a murder. Throughout the book, murder is afoot, and Castillo did a great job of taking her audience through the scenes of the crimes. The plot unfolded quickly—the book was a real page turner. I enjoyed the concept of the dead coming back to life. It forces you to question what's going on in the book while you read it.

I also liked the continually developing relationship between Kate and John Tomasetti. As always, I appreciated that the relationship was there, but it took a backseat to the main plot of the book. Kate and John's relationship is a slow burn in the series.

The book ended with a good sense of closure. You can't bring back those who have died, but justice was served, and everything was wrapped up nicely.

The characters in The Dead Will Tell (and the entire Kate Burkholder series) were wonderfully written. Kate and John Tomasetti's characters knocked it out of the park. Now that I've finished book six, I feel as though I really know Kate as a person. She's a great character, and you can't help but feel attached to her sass and no-nonsense attitude.

The voice narrator was amazing in this book. As with the other books in the series, she's hands down one of the best voice actors I've had the pleasure to listen to. If you're not big on audiobooks, give this series a try!

You've heard me say it before . . . I highly recommend this series! If you enjoy thrillers and mysteries, these books are a lot of fun!

If you enjoy thrillers and mysteries, you need to check out this series! Stop by my Book Review Index to check out my reviews for the earlier books in the Kate Burkholder series!

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### **Judy says**

Another good mystery from Castillo concerning people from the Amish community. Police Chief Kate Burkholder, because of her background is able to bridge the gap between the Amish and the "English." Kate's love interest adds a roller-coaster experience to her life. I really enjoy these characters and the mysteries.

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### **Pamela says**

Without fail Linda Castillo once again delivers a winner with "***The Dead Will Tell***," book 6 in the "***Kate Burkholder***" series; and what a stunning series this is. One of my favourites. I could write an in-depth review, but in all honesty there's nothing more I can say that I haven't already said in my reviews for the previous novels. Just that if you love reading novels full of mystery and suspense, you have to read this series. Her novels will grip you, and keep you engaged right up until the end. Once again, 10 HUGE STARS!

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### **Lauren says**

#### **The Dead Will Tell**

4 Stars

When a man is found hung in his barn, Painter's Mill Chief of Police Kate Burkholder naturally assumes that it is suicide until evidence on the body indicates foul play. Soon all the clues start pointing to a 35 year old homicide in which a man and his 4 children were killed and the mother disappeared without a trace. The discovery of a second victim suggests to Kate that someone set it out for justice and has no qualms about how they get it.

A solid thriller with an exciting climax. Nevertheless, there are one or two plot points that require some suspension of disbelief.

To begin with, it is difficult to accept that (view spoiler). Moreover, the fact that (view spoiler) is unrealistic. Despite these problems, the mystery is compelling and the original crime is so terribly sad as are its consequences. Castillo manages to evoke the reader's sympathies for the villain even though some of their actions are inexcusable, and this is a testament to her skillful writing.

In terms of character development, Kate and Tomasetti's relationship faces some obstacles as ghosts from John's past raise their ugly heads and Kate must cope with her insecurities. There is a certain prickliness to Kate's personality, which may irritate some readers, but to me it makes her all the more human and endearing.

There is one question that remains unresolved from the previous installment, namely (view spoiler)? Does the author plan on completing this story arc or are we to be left hanging?

All in all, this is one of my favorite police procedural series and Kathleen McInnerny's audio narration is superb. Looking forward to the next book.

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## **Barbara says**

In this sixth book in the 'Kate Burkholder' series, the Police Chief investigates when a murderer targets pillars of the community. The book can be read as a standalone.

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The book starts out with a horrific crime: a 1979 home invasion of the Amish Hochstetler farm in Painters Mill, Ohio. A group of teens break in to steal cash and the night ends with a family slaughtered, a mother abducted, and a lone survivor - a 14-year-old boy. Fast forward 35 years and the perpetrators of the crime, now respected members of the community, start to get threatening letters. Soon afterwards, the killings start - with one after another of the original perpetrators brutally murdered by what appears to be a ghost.

When Chief of Police Kate Burkholder and her detectives investigate, they learn that the murder victims have been phoning each other and having clandestine gatherings. These 'bad guys,' of course, admit nothing. They make up spurious reasons for their phone calls and meetings, and claim to be bewildered by the murders. Nevertheless, they're terribly frightened: they wore masks during the home invasion and later killed and disposed of Mrs. Hochstetler - so who knows who they are?

Evidence at the crime scenes provides a connection between the Hochstetler tragedy and the current crimes, and Kate and crew proceed to ask questions of the surviving son, the Amish bishop, other people in Painters Mill, and so on. Kate gets some information that leads her to visit a fading Amish community in Pennsylvania, and the investigation proceeds.

I always enjoy the peek into the Amish community that Burkholder includes in her books; good people with simple lifestyles who cherish their families and want to please God.

In Kate's personal life she's now living with her boyfriend, State Agent John Tomasetti. Though Kate and Tomasetti are happy together the agent is still torn up by the murder of his wife and daughters three years ago. In this book one of his family's murderers gets off on a technicality and Tomasetti is furious and seems to have some nefarious plans for the freed man - but it's not clear what. Kate is unhappy about this, wanting Tomasetti to let go of the past and move on.

As usual in Burkholder's series there are some complicated family doings connected with the crimes, and Kate and her deputies are eventually able to unearth everyone's secrets. I enjoyed the book, but not as much as the previous entries in the series. For me there's getting to be too much similarity from book to book. Nevertheless this is an enjoyable mystery book.

You can follow my reviews at <http://reviewsbybarbsaffer.blogspot.com/>

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