



Beyond Recognition

Ridley Pearson

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A strange series of fires is raging in Seattle - white-hot fires that burn so cleanly even the ash is consumed, along with all traces of the fires' victims. Brilliant forensic investigator Police Sergeant Lou Boldt is back, battling the mysterious arsonist. He is also keeping his eye on the Fire Warden, who seems to be a little too close to the heat.

But police psychologist Daphne Matthews is more concerned about the victims of the blazes, especially the smart and wily ten-year-old boy who had a terrifying encounter with a disfigured, badly burned man.

Beyond Recognition is the story of a deadly, taunting game of cat and mouse, where the stakes are raised to a burning point that might spell disaster for Boldt - and the city of Seattle.

Beyond Recognition Details

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Author : Ridley Pearson

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From Reader Review Beyond Recognition for online ebook

Sheila Myers says

Exciting and thrilling. I was a little lost in some of the subplot because I haven't read the other books in this series, but I still enjoyed the main plot and the characters.

Tomi says

The arson mystery was good. But there was too much "drama" for me. The author needs to decide if he is writing a murder mystery or a philosophical family saga. (Does every detective have to have personal crises and/or extramarital attractions to partners?)

Deb says

I listened to this book on a long road trip. Unfortunately, it was an abridged version, and perhaps that is why I can't give it more than 2 stars. It was very disjointed and skipped around too much. The narrator read it so fast in the beginning that it was hard to listen to. I think that I might read the book and see if I change my rating.

Cybercrone says

Maybe the worst, in its procedural aspects, of anything I've read lately.

Plot was good. Didn't much like the two main characters. The suspense came mainly from wondering what the police were going to overlook, forget, or just generally screw up next.

And it isn't a first book, so I can't look forward to course corrections in future books, I think.

Kristin says

Took a little while to finish this one because I packed it for both of my July vacations figuring what's better for hot summer beach reads than arson investigations? A continuation of the Boldt/Matthews series by Ridley Pearson, this finds cop Lou Boldt and forensic profiler Daphne Matthews trying to track down the person or group of persons responsible for burning homes in the Seattle area using a method that causes the homes to burn extremely hot and leave the remains of those who lived there charred beyond recognition (hence the title). The main plotline also forces the two protagonists to confront some building issues in their personal lives, odd considering the arson plotline but Pearson makes it work.

I've enjoyed the series thus far and look forward to the others in the series. I know I haven't read them in order, but I don't feel that Pearson spoiled anything from the earlier books in this one, except perhaps the

background of the storylines involving Boldt and Matthews' personal lives. Overall, an excellent read that kept me intrigued the whole time, but could be put down if needed and picked right back up again without needing a refresher.

Kathleen Hagen says

Beyond Recognition, by Ridley Pearson. A. Part of the Lew Bolt series.

This is my first Ridley Pearson, but definitely not the last. Sergeant Bolt is afraid of fires. He therefore isn't thrilled when he is placed, as a homicide specialist, to work with the arson unit because the fires appear to have homicide as the central focus. No one can figure out what the materials are that are setting the fires, but whatever they are, they burn so fast and so intensely that they destroy almost all evidence. In the first fire/murder, only part of a bone is left. Characters involved include a boy who has been raised by a drunken and sadistic stepfather after his mother left home, a psychologist assigned to the police who is in love with Lew Bolt, his wife, Liz, who wants him home more of the time, and a psychic. This is a very good and very scary book. There are twists and turns and red herrings. Ultimately it wasn't easy to figure out who set the fires and why.

Beyond Recognition, by Ridley Pearson, a-minus, Narrated by Dale Hull, Produced by Brilliance audio, Downloaded from audible.com.

Lew Bolt is assigned to investigate a group of fires, which always include one homicide, usually a woman. The fire burns so cleanly that there are very few traces left of body or evidence of how the fire is set. In fact, the fuel for the fire burns so cleanly that there come to be suspicions that it military grade rocket fuel. But where would anyone get access to such fuel? And a fire inspector seems too closely connected. He is the one that gets the note which precedes each fire. And a ten-year-old boy turns up who had a close encounter with the arsonist. They must protect him as he is the best witness they have for identifying anyone. Lew Bolt and Daphne Matthews are again very closely connected in the investigation, and it is also clear that there is some attraction still between them, particularly on Daphne's part. But Liz's cancer has returned. An emotionally charged thriller.

Vannessa Anderson says

Lou Boldt and Daphne Matthews were on a quest to find a serial arsonist and with the help of a little boy name Ben they were able to bring the arsonist down. Dale Hull excellent storytelling made my heart race during the final action scenes.

Linda says

Veteran homicide detective Lou Boldt is called onto the scene of a house fire, where the flames had been so fearsome that none of the firefighters had ever experienced anything like it. In tandem with profiler Daphne Matthews, Boldt is determined to smoke out the vicious arsonist, who strikes again a few days later. Within this scenario, author Pearson spins out a riveting subplot. Ben Santoro, the twelve year old victim of a sadistic stepfather, has found a safe haven in the home of psychic Emily Richland, and in the course of their

friendship, both become involved with arsonist. Finally, the intense attraction that Boldt and Matthews feel for each other is compounded when Boldt suspects that his wife, whom he also loves, is having an affair.

Starting with practically no hard evidence, Boldt obstinately pursues clues to the identity of the killer, who uses rocket fuel to create his infernos. Little by little the tension builds, and the final third of the book is so suspenseful that it is difficult to put down. The denouement in Ben's story is a satisfying one, but the reader is left hanging in the final scenes between Boldt and his wife, his behavior toward her having been appallingly distant. He's a great cop, but he could use some help with his own character.

ChrisGA says

Lots of twists and turns in this thriller about a serial arsonist. What makes it especially intriguing are the personal relationships --Ben and Emily, Ben and Daphne, Lou and Elizabeth.

Susan K. says

I wouldn't call this book light reading. The characters and plot are convoluted and keep you reading but there is deep feeling about the depths of human depravity that is unsettling.

J. Ewbank says

This is a good Lou Boldt by Pearson. It is fast paced, technical, and a book that gets you involved in the characters and events.

J. Robert Ewbank author "John Wesley, Natural Man, and the 'Isms'"

Charlotte says

This was an excellent police procedural. Although my 2012 sensibilities found some of the writing almost anachronistic in terms of the technology (the book was written in 1998, pagers were still in use, cell phones and laptops were still new, DNA wasn't even mentioned in the evidence gathering), it was still a gripping read.

The main protagonist is a very human, very believable detective. Lou Boldt is good at what he does as a detective sergeant, but he is struggling with some very relate-able issues: he and his wife are rebuilding their marriage after infidelity on both sides, they have two small children, one an infant daughter, and his wife makes a great deal more money than he does and resents that he won't take a desk job in order to spend more time with her and the children since she provides better for the family than he does.

As the tension in the case builds, the narrative surrounding Boldt's private life runs on a parallel and equally wrenching track. He is tracking a very clever arsonist, one who leaves little evidence behind, especially in the fires themselves. His capable team is stumped from the get-go: even the identification of the accelerant is

a mystery, and the inadequacies and struggle at work to get a handle on the case translate to even more tension and struggle at home, especially when the arsonist targets Boldt's home and family.

A very enjoyable read, a satisfying conclusion and a likable, human character good at what he does.

Diane says

I like Ridley Pearson's books, have read several, and have read other books in the Lou Boldt series. However, this book seemed to me to be a manual for an arsonist, giving lots of clues to a would-be arsonist, as well as police and fire procedures showing how to catch one. That part was interesting. The constant self-analyzing occurring between the two main characters became a little irritating, tho. It seems that two highly educated police investigators would not be so wound up in their own personal feelings, especially since one of them is a psychologist. It seemed a little too introspective for a crime novel. Overall, I would recommend this book and others by Pearson, he's one of the top writers in this genre.

Marjorie says

Very engrossing mystery. Loved the technical description about fire, arson, accelerators. I learned a lot. Boldt and Matthews are interesting characters. I enjoy reading about their relationship and personal lives almost as much as the central mystery.

Kimberly Orr says

Mixed up Durtelli with Dewitt from Probable Cause, plus ending (chase through factory) seemed really familiar. Need to re-read and think less!
