



## Beneath the Bleak New Moon

*Debra Purdy Kong*

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## **Beneath the Bleak New Moon** Debra Purdy Kong

The third installment in Debra Purdy Kong's Casey Holland Mysteries takes readers on a wild ride that will leave them breathless and wanting more.

While transit security officer Casey Holland is dealing with two unruly sisters on the M7 bus, the unthinkable happens. Street racers hit and kill a jogger crossing an intersection on Granville Street, a major Vancouver thoroughfare. Days later, there is a second hit and run on the same street and witnesses insist both victims were deliberately run down.

Danielle Carpenter, a young journalist, is determined to find out who's killing people for sport and asks for Casey's help. Helping Danielle isn't easy. She's not only reckless but also on a vendetta. When a racer is murdered and Danielle goes missing, Casey is compelled to step up the search for answers.

*Beneath the Bleak New Moon* is a story about a problem facing nearly every city in North America today—the deadly ramifications of street racing.

## **Beneath the Bleak New Moon Details**

Date : Published September 17th 2013 by TouchWood Editions

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Author : Debra Purdy Kong

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Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Crime, Cultural, Canada

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## From Reader Review Beneath the Bleak New Moon for online ebook

### Carrie says

\*Disclosure\* I know the author personally and I've had the privilege of beta reading some of her other work however, this is my honest opinion and I was not asked to write a review.

The third novel in the Casey Holland series finds the heroine working one of the company's routes in downtown Vancouver when the unthinkable occurs: a car racing down the street strikes a pedestrian and takes off. Casey rushes to help but the woman tragically dies. This event leads Casey into investigating the growing issue of street racing in the city and resulting deaths when racers don't take pedestrians into concern. Even worse than the reckless racing, is the fact these deaths appeared deliberate.

After attending the funeral for the woman Casey tries to help, she is approached by Danielle Carpenter, a young journalist trying to get to the bottom of this secret underground world. Danielle's impulsive nature drags both her and Casey into constant danger. If you haven't read the previous books you wouldn't know that Casey is hardwired to investigate mysteries and is almost compelled to help out people who ask her, even if it means throwing her life and that of her own family into danger.

I love that along with the mystery we are given another group of entertaining characters, namely the obnoxious twins riding Casey's bus route and the reason she was present at the first death. The twins have their own issues and you can't help feel sorry for them but you also want to smack them on the head for being so awful. I also loved that Casey and Lou's relationship is progressing and it isn't a straightforward romance. Both parties have their own baggage and they need to continuously work on dealing with these issues. This relationship feels more realistic than the romance you might typically find.

With each book, Debra's writing gets tighter and the suspense builds. I managed to read this in just a day, I was so engaged in the story. I can't wait to read book four!

5 out of 5 stars

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### Julie Ferguson says

First I must disclose that I'm a writer colleague of the author, Debra Purdy Kong, and I have followed her developing success as a mystery author for many years.

Beneath the Bleak New Moon is the third novel in the Casey Holland Mystery series and will not be her last. Purdy Kong always identifies an issue of social concern that underpins each book; this one tackles street racing and those involved. It's complicated by a young journalist who puts herself in constant danger as she attempts to find the street racer who killed her brother.

This backdrop to murder is intense and frightening, both for the protagonist, Casey, and the reader. The pace is unrelenting, the tension rises inexorably, until Casey discovers the killer. Along the way, the sub-plots of her relationship with Lou and the care of her legal ward roll the reader along and connect us to Casey's humanity.

Purdy Kong's mysteries have caught the attention of Canada's Quill and Quire, and national newspapers, and

rightly so. They are well-crafted thrillers that have you reading deep into the night.

Try this one on for size but start it over the weekend when you don't have to go to work the next day!!

Highly recommended if you love a good contemporary mystery.

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### **Skjam! says**

Disclaimer: I received this book as a Goodreads giveaway on the premise that I would review it.

Casey Holland is a security officer for a small transit company in Vancouver, British Columbia. She's working the night shift during a new moon, and dealing with obnoxious twin sisters who flout the bus rules. Suddenly, she and the bus passengers witness a hit and run accident caused by illegal street racers. Casey tries to save the victim, but it's too late.

As a result, Casey meets Danielle Carpenter, a rookie reporter with a burning grudge against Roadkill, the local gang of street racers. She believes one of them killed her brother, and is taking dangerous chances to track them down. She drags the unwilling Casey (who would much rather leave this to her police contacts) into the investigation.

More hit and runs happen, but these are no accidents—has Roadkill developed a taste for blood as well as their need for speed? And do the twins know too much about the gang for their own good?

This is the third Casey Holland mystery; references are made to her having gotten too personally involved in previous cases (one was her father's death.) She's apparently mostly learned her lesson on that score, so Danielle is brought in to be the reckless one. Casey coordinates with the police whenever possible, given her quasi-authority status.

There's a subplot involving Casey's ex-husband and her current boyfriend, and very glancing looks at her foster daughter who may be getting a love life of her own.

This story is a bit closer to noir than to cozy, the conclusion is more the product of elimination of suspects than it is of clever reasoning. Many of the characters come off as unlikable, but we are seeing them through Casey's eyes and she's kind of judgmental.

This book should be enjoyable for those who want some, but not too much, grit in their mystery stories. Also, those who wonder what happens to unlucky pedestrians in those Fast and Furious movies. Check it out at your library, or there's a special ebook offer at [touchwoodeditions.com](http://touchwoodeditions.com) .

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### **Philip says**

I liked this book quite a bit and may have more comments later. I'll probably read more in this series or by this author.

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## **Melinda says**

I received an ARC through Goodreads

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I would give it 2.5 stars.

This is the first book that I have read of the Casey Holland Mystery series.

I found it to be a quick and short read. The writing style and story development is slightly different than I have encountered. Overall, it was a decent read, I enjoyed reading about Casey and the mystery of the roadkills and races. I appreciate a hard working, head strong and wary young woman, who knows to at least call the police during certain situations, who isn't afraid to defend herself and fight back and go to great lengths to protect others (especially Danielle, who really doesn't deserve Casey's help/protection). The portray of Cassey's relationships adds an element to the story, which is a nice touch to show her struggles on top of the races.

I wasn't too fond of Danielle, I found her very hard to relate to or connect with given how reckless and naive she was throughout the entire story. I thought the sub-storyline of the twins and Casey could have been resolved a lot sooner, even if the information they occasionally supplied were right on the mark in terms of tying it to the races. Truthfully, I cannot get over how easy going the cops were, I mean they readily accepted various people's explanations without diving too much into depth, that felt a little unrealistic. And the ending kind of felt a little hollow, where the identity of the killer is finally revealed, to me that part felt a little messy and didn't tie too well together with the rest of the story. (view spoiler).

Overall, the story has it's moments. Sadly, I didn't really enjoy this book as much as I would have liked. It was interesting but it wasn't too much of a mystery that motivated me to keep reading.

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## **Tami says**

I haven't received my copy yet, just received notice I had won. 8/20/13

Received my copy Saturday 8/24/13

Started Sunday 8/25/13

Finished 8/28/13

Casey Holland is a security officer on the public transit system. She is called to duty when teen twin sisters have been smoking on a smoke-free bus. During the ride, street racers hit and kill a jogger crossing at a light. The racers take off and are not apprehended. A few days later just down the road, another hit and run kills a woman and leaves a child in critical condition. Again, hit by a street racer type car.

Journalist Danielle Carpenter is determined to find the killers and break up the illegal street racing club. Her brother was killed while racing. When Danielle disappears, Casey feels she needs to help find her, and as a bonus, maybe help bring the killers to justice.

This was a good book. When I first started I didn't realize it was book 3 of a series, but it became clear when things were alluded to from Casey's past. I was friends with illegal racers back a few years ago, but our group would go to an abandoned race track, not through traffic filled streets. But even then it was scary that

the spectators were right there next to cars going so fast. I completely understood the fear factor, the characters were believable and a few were quite entertaining. Good read.

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### **Elaine Folger says**

This was a very enjoyable mystery. I wanted very much to see who did it & what would happen to the main characters. The author made her characters seem like real people. I will be looking to read the rest of this series. I received the book in the giveaway s on Goodreads & truly liked it. If you're a mystery buff, you will want to read this one.

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### **Sara says**

First, the obligatory disclaimer that I received this book for free (thanks to TouchWood and Debra Purdy Kong) in exchange for an honest review.

Now, the review.

I thought the book started off with a bang. Teenage twins causing a ruckus on the bus when the unthinkable happens - a hit and run murder in front of way too many witnesses. Witnesses can only come up with vague details, so the guy isn't caught. Another hit and run happens soon after. Suspense.

The first part of the book kept me on the edge of my seat. It started to decline midway through. I liked Danielle at first, but her character's daredevil attitude escalated so quickly that she became an entirely unrealistic character. The twins were enjoyable characters for a little while, but their story quickly began to play on repeat as Casey threatened to tell their mom what they were doing and they begged her not to. I could have done without the Greg/Tina drama (though I didn't read the first two books in this series, so maybe I would care more if I had) and the whole issue of whether or not Casey was going to sell the house. The pacing was very uneven -- we have basically an entire chapter of Casey literally chasing the twins, but the whole story is wrapped up over the course of about two pages. Don't even get me started on the constant mention of Casey's Tercel...

All in all, for the problems I could have with a book, these are relatively minor. It's far from the worst book I've read recently. I was engaged enough to keep reading, but I don't feel compelled to read the rest of the books in the series.

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### **Mallee Stanley says**

Debra Purdy Kong has done it again with another Casey Holland Mystery about street car racing; a problem that has plagued the lower mainland. As always, discovering the culprit responsible for Danielle's brother's murder along with several pedestrians, keeps us guessing right to the end.

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**Jane West says**

I couldn't finish the book. The characters appear one dimensional and the plot lacks detail.

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**Erik says**

My favorite of the Casey Holland series thus far. Well paced, exciting and excellent character development. I can't wait to read the forth novel.

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