



Dead by Nightfall

Beverly Barton

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The Fear. . .

Malcolm York is a sadistic monster, guilty of unspeakable crimes. And with his endless wealth he's funded a series of depraved hunts. The few who survived can never forget. They can only be thankful the terror is over. Until rumors start swirling. . .

Only Stops. . .

Griffin Powell knows the twisted depths of York's madness. He's also sure that York is dead. But then Griff's wife, Nicole, disappears and the phone calls begin--that familiar voice taunting him, promising to destroy everything Griff loves.

When You Die. . .

Using all the resources of the Powell Agency, Griff searches for Nic, aware that every step propels him further into a madman's web. Because the only way to keep Nic safe is to join one last perverse game where winner kills all, and the loser is dead by nightfall. . .

Praise for Beverly Barton's Don't Cry

"A shivery read. . . Tight twists and hairpin turns will keep readers racing through the pages." --*Bookpage*

"Barton delivers a solid mix of romance and terror in her latest thriller." --*Publishers Weekly*

Dead by Nightfall Details

Date : Published (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Beverly Barton

Format : Kindle Edition 448 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense, Thriller

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From Reader Review Dead by Nightfall for online ebook

jenjn79 says

Rating: 2.5 / 5

I find I'm a bit at a loss for words as to what to say about this book...

Series Note:

13th, and likely final, book in the "Griffin Powell" series of related books. Do you need to read the others? I honestly don't know. There's a large amount of backstory, including the fact that the H/H get together in another book. But the story *may* be independent enough to read...but I just can't really say.

Summary:

Many years ago, Griffin Powell and his two best friends, Damar Sanders and Yvette Meng, were held captive by a sadistic billionaire. They were tortured, hunted, and mistreated in the worst of ways. But they escaped and killed their captor. But now someone has "resurrected" evil Malcom York with the sole purpose of bringing Griffin Powell to his knees.

To accomplish this, he kidnaps Griffin's beloved wife, Nicole and sets in motion of a chain of events that will have Griffin doubting everything and fearing that he will never see his wife again. He will not rest until he finds the man masquerading as York. Until he kills him again and brings Nicole home where she belongs.

Review:

I find myself a bit speechless over what to say about this book (which obviously passes as I see how long this review is ;). That's a rarity, as anyone who has read my reviews knows. But wow, this book just...disturbed...me. Really and truly disturbed me.

I've read some creepy, disturbing books before (Karen Rose can creep me out like no other). But even at her most diabolical (Die For Me (book #7)), I was never as disturbed as this book made me. This book crossed a line into the realm of super dark and disturbing that just did not appeal to me.

I have to admit first, though, that I did a lot of skim reading in this book. Why? For several reasons.

* as discussed in my review for Dead By Morning, I've not been the biggest fan of Barton's recent books because of the shift away from romance in her books to more straight up suspense. I only decided to read these last two books because I wanted to know the last of Griffin Powell's story, which has been built up for a large majority of the series. So it was hard to muster up enthusiasm to read a book that I knew beforehand wouldn't quite meet my expectations. Really, all I wanted to know was what the rest of Griff's story was and how it all worked out. So I read enough to get the point of things and skimmed through other stuff.

* due to the author's unexpected and unfortunate passing last year, before this book was even published, this series will never be completed (I assume). We readers were fortunate enough that Ms. Barton had already finished this book and we were able to read it (even if I didn't enjoy it, exactly). But we are also left with the knowledge that there were stories left to be told that won't be. From reading the previous book, and this book, Barton had appeared to set up stories for Luke and Meredith, and Yvette and Rafe (maybe those pairings, maybe not). I found myself not wanting to get too invested in those characters or story set ups because I knew those stories would never come. So I sort of superficially skimmed through stuff with those

characters.

* this book is unbelievably dark. I've read a lot of romantic suspense books that involve dark stories, books about serial killers that tell gruesome, creepy tales. But there is a separateness to those books. They usually involve some psycho killer the main characters are hunting down, who butchers random people you have no attachment to. Which is the key. They're just characters and though you're creeped out, you're not particularly invested in their deaths. That's not the case in this book. Everything revolves the main characters. And there is a whole lot of violence and death and disturbing graphic scenes involving them. It was too much for me. Having to read about the heroine being forced to kill an innocent person or the hero being only feet away from saving someone when they are murdered...I don't know, but the way this story was told went past a line into an area that I did not find "enjoyable." The amount of death and violence thoroughly disturbed me. I couldn't take some of the scenes and so I skimmed.

Was it fair to skim read at times during the book? Probably not. But it's what I did to make it through it. Some parts I read more thoroughly than others, but overall I got enough to take in the story being told. And, as my comments so far have implied, I didn't particularly enjoy the book.

Aside from what I've said so far, there were some other plot things I didn't particularly care for.

The basic plot revolves around the fact that someone is impersonating evil Malcolm York, the man who kidnapped Griff, held him hostage for years and tortured him in a myriad of ways. That man kidnaps Nic, Griff's wife. The rest of the story is then basically Nic being put through almost exactly what Griff did. And because you know a fair amount of what Griff went through, you feel like you're just reading a redux of Griff's experience, except in a more first person perspective. It just felt a bit repetitive in a certain way.

It doesn't help that the book doesn't really give you anything else new. There's no new romantic pairing for you to focus on. The romance revolves around Nic and Griff, who are already married (we read their story in *The Murder Game*). So you're not getting anything new there. And you get some Derek and Maleah (*Dead By Morning*) and some of Sanders and BJ (who are left hanging at the end of this book) but you don't get anything new. Maybe some set up for potential romances in future books (which, as mentioned, will not come). I would have liked a new romance for this book. Something just new and different instead of a sole romantic focus on two characters (Griff and Nic) who spend virtually no time together in this book.

Then there's the fact that there's a lot of dead air in this book. Times when you read Griff thinking the same things over and over, where you just keep getting the same introspective thoughts and actions. They're things you already know and understand so it seems pointless to keep reading scenes that give you the same thing.

I can see why some readers enjoyed this book. It's tense, detailed, different from what's out there. But for me, I just couldn't get into it for all the reasons I mentioned above. I'm glad to know the rest of Griffin Powell's story, but wish it could have happened a different way. I'd been straying from Barton's stories but I wanted to know the rest of Griff's tale. I hadn't planned on reading anymore of this series after this book but yet I still find myself sad that books for the other characters won't get to be written. That might make no sense, but it is what it is.

If you read this book, be prepared for the disturbing violence. Most of the readers of this series will probably want to read this book to get the wrap up on Griff, it's what I wanted, but it's not a book I'd recommend jumping into the series on.

And now I feel the need to read something much lighter with lots of romance and gratuitous sex in it...

R.I.P. Beverly Barton. I read a lot of your books and even though your recent ones weren't quite to my liking, I have a lot of respect for your work and your ability as a writer. You'll be missed.

Tory says

1.5 stars.
a little too gruesome and little too romance-novel-y for me.

Dee says

Two-haiku review:

Madman kidnaps her
Husband must obey or death
Will she survive it?

Twisted, evil plot
Conclusion of trilogy
Exciting thriller

Diane says

the last book in the Powell Agency series, as the author passed away this year. it wraps up most of what's been happening with the characters we've seen over the years, except for a couple, and has an HEA for many of the characters.

Shauni says

Dead by Nightfall is the final book in Beverly Barton's Dead by Series.. Although it follows key members of her Powell Agency Series. This book was one intense, suspense filled moment after another an amazing ride full of plot twists and character changes. The only thing we were ever quite sure of was what was up and what was down and sometimes even that was lost for a moment or two.

This book is a most definite read but you really must read at the very least the entire Dead by Trilogy if not the entire Powell Agency Series. It is gut wrenching and tear jerking and suspenseful and worth every single emotion it wrings out of you. Yes it leaves a few tiny threads dangling hoping to tease us and sadly those

threads will never be tied as Ms Barton passed away on April 11, 2011. I am grieved that this was the first I heard of it.. she had a wonderful way with words and she will be missed.

To Read the review in it's entirety come to Bodice Rippers

Diana Brown says

Excellent read! It was sad to know that some of the characters that you want to read more about will never get there story told. RIP Beverly and Thank you!

Christa says

I loved this book, but it is definitely not for the faint of heart. This was was gritty and disturbing, but an excellent conclusion to the series. There was much less romance in Dead by Nightfall than the previous books of the series. I enjoyed the suspense, but would have preferred a little more romance. That didn't bother me enough to affect my rating. Since things have not been going well between Nicole and Griffin in the last few books, I was glad to read this one that wraps up their story. They had so much to overcome in this one that I was terribly worried for them during most of it. There were some really tough moments, and it kept me on pins and needles, anxious about what would happen.

Nicole Powell has found out that her beloved husband has lied to her about his former relationship with his friend Yvette. She feels so hurt that she can't stand to be around him, so she takes off for her cabin in the Smoky Mountains. Soon it is obvious that she never arrived, and has been taken by an unknown man who is posing as her husband, Griff's, deceased mortal enemy. This is almost enough to cost Griff his sanity, but he puts all of his tremendous resources into finding Nicole. Nicole suffers while imprisoned, but she is confident that Griff is making every effort to find her. As she is put through unspeakable misuse, she has more than herself to worry about. While she is trying to survive, Griff is making every effort to find her before time runs out.

This is a heart wrenching book that is also compelling and hard to put down. I liked the way all was wrapped up, but am very saddened by the passing of the author. I loved her romantic suspense and am sorry that the rest of the stories she would have potentially written will not ever come to fruition. She was one of my favorite authors of romantic suspense and I believe that this is the most intense of her works.

Sandi Morgan says

I have enjoyed reading Beverly Barton's stories and was sad to learn she has passed away. She will be missed by her many fans! God Bless!

Phyllis says

What a great way to end a series! I thought this book was great.

Jen says

Griff and Nicole

Review posted on *Fiction Vixen* Book Reviews

Dead by Nightfall is the third book in Beverly Barton's Dead by trilogy and the 13th book in the Griffin Powell series. It is really the continuation of Griffin and Nicole's story. Their story started in book 8, The Murder Game. While that book ended in a good place there were hints of unhappiness between Griff and Nic in the last couple of books. Griff has been keeping a very big secret from Nic and in Dead by Nightfall the secret comes out.

Griff, Sanders and Yvette survived a horrible experience at the hands of a madman. Forced to participate in human hunts and perform for guests they all bonded in a way that could not be broken. All along Griff had told Nic that he and Yvette had not slept together but that was a lie. Not only had Griff and Yvette been forced to sleep with each other but they could have had a child together. Once Nic finds out about this info she leaves Griff to go stay in their cabin and have some time alone. The book opens up with Nic's best friend arriving at the cabin to find her guard is dead and Nic has been kidnapped.

I don't want to go into the plot too much because everything is a big spoiler. I will say this book was excellent. I didn't think I would like it because I knew Nic was kidnapped at the beginning and why would I want to read a book where the main love interests are not even together? That was so not the case. It was faced past and edge of your seat intense. Most of the characters from the previous Griffin Powell book were brought into play in this one. Griff wastes no resources in trying to find Nicole. It is also a very long book at 416 pages but it didn't feel that long. There wasn't a single point in the book where I thought it started to drag or I wanted the resolution to come faster. Also we are left guessing as to whom the ultimate bad guy actually is. I didn't figure it out until I was told at the very end!

There was one thing I didn't like about this book and it pretty much something I haven't ever liked about the series. That was Yvette. I cannot stand that woman. She has been cast in the role of the martyr but in mind, she is the main cause of all this turmoil. She hangs around Griff and reminds him and Nicole daily of her presence in his life and her part in his past. For several books I have felt if she just went away maybe Griff and Nic would be able to move past the issues they have. At one point, she is off trying to find the child they possibly had when all Griff wants to do is find Nic. She is selfish and self serving. Even the actions of "taking away" Griff's pain do not work for me. Unfortunately, it seems that Yvette might have a book in the future. Who knows?

Beverly Barton passed away on April 21, 2011. I do not know if this was her last completed work or if there will be more books after this one. What I do know is that this could have been my favorite installment to this long running series. I will be disappointed if this was the last book she had written. If you are a fan of the series, I would highly recommend buying this book. You will not be let down. Final grade- A-

Ayu Wirdha says

Nicole & Griff akhirnya dibuatkan cerita lagi oleh Beverly Barton (BB) di Dead by Midnight. Di Murder Game, Nic & Griff diceritakan menikah ttp ternyata masih ada ganjalan yg tertinggal di benak Nic tentang hubungan yg sebenarnya antara Griff dan Yvette. Karena Griff slalu berkata hubungan antara mereka hanya seperti kakak adik. Akhirnya bom tsb meledak ketika Griff menerima surat dari Malcolm York (yg seharusnya sudah mati dibunuh sendiri oleh Griff) yg mengabarkan bahwa York memiliki/membesarkan anak hasil dari Yvette & Griff dan anak tsb ada di London.

Nic yg mendengar hal ini sangat kecewa dgn Griff bukan krn mereka melakukan hub sex (krn Nic mengerti Griff, Sander, Yvette telah mengalami bnyk hal mengerikan yg diperintahkan oleh York) tetapi telah berbohong kepadanya. Saat itu juga Nic pergi dr rumah menuju kabin untuk menyendiri, tapi berakhir dengan Nic diculik oleh York. Krn Nic selalu berpindah2 membuat Griff sulit menemukannya, apalagi York membuat Griff sibuk dgn pencarian anak Yvette.

Sepanjang 2/3 hal buku ini menceritakan ketegangan yg dialami Nic yg harus mengikuti perintah York dlm memuaskan klien2nya yg haus darah, teror mental yg dibuat York untuk Griff, Sander & Yvette. Apakah benar York hidup kembali? Terus terang BB semakin piawai membuat plot yg tegang (seperti karna Rose). Gw selama membaca buku ini berdoa...please jgn sampai BB membuat Nic mengalami pelecehan seksual (selalu nyaris - dan untungnya slalu lolos.... horeeee) apalagi ceritanya Nic ini sedang hamil 3 bulan. Penculikan ini berlangsung slama 3 bln jd pd akhirnya York tau kalo Nic hamil.

Pd akhirnya semua berakhir happy end walau Jonas (partner Nic) tewas juga (dr hub dgn Jonas akhirnya Nic ngerti bgimana rasanya hub antara Yvette & Griff). Tapi sayang masih ada yang menggantung yaitu antara Yvette & Rafe (korban di Amara jg), Sander & Barbara Jean yg renggang, karena BB sudah tiada kemungkinan besar tidak ada cerita ttg mereka.

Setelah selesai baca buku ini, gw pengen baca yg full romance dulu supaya tegangnya & kesadisan York hilang ...hehehehe

Paris (kerbytejas) says

What a story..dark evil, violent, but at the same time it had lots of redundant dialogue, and seemed like it went on forever.

Lacy says

2.75

Rachel Kingree says

Good quick read. Was a garage sale find and realized quickly that there were books prior to this one. Was good on its own, probably would've been better if I would've started with book one instead of book 13! At some point I might go back and read the other ones, once I'm done with the other 60 books on my "want to read" list.

Esther says

i'm pretty sure..... this book will be absolutely TERRIFIC !!!!!

and yes it is ! dari epilog di buku Dead BY Morning, adegan Nicole di culik Mr-yang-susah-mati.... uda ga sabar bgt pengen " habisin " neey buku... and halaman demi halaman makin bikin sesak nafas,,, aq bahkan bertanya2...koq ada yaa manusia kyk York... and aq berharap spy nicole ga disentuh ma York...it's funny to know your emotional got turned up and down just because of a book ! yeah.. everyone who read this book should admit that Beverly did stir the emotion of her readers.... she did a marvelous work. the tension of the waiting, the desperate, the devastation of the situation. i didn't even care about the romance among the characters. all i wanted was Nicole was saved. but i must admitted that i do care about the relationship between Yvette N Rafe Byrne. ^^

after all... this is a very good close of The Dead Trilogy. i love your works Beverly and always be.
