



Cold Hearted

Beverly Barton

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TRUSTING HER...

They all loved her. That was their mistake. Two husbands, her college fiancé, and influential boss – every man who gets close to Jordan Price is made to pay in blood. And the list is growing...

COULD BE...

Hired by the Powell Agency to investigate Senator Dan price's death, Rick Carson can see at once why people would believe Jordan Price is incapable of cold-blooded murder. Slender, pale, and elegant, she stands by her late husband's graveside exuding sweet vulnerability. Only Rick notices that she never sheds a tear. And the deeper he delves into the string of deaths from which Jordan has profited handsomely, the more convinced Rick becomes that he is dealing with a callous, cunning, unstoppable killer...

THE LAST THING YOU EVER DO...

The closer rick gets to the chilling truth, the more dangerous this game of cat-and-mouse becomes. The targets are changing, and suddenly, nothing and no one is safe. If Jordan is as innocent as she claims, Rick may have placed her in a killer's cross hairs. And if she's guilty, he'll never live to regret it...

Cold Hearted Details

Date : Published (first published January 1st 2008)

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Author : Beverly Barton

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Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Mystery, Thriller, Suspense

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From Reader Review Cold Hearted for online ebook

Curlyhair says

Another in this series of Griffin Powell and Co in his agency. Unfortunately not one of her best for me. It wasn't that difficult to predict exactly where the story was headed most of the time. It was enjoyable enough, but you weren't wondering much while reading, just kind of going to the end to see if you were right.

jenjn79 says

I don't think I've yet read a book by Beverly Barton that I didn't like. This one was no exception. I enjoyed *Cold Hearted* from the beginning to the end.

Though it's not considered an official series, this book is part of the Griffin Powell/Powell Agency universe - as are all of Barton's non-Protector's, full-length novels. Most of them (with the exception of the Game books) can be read as stand-alones, this one included.

Cold Hearted features Powell Agent Rick Carson, who had brief mentions/appearances in one or two other books. Rick has been assigned to investigate the death of Senator Dan Price. The police believe it was a suicide, but Price's family thinks he was murdered and as the Powell Agency to investigate. Heading up the top of the list of suspects is Price's widow, Jordan. From the start, Rick is torn between two emotions over the beautiful young widow - his relentless attraction, and his unrelenting suspicion. Because this isn't the first time Jordan has been widowed. Her first husband died in a hunting accident, and her fiance before that in a car accident. For Rick, there's no such thing as coincidence in a case like this. So he can't help but wonder if he's falling for a cold hearted murderer.

Barton did an excellent weaving this rather sordid tale. The scenes with the bad guys thought had me suspecting just about everyone because though the scenes give lots of clues, you never really know until the end who has been killing people left and right. It really keeps you head into the story trying to figure out who did what and why.

The romance angle, for me, was about the only place the book lacked a bit. Really, until page like 320 or so (out of about 400 pages) the H/H share only one kiss. Which in a way is understandable because Jordan is completely closed off emotionally, and Rick honestly thinks she's could be a black widow murderer. Still, it's disappointing to have so little actual romance in the book. So I wouldn't have minded a bit of a boost in that area. But I did like Rick and Jordan mostly even if it was a little hard to get a feel for them as a couple because for most of the book their relationship is so contentious and rife with suspicion.

I also enjoyed the "cameos" with Nic and Griffin. They are one of my favorite Barton couples and she gives up a couple nice scenes with them in the book. And I'm curious about the storyline Barton appears to be building up with recurring character Yvette Meng. Sounds like it will be an interesting one.

So for you Barton fans, or general fans of romantic suspense novels, I'd definitely recommend this one. It was and enjoyable book to read, even if a little low on romance. I look forward to more books from Barton in the Powell "universe."

Netha says

Jordan Price, the black widow, pria2 yg dekat dengannya satu persatu mati.

dimulai dari tunangan masa kuliahnya, robby joe, atasannya, suaminya & terakhir suami ke 2nya, Senator Dan Price.

Kematian Dan Price menyimpan banyak tanda tanya. membuat ryan & jordan menyewa jasa griffin powell investigation.

Rick Carson, agen yg ditugaskan untuk menangani kasus Dan Price sejak awal memiliki perasaan yg ganjil terhadap Jordan.

jordan terlihat sangat dingin, jauh & seperti tak berperasaan. jika ditanya langsung rick akan langsung menuding jordan sbg pembunuh Dan Price tpai masalah tak sesimple itu.

dalam priceville manor ternyata menyimpan sejuta rahasia termasuk orang2 didalamnya yg begitu memuja jordan. mereka menganggap jordan spt orang suci.

rick harus memikirkan semuanya dari awal. benarkah dugaan awalnya tentang jordan ataukah memang jordan sebaik yg dipuja puja???

membaca novel ini awalnya aq juga ga gitu suka pada jordan jg pada orang2 di priceville manor.

mereka spt tidak mampu berbuat apa2 tanpa jordan. sptnya mereka mengharapkan jordan menyelesaikan setiap masalah mereka & memang itulah yg dilakukan jordan.

jordan bahkan tidak sempat memikirkan kesedihannya sendiri karna dia harus memikirkan perasaan banyak orang.

memikirkan ibu tirinya, Roselynn, juga tammy adik tirinya yg sangat2 "naif" juga si J.C kakak tiri yg brengsek (duh punya kakak tiri tukang porot & penghianat macam begini dah ku ulek2 dari dulu), juga masih ada darlene, ibu robby joe yg setelah robby joe meninggal akhirnya bergantung pd jordan, termasuk devon markham, sahabat jordan & kekasih gelap Dan, juga wes & kendra, anak2 tirinya.

ya ampun kapan coba waktunya jordan menyendiri merenungi hidupnya kalo setiap hari setiap saat dia harus mengurus orang lain????!!!!

baca nih novel kebanyakan dongkol nih tp emosinya bener2 kuat.

ya ampun sampe mo nangis aq waktu jordan keguguran, pdhl dia sangat mengharapkan bayi tersebut.

aq mikir apa masih ada ya orang sebaik jordan???

kalo aq jadi jordan dah sesak nafas dari dulu2

untunglah datanglah rick carson, yg kuat yg bisa menjadi sandaran bagi jordan. hanya masalahnya rick harus mempercayai jordan dulu bukan???? rick tidak akan bisa melindungi jordan kalo dia masih memasukkan jordan dalam daftar tersangkanya....

Steff says

This book was way too predictable...and for supposedly highly intelligent characters, they were way too slow on the uptake. Not to mention the main character was portrayed saint-like and it made her more irritating than endearing.

Alex is The Romance Fox says

Cold Hearted by Beverly Barton is the #9 book in her Griffin Powell Series but can be read as a standalone.

Jordan Price, the beautiful widow of Senator Price is devastated by his apparent suicide, which is suspected that he may have actually been murdered.

Rick Carson, private investigator working for the Griffin Powell Agency is chosen to look into the case by some the Senator's family members who are suspicious about his sudden death.

Arriving at the family's stately home in Georgia and meeting the family living there, he's struck by the coldness and emotionless demeanor of Jordan.

She becomes his first suspect in the death of the husband, despite him feeling that there's something about her that makes him question her motive. The fact that people who have shown anything bad towards her, have died under very odd circumstances....her fiancée, her first husband, her previous boss, a man who flirted with her, the senator's wife who's trying to blackmail her.....all dead!!!!

The author weaves a tale of family secrets and betrayals and that all seem to have a reason to murdering the Senator.

The family dynamics is really strange. Jordan cares for everyone....financially and emotionally. From the senator's assistant to her two stepchildren, her stepmother and her children and even the mother of her dead fiancée. These people are like vultures around her...they all seem to love and care for Jordan but at the same time they continue living off her and in some way using her.

Jordan Price was the most extraordinary heroine! Throughout the pages I kept asking myself....how can any person be so caring, loving and thoughtful to others....thinking of them first before herself....come one, is it at all possible?? But the funny thing is ...she actually is the nicest person ever....in fact, I would love to have someone like her as my BFF!!! Yes, she has secrets, she feels pain and sorrow but she doesn't load it onto the people she cares for. She's really an amazing human being.

The author does an incredible job of keeping you guessing who the murderer is....even when we get to read that person's POV...it's still not clear who it may be...is it the stepmother, the brother, the fiancée's mother, the slow thinking stepsister...WHO???

And when the murderer is revealed and the reasons for all the murders...wow.....this is some crazy one!!!

There's a bit of romance between Rick and Jordan but nothing between them really happens until almost at the end.

I enjoyed the few appearances of Nic and Griffin Powell and some of the other characters from this series.

A solid and good suspense read with a bit of romance and some interesting and totally weird characters, with a lovely setting....yes, a stately home in Georgia...

ilona says

Griffin Agent investigating murder vs. suicide of wealthy senator. Although attracted to the widow and sensing her innocence, he can't get past the fact that her fiance was killed in an auto accident and first husband was killed accidentally with a stray bullet while hunting. Several other unexplained deaths surround her as well. Dragged at times.

Not one of my favorite books by this author.

Christa says

Cold Hearted was another great book by Beverly Barton. It was very suspenseful, and although I had a good idea of the identity of the villain, Barton kept me wondering and doubting until almost the end. The book had a great storyline, and I thoroughly enjoyed the main characters. The book was much heavier on the suspense than on the romantic aspect. The only deficiency in the book was in the romance. I felt that the resolution was too rushed in the end and seemed forced and lacking. Overall, this was a great book, I just would have liked the last page or two of interreaction between the hero and heroine before the epilogue to have been handled a bit differently.

Jordan Price's husband has just committed suicide, and the day of the funeral she finds that his brother believes the death was actually a murder. Ryan Price has called in the Griffith Powell Agency with the intent of asking them to look into his brother's death. Jordan is stunned, but readily agrees and joins with Ryan in hiring Griff's company. Rick Carson is the lead agent assigned to the case, and as he watches Jordan the day of the funeral, he is disturbed by her lack of apparent emotion. He almost immediately begins to believe that she is behind the death of her husband, but his strong attraction to her causes him to hope that she is innocent. When Rick observes Jordan's strong attachment to her deceased husband's assistant, he believes that he has found some motive for the murder. More incriminating evidence comes to light when Rick discovers that Jordan has now been widowed twice - and she also lost a fiance to death. As the investigation continues, it doesn't seem possible that coincidence could be involved when so many men close to Jordan have died. Not only her two husbands and fiance, but her father, an employer, and a man she dated have all died in circumstances which benefited Jordan financially or in some other way. Jordan has a large extended family that she takes care of, and they are all completely loyal to her. None of them believe she could possibly be guilty of anything. As Rick's attraction and feelings for Jordan grow, he tries to be objective as he wades through the evidence against Jordan. Rick doesn't know whether he is falling for a sweet, vulnerable lady who needs tender care or a black widow who may have targeted him as her next victim.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was engrossing and fast paced. The suspense aspect of the book was wonderfully done. While there was finally an HEA, I felt a bit unsatisfied with the manner in which the romance was handled. I didn't mind that the hero had doubts about the heroine through much of the book - he had just met her - but as the mystery was solved, I didn't like the direction in which the romance went. There was a very brief resolution in the epilogue but I found it wanting, and was left a bit unsatisfied. With the way the romance was left before the epilogue, I needed more interaction between the hero and heroine than the half page that was given to it in the epilogue. This would have definitely been a five star book if a bit more attention had been given to the romance. All in all, a wonderful suspense with great characters.

Nessa says

Wow, absolutely wow, this book has left me speechless and in awe of the author. It just amazes me how the author continues to keep coming up with these amazing plot ideas.

This is an edge of ure seat gripping crime thriller, I could not put this book down, was completely taken in by the story from beginning to end.

As always I love the characters in this ongoing series of books. :-)

Leslie says

The rating says it all...I generally really enjoy Beverly books, but this one not so much. I feel as though the story line was much longer than needed. I only read it just to continue with the Powell characters. I expect much better with her next showing.

Andrew Carter says

A very typical story by Barton....a take-off on the Black Widow theme with a different ending. I enjoyed the book and read it over a very short period of time. After reading some of the reviews I was surprised at how many reviewers addressed 'an ability (or lack thereof) to guess the 'baddie'. I guess that I do not read a book as a puzzle and attempt to guess the bad guy....I approach it like I do a movie...I just sit back and go with the flow of the story and let it take me where it wants to go. I find this approach much more enjoyable than constantly trying to guess the plot direction.

Bernie says**Cold Hearted review**

Cold Hearted is the ninth exciting and page turning romantic suspense book in the Griffin Powell series written by author Beverly Barton.

Pat Cromwell says

It took me forever to finish this. Beverly Barton either allows the heroine to shine or the hero. Never both. This was the heroine's book and I could not stand her!

Lainy says

Time Taken To Read - 4 days

Blurb From Goodreads

TRUSTING HER...

They all loved her. That was their mistake. Two husbands, her college fiancé, and influential boss – every man who gets close to Jordan Price is made to pay in blood. And the list is growing...

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My Review

Jordan Price's husband has just committed suicide, his brother refuses to believe it and hires an investigator Rick Carson. The investigation soon reveals Senator Dan Price wasn't her first husband to die and soon a police investigation begins. Jordan is accused of being a black widow and has to face facts, if she didn't kill the men in her life then someone close to her must have and who will be next?

The story kicks off fairly quick with the night the Senator dies and what actually happened to him. The story goes along at a fairly good pace. The killer comes in at intermittent intervals thinking back to past murders and what is happening present day. There is no change in the text when the killer is talking and it takes a few sentences to catch on it is the killer, this annoyed me somewhat.

I also disliked Rick Carson. He is a hired professional who battles whether or not he thinks Jordan is innocent or a cold hearted killer, add into that his conflict about his feelings for her. He comes across at times as a hormonal teenager rather than a professional caught in a murder investigation.

Despite the irritation the story itself is really good and I was guessing right up until the end who the killer was. I think I had about 6 different theories and was wrong on them all. 3/5 for me this time.

Dale says

I like Beverly Barton books partly because the same, various characters crop up here and there in each of the books. This was not one of my favorites. I did not feel the victim was believable therefore I was not having as much trouble putting the book down.

Vicky Thomasson says

I found this book fairly average. The characters were alright and the plot was just ok. I didn't really feel the suspense throughout the book and I pretty much guessed who the killer was from the start. Having said that, it wasn't the worst book in the world and I'd recommend it for a simple, quick read.
