



A Bone to Pick

Melinda Leigh

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As the murder investigation unfolds, it becomes clear that the victim harbored secrets. Together with her FBI agent best friend, Cate, and park ranger Logan Wilde, Tessa must connect the pieces before the murderer strikes again. But the closer she gets to the truth, the more she finds herself—and the ones she loves—in harm's way.

Pressure mounts as Tessa attempts to juggle the current case with her search for the truth behind her childhood friend Samantha's disappearance twenty years ago. Can Tessa find the murderer and uncover answers about Samantha without jeopardizing everything she holds dear?

A Bone to Pick Details

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From Reader Review A Bone to Pick for online ebook

Jennifer says

2.5 stars. A strong second installment of the series. I just adore Melinda Leigh's heroines. They are so smart, confident and strong.

Kathy Martin says

Tessa Black has left her job with the Seattle police department and taken a job as a deputy on Widow's Island. She needs to take care of her mother who suffers from dementia. She answers a call from a woman who hears screaming in the nearby forest. Because the other deputy's are off the island or already on duty, she calls local park ranger Logan Wilde to go with her. He's her best friend's older brother and the object of her childhood crush. Logan has left the Army Special Forces to take this job because he couldn't deal with the situations he was forced to handle anymore. He's hoping that Widow's Island will be a quiet healing place for him.

Together, they discover the body of a young local artist who has been harpooned. He's only been on the island for about a year and no one knows him well. Almost the first thing that they discover is that he is living under a false identity. Tessa is attacked by a stranger when she goes to investigate the artist's house, but she also discovers a dufflebag with about \$100,000 which is much more money than an artist painting landscapes for tourists should have and four nude portraits of older women. More searching also discovers a portrait of Tessa's mother.

Tessa and Logan investigate wondering if the killer is someone from the artist's past or perhaps one of the husbands of the women the artist painted. Meanwhile, Tessa's mother has taken to wandering away. One time, Tessa's friend Cate finds her and brings her back. Another time it takes an organized search before she is found. Tessa doesn't know what she is going to do, but the local Widow's Knitting and Activist group and Logan come up with a plan that will work for now.

The story was suspenseful and fast-paced. The mystery in this episode was solved. The larger mystery begun in the first book of this quartet takes the backburner here. FBI files about their friend's disappearance are located and are surprisingly thin.

Anita says

Advanced Reader Copy (ARC) provided by the Author and Publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an fair and honest review.

Part 2 of the Widow's Island novella series collaboration by Melinda Leigh and Kendra Elliot. These novellas are really short, in fact I read this one while watching the marathon 18 inning World Series Game, have a mystery to solve and a budding romance to cheer for. As was true in the first novella, the baddie was caught not through great police work, but because they self destructed. Not my favorite way to get the baddie. The limited format of the novella doesn't allow all the elements to fully develop and I found that the

mystery was the element that suffered.

Deputy Tessa Black has a successful career as a detective in the Seattle PD. She had to leave and return to Widow's Island off the coast of Washington in order to care for her mother, who has dementia, and her high school age half sister. The slower pace of life is just what she needed while dealing with the other issues life has thrown her way.

While checking out a routine disturbance call Tessa discovers a man harpooned to a sign in the State Park. With the help of hunky former Army Ranger, now park ranger, Logan Wilde, Tessa uncovers that not everything was as it appeared to be with the life of the dead local artist.

While Tessa and Logan have known each other all their lives, Tessa is Logan's sister, Cate's, best friend, they didn't "know" each other as adults. The budding attraction has to take a backseat to the murder investigation and Tessa's mother's increasing dementia. When Tessa and Logan get close to uncovering the secrets of their victim, the murderer will stop at nothing to keep those secrets buried.

Under the Covers Book Blog says

I received this book for free from Publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Deputy Tessa Black has come back home to Widow's Island to look after her mother, giving up her career as a detective in Seattle to do it. When she came back to her small island to look after her mother slowly succumbing to dementia she expected her job as deputy would be the easy bit. However, first there were the bones of a missing teenager found, a crime solved by her close friend Cate Wilde. Now there has been a grisly murder which she and Logan Wilde, her best friend's brother and park ranger must investigate before the murderer strikes again.

This is the second book in the Widow's Island series, in this series Kendra Elliot and Melinda Leigh each write alternating books. In this novella we get to know Deputy Tessa Black, Leigh's character, as she solves a brutal murder where at the dead of night in a public park a man has been harpooned. With her is Logan Wilde, the brother of Cate Wilde, the heroine in the first book and Tessa's best friend.

This was a short read, approximately 100 pages, but in that short time we get to see a murder solved, a woman struggling to take care of someone with a mental illness and the beginnings of a romance. It's no wonder I raced through it! It was a lot to pack into such a small amount of pages. I'm a fan of Leigh's work and this book was no different, it was a good mystery read and I can't wait to read more.

I especially can't wait to read about the disappearance of Cate and Tessa's friend Samantha. It has been hinted at in these first two books that there may be something sinister happening in regard to their missing friend, so I now can't wait for them to dive into the case. Hopefully that will be the focus of the next two books coming out next year.

*ARC provided by publisher

Reviewed by Suzanne♥ ? Don't want to miss any of our posts? Subscribe to our blog by email! ? ♥

Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says

Initial Thoughts

This was a nice short read. There are a whole lot of crazy things happening on this island! This one starts off with a murder and an investigation with a lot of twists and turns. There was even a bit of romance to top everything off. I thought that the narrator did a great job with the story.

Book Source: Kindle Unlimited

Full review to be posted soon.

Ian says

Sheriff's Deputy Tessa Black was forced to return to her hometown on Widow's Island to help care for her ageing mother with dementia. When a young artist is violently murdered she finds herself joining forces with the island's ranger to track down a killer.

Widow's Island is a collaboration between Melinda Leigh and Kendra Elliot. But while they share a setting and some characters each author has her own main characters. The books will probably follow the same pattern as their *Rogue River* series which was basically a side project with each author contributing novella sized fiction.

I enjoy the occasional novella but I always find it difficult to get into them on an ongoing basis. Story development is by nature thin on the ground and character development which would normally be dealt with in the first few chapters of a book is forced onto the back-burner and will take place over the series.

For all of that, this is good and if you want a quick read for a lazy Saturday afternoon you could do a lot worse.

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

A Bone to Pick by Melinda Leigh is the second book in the romantic suspense *Widow's Island* series. The second novella in this series spotlights Deputy Tessa Black, who grew up with FBI agent Cate Wilde (introduced in *Close to the Bone*).

Tessa returned to Widow's island from Seattle, where she worked for the Seattle P.D. Her mother had been diagnosed with alzheimers and she was needed to care for her. Tessa receives an unexpected call that a man has been killed in the local forest with a harpoon. She stops and gets the park ranger, Logan Wilde to accompany her to the gruesome scene. This call sets off an investigation that involves several suspects, Tessa putting herself in danger, and some puzzle solving to find the culprit. The romance in this story is not blatant, but it is easy to see that there is something developing between Tessa and Logan. I also like that the story of

Tessa and Cate's relationship is mending and they are dealing with the loss they suffered as teenagers.

Once again, Melinda Leigh has penned a novella that reads like a full length story. I love how she gets me to connect with the characters and get sucked into the story, even though it is only novella length. I will definitely be checking out the next two books in this series. I listened to this book from Kindle Unlimited and enjoy the narration for this quick read and I hope to continue listening to this series.

RachelW (BamaGal) says

After an enjoyable first novella to the series, this was a bit of a letdown; and not nearly so entertaining a read. The story started off well, with a rather inventive murder to investigate; but quickly went down from there. The main problem was the shortness of the novella. It only took about 45 minutes to read; with a plot that was sparse and underdeveloped in the brevity of the read. The whole storyline felt like it was barely more than an outline.

Carrie says

A Bone to Pick by Melinda Leigh is the second book in the romantic suspense Widow's Island series. This series is all at novella length and penned by Melinda Leigh along with Kendra Elliot by alternating the books. This pair of authors have teamed up in the past for the romantic suspense Rogue River series of which a couple of the characters have moved over to this series but the books can be read and enjoyed separate from the Rogue River series.

The first book introduced FBI Special Agent Cate Wilde who had returned to the island after an injury to rest and recuperate. Cate had been best friends with Tessa Black who is now a deputy on the island. Book two now changes over to Tessa along with her own romantic interest.

Tessa had returned to the island after a stint with the Seattle P.D. when she needed to begin care for her aging mother. Tessa was expecting a routine night on the island where crime is normally pretty slow when she gets a call about a dead man who had been killed with a harpoon. Teaming up with the park ranger Logan Wilde Tessa finds herself chasing a murderer.

Melinda Leigh and Kendra Elliot certainly know how to write a compelling novella length read. Even with the shorter length both books so far have been fleshed out wonderfully giving enough about the characters to begin to care about them and a good mystery to follow. Definitely a fan of this series and can't wait to see what happens in the next two installments.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

Cyndi says

I liked this! The suspense was good. I would love a little more romance! I liked Tessa and Logan, but I need

more Cate and Henry!

Richard says

Melinda Leigh takes over from Kendra Elliott to pen the 2nd Widow's Island novella in this four book series. Again it is a stand alone story drawing on the characters we have mostly been introduced to in the first episode.

Another investigation following the murder of a local artist. The enquiry is in the domain of the Sheriffs' Dept and led by Tessa and as the body was found within the State Park, Forest Ranger, Logan helps out. An interesting story unravels and a number of suspects emerge but the worst case scenario no-one wants to believe is that an islander did the deed.

Of course romance is also in the air, Cate's grandmother, Jane is back to her matchmaking ways.

Of course the Widow's Island Knitting and Activist Group are also at work behind the scenes.

I again enjoyed the scope of the storytelling and the contrast of a vicious crime against the goodness apparent in neighbours and friends. More hints about a shortage of widowers compared to the number of older women. They seem to thrive while their partners die at a early age. Not my idea of paradise. However, a serious issue is addressed as Tessa's mum is struggling with Alzheimer's as if Tessa did not have enough to manage already.

A gentle tale with serious incidents that stretches the resources of this proud community. It is interesting that amid such beauty and tranquility black hearts and evil actions can surface.

Another well written adventure with thrills and stolen kisses to satisfy the romantic crime mystery fans. Less heart melting and more heart stopping moments for me please before I loose all credibility, but if I'm honest I liked this one a little too much.

Anna's Herding Cats says

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup.

Amazon: <https://amzn.to/2pA5c0J>

Ooh yes. A Bone to Pick was a nice mystery that kept me guessing and left me even more curious about Widow's Island.

The Gist: An artist has been killed and naked paintings uncovered in his studio? Well they make for lots of potential suspects. They sure do.

Tessa & Logan were both wonderful and whew they have their hands full. Logan's a forest ranger and trying to settle back into life after leaving the military and is dealing with some PTSD. And Tessa...whew. She's spread thin. She's back home to care for her younger sister and her mother who is suffering from Alzheimers. And that's on top of being the local deputy sheriff and trying to solve a new murder. These two give their all to everything they do. Level headed, dedicated, solid individuals. It was nice seeing them work together to solve the murder and tackle life's hardships.

There's just a little potential romance which was fun. Logan is Tessa's best friend's brother and they've

known each other for ages and I always love that set up. There's a sweetness and understanding between them I loved.

The mystery kept me going and surprised me in the end. I love when that happens.

All in all...*A Bone to Pick* was time well spent. I'm curious to see what will happen next on Widow's Island and if we'll go back to first couple and get more of their story or have a fresh new couple to learn about.

Melanie says

A Bone to Pick was another enjoyable novella in the *Widow's Island* series with an intriguing mystery and a hint of romance.

Deputy Tessa Black left her job at the Seattle police department to return to Widow's Island to care for her mother. One night while on call she receives reports of someone screaming in the woods of the state park and upon investigating finds a local man harpooned to a sign. After she begins the murder investigation it becomes clear the victim was not who he claimed to be. Faced with the possibility the murderer is one of the island's residents, Tessa is in a race to find the killer before they strike again.

Tessa is stretched thin lately between caring for her ill mother, her day job as a deputy, and looking into the disappearance of one of her best friends from over twenty years ago. Tessa works closely on the murder case with local park ranger Logan Wilde, her best friend Cate's older brother. Logan recently returned to the island after several years in the military needing less violence in his life. There's the beginnings of a romance forming between Tessa and Logan and I'm excited to see where it goes in future books.

The death of the local artist provided an interesting case for Tessa to work on and it was readily apparent that the man was full of secrets. The hidden bag of money and fake ID definitely kept you guessing as to what exactly he was involved in. A few of the revelations surprised me and it became clear he had amassed a few enemies in his lifetime. I was curious who would be his killer and I have to admit I ended up being wrong in my guess. As to Tessa and Cate's investigation into Samantha's disappearance, there isn't a ton of new information in this novella but I'm interested to see where their investigations leads them in future books.

Overall *A Bone to Pick* was an enjoyable read and I definitely recommend these two novellas if you're in the mood for some quick suspense reads with a touch of romance.

I received an advance copy of this book from Netgalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Diane says

As much as I dislike novellas, this was a pretty good read. Story line was nicely wrapped up and delivered. The characters are quite likeable, and the murder quite nasty! Apparently, this series will be made up of novellas - since I like the first two I guess I'll continue with it.

From the blurb: In this gripping second novella in the Widow's Island series, bestselling author Melinda

Leigh delivers a chilling tale of murder in the Pacific Northwest.

Deputy Tessa Black gave up her career as a detective with the Seattle PD and returned to the Pacific Northwest island she calls home to care for her ailing mother. Tessa thinks her mother's illness is the worst thing she'll face—until she responds to a routine call in the state park and discovers a local man harpooned to a sign.

As the murder investigation unfolds, it becomes clear that the victim harbored secrets. Together with her FBI agent best friend, Cate, and park ranger Logan Wilde, Tessa must connect the pieces before the murderer strikes again. But the closer she gets to the truth, the more she finds herself—and the ones she loves—in harm's way.

Pressure mounts as Tessa attempts to juggle the current case with her search for the truth behind her childhood friend Samantha's disappearance twenty years ago. Can Tessa find the murderer and uncover answers about Samantha without jeopardizing everything she holds dear?

? Kimberly says

Once again the small Pacific Northwest island known as Widow's Island charmed me. While the first novella focused on FBI Special Agent Cate, this novel focused on Tessa Black. Tessa has recently moved back to the island from Seattle and she's been enjoying her position with the quiet island police department. She made the move to care for her ailing mother. It was a decision she hasn't regretted.

Local park ranger and the older brother of Cate, Logan Wilde is also back on the island. After a stint in the military he is enjoying the peace and tranquility of the island.

When a disturbance call regarding the sounds of a screaming man are called in Tessa investigates. The sounds appear to be coming from the park and she reaches out to Logan to act as her backup. The two soon make a grizzly discovery.

As Tessa and Logan investigate the danger heats-up right as does the chemistry between them. This was an interesting case with a few suspects and a surprising twist. Along the way we learn about Tessa, her mom, and the sexy ranger she has been crushing on since she was a teen. We briefly touch base with Cate and see other locals. I am seriously craving cinnamon buns right about now.

I now see why the Rogue novella series were so popular. This writing duo has created an interesting series I cannot wait for the next installment. Fans of small-town romantic suspense and mystery series will want to scoop up *A Bone to Pick* and the other books in the Widow's Island series. This review was originally posted at Caffeinated Reviewer
