



Beautiful Lie the Dead

Barbara Fradkin

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Inspector Green explores a web of betrayal and deceit. In the dead of night, the phone rings in the missing persons unit of the Ottawa Police. A brutal blizzard is howling, and a wealthy social activist has not heard from his fiancé in over twenty-four hours. Friends, family and police are mobilized to search the snowbound city. He comes to believe that his partner is fleeing for her life, possibly from his own family. When a frozen body is found in the snow, just blocks from the man's home, Green knows that someone is conspiring to keep the truth hidden.

Beautiful Lie the Dead Details

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Author : Barbara Fradkin

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From Reader Review Beautiful Lie the Dead for online ebook

Kate says

I just finished Beautiful Lie the Dead.

Now I have to go and get all of the other Inspector Green mysteries in the series.

All of the characters are fully fleshed out, and their inner lives are referenced throughout just enough to pique my curiosity about what they may have experienced in previous Inspector Green novels, but not so much to distract from the main plot. Nicely done.

The descriptions of Ottawa in winter are fantastic as well. As an Ottawa resident, I am looking for the familiar, but the author also paint a vivid picture of unfamiliar areas of the city, and of that gorgeous bad girl city, Montreal.

Cheryl says

Good, eh. A Canadian mystery novel, set in Ottawa, so it was fun to read because it was a familiar setting. Good pacing, figured out ending half way through but still fun to read on a windy rainy Sunday.

Alison says

Thankfully, Cdn. authored books are nothing like their television show counter-parts! This was my first Barbara Fradkin novel; it was an enjoyable, fast read, without a hint of corn between the covers.

Helen says

This is such a comfortably Canadian story, especially if you know Ottawa at all, and it fitted the time I read it as snow storms were battering all of eastern Canada. I have not read any of the other Inspector Green stories but you're given enough background to be going on with but not so much as sometimes inundates you. I really liked the fact that the book starts with the Inspector's daughter seeing the missing woman but not saying anything because she wasn't completely sure and was it important enough - just the way any of us would and she kicks herself over it just the way any of us would. There are always at least two streams of action going on in a workplace: the requirements of the job, the open events, and the behind the scenes action, the thoughts, suspicions, envy, and resentments that have to do with interpersonal relationships and the desire (or not) to try for promotion. These two worlds are delineated well in this book, if you had been in the various offices there would not have been much to indicate that second stream but the awkwardness that hampers first stream action would have been sensed. The complex plot is a little eyebrow raising and I'm not completely satisfied with the ending, but it certainly is a lesson against hiding things.

Eric_W says

Excellent police procedural that takes place in Ottawa with stops in Montreal and smaller Canadian towns as Inspector Green marshalls the members of the Major Case Squad to locate a woman missing, but feared dead, only to discover the relationship between her fiancé, the rich mother, the man's long dead father, and a woman, later identified as Lise Grevelle, found dead on the street who had known the missing woman.

To say any more would turn this into a spoiler. Very enjoyable, well written, suspenseful, and seemingly realistic police procedures.

Cheryl says

This was a series that I was not familiar with but greatly enjoyed. Liked the Ottawa background and the foray into Quebec. I did find I 'got' the secret just before the protagonist did. I felt a lot of sadness for the murder victim, something I find can be overlooked in murder mysteries. Often the victim serves only as a catalyst for the action, here I saw her as a very sad person dead long before she should have been.

Lorraine says

First one I've read in this series, but it is obvious that there are others that precede and follow it, given the details of characters' backstories. On its own, it works well enough as a traditional murder mystery. No sex, no violence, kind of nice for a change. Reasonably believable, though the whole plot moves quickly both in few pages and in the characters' timeline. Just light detective reading.

Frederick Abeysundera says

I have enjoyed all the books Barbara Fradkin has written. The character, Inspector Green, is well-developed and realistic. He has strengths and weaknesses. The plot is interesting and realistic. Very good reading.⁷

Jennifer Duell says

The best in the series so far!

Alison C says

Beautiful Lie the Dead is the eighth Inspector Green book by Barbara Fradkin. When a young woman, shortly to marry, goes missing and then the body of a woman is found in an Ottawa snowbank, it takes a little while for the police to discover that the dead woman is not the missing one, but the two are nevertheless linked. Why did the bride disappear, first to Montreal and then apparently off the face of the earth? Inspector

Green must travel to Montreal for the answers, which appear to lie buried deep in the past.... I've been enjoying this detective series, set primarily in Ottawa but sometimes moving to other parts of Canada; this one was especially fun for me since I live in Montreal. The mystery is complex but fairly clued, and the culprit was unexpected, which is always a plus in a mystery! It's not necessary to know the earlier books in the series to enjoy this one, although of course having the back story is always preferable. Recommended - although how anybody could prefer Lester's smoked meat concoctions over that of Schwartz's famous deli is beyond me!

M. says

Maybe I've read too many books similar to this one, but I just couldn't become engaged with any of the characters. The opening grabbed me immediately..... but it all too soon dissolved. The story was pretty well devised but none of the characters populating this novel shone with any singularity.

Dorothyanne Brown says

Barbara Fradkin is a shamelessly local author, writing about Canadian scenes and stories and for that alone, I like her. Too often Canadian writing is hidden in other locations to appeal more to the American market, or written by new immigrants about the land they left. I don't understand it, when Canada is so interesting in its own right. That said, some of the local colour gets in the way of the story. I don't need to know the actual view from the window of a specific deli to get the picture...

The Inspector Green stories are quite lovely in and of themselves. The Inspector is a thoughtful man in some ways, and enough detail about police functioning is included to make it clear Fradkin knows whereof she speaks. You feel you are in good hands and can relax into the story.

This particular story includes the Canadian mandatory winter, with heaps of snow and such, and the muddled history of out of wedlock births in the not too distant past. I enjoyed it.

For my money, though, Louise Penny's books provide more gristle and thoughtfulness.

Shonna Froebel says

This is the second book in the Inspector Green series that I've read (This Thing of Darkness is the other one). They are very well done and involve Green's personal life as well as his work life. Set in Ottawa, they evoke the flavour of the city. This is a winter novel, with snow a key part of the plot.

When a young woman vanishes less than a month before her wedding, there is uncertainty as to whether there is foul play. Bodies are discovered, trails are followed, and leads go back decades to earlier events. Some of the trail leads to Montreal as well, and the detective introduced there is an intriguing new character I'd like to see more of. Lots of family themed plot here and a glimpse into the power of wealth to change outcomes. A great mystery for this time of year.

Alexander Inglis says

It's not just the frozen north: Canada is home to an embarrassingly rich roster of crime and mystery writers of whom Barbara Fradkin numbers among the very best (and sadly less well known than her talent demonstrates). Born and educated in Montreal, after spending some time in Toronto she settled in Ottawa where she raised a family and spent 25 years as a child psychologist. Her Inspector Michael Green of the Ottawa Police, has been solving homicides for a decade; this latest outing, the eighth, is *Beautiful Lie the Dead*, published in 2010. Two previous titles won the Arthur Ellis Award for Best Novel.

Winter has descended on Ottawa by the time Meredith Kennedy, fiancé of wealthy Brandon Longstreet, is reported missing. Ottawa Homicide Inspector Michael Green is charged with solving the case when a young woman is found in snow bank ... but when the corpse turns out to be someone else, the case leads to Montreal and a suicide of a prominent lawyer that occurred decades earlier ... the lawyer none other than Brandon's father. As hunches uncover further "coincidences", other long buried secrets seep to the surface in a race to ensure no further corpses are created.

This was a cracking good tale, offering psychological insight into the main and secondary characters. While the writing itself is not "clever" in the sense of memorable turns of phrase, it is brilliantly plotted and paced, offering character development and a great mix of quasi eccentrics mixed in with folks just doing playing their roles. Green is a marvelous individual creation offering charm, intelligence, personal misgivings, dedication and genuine warmth toward family, colleagues and flawed players he encounters while unravelling the case. I'll be reading more of these in 2012 for sure!

Edmond Gagnon says

I have trouble getting into novels written by female authors, mostly because of what I call excessive fluff...too much detail about things that I really don't care about...like deep back story from secondary characters.

Having said that, I've come to learn that female readers tend to enjoy that sort of thing. After having become an author myself, I've also learned that 80% of all readers are female. So there it is, a lesson learned.

I'd never heard of this Canadian author so it was a good learning experience for me to see how a fellow Canuck author does it. I enjoyed the story and characters, but thought the plot was a bit predictable for a mystery novel. It just didn't reach out and grab me enough to receive that fourth star.
