



Dying For Revenge

Barbara Golder

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Finalist Next Generation Indie Book Awards 2017 Christian Fiction

“Barbara Golder joins the ranks of Chesterton’s bloodthirsty heirs as she spins a tale that will delight mystery fans. With Dying for Revenge in hand, your beach experience is now complete!” Mark P. Shea, Author of “Mercy Works”

Someone is killing the rich and famous residents of Telluride, Colorado, and the medical investigator, Dr. Jane Wallace, is on a collision course with the murderer. Compelled by profound loss and injustice, Jane will risk her own life to protect others from vengeful death, even as she exacts a high price from those who have destroyed her world. DYING FOR REVENGE is a story of love, obsession and forgiveness, seen through the eyes of a passionate, beautiful woman trying to live her life -- imperfectly but vibrantly -- even if she won't survive.

“Dying for Revenge dives into the deeply personal place in so many hearts with “justifiable” reasons for revenge... but the face of mercy is entwined in the unexpected turn of events. You’ll be captivated...”

Patricia M. Chivers

ABLAZE Radio WNRE-LP 98.1 FM

Catholic Church of Saint Monica

Dying For Revenge Details

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Author : Barbara Golder

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From Reader Review Dying For Revenge for online ebook

A.K. Frailey says

This was a superb mystery, adventure, and love story threaded together with clever wit and authentic dialogue. I'll be reading the next Lady Doc Murder...

Theresa Linden says

Great, well-developed characters and a plot that keeps you turning the page. This mystery had me focusing on details and wondering "who done it" all the way through.

The strong-willed, competent, and hardworking main character, Jane Wallace, knows pain and loss. She's moved from Florida to Telluride, Colorado, a popular skiing and tourist town, hoping for peace and healing. As the Chief Medical Examiner, she expects to encounter a few dead bodies from accidents, violence, and sickness. But she never expected this string of suspicious deaths. While she's dealing with autopsies, lawyers, and nosy journalists, she also has her own inner issues to deal with. Unfortunately, she's put up a wall and cemented it with lack of forgiveness for her husband's murderer.

Fortunately for her, she's got a friend in the new local priest, Father Matthew Gregory. He's just a few years older than her oldest son, and he doesn't have a lot of pastoral experience. Tall, with an uncontrollable beard, and with an edge to his otherwise warm personality, he can be intimidating. Doctor Wallace isn't sure how to take him sometimes.

I was privileged to read an advanced copy of Dying for Revenge by Barbara Golder. I haven't read a medical mystery in a while, but I thoroughly enjoyed this one. I'm glad that this is Book #1 because that means more will follow!

Sandy says

DNF

Bethany says

I have found a new series to enjoy. Dying for Revenge was a wonderful read. With engaging characters, a viable interesting plot and a satisfying conclusion.

The titular character is Dr. Jane Wallace the ME for Telluride, Colorado. She is an older woman who is still working through her grief and rage from her husband's death. Following Jane through out the events of her life you can really see the effects of hanging on to rage and not allowing yourself to grieve properly on not only herself but those who are around her. It's easy to forget sometimes, that even if you don't think so you effect the people around you. And if you're hanging on to rage, hate and revenge it inevitably effects not only

you but innocents as well. (view spoiler) I liked seeing the journey Jane went through in order to let go of her anger and letting her heart soften.

Along with Jane we're introduced to Eoin Connor. I liked him, I enjoyed the way he pricked Jane, getting under her skin and pass her barriers. Cracking her walls so she can learn to let the world in again. He's also gone through some things. (view spoiler) So he can understand a bit of what she's going through, and he also knows that she shouldn't stay in the cocoon of isolation she's wrapped herself in.

Three other characters in the story are her son Ben, the youngest who has stayed with her to help her during her grief. Pete Wilson a reporter, who I didn't particularly like. But I could see where he was coming from. I think it was good to have him in the story, because he kind of threw a wrench in the works. Plus he was a bit morally skewed, which was a great foil. Eoin being a firm believer as well as Father Matt (whom's I'll speak about in a minute) and Jane simply going through the motions. Also I totally loved how Jane handled him in the end. (view spoiler)

Sheriff Tom was interesting as well. I found him a fairly accurate portrayal. I liked how he worked the case to the best of his ability even with all of the obstructions going around. (view spoiler) I don't read many stories where priest have a larger role than simply confessors. So it was interesting to get to see Father Matt, not only in the church but doing work outside of it as well. Like with his breakfasts with Jane and his going out of his way to help parishioners, also his habit of jogging in the woods and finding a place of mediation, that he like. Sometimes I think priests are portrayed almost non-human, their either overly spiritual or completely depraved or something. Father Matt, is human and he reacted I think as anyone would act when the accusations started. Pitching the phone over the mountain was a reasonable response. Sometimes I wish I could just hurl my phone, but then I remember, despite all the commercials. I can't afford a new phone at the drop of a hat so it's staying firmly in my hand . Truthfully I really liked all the characters, including Lucy and Quick, Jane's coworkers and subordinates. Isa and Pilar, the women who Jane takes into her home. (view spoiler)

Enough on the characters, the plot. It was fairly strong I think ,and the characters made it work. I liked how in the end all the moving pieces came together. despite the red herrings that were thrown in by the actions of some or the fact that realistically no one but God is Omnipotent and they had to actually work to put all the clues together. Sometimes time was a bit fluid so it took me a minute to get the fact a week may have passed or it was the next day already, I think there was even a minor backtrack at one point but it wasn't a big deal. (view spoiler) Also in regards to the murders. Totally didn't see that one coming. Skimming back through the pages, I do see the murderer pop up every now and again, and I guess, they look suspicious now, since I know, but still I didn't see it coming. (view spoiler) Everything was concluded satisfactorily and I did like the end. I want to see Jane and Eoin get together, but I am glad this wasn't a rush job. I did see a second book on the list, so I'm glad the author didn't rush to push a romantic relationship between the two, and I'm also glad she resolved it enough to let this book be a stand alone, if I don't get to read the second one anytime soon. (which may happen, I've got a lot of library books to get through before I can request it.) I liked that Eoin respects John's place in Jane's life even though he's dead, and he's willing to really get to know her before jumping into something more than friends.

One more thing, the characters in this book are predominately Catholic, really obvious when we have a character call Father Matt. This isn't my religion, I'm Apostolic Pentecostal myself. But this didn't detract from the story for me in anyway. There were some practices I don't agree with but it didn't really affect the story.

Recommended: Yes

Buy/Borrow: Buy it

Steven R. McEvoy says

This was the third book from this small publisher that I have read, and the second by Dr. Barbara Golder, and I have thoroughly enjoyed them all. I read the second book in this series first, *Dying for Compassion*, and loved it. I started reading this book even before I had written my review of book two. I just could not put them down. It has been years, likely more than 20 years since reading mysteries was a big part of my reading each year. But I must say if more books were to be released in this series I would grab them up and bump them to the top of my reading pile. And it is not a small pile, I currently have just over 100 books in my to be read list.

In my review of the other book in this series I stated that reading this book was like "watching *Quincy M.E.* with my dad. It also brought to mind *Diagnosis Murder*. But with an undercurrent from three of the main characters Catholic faith and its influence on them and their world view." That faith element is in many ways even stronger in this volume. Having read the books out of order I was familiar with some of our cast of characters. Jane Wallace, a widow, who is the Medical Examiner in Telluride. A ski town in the mountains. And we have the Eoin Conner and Irish writer, who has been through more than his status as world famous writer would let on. Father Matt a youngish priest at the local parish, a parish that only has a full time priest because of an endowment from Dr. Wallace.

This book begins with a young women finding of that her husband has HIV and that likely she and her unborn child have it because of his behaviour. Shortly after that he ends up dead. But soon someone starts killing of random people in Telluride. And the body count might be higher than many at first expect. The corners own son starts piecing it together, as he is digitizing the medical records at his mother's lab. We have a nosy reporter that is willing to more than bend the law to get a story. We also have another young woman sexually assaulted, and because of her illegal status things are complicated.

That is a lot of plot elements rolled into one story. But what an incredible story it is. This book starts with a scream and goes on a roller coaster ride from there. It was nearly impossible to put this book down. The few times I had to all I could do was keep thinking about it, and wanting to read that next chapter. While reading this I could think of a dozen friends that would love this book. I also want to get a copy for my dad and step mom because I believe they will love it also. Fans of Andrew M. Greeley's Blackie Ryan books would appreciate this novel. As well as fans of Robert B. Parker's Spencer for Hire books. When you add the smattering of Catholicism, and a female lead this book is an excellent read!

As mentioned previously this book is from a smaller publisher. Full Quiver Publishing has a tag line on their website of "Theology of the Body Fiction", and after reading a few books from them I have a great appreciation for what they are trying to do and the works coming from this publisher. I can highly recommend this book; and really hope we get more from Golder's pen to read soon. Give it a chance I am sure the writing will grab your attention and keep you glued to the page, and desperately wanting more.

Read the review on my blog [Book Reviews and More](#) and reviews of other books by Barbara Golder.

Note: This book is part of a series of reviews: 2017 Catholic Reading Plan!

Erin Cupp says

Dying for Revenge is the first book in a (hopefully well-populated!) series focusing on the work and struggles of Dr. Jane Wallace, a medical examiner and lawyer who has faced crime in her own past and come to hide from it in the mountains and canyons of Colorado. I finished it in the space of three days and would

have taken less time if I could read in the car without getting car sick. Part cozy, part police procedural, part woman-in-peril (though Jane is so no-nonsense, that when the actual peril comes, I was almost blindsided), and with an enticing, mature, exile-from-The-Troubles, will-they-won't-they-can-they? love interest in Eoin Connor, Dying for Revenge kept me on the edge of my seat in every possible way. The climax was perhaps the most surprising—and surprisingly satisfying—part of the plot. In the end, it's just as much a mystery to solve as a progression of soul for the main character.

Lauren says

This is an interesting story about a medical examiner who is more involved in cases and a typical medical examiner would be. We watch her solve the case and put her entire family at risk in the process. To me the story jumps around a little too much. We have characters that we're completely superfluous and characters that really we should have known more about but surprise. Overall interesting read not something I feel like I need to continue.

Tappo says

One of my favorite books!

This book had all the qualities I look for in a story: genuine characters, mystery, devotion to family, and humor. I would definitely recommend this to other readers

Shirley Pounders says

Love the lead character in this book!

Enjoy medical mysteries and this one definitely didn't disappoint! The story moves at a good pace and kept my guessing until the end! Will read more by this author!

Lisa says

Twists and Turns

Great book! Easy to read, full of interesting twists and turns. I never quite knew which way it was going to go.

Jeff Miller says

Really quite good. A medical examiner has set up practice in a new town to get away from memories of her husband being killed. Time has now passed and a series of murders involves her professional and personally.

Lots to like here. Solid plot and themes involving forgiveness along with some Catholic elements. Very character driven. The "Lady Doc" in this novel is both trained as a lawyer and a doctor, seemed overboard a bit - but the author is also a lawyer, doctor, technical writer, and not fiction author.

Barb says

Dr. Barbara Golder's novel, Dying for Revenge, is heavy on the suspense with none of the blood and guts. In other words, it kept me turning pages (and pages and pages), but I was still able to sleep without nightmares and I didn't lose my appetite.

In Dying for Revenge, the main character is a pathologist/investigator haunted by her own grief and desire for revenge. There's much more than a mystery in this thriller; it's the story of a soul in torment.

Jeanne says

I love this mystery.

Please write more Lady Doc murder mysteries! At least ten more. I loved the details about Telluride, medical examiners, the Catholic Church.

Sarah says

Confession: lately, unless I pick a book up from one of the major publishers or a large bookstore, I don't necessarily have high hopes for it...especially if it's fiction.

Call me jaded. Call me too well read of starter novels. Call me hungry for more good stuff.

It's all true.

And that's what makes Dying for Revenge a refreshing read for me on a number of levels. It didn't come from a big bookseller or a big publisher, but it has all the qualities to make it a win of a read.

It's fast-paced, well-written and edited, and a thrill to read. I did put it down, but only because I dropped it as I dozed in my chair or bed trying to get one. more. chapter. in.

The characters are believable, and the setting is beautiful. No cardboard cutouts here: these are people you could meet on the street (well, if you were in Telluride) and who, by the time the book's over, you could have a conversation (and maybe dinner) with.

Go ahead, try to figure it out. I think I broke part of my brain (and I don't have much to spare!) trying to figure things out. This is a mystery in more than one way: who's killing all these people? And will the main character give in and soften up about this or that? (Trying to be careful...don't want to spoil things for you!)

All in all, this was a fun and worthwhile read. I highly recommend it, whether you grab it for the beach or

tuck it in your bag for later this year. :)

Carolyn says

Dying for Revenge, gritty without being vulgar, is populated with richly-woven characters who drive a long and detailed narrative in which the murder mystery (or mysteries) will keep you guessing until the end.

Dr. Jane Wallace, mired in a destructive mixture of grief and vengeance, is written with such depth that by the conclusion, you'll feel as if you are lifelong friends.

Brash, outspoken, and heedless of others' opinions, the sharp but beleaguered medical investigator remains sympathetic because of her frailties, which are exposed where her family - her deceased husband and six adult children - is concerned.

Alongside the murders Dr. Wallace must solve before the Telluride citizenry dissolve into a panic, she must also unravel the bitterness that has strangled her zest for life. A charismatic Irish author with secrets of his own may be able to help, if only she'll let him.

Dying For Revenge delivers not only a well-designed mystery, but a study in the way in which unresolved grief born of vengeance can murder our souls.

I love forward to reading the next installments of The Lady Doc series.

(The author and I share the same publisher.)
