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Stuart Woods

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Stone isn't exactly conversant with the island country's law, but this much is clear to him: Allison is being railroaded by the perverse sense of justice of a prosecutor who will do anything to stay in office. Donning the robe and wig of a British barrister, Stone does everything he can to save Allison—from publicizing the case all over the American press to conducting the kind of smart, tough investigation that money can't buy. Just when he has the jury in the palm of his hands, a shocking reversal of fortune changes everything. And what was once a sure thing begins to look a lot like a death sentence.

Dead In The Water Details

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Author : Stuart Woods

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From Reader Review Dead In The Water for online ebook

Richard White says

Great!

Joel Ungar says

If you don't want to know the ending of this book then don't read the review. Suffice it to say that the ending to this book is almost identical to "Choke" by the same author and that really annoyed me.

I thoroughly enjoyed "Choke" by the same author, so I was very much looking forward to reading another novel by Stuart Woods. Overall, I found the book to be very well written. Solid story lines with twists here and there, good dialogue, and interesting characters. Once Woods hooks you he doesn't really let go.

However, as I read this book, I kept thinking that it was highly likely that the ending of this book would be essentially the same as the ending of "Choke." In "Choke" the late husband of the main female character isn't really dead after all and the main character (I don't remember his name) was set up by the two of them. In this book, the main female character is accused of killing her husband in the middle of the ocean. Surprise!! He isn't dead.

If Woods could have been more original in this book, which was published after "Choke", I would have given this book 4 or 5 stars.

Very disappointing.

Barb says

I read the first two Stone Barrington books. I put up with the sex portions, although I felt it was a distraction from the (otherwise) good story. However, "Dead In The Water just went downhill for me. It was hard to figure out if there was a story line or just a listing of sexploits. Too bad as I bought about 12 or so of his books at our last library sale. All of his books will be donated back to the library for their next book sale, unread by me. He really seems to be a good author. Seems like he just got lazy and used sex as filler? Oh well, on to all the other wonderful books that are waiting for me!!!!

By the way, I didn't finish the book and I rated what I did read as 1 star. Would have given it 0 (zero) stars if I could have figured out how to do that.

Doug says

I love what Woods does here. Sure, Barrington stories are kind of campy and very soap opera-ish, but this is a fast read with all the components of a good murder mystery. For even those of us who think we have it all figured out halfway through, we don't. I sure like a challenge.

Robby says

I should probably rate this a (3.5); least wise for (IMO) the pace of the story content. But because I am a big fan of Stuart Woods and all of his entries into this genre I rated this as a (4). Recommend to all fans of this series/genre. You know, I should probably erase my opening sentence as I set here thumbing through this book again (briefly) since I finished it several days ago; it is actually all in all an in-depth murder mystery with all the necessary components. If one is not familiar with this author I would highly recommend your first introductory read to be Mr. Woods debut entry: Chiefs of the Will Lee series. I've read that to this day it remains Mr. Woods favorite. And one of mine, also.

Alan says

Had I not started reading Stuart Woods' Barrington novels midstream it would've been much clearer to me how he achieved his immediate popularity. These early books are quite a treat compared to most later ones in the series. That is not to say the books are anything but very lite reading and our friend Stone is way too much of a stud for my taste, but I guess some readers get off on the vicarious thrills of a ribald sex life included with their adventure stories, lol.

Bill says

Spoiler alert, so don't read any further if you plan on reading this book. It's an OK read, but the finish isn't done very well.

Here's are my issues with it:

1) Plot is straight out of male fantasy. Go to tropical island. Girlfriend just can't seem to get there with you as planned. Beautiful damsel in distress pulls up in her giant yacht, finds herself in a contrived murder trial in backwoods island, and needs help. Beautiful woman is also a raging horndog.

2) Lawyer doesn't do background check on one of his witnesses at all to even confirm he's who he says he his. Duh.

3) Turns out his 'witness' is actually the defendant's husband, who had managed to keep his yap shut the whole time while the lawyer is banging the client repeatedly? Umm...no.

Sooo...it's a fast read, but there's much better creativity out there. Doubt I'll read another one of this guy's books.

Barbara ★ says

Honestly this was more a sexfest than anything else. Allison Manning jumps right into bed with Stone Barrington (her lawyer) just days (weeks) after her husband whom she claims to love dearly has died. Stone

is alone on vacation in St. Marks. Though that was not the intention. His girlfriend was supposed to join him but weasels out at the last moment. Now Stone is all set to propose to her so the man whose elements come as a real surprise to this reader.

I am not impressed with Stone Barrington. He is unethical and incompetent. What kind of lawyer puts someone on the stand in a murder trial without investigating their claims? And interestingly enough the other book I read by Mr. Woods also took place in St. Marks and none of these crazy judicial quirks were mentioned. With his prior knowledge, you would expect Stone to be aware of the BS that was going to happen before, during and after the trial.

I won't be subjecting myself to anymore of Stone Barrington's antics as there are much better novels out there.

Emma says

Nice teaser for the next book at the end.

I enjoy the Stone Barrington books, but am getting annoyed at the sex scenes. It is clear the character is promiscuous and enjoys sex. That is great! However, the author refuses to use any words referring to genitalia. If you are going to have multiple detailed sex scenes, avoiding the words penis, butt, etc are not going to make the scene rated PG. There was an authors note at the end of the book quasi apologizing for the character's sexual nature while saying it was going to continue. It is a weird tension.

Carolyn says

Yes, the sex scenes are annoying as is true with all Stone Barrington novels. However, this book kept me interested all the way through the end. I had suspicions about the real story and I was right on some parts but surprised by others.

Spoiler: if you knew you could be hanged within a week, wouldn't you call your family to come down to "St. Mark's" to be with you? That was one part of the story that was not plausible. Along with Stone being such a disloyal pig to Arrington but that at least is not a surprise.

Carol says

First Read: I really enjoyed the faxes, looking for payphones, etc. the characters had to engage in to get in touch with each other. I enjoyed the plot. They were well written and believable, so that wasn't it. It was more about what it said about the characters, particularly Stone. A great character will always have flaws, but a fantastic character will agonize over having those flaws and fight coming to terms with them. In other words, a fantastic character has a conscience. That was lacking a bit in Stone Barrington. This book has a very surprise ending--favorable. Book was OK. This is my 3rd or 4th book, and overall I've enjoyed all of them to a point.

Second Read: Dead in the Water is the third novel in the Stone Barrington series by Stuart Woods. It was

first published in 1997 by HarperCollins. The novel takes place on the island of St. Marks, after the events in *Dirt*. The novel continues the story of Stone Barrington, a retired detective turned lawyer/private investigator

Plot: On a short vacation to escape his now hectic life in New York City, Stone Barrington set his sight on a lovely and romantic getaway to the islands of St. Marks. His companion, Arrington Carter, all-round superstar was to join him the next day.

Three events would ruin Stone's plans for a romantic boat cruise about the islands and leave him in the mist of a life or death trial. One was the New York weather, snowing in every airport available. Next was the saddening and fearsome ambition of his beau, Arrington Carter, high-profile host and interviewer, who decided to track down another must-have editorial. Last was the sweet and gorgeous All-American girl standing trial for murdering her husband, where if convicted meant death, by hanging.

Racing to prove the young widow innocent of any wrongdoing pits Stone against a determined protector standing on the verge of becoming the next Prime Minister of St. Marks. With little time to work the case, leaving the young woman's head in a balance, Stone, once a police officer, now an up-and-coming lawyer, will do what he does best, defend his client with every skill he has to offer. Stone just hopes he didn't lose the new love of his life for his own fearsome and saddening ambition.

Diane says

Exciting read! cleverly crafted writing with a good plot-twist combine in a great series...highly recommend...(paperback!)

Katy says

Please Note: Read and reviewed in 2006. Updating formatting.

My Synopsis: After Stone Barrington is stood up by his girl during a trip to St. Mark's, he becomes involved in a murder trial for a fellow American, a young woman whom the local governmental big-wigs are apparently intent on railroading into a murder charge whether she is guilty or not. Stone, desperate to find some way to pressure the St. Mark's government into backing off, starts a major media blitz in the US and floods the island with reporters. Various twists and turns ensue, and the final couple of twists in the story will absolutely blow your mind.

My Thoughts: Woods had apparently been reading some L.E. Modesitt, Jr. around the time he wrote this, as he began paying very close attention to details about food for some reason, which I found quite wonderful. It's the tiny little day-to-day details in a book that truly bring it to life. I am not certain why more people do not enjoy this - I guess too many people want instant gratification and constant bang-bang action. I blame the television, and video and computer games for this. It has destroyed our capacity to enjoy details and the slow building of a story. Huzzah to Stuart Woods for going ahead and doing this anyway! He builds wonderful details into this book while still providing the action, suspense, and thrills we have come to love from this series. I am hooked!

Steve says

April 2017 My 2015 was right on - in my humble opinion!

5-12-2015 I know I've read or listened to this book many years ago.

I am still in the first part but as I read, it is all coming back.

Just finished the book and didn't actually remember the ending.

Please Please do not cheat and go to the end....

Make a wager with yourself as to the ending. Then find out if you were right.

If you were right, I suggest you treat yourself to a single malt!

Happy reading!!!!

Rebekkila says

Stone Barrington only wants a winter getaway from the chill of New York in the beautiful, tropical Caribbean paradise of St. Mark's. But what the lawyer and ex-cop gets instead is the chance to defend Allison Manning. The beautiful young woman stands accused of killing her rich husband on board their luxurious yacht and then burying him at sea. Stone isn't exactly conversant with the island country's law, but this much is clear to him: Allison is being railroaded by the perverse sense of justice of a prosecutor who will do anything to stay in office. Donning the robe and wig of a British barrister, Stone does everything he can to save Allison - from publicizing the case all over the American press to conducting the kind of smart tough investigation that money can't buy. Just when he has the jury in the palm of his hands, a shocking reversal of fortune changes everything. And what was once a sure thing begins to look a lot like a death sentence. I am not quite sure why I torture myself reading this series. The person who wrote the description on the back of the book clearly hasn't read it. Stone is incompetent, sketchy, and full of bad judgment.
