


## **Dead by Morning**

*Beverly Barton*

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**Dead by Morning** Beverly Barton

**The Darkest Sins**

He begins his work just before dawn, wielding a knife with the precision of a surgeon. Cunning and meticulous, he's always in control. Mercy is not an option. . .

**Will Always**

Maleah Purdue is tough, outspoken, and completely dedicated to her work at the Powell Security Agency. But her fearless exterior shatters when a madman begins killing her colleagues one by one, mimicking a notorious serial killer already behind bars. Working alongside top profiler Derek Lawrence, Maleah will do anything to find the murderer, even if it means playing a psychopath's twisted mind games.

**Come To Light**

No one connected to the Agency is safe. No one is beyond suspicion. For as Maleah and Derek piece together the clues, they uncover a chilling legacy of lies and brutal vengeance--and a killer who has been hiding in plain sight all along. . .

## Dead by Morning Details

Date : Published (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Beverly Barton

Format : Kindle Edition 481 pages

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

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**Download and Read Free Online Dead by Morning Beverly Barton**

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# From Reader Review Dead by Morning for online ebook

**jenjn79 says**

Yeah...hard to decide what to say about this book...

Series Note:

Second book in the "Dead By" trilogy and 12th book involving the character of Griffin Powell. These books are romantic suspense usually involving a serial killer and Powell's security/investigative agency. There's a whole lot of back story to these books and there are probably others you should read first.

Summary:

There is a killer who is hunting down killing agents of the Powell Agency and members of their families. Griffin Powell is convinced the killer an evil, sadistic bastard from his past, but he doesn't see how that can be possible since the man is dead. He sets two of his best agents, Derek Lawrence and Maleah Purdue to investigate every lead possible.

As Maleah and Derek try to figure out who is killing those connected with the Powell Agency, more and more people die. They have to unwind a twisted puzzle of leads and misleads before someone else loses their life. In the process, secrets are revealed that could destroy lives and Maleah and Derek realize they can turn to each other during these tough times.

Review:

I debated quite a bit with myself over whether I wanted to write a review for this book. It seems almost disrespectful to write a critical review of a book whose author passed away not long after it was published. But I don't write my reviews to be malicious. I just give my honest opinion.

I've read a lot of Beverly Barton's books and she used to be a romantic suspense author that I eagerly awaited each new book. But then her books began to change, involving less and less romance and more straight-up suspense. What romance there was came off underdeveloped and forced. For me, that didn't work. I'm a fan of romantic suspense. I don't mind if the suspense part is the more dominant aspect but I still want a solid romance to go with it. And Barton's book started to miss on that point. It was very disappointing from an author who used to tell such great romantic suspense stories.

Honestly, I wouldn't have read this book (and wouldn't read the one that follows this one) if it were for the fact that I've read a number of the Griffin Powell books and really want to know the rest of Griff's story. That's really the only reason I bought this one. I would have passed otherwise because Barton's type of romantic suspense just didn't work for me anymore.

And even after I bought it I still held off on reading it because I heard there was a huge cliffhanger at the end and I wanted to have the next book first so I wouldn't have to read a cliffhanger and then wait for the next book. Of course, Ms. Barton passed away after this book came out and fans were left wondering if the next book would come. Thankfully, she had already finished the next book, the final one in the "Dead By" trilogy, Dead By Nightfall, which supposedly wraps-up the Griffin Powell mystery. So I bought that one, too, so I could read them back to back. And yet I left them sitting on my shelf because I couldn't muster up much enthusiasm to read them. I finally made myself get to them, though.

I can't say, after finishing this book, that my feelings changed on the way Barton had shifted the writing of

her "romantic suspense" books. "Dead By Morning" came off pretty much as I expected it would. The suspense plot completely dominated and the "romance" came off more as a sidenote that was plopped in so the book could still be called a romantic suspense.

Since the suspense plot was the dominating part of the story, I'll start with that. It was an okay plot. A bit low key in some ways. Very procedural with interviews and traveling around, etc etc. I wouldn't have minded some more action to keep my attention focused.

One thing I didn't like about the suspense plot was that it made me think too much of "Silence of the Lambs," specifically the part about Clarice interviewing Hannibal Lecter and him requiring her to tell him personal details in order for him to help her on the case. You get a repeat of that in this book. It just struck me as rather unoriginal.

I also didn't like another detail, and it's something that's bothered me for a number of Barton's recent books now. And that's how she gives you character POV's for people who are soon to be off'd. And not just little tidbits, but whole scenes of characters living happy lives, letting you get to know them, like them, and then they get butchered. I just have not liked that aspect of her recent books and I really didn't like it in this one. It's almost a bit cruel. There was one in particular in this book that I was very bothered by. It just really drops down my enjoyment of the story.

Then there's the fact that if you haven't read some of the other Griffin Powell books, especially the one about Griff and Nic, *The Murder Game*, you'll probably end up a bit confused about all the references to Griff's past. There's just a lot of backstory going on there. It wasn't an issue for me since I've read those books but I can see how others would end up confused.

In the end, the suspense plot is pretty average. I've read ones a lot better, and I've read ones a lot worse. It's a twisted story and when you finish, you don't have a lot of answers because the book basically continues right into the next one with a cliffhanger ending. Which makes me glad I have it waiting for me to read.

As for the romance...I'm tempted to say, what romance? But I can't because there is enough of one to say there is a romance, but for me, it was a rather flat and lackluster one. Maleah isn't entirely likable. She's very judgmental toward Derek, getting offended by the smallest niceties, like opening a door for her. She's antagonistic toward him for a good chunk of the book. And when things shift between them, it comes off as weird and forced. I just didn't feel the connection. When they jump to the next level near the end, things go at mach speed and I was left shaking my head, not believing the supposed romance between them. This part of the book could have been so much better and it's disappointing because Barton has written great romances in her books in the past.

On a technical note, I was also distracted at times by the over attention to detail. You'd get a whole paragraph over something as simple as opening a door or some other mundane task. It was irritating because it was overkill and unnecessary.

Yeah, not a very positive review, I admit. It was a book that didn't really do it for me. But I still feel bad for being critical when the author has passed away.

I can definitely tell you that if you read this one, you'll want to have the next book standing by because of the lack of answers you get in this one. And yet...I can't say I'm all that thrilled to read the next book. I know what I'm likely to get from it and know that I won't find it satisfying. I'm only going to read it to get those last answers about the mystery of Griffin Powell. I'm also wary of reading it because I know there are lead-

ins and focus on supporting characters that Barton had planned to write books for and it'll be disappointing to know that those characters won't get their story told because of Ms. Barton's death. But I'll read it anyway to get the last of Griffin Powell's story.

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## **(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys\_sidekick says**

Originally posted at <http://www.smexybooks.com/2011/05/rev...>

Favorite Quote: She walked out of the study, her head held high, her shoulders straight, and her heart breaking into a million pieces.”

This was a hard book for me to review. I have always been a huge fan of Beverly Barton. I was deeply saddened to hear she had passed away. The Griffin Powell series has been a whirlwind of suspense, intrigue, and romance starting with the first one-After Dark. Ms. Powell has never made it easy for her lovers-Griffin and Nic for example-but that made it even more thrilling. In the 12th of the Griffin Powell Agency series-Dead By Morning, we see signs that the long standing Malcolm York arc may be coming to an end. While I enjoyed this story, I have noticed in the last few books that the romance and plot hasn't been as cohesive as the earlier ones. The surface is scratched but Barton's trademark ability to imbibe her stories with nerve shattering tension and suspense isn't felt here.

Dead By Morning focuses on Maleah Purdue and Derek Lawrence. Maleah and Derek first met in Dead By Midnight. These two have butted heads since day one. Maleah thinks that Derek is a womanizer and far too controlling for her piece of mind. Derek thinks Maleah is beautiful, intelligent, and he wants her,; but she brings out the alpha in him and he doesn't like the possessiveness he feels towards her.

A serial killer begins to target members of the Powell agency and people they hold dear to them, copying the MO of a serial killer in jail-Jerome Browning. Maleah and Derek will have to go deep into the mind of the serial killer to try and stay one step ahead. This requires Maleah to lay herself bare before Browning and match wits with him in order to secure the information they need to catch the copy cat. As our two protagonists play a dangerous game of cat and mouse; Griffin Nic, and the rest of the Powell agency are investigating along the sidelines, trying to see who or what is targeting the agency and why. We are given clues that Griffin's arch nemesis, Malcolm York, may be back in play even though he has been thought long dead.

The pacing of the storyline deviates; fast moving at some points then slowing down in others. I have always enjoyed her conversational writing style and found it was enhanced by different POVs which all play an integral part in the overall arc. The plot is an intriguing read, set up with multiple sub plots that build the suspense layer by layer, until we reach the conclusion of the main conflict which leaves you shocked at it's duplicity and deception.

Maleah and Derek are both interesting characters. Both are products of an abusive childhood-though each have chosen to deal with it in their own way. Maleah is guarded and controlled. She allows no one close to her and maintains a high level of independence. Derek is happy go lucky; only allowing those to see what he wants them to see. He has only superficial relationships; never committing anyone. When they meet it's like oil and water. Derek can't help but feel protective of Maleah while she sees his protectiveness as a way to

control her. As they spend more time together, the attraction that has always been there begins to deepen into something neither of them are prepared for.

I did feel that they didn't flesh out as well as they could have. I found their bantering tedious at times and Derek annoyed me with his protectiveness. He tended to treat Maleah like a child at times. He does eventually ease up which advances their relationship. The romance is prickly and I felt the catalyst that brings them together just seemed to appear out of nowhere.

The main arc, which adds tension and mystery through out the series, didn't seem to advance much this go around. The secrets Griffin, Sanders, and Yvette all share are still a huge barrier standing between Nic and Griffin and I find myself as tired of them as Nic is. It's only at the end that we are given the answer to one secret. A secret so overwhelming that may drive Nic away once and for all.

I did enjoy getting to know Luke, Meredith, and Rafe.. These are some volatile characters who's backgrounds will make fascinating stories

Our secondary characters are a huge part of the storyline but I felt much of them were used a place markers. POVs are given which help more the plot along but they remain largely inactive, making appearances here and there.

Our villains are very amoral and the evil they commit makes for some uncomfortable reading. Devious and deceptive; their seeming normal appearance adds to the overall horror. As we race towards the end, you see that this is not isolated. The killings are only a small part of the game. We begin to see the intricate ties and bonds that links everything and everyone together in this story. While the main conflict is satisfied, a dramatic cliffhanger and epilogue shows us that this is only the beginning.

Over all, Dead By Morning, is a some what muted version of her previous books. While the tension and suspense is still there, it was overshadowed by a less then exciting romance. Though I honestly feel this book is a solid C, the ending is a definite B. So I am going to compromise.

Rating: C+

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## **Wendy Soliman says**

Sad to say that this book was a disappointment. I couldn't gel with the heroine. She was too feminist for my taste, which made the hero seem like a wimp by comparison. Another problem was the over-writing, the filling, if you like. For instance, one paragraph was devoted to the hero opening an hotel door. Something like he slid the card key into the slot, waited for the light to turn green, turned the handle to open the door, flipped on the lights.... Yawn, ok we get it. He opened the door! We don't need all the tiny details. This happened more than once, slowing the story down for no particular reason other than to stretch it out.

I kept going, hoping it would liven up, only to get to the end and find that it hadn't actually ended. There's obviously another book in the series. I didn't know it was a series and won't be looking for the next one.

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## Cindy ~ SnS Reviews says

I love this series of Beverly's. I was anxiously awaiting this one not only because it was Maleah and Derek's story but also because I knew the book after this would be Grif and Nic's 2nd book that finally wrapped up the whole Amara/Malcolm York arc. I was deeply saddened to hear that Beverly had passed and that was on my mind as I read this book. She was a great writer and could get inside a killers head and make the reader feel the evil that radiated off of them. I will miss her writing. I have read that she had finished the last book in the Dead by series and it will be released at the end of the year.

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## Hobby says

Books "PESAN KEMATIAN"

Judul Asli : DEATH BY MORNING

[ book 2 of Death By series | book 8 of Griffin Powell series ]

By Beverly Barton

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Penerbit Dastan Books

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Cetakan I : Maret 2012 ; 500 hlm

Rate : 3.5 of 5

Maleah Perdue kembali bertugas setelah menghabiskan akhir cutinya setelah menghadiri pernikahan kakaknya Jack Perdue, yang disusul dengan tugas menjaga Lorrie Hammonds yang diincar sebagai target pembunuhan berdasarkan film Midnight Masquerade. Powell Agency kini disibukkan dengan teka-teki dibalik pembunuhan anggota Powell Agency. Demi mencari kejelasan, Griffin Powell kembali menugaskan Maleah bersama Derek Lawrence selaku profiler dari FBI yang terkenal, untuk melakukan 'wawancara' dengan Jerome Browning – pembunuh berantai yang menghabiskan sisa hidupnya mendekam di Georgia State Prison. Salah satu alasan utama penugasan tersebut, pelaku pembunuhan ini menunjukkan ciri khas yang menyerupai cara pembunuhan yang dilakukan oleh Jerome pada para korban-korbannya. Maka demi menangkap sang pembunuh peniru (copycat killer), dibutuhkan informasi dari otak pelaku utama, Jerome Browning.

Maleah sama sekali tidak menyukai penugasan ini. Bukan saja ia harus berhadapan langsung dengan sosok psikopat yang berusaha mencari kelemahan dirinya, ia juga harus mempersiapkan diri menghadapi tingkah laku Derek Lawrence yang sangat tidak disukainya. Sosok Derek yang tampan, berpenampilan menawan bak pengusaha kaya raya, disertai sikapnya yang santun, elegan serta 'galant' terhadap kaum wanita sebagai hasil didikan khas pria Selatan, justru menimbulkan antipati dalam diri Maleah. Sedangkan Derek yang mengetahui perasaan Maleah, justru semakin tertarik untuk 'menggoda' dan mencaritahu lebih dalam tentang wanita mungil yang selalu berusaha tampil mandiri dan menampik segala macam tawaran dan bantuan kaum pria. Mudah diduga bahwa Maleah memiliki 'masalah' pada masa lalunya yang dipastikan menimbulkan trauma sehingga ia selalu menjauhi kedekatan hubungan dengan kaum pria. Satu-satunya pria yang diterima dalam kehidupannya adalah Jack Perdue – kakak laki-lakinya yang telah berlaku sebagai pelindung semenjak kanak-kanak.

more about this book, check on my review at here :  
( <http://my-mystery-readings.blogspot.c...> )

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### **Novee says**

Yang menarik dr buku ini tetep hubungan Griff & Nic dan bagian masa lalu trio Griff-Yvette-Sanders.  
Bagian Maleah-Derek malah byk yg ku skip =))

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### **Colleen says**

Dead by morning was definetly not one of my favorite Beverly Barton books, this was an audio book, part was the person reading the audio book, if you cant do accents don't, but there was a lot of jumping around with the characters and overly wordy with lots of commercial plugs which i do not enjoy or feel necessary. I am looking forward to the third in the Dead by trilogy within the Griffin Powell series as the story line is good , and i want to know how it all plays out.

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### **Mayflower730 says**

Too violent for me right now.

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### **Sheila says**

A killer makes it personal against the Griffen Powell Agency.

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### **Karen says**

A very good book. I would have given it a 5 if it was not another: " The Serial killer is someone from the past I knew formally or informally." A lot of action here. The romance was not overkilled. There was still s good mystery and it did not take over the narrative since I hate that. I was hesitant when it was called a Romance also. But since my digital library has little in audio that is any good. I was pleasantly surprised.

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### **Theresa says**

I really did not feel any romantic chemistry between the two main characters. And, they seem to switch from commitment issues and "it's just sex" to undying love and marriage from one page to the next. On the other hand, this is one of the first male characters in this series that I didn't absolutely HATE, so that earned it an extra star for "it was ok" rather than "I didn't like it".



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## Dee says

Two-haiku review:

Agents being killed  
She dislikes partner agent  
Then he grows on her

Pretty big cliffie  
Need to read whole trilogy  
On to the third one

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## Colleen says

The best part of this book was the last few pages of the last chapter and the entire epilogue. That part of the book was a solid 5 stars. The rest I give 3.5 stars. I don't mean to sound selfish & unsympathetic since Ms. Barton unexpectedly passed away, but I REALLY REALLY hope Dead by Nightfall still gets released. After the cliffhanger in this one, I'm salivating to read the that last book.

Her Dear Reader at the end of the book was bittersweet - she had so many plans for future books for other Powell Agency characters. Guess those will never come to light (unless someone else picks up their stories....)

As for Maleah and Derek's story, it was good, but never mind blowing. The romance was weak in my opinion (Barton went to less and less romance in her books for some reason). Maleah went from hot to cold and then all of a sudden she was on fire when it came to Derek (with regard to their personal relationship) it made it a little unbelievable for me that they got to where they were at the end. The suspense part was actually anti-climatic until the very end, then my heartbeat accelerated real quick! I'm telling ya, the epilogue was awesome! In typical Barton fashion, the victims were front & center in the story and you got to know them very well. Never really bothered me much in past stories, but it bothered me in this one. Not saying why, those who read the book will figure it out.

So all in all, a solid 3.5 stars. I probably would have left off the .5 if it wasn't for the very last part of the book. Like I said before, I really hope the next book still gets published so we can find out what happens.....

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## Loretta Freeborn says

Good fast read

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## **Melody Harris says**

I am enjoying this mystery series. Not sure how much I like the significant cliff hangers at the end of each book.

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