

# **Underdog**

Laurien Berenson

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Welcome to an elite Connecticut kennel club where shocking secrets gnaw at the best of the breed and competition has a sharp--and deadly--bite.

As if raising her son Davey, training her rambunctious Poodle Faith for the show ring, and grooming fellow handler Sam Driver for romance aren't enough, Melanie Travis's entrée into the exclusive Belle Haven Kennel Club has been met with a grisly murder. Unfortunately, the only witnesses to the crime were the victim's startled pair of Beagles. And they aren't talking. . .

Melanie hadn't intended to do any serious snooping, what with coping with the unexpected arrival of an exhusband out to get joint custody of the son he's never known. In need of some serious distraction, she's off to sniff out dangerous secrets. . . only to discover that everyone at Belle Haven has something damning to hide.

As the shocking truth slowly comes to light--and her own domestic drama moves center stage--Melanie finds herself eager to put the bite on a dogged killer who's desperate enough to strike again.

"A story as controlled as a well-behaved dog on a lead." -- Publishers Weekly

"Don't make me sit up and beg. Read this book today." -- Dorothy Cannell

#### **Underdog Details**

Date : Published September 4th 2012 by Kensington Books (first published January 1st 1996)

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Author: Laurien Berenson

Format: Kindle Edition 345 pages

Genre: Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction, Animals, Dogs



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# From Reader Review Underdog for online ebook

# Devi Nair says

The second book is even better than the first one. So many clues stretched all through the book, that I am surprised Melanie managed to solve it after all. This one really kept me on the edge. There was a point when I felt that maybe Jenny is alive after all. Then I remembered the post mortem results and realized that is not possible.

Already started reading the next book in the series.

### **Shelley says**

Just a nice light read set in the world of dog shows. Loved it.

### Jennifer N says

A great second book of one of the best series I have ever read!!! I recently finished reading this and I can honestly say the ending was surprising!!!! I am not going to add spoilers no matter how bad I want to! If you enjoyed the first of this series, A Pedigree To Die For, then you will enjoy this one! even if you haven't read the books in order since you can't get a hand on them, like me, this is still a great book, although like most series books, there may be a few spoilers of the the previous book in the beginning.

#### **Elaine Tanner says**

I am completely won over by the variation of characters and relevant characterisation. I care about all of them and Standard Poodle theme, as former owner, is well defined. No sooner finisher reading I brain the next in the series, really interested in how story line will progress.

#### Mary says

Very good cozy mystery set in the dog show world. Melanie starts investigating when a top trainer is found dead from arsenic poisoning.

### Karen says

Again a charming mystery of murder in the dog show world. Competitiveness brings out the worst in people sometimes. A woman is murdered by those who want her out of the way for various reasons. Later another victim falls pray to the same killer. Meanwhile Melanie gains more experience in showing her puppy and

moves along further in her relationship with Sam.

### **Daelith says**

Disappointing and extremely easy to figure out. Mel really annoyed me at the end of the book with her stupid antics too. I have one more in this series in my TBR pile, but I doubt I will be adding more.

# Angela says

Melanie Travis is a breath of fresh air. Single Mom, apprentice Dog Mother, Poodle enthusiast and a likeable person.

# Lena Harper says

Predictable but enjoyable

### **Chris Leuchtenburg says**

Harmless, entertaining, predictable, with lots of dog shows.

#### Jessi says

I think about this book years later. It must have made an impression on me. I enjoyed learning about the show ring and lost a bit of dislike for poodles. I can't remember the mystery itself and I haven't read any of the other Melanie Travis books... yet!

### Dana says

#### 3.5 stars

This was a nice enjoyable read. I started this series with book 2 by accident. I liked Melanie - she is down to earth and authentic. The pacing was good and I stayed interested up until the end. I wasn't totally surprised by the ending, but I was still left second guessing myself until the end. I am trying to decide if I should just go on from here or go back to read book 1 next!

# Georgette says

It is a good thing that Laurien Berenson is such a prolific writer of this series.. I can't get enough of Melanie Travis, her Aunt Peg, and the pups.. This is short because I can't keep up and am already on the 5th book. If you want to read about what goes on in the Dog Show world with a bit of romance and murder(sometimes) this is the series for you.

### **Donna Foster says**

#### **Great book**

Just started reading her books love them with the poodles in the story. Keeps me entertained with every page. Recommend

# Carol says

Another fun (if you can call murder fun) mystery set in the dog sow world. This one seemed to be more centered on the actual handlers, breeders, etc. than others and, like all competitive sports, it showed both the upbeat, fun side as well as the nasty, "win at any cost" side of competition. Little inserts about the behavior of other breeds (the Finnish Spitz rocketing out of his crate brought the biggest smile)clinches these books for me as I've had breed rescues as well as mutts over the years. While they're all dogs, they all have their own personalities and this book highlights how all show dogs aren't the same. If you're a dog lover and you like a mystery, give these books a try.