



## **Riptide**

*Catherine Coulter*

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Political speechwriter Becca Matlock is at the top of her professional game, working for the re-election campaign of New York's popular governor, when she receives the first phone call: "Stop sleeping with the governor or I'll kill him." Though Becca isn't sleeping with the governor, the menacing ultimatums persist. The police suddenly stop believing her, even after the stalker murders an innocent person to prove his point. When the governor is shot in the neck, Becca flees for the safety of coastal Maine, choosing to hide not only from the stalker but also from the authorities. For sanctuary, she goes to Riptide, the home of a college friend--but soon finds herself at even greater risk.

FBI agents Savich and Sherlock come to help an old friend of Savich's father, whose relationship to Becca is a surprise.

## **Riptide Details**

Date : Published (first published July 10th 2000)

ISBN :

Author : Catherine Coulter

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Mystery, Romance, Suspense, Fiction, Thriller

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## From Reader Review Riptide for online ebook

### Kirsten says

Another fun romantic suspense by Catherine Coulter. Not the best by her, but not the worst.

A little spy action, topped off by a good old fashioned psychotic stalker.

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### Tom Tischler says

Becca Matlock is a senior speechwriter for New York's governor. She receives the first in a series of deadly phone calls. These calls threaten her life and the life of the governor. The police refuse to believe that Becca's being stalked even when the stalker kills to prove a point. Becca flees to a friend's home in Riptide Maine and it seems a sanctuary at first but soon Becca gets herself in a lot more trouble. One of Catherine Coulter's earlier books in the FBI series. A page turner with a good story.

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### Tiffeny says

Hard to believe this is Catherine Coulter's 17th novel. It was just so poorly written. Cheesy dialogue, unbelievable story, predictable plot. It started off promising. I mean, the writing was bad from the beginning, but the story was fast-paced and interesting. It didn't take long for it to lose me though. It's also hard to believe the book has received 4 out of 5 stars on Goodreads. Coulter must have some real die-hard, long-suffering fans.

Just a few reasons why I thought it sucked:

1. Almost every character was incredible unlikeable, with the possible exception of Sherlock and Savage.
2. I was listening to the audio book. For the first 5 disks there was little language, no F-words. Then suddenly, it was as if the author decided that to make the story more dramatic she should add a dozen or so.
3. The story just went on and on and on. This nine disc book could have easily been told in 3. I got through 7 of 9 discs. Then decided that I just couldn't take anymore, so I skipped straight to the 9th to finish up, and didn't really feel like I'd missed a thing!

#### POSSIBLE SPOILER ALERT

4. Becca buys herself a blackmarket gun, has one session at the gun range and suddenly she's an expert marksman? Shooting randomly at the unknown - she's lucky she doesn't kill some innocent bystander - but no, she always hits her mark.
5. She has FBI who have been assigned to help protect her, but she's constantly insisting on going on every

raid and shootout that they have. And they let her! "Becca can cover me," they'll say. Are you kidding me? She's a civilian. She acts like an idiot and everyone lets her.

Those are probably my biggest complaints, but not at all the only ones.

I understand that the author used to write Historical Romance novels - the more cheese and fluff the better. She probably should stick to that because this political thriller was full of the same cheese and fluff and it just didn't work.

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### **Gina says**

Okay, much better than *The Edge*. The characters had more to them, they didn't seem flat like those in *The Edge*. The way she describes everything, if *Riptide* weren't fiction, I'd love to visit the place! I swear I could taste the salt from the sea, smell the fresh air. With more than one twist to her story, she kept me hooked. I sort of figured out a few things didn't 'jive', and sort of figured out who the 'Boyfriend' could be, but it was the twists and how it got there that kept me hooked. As for the main character, Becca was real to me. No matter how scared she was, she fought back. I do hope that the rest of the series doesn't fall flat like *The Edge* did. I don't want to be disappointed like that again.

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### **Carl Brookins says**

This is Catherine Coulter's seventeenth novel. Take one stalker, one frightened speech writer, a vengeful spy, slipshod logic, lots of emotion including multiple murder and obsession and you get *Riptide*. Rebecca Matlock is being stalked by a male who seems invincible. Matlock can't persuade the police, first in Albany then in New York City that she's being victimized. On the contrary, police in neither city believe her. Nowhere in this setup is there any thought of tapping her telephone or even using an answering machine.

Thus, after her mother dies, Rebecca Matlock flees to an isolated Maine town to avoid her stalker after he wounds the Governor of New York, her former employer. Safe? Don't you believe it. First her creepy ex-college classmate shows up. Then a creepy bodyguard shows up, a bodyguard given to violent rages. Somebody behind the scenes is pulling some powerful strings, because the next thing you know, the FBI shows up.

None of these professionals matter of course, because the bad guy is better than all of them. Well, it all gets sorted out in the end, of course and Dear Readers get a bonus, a direct challenge by the author on the back cover to figure out the mystery. Don't bother.

The writing is generally clean and competent, although the dialogue tends to the unrealistic. I've never seen so many tough professionals saying damnation all the time. It's an interesting story idea, but it can't sustain the story line.

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## ♥ Nell ♥ says

[Like Thomas, but couldn't understand why he couldn't catch up with Becca once she was old enough not to blab. It didn't sit well with me, but then the whole plot would have been up in smoke. (hide spoiler)]

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## Merredith says

This book was number 5 in the FBI Thriller series. I'm a big fan of that series, but somehow i never totally got into this one as much. Savich & Sherlock come in a little on the sidelines, and you get to see a glimpse of how their little boy is doing, but they're not really featured at all. The main character, Becca, is being stalked, and flees to a small new england town, Riptide. She actually ends up leaving Riptide by halfway through the book. There are some twists, but they're pretty obvious, but there's also some action, which is good. Has anyone ever noticed how strangely people talk in this series? Especially Savich. People don't talk like that! It's always been a bit hard to picture these people (who are always well muscled, in shape, talented, with really great jobs) speaking as if they are toddlers. I love Catherine Coulter, but they really do. I used to work in a daycare. Anyway, I enjoyed it, but wasn't really sucked in as much as her other books. If you're reading the series, as i am, you'll want to read this one, but if you're just reading it as a stand alone book, I think you'd rather choose another of hers instead. It just lacked..something.

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## Katrina Bergherm says

The story could have been good, but the writing was horrible. I kept reading...for whatever reason...only to be disgusted by the cheesiness of the whole thing.

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## Adam Wilson says

Did you all hear that massive thudding sound? That was me finally hitting rock bottom. Never before have I read a book so indescribably, savagely putrid as Riptide by

Catherine Coulter. It is interesting to begin by noting that Coulter previously wrote historical romances before deciding to crawl into the ever-expanding, ever-

excreting bowels of mediocrity by jumping on the band waggon of police procedural mystery/thrillers. In this terrible book, I found flaws on nearly every page. Sadly, I

was drawn in by the fast-paced beginning which, despite being poorly written, seemed to promise entertainment if nothing else. Then, as the terrible dialog began to

pound its way into my brain and the characters remained cliché, I came across this quote. "She looked back once at the ghastly pile of white bones wearing Calvin Klein

jeans and a sexy pink tank top. Poor girl. She thought of the Edgar Allan Poe tale The Telltale Heart and prayed that this girl had been dead before she was stuffed in

that wall." Ummm, 'scuse me CC, but aren't you referring to Poe's story The Cask of Amontillado, and don't you think that using the word tale directly in front of the

word Telltale sounds very redundant? You probably do not because you are a bestselling author and you and your team of editors and so forth are too busy rolling around

in the money you make off easily-satisfied people to notice your countless mistakes. I mean, I was reading the paperback!! How did people not notice that when it was a

hardcover? It is all downhill from there. A ridiculous romance starts up which I did not predict because I did not expect this book to deliver such a low blow, a main

character constantly uses the expletive "damnation," and I stopped giving what little shit I had given in the beginning. I have never seen writing this bad. Never in a

published novel, that is. I can usually handle bad writing with a good plot or good writing with a bad plot, but when you put them both together and present me with a

novel cornier than Nebraska, I can't like it. I am actually offended by the book in its entirety which is something that has never happened to me before. Even the

mystery was ruined by its predictability and Coulter's horrible use of a second climax which was totally unrealistic. The whole thing simply can not be explained to me.

No excuse can valedate such a tragedy of literature. No amount of reason can possibly make up for something such as this being created and sold in a world where people

with college educations are starving on the streets. I am fucking repulsed and disgusted and beg all of you not to read this book and most likely nothing else by this

author. If she hasn't learned to write by this point in her career, she never will. I could go on and on about how bad this book is but frankly, I don't think it

deserves any more of my time or attention so goodbye Catherine Coulter and the Riptide of shit you road in on.

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### **Melissa says**

Can you tell I'm on a  
Coulter kick? :)

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### **Natalie says**

The premise of *Riptide* is frightening: Becca Matlock has a stalker. He calls her, he assaults people to put on a show for her, he shoots the governor for sleeping with her - even though they aren't sexually involved. She

tries to escape to Riptide, the hometown of a college friend, but her life spirals downward in fast-forward.

The issue with the novel, though, is the very stilted and contrived dialogue. Every character spoke the same way - despite their age and geographical differences. The fast pace of plot detracts from any chance to characterize Becca and Adam past vague caricatures: Becca is the strong-willed female lead and Adam is the protective male.

The constant mention of Becca's skinniness was unnerving - Adam spent a lot of time thinking about how he wanted to force feed her to get her weight up. It didn't really fit with the flow of the story and I'm not sure why it was mentioned as often as it was.

The ending hammered the final nail in the coffin: (view spoiler)

Though cliches ruined a bunch of the surprises (such as the one at the very end), the story was interesting enough to finish. If you've read other mystery/FBI thrillers and liked them, then you'll probably enjoy this. Personally, I didn't like it; someone once told me reading this genre was like reading an embellished checklist and, unfortunately, I can't see past the very formulaic story.

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### **Judy Goodnight says**

A murderous stalker who called himself "your Boyfriend", disbelieving police, a strange Maine town whose streets are named after poisons, a skeleton discovered in the basement of a house, and ex-KGB agent sworn to avenge the death of his wife - just a few of the elements in this fifth novel of Coulter's FBI series.

The heroine, Rebecca Matlock, is allowed to get away with some stupid behavior. The sub-plot's denouement I saw coming from a mile away. Still, I enjoyed the cat & mouse game played by the main bad guy and the circuitous path the good guys had to follow to figure out who it was.

Not the best in the series but a solid read.

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### **Julie says**

Riptide by Catherine Coulter is a 2001 Jove publication.

Many years ago I decided to hunker down and get caught up on this series. Even back then, I was pretty far behind, but I didn't really care for the first few books, and I quickly abandoned it, so now I have a handful of these FBI novels sitting on my bookshelf gathering dust. However, I recently discovered a new book in this series will be released soon, which prompted me to give it another try.

Sadly, this book, which the fifth installment, was not the best place to start, as once again I was really unimpressed. All can say is this series surely must have improved over time and I just haven't gotten to that stage in the series yet.

Hopefully, I will have better luck with the next one.

2 stars

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### **Vanessa says**

This book is not one of her best, but I still liked it. It drew me in rather quickly and kept my interest. It's probably more like 3 1/2 stars, but hey, it's Catherine Coulter, one of my favorite authors -- I had to go in the positive direction.

She does have a lot of books that are better, and a few that are worse. But overall, if you haven't read her, I would definitely recommend it. I just wouldn't start with this one.

In fairness to those dissenters out there, I partially agree with some of the negative comments. The dialogue is not up to her expected standards, but it's not that bad; it didn't make much of an impact on my enjoyment of the story.

The Cons:

--The story was choppy in places.

--Some of the characters and subplots were not deep enough for me; it's like she just stuck some things in to prolong the story or add some spice.

--In parts, it pushed the reality meter to the limit. I give a lot of license for realism. However, the idea that the bad guy is really clever didn't go over very well. This is because, he/she got away with a lot just because the good guys being really stupid -- Kevlar vests, anyone? There's some really shoddy police work going on and even Savich and Sherlock are in on one of the "good guys are stupid scenes". I found it hard to get on board with that one. This is standard police work, people! Maybe because it's an older book, they didn't do it the way I expected them to, but I got over it.

Overall, I found it fun and engaging. Not one that I couldn't put down, but enjoyable.

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### **Vfields Don't touch my happy! says**

I can't believe how much I hated Becca. Every time to started to like or root for her she'd do something stupid and make me want to backslap her silly. She was annoying. The relationship development between her and Adam was very unromantic and so not plausible. The bad-guy was so over the top I kept rubbing my hands together chuckling 'Bha, ha, ha, ha...' Savage & Sherlock were the saving grace and wasted in this book. As far as I was concerned the torturously, convoluted story never got fun enough or the main characters like-able enough to just go with the flow and press my brain-off button.

The twist at the end was so kooky it made me eye-roll so hard I almost fell off the chair.

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