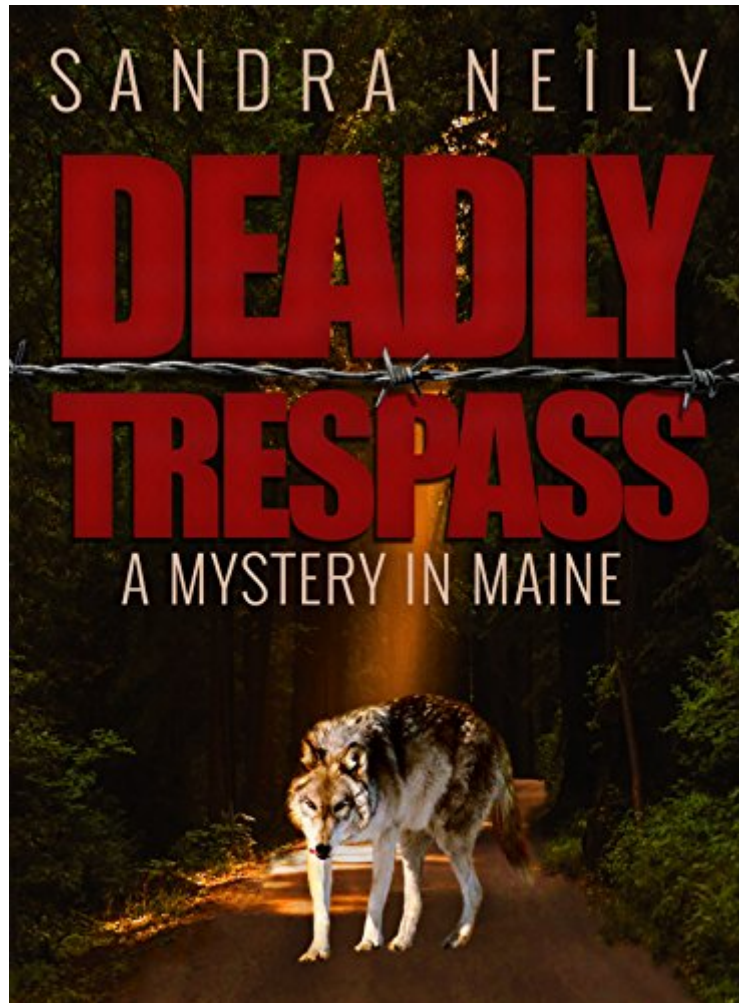




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Deadly Trespass: A Mystery In Maine



Synopsis

Winner: Mystery Writers of America's McCloy Award. National finalist: Women's Fiction Writers Association's Rising Star • contest. Cassandra Patton Conover is about to become an outlaw. Searching for her wayward dog in Maine's dense woods, she finds her best friend Shannon crushed under a tree. Then she finds tracks larger than any animal she knows and a mystery only wild animals can help her solve. Before she can absorb the loss of her friend, Patton is hired to guide a surly reporter who suspects extinct wolves have returned to Maine, but the forest has too many agendas. A billionaire hopes wolves will become a save-the-forest strategy. A timber company plans to exterminate the pack. A game warden loyal to his Penobscot tribe, his attraction to Patton, and his law enforcement life, has too many tough choices, and a black ops mercenary rips open Patton's wounded life so he can aim her at the wolves. When gold wolf eyes issue a challenge at her tent door, Patton is drawn deeper into Shannon's mysterious murder and the wolves' fate. To find her friend's killer, she must find and trust the pack. To save her dog, the wolves, and her own life, she must step outside the law, sacrifice her career, and embrace a wild world.

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Customer Reviews

Deadly Trespass: A Mystery in Maine by Sandra Neily is one of the most in-depth mystery stories that I've read this year. Her writing style is highly descriptive and very detailed. She describes the scenery, the moods, atmospheres and emotions of the characters and the story elements, environments and settings with intricate detail and creativity. This author is certainly a talented story-weaver. The story itself is based around the wildlife of Maine. It is what I would personally refer to as a realistic fictional tale. Though this story is not one of your action-packed, violence-filled, fast-paced mystery tales, it is still quite a masterpiece in its own right especially if you're into these types of mystery stories. Personally, I prefer the more action-packed, violent, fast-moving mystery thriller type stories, but even I found this tale to definitely be a worthwhile read. It basically falls into the cozy mystery category with the main character finding clues, locating pertinent information and collecting pieces of the mystery puzzle piece by piece, and then, putting it all together for a climactic culmination. Written in first person, the story's main character is a woman named Cassandra who finds her friend Shannon dead beneath a tree out in the woods. The story takes off from there and as you can probably predict, the accidental death turns out to have suspicious circumstances and the whole conspiracy-filled truth surrounding Shannon's untimely, surprising death is eventually completely revealed. Definitely worth a read for mystery fans who also enjoy a highly descriptive, deeply-detailed, nature-and-wildlife-world-based tale.

Buckle up for a no-holds-barred, crash course on Maine. Deadly Trespass may be a work of fiction, but author Sandra Neily's hard-earned first-hand knowledge of the state drives the tale. Both personally and professionally, Cassandra Patton Conover, the protagonist in Neily's defiant debut mystery, challenges the world to take her on "person by person, group by group. In her fifties, Patton, as she prefers to be called, keeps painful memories (emotionally abusive marriage, Maine state lobbying career roadblocks) to herself as she dares others, friendly or hostile, to prove themselves. Patton may not be an easy presence, but she's fully present, and the people who love her depend on her for that. As the book opens, Patton justifies trespassing across a wealthy landowner's acreage in order to reach a public-property river to go fishing with her Labrador retriever. The dog, however, quickly disappears, on the scent of something both unusual

and well known. He has found the dead body of Patton's best friend, Shannon Angeles. Put on your safety goggles and start your engine. This author's commitment to strong verbs and deep emotions (which she has worked to instill in me as a writing buddy) will propel you across the wildest of Maine's terrain and into its coldest waters "in search of whispered wolves, possible murderers, odd bedfellows, greedy sons of bitches, and reasons for it all. Patton's imagined conversations with animals, love for her daughter, and her own surprise at romantic feelings for her ex-husband's best friend squash the isolation she seriously flirts with and tries to inflict on others. Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Ellen Glasgow once said, "[E]very great novel has broken many conventions. The greatest of all novels defies every formula. While not defying every formula, there's nothing formulaic about author Neily's multilayered mystery that stunned this reader with graphic scenes of beauty and mayhem while immersing me (a mostly city gal) in Maine's environment "natural and political. At the start of this review, I used the word "defiant" to describe this eco mystery. Why? For one thing, it defies the reader to experience not only the beauty in our senses but also the squalor. Of her friend's mangled body, Patton recalls, "Gray, pink-tinged fluid dripped from one ear, and one green eye stared at me the way she always stared at me when I didn't have answers. Also defiant is the prodding way the author gets her points across: "In two months ticks could suck ten gallons of blood from a moose calf and tilt its fate toward death. [I] tried to feel grateful for all species "even lowlife species like reporters and ticks. Defiant is Patton herself, spitting back the pain that smacks her even as she perceives a dark humor in it. In welcoming you to author Sandra Neily's world, I must quote one of my favorite early paragraphs, when Patton is in a vehicle that has a dead moose tied to its roof: "Soft moose muzzle brushed my lips when I leaned into the truck's cab. I pressed my weight into the animal's neck, closed my eyes, and imagined him alive. Four hours ago he'd been knee deep in Tomhegan Bog, flesh rippling with urgency, nostrils squeezed back to suck in female-scented air. He must have heard the hunters stop and open their doors, but maybe a cow grazed upwind. While he swung his nose toward her, men stepped into the road and raised their rifles."

Deadly Trespass by Sandra Neily, this is a book where the plot takes place in the woods of Maine, is the story of Cassandra a girl that lost her dog in the forest, she starts looking for the dog and she finds her friend death, looks like an accident, a tree has fallen on her, but soon she learn that it was more than that. She gets in the middle of vested interests and puts her life in danger. The plot takes

the time to tell us how she used to live with her parents, the things she didn't like about them and what she did, and this is in part to let us know that she was in touch with hunting, even when it was a man thing to do, but is important to follow the plot. The book is well written and has a good pace, the plot is written to be a mystery book but also has some unreal things, like wishful thinking, or that was the way it made me feel, like a little weird scenarios, but perfectly included in the tale, the way clues are presented and managed by Cassandra. It's how the story unfolds, no doubt is an interesting read.

Cassandra Paton Conover, the protagonist and for the most part, victim of this story. While at first looks like a rescue story about a girl trying to find her dog, it will soon become into something more dangerous and darker than it was before, Cassandra wouldn't even believe in what she's into, even a dead body and what appears to be a bigger threat than the wild life inhabiting the woods. I find this book amazing, the attention to details in the environments is exceptional and it builds the atmosphere surrounding every step Cassandra takes like you were right beside her, it is quite frightening! As for the story the pace is really well handled, and how some of the mysteries are unraveled are well done too, not exposed in one big dialogue scene but rather like linking all the clues you have been collecting. A truly amazing book, I highly recommend it.

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