



The Bone Orchard

Paul Doiron

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In the aftermath of a family tragedy, Mike Bowditch has left the Maine Warden Service and is working as a fishing guide in the North Woods. But when his mentor Sgt. Kathy Frost is forced to kill a troubled war veteran in an apparent case of "suicide by cop," he begins having second thoughts about his decision.

Now Kathy finds herself the target of a government inquiry and outrage from the dead soldier's platoon mates. Soon she finds herself in the sights of a sniper, as well. When the sergeant is shot outside her farmhouse, Mike joins the hunt to find the mysterious man responsible. To do so, the ex-warden must plunge into his friend's secret past—even as a beautiful woman from Mike's own past returns, throwing into jeopardy his tentative romance with wildlife biologist Stacey Stevens.

As Kathy Frost lies on the brink of death and a dangerous shooter stalks the blueberry barrens of central Maine, Bowditch is forced to confront the choices he has made and determine, once and for all, the kind of man he truly is, in *The Bone Orchard* by Paul Doiron.

The Bone Orchard Details

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Author : Paul Doiron

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From Reader Review The Bone Orchard for online ebook

Connie says

I've read all the Bowditch books and I continue to enjoy the development of the characters. Paul Doiron writes as if he's dissecting an onion. Layer by layer we are witness to the growth(or lack of it) in Mike Bowditch and all the characters.

I appreciate the knowledge of Maine that Doiron uses to describe this vast state. I'm from "away", as they say here, and like the snippets of information tucked into these books.

I'm a fan, and can't wait for the next installment in the life and times of Mike Bowditch.

Barbara says

In this 5th addition to the 'Mike Bowditch' series, the hunting/fishing guide investigates the shooting of his former mentor. The book can be read as a standalone.

Sergeant Kathy Frost and her partner, Maine game wardens, are forced to shoot a badly disfigured Gulf War veteran, Jimmy Gammon, in self-defense ("suicide by cop"). However, Jimmy's family and friends, as well as other veterans are infuriated by the incident.....and a few days later Kathy is shot and badly wounded.

It so happens that Mike Bowditch - an ex-game warden who was visiting his former mentor Kathy - was on the spot at the time, and was also injured. Mike, who quit being a warden because of friction with a commanding officer, feels compelled to look into the case. It's not so easy because Mike has no badge and no authority.

Mike - who is now a hunting/fishing guide - has a lot of time on his hands which he uses to hang out, visit people, and talk talk talk a lot. To me it seemed like many scenes were extraneous to the story and slowed down the action too much.

There are a lot of characters in the story, including Jimmy's distraught parents and friends; Kathy's alcoholic trouble-making brother; Mike's ex-girlfriends; various game wardens; clerks and waitresses; and so on - which leads to an abundance of suspects. Mike keeps investigating and solves the case, but the solution seems a bit out of left field and isn't quite satisfying.

The setting is interesting, but the story is too meandering and slow for my taste.

You can follow my reviews at <https://reviewsbybarbsaffer.blogspot....>

Sharon Mensing says

Mike Bowditch is growing up. His job as game warden implies that he might be older than he is, but the previous books in the series have made it clear that he's still got a lot of maturing to do. After all, he's still under 30. As THE BONE ORCHARD opens, Mike has left the service and become a bearded, long-haired, fishing guide. He's caretaking the remote mansion that featured in book MASSACRE POND, the previous book in the Bowditch series, and just sort of generally being irresponsible. His boss when he was a warden, Sgt. Kathy Frost, is angry at him for quitting the service after she had stood up for him time and time again, and everyone he meets says, "Oh, yeah, I know you. You're the guy who got fired from the Maine Warden Service." In other words, his immature actions have resulted in his living a pretty marginal life.

But then, Sgt. Frost is the cop in a "suicide by cop" case, and the tables are turned with Bowditch reaching out to provide assistance. When Frost is injured in a sniper attack, and signs appear to tie it to the suicide case, Mike jumps in. In his typical unconventional style, he manages to insinuate himself into the case and almost single-handedly solve it. The case is multi-layered, and Mike matures into a similarly multi-layered man as the case develops. In the end, Mike makes some choices about his life that followers of the series will appreciate and which will seem reasonable even to those new to the series.

The one possibly jarring note to the book is the number of times that Mike's beard comes up. He is consistently referred to as looking like a homeless man, and virtually everyone with whom he comes into contact advises him to shave his beard. The beard is meant to represent the relationship between Mike and his father (read the first in the series, THE POACHER'S SON, for details). But Doiron lays this on a little thick. How the beard issue is resolved fits with the overall trajectory of the book and of Bowditch's life, in the end.

I've read the full series and enjoyed all the books. Doiron seems to be getting better, and Bowditch more nuanced. Doiron's writing brings the remote woods of Maine to life, and there is a generosity of character in the books that just feels good no matter how many folks die.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

'It was called "the bone orchard" because there was a family cemetery hidden amongst the roots of the trees. The mossy gravestones were so weathered, you could no longer read the names of the dead.'

Although this is #5 in a series, it works perfectly well as a standalone. The Bone Orchard was a great read, and I didn't feel as though I had missed out on anything that would have enhanced it further by not reading the earlier books.

Mike Bowditch has left the Maine Warden Service and is working as a fishing guide in the North Woods. But when his mentor Sgt. Kathy Frost is forced to kill a troubled war veteran in an apparent case of "suicide by cop," he takes leave to support her.

As he arrives at her house, Mike is shot at before finding Kathy's almost lifeless body in the doorway of her home, along with that of her dog. Mike, an outcast from the wardens, joins the hunt to find the man responsible and in doing so has to confront his lifestyle choice.

This is an extremely satisfying read. The characters all have great depth, the writing is descriptive, enlightening, and well-paced. I will be reading more from Paul Doiron.

Thank you to NetGalley and Little, Brown Group UK, Constable for providing a copy of this book in exchange for an honest and unbiased review.

judy says

Anyone who has not read this series would be well advised not to start with this book. This almost felt like some kind of bridge. It cleaned up things from the past and set the stage for the next book. I do like this series and will continue but I didn't find this book as enjoyable as other fans did. My reaction was that it was bumpy--not the smooth transitions I've come to expect.

Pamela says

“At the top of the ridge was a grove of red pines. On the other side of it was an orchard where deer came at dawn and dusk to eat the fallen apples . . . Kathy called it “the bone orchard” because there was a family cemetery hidden among the roots of the trees. The mossy gravestones were so weathered you could no longer read the names of the dead.”

Some people believe the dead still walk among us. Other people believe once you’re dead, you’re gone. Either way, Mike Bowditch knows: “Just because you’re done with the past doesn’t mean it’s done with you.”

Paul Doiron writes with literary finesse, not typically found in a mystery/suspense series. Atmosphere transporting – Fully developed realistic characters – Elements of descriptive prose – Believable intense scenarios and viable riveting action . . . He ranks among my favorite mystery/suspense masters of literary excellence: Nelson Demille, John Hart, Wiley Cash, and P.T. Deutermann. “The Bone Orchard, as with prior installments, met my expectations for a regionally unique intense mystery. Mike Bowditch is evolving into quite an affable, yet fierce, protagonist. His growth was duly noted. And I was pleased that Doiron was a bit less heavy handed with expletives. However, the wrap-up seemed a tad bit abrupt and uncharacteristically light. But I suppose that’s more of a deadline issue than lack of creative fortitude. Still, it was a great read.

Overall - 4 ½ Stars

Patti says

My mom found this book at a Dollar Store and she picked it up for me. I didn't realize it was part of a series until I started reading. I hate joining a series in the middle. But...

I enjoyed the writing. Doiron really has a feel for setting the scene.

What I didn't like was that the bad guy came out of nowhere. There were barely a couple mentions, most not

even including his actual name, so when his full name was revealed, I was like "Huh? Who's that?"

I may try another one, just to see if the plot is better.

Fredrick Danysh says

After Matt Bowditch leaves the Maine warden's department, his immediate supervisor and mentor is involved with a suicide-by-cop incident a wealthy veteran. These she is shot and almost killed. Matt becomes involved as he tries to locate who tried to kill his friend. This is a good who done it set in Maine.

Pamela says

Three things besides the plot and characters that I really like about Doiron:

1. His character has a sense of smell. This may seem like a silly thing to point out, but it isn't--at least to me. I am getting so very, very tired of books that are written as though they were movies. Sight and sound only. No smell. Mike Bowditch has a nose and knows how to use it! :)
2. No annoying sound track. I am also very tired of writers who go into excruciating detail about every single song the main character listens to, what he likes about it and/or the artist, what he likes better, what he likes less, what he doesn't like at all. Oh, and isn't it just the strangest thing that every one of these characters prefers little known music over mainstream music. It is as though there's some unofficial contest among writers to seek out the most obscure music then fill page after page extolling its virtues.
3. I have yet to find even a single scene from a movie in his writing. There are so many writers who basically *wordize* movie scenes then plop them down in their books. Not to name names, but one writer, *cough-Michael-cough-Connelly-cough*, has gotten so that he does this all the time. Does he think his readers never watch movies, or if they do, that they won't recognize the scenes? I have yet to figure out if it's ignorance or laziness, or perhaps a combination of both, but whatever it is, I do not like it. Hurray for Doiron for not falling into this trap!

That's what I like. Now for what I don't like. This is a short list. As a matter of fact, it only has one item on it--the sex scenes. They, or in this book's case it as there was only one, add nothing to the story or the character development. To be brutally honest, it came off as clumsy and more than a little embarrassing. Embarrassing as in it was so bad I had to wince my way through it. Mr. Doiron, next time, just say no, ok? :)

I enjoyed the first Mike Bowditch book, and it seems with each one, they get better and better. This is fast becoming my favorite series!

Kevintipple says

It is late May and Mike Bowditch has recently done what some in the Maine Warden Service have long wanted--he quit. These days he is working as a fishing guide. That decision had many consequences some of which were obvious and some that were not. One of the not so obvious ones, at least to Mike, was the fact

that he wasn't available when his friend and mentor Sargent Kathy Frost needed him the most. Instead, she was with a rookie officer when dealing with the call about a troubled veteran who might be suicidal.

Unfortunately, things escalated quickly when Sargent Frost and Danielle "Dani" Tate arrived on scene. Fearing for their safety they were forced to shoot Jimmy Gammon. The same Jimmy Gammon Mike had known before he was deployed to Afghanistan where he would suffer severe wounds thanks to an IED. Jimmy died in his parent's barn and the officers are on suspension and being investigated.

The family is outraged as are many other people and both officers are receiving threats. Somebody may have decided not to wait for the investigation into the shooting to conclude. Who fired the shots at her home that killed her dog, Pluto, and gravely wounded Kathy Frost is one of the many questions Mike Bowditch intends to answer. He faces an uphill battle because of his status as a civilian and numerous complications via various secondary storylines. Sticking in his nose in things and being his normal obstinate self is going to cost--- the real question is just how much.

Fifth in a great series that started with The Poacher's Son author Paul Doiron continues to bring the beauty of the Maine woods alive for readers in ways that few authors can achieve. He also mixes in plenty of mystery, adventure, and humanity making all the characters-- major and minor-- fully fleshed out people and not caricatures. Award winning Paul Doiron has crafted another very good book in an excellent series that shows no sign of stopping. Like all really good ones, this is a series that is best read in order.

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Blog at <http://kevintipplescorner.blogspot.com/>

Donna says

4.5 stars. Mike Bowditch has left his job as Maine game warden and he's working as a fishing guide. He also acts as caretaker of a large lodge in return for a luxurious cabin and extra money to supplement his fishing excursions. He learns that Sargeant Kathy Frost, his mentor, shot and killed a war veteran in self defense while answering a call. Kathy had Bowditch's back on numerous occasions and she refers to him as Grasshopper. Bowditch heads to Kathy's home to see her and runs into a shooting situation. Bowditch is slightly wounded but Kathy is near death from the shotgun shots. Although he has no legal authority any longer and not a lot of friends in the warden service, Bowditch is determined to track down Kathy's shooter.

I learned something in this book that I did not realize. In Maine, game wardens are full law enforcement officers and have the same authority as a state trooper. Call for a cop and a game warden may show up. This may be true in all states and I just never understood.

I've read 6 out of the 8 books in this series and this one is my favorite so far. I'm reading them out of order but that has no effect. I've ordered the last two books and they should be here next week. This series has easily become one of my favorites and I read a lot of series! I've never visited Maine but Doiron describes the birding and fishing beautifully. In this book, the rain was constant.

Paul says

Well, I liked it.

Donna says

This is the 5th book in the Mike Bowditch series. I've read a few of them but not all of them. This series falls between 3 and 4 stars. I like the plots the most. This author creates a good story and he includes subplots too. He can weave it all together nicely and I like that there is always something going on.

The MC was a bit of a 'sad' character in this one, but things always seem to work out for him. There were many different characters in this one, but even the ones with the shortest roles, still added interest. That is always appreciated because I'm not fan of 'character parades'.

Lea Wait says

Paul Doiron has done it again! I think this is the best of his books so far ... despite his leaving a conventional mystery format (Mike Bowditch, his main character, has turned in his badge so is no longer an official crime fighter and, in a sense, is now amateur sleuth with contacts and experience.) This twist also gives him a lot of freedom to explore possibilities, and his own life and relationships. Characters from earlier books walk through the pages of THE BONE ORCHARD, bringing readers up-to-date on Bowditch's life. A short (I expect) respite from Bowditch's life as a Maine Warden, chasing bad guys ... gives Paul Doiron the opportunity to focus on mid-coast Maine, on who Bowditch is, and on who he is becoming. No disappointments here ... if you haven't read Paul Doiron's books, and you love Maine and mysteries and the wilderness ... The Bone Orchard should be on your "must read" list.

Peggy Strack says

I don't usually read crime novels, but the Mike Bowditch series was highly recommended to me by a bookseller. I'm glad I listened. The Bone Orchard moved along swiftly with suspense, emotion, and superb storytelling. I read it in two days because I could not put it down. I look forward to reading the other four novels in the series.

