



Beverly Hills Dead

Stuart Woods

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"New York Times" bestselling author Stuart Woods revisits the characters and settings of his bestseller "The Prince of Beverly Hills" in this gripping novel of murder, political intrigue, and betrayal set in 1940s Hollywood, when the Red Scare meant anyone could be suspect.

Rick Barron, a former Beverly Hills police officer, has risen to head of production of Centurion Studios. Professionally powerful and happily married-to the beautiful actress Glenna Gleason-Rick's at the top of his game. A sun-drenched world of style, glamour, and desire, the movie studios are a place where anyone with ambition can rise to fame and fortune-or scandal. But now tensions are running high in Hollywood, and the Red Scare is a sign of bad things to come. The witch hunt is spreading, and with it come deception, murder, and dirty dealings that even the picture-perfect veneer of Hollywood can't hide.

Set in a time of suspicion and uncertainty, BEVERLY HILLS DEAD is Stuart Woods's best novel yet-a fast-paced and sexy thriller full of the nail-biting twists and startling turns that his fans always expect.

Beverly Hills Dead Details

Date : Published (first published 2008)

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Author : Stuart Woods

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Genre : Mystery, Fiction

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From Reader Review Beverly Hills Dead for online ebook

Patricia says

Not my favorite kind of mystery book, but it is okay. It did not hold my attention right away, and there was not enough character development for my taste. Some readers love this author's books and some don't, and I don't. However, this is my first time reading a book by this author. Maybe his other books are better.

Keith says

Set in Hollywood in the early 1950's Rick Barron is a movie land wunderkind on his way up. And it's all too easy. Rick is a great guy with an easy going personality that always keeps his word. Glenna is his beautiful and faithful wife that never considers straying. Eddie Harris is his undemanding and trusting boss and the head of the studio who always gives Rick whatever he needs to be more successful---and this is the problem I have with the story---who are these people? I don't think any of them lived in the Hollywood I know. The underlying plot line is about the impact of the HUAC hearings going on during the McCarthy era and the resulting black listing that took place. Of course there's a murder as well but you'll figure out who did it long before any of the novel's characters do. I realize that Woods is a formula writer, and a good one, but I thought we were going to get through this one without a reoccurring character from a previous book but in the end one of them puts in an appearance. As to how and who...I'll save that as the only surprise.

Kent says

I usually like Woods books but I have mixed feelings on this one.

The plot of the book is that Rick Barron, now the head of production of Centurion Studios, is making a film. That's pretty much the plot. There are two subplots, namely one of the writers has been caught up in the Hollywood blacklist of communist sympathizers and the co-star of the picture is murdered. That's pretty much the whole story. Both subplots are not concluded until the final pages of the book.

I think this book would have been more interesting if Woods had focused more on the movie making aspect of the book. That, to me, is fascinating. Like many of his other novels, Woods works sex into the story, which is described pretty graphically and really adds nothing to the plot or to the story. And like his other novels, he invites readers to comment on the book but chastises them if they should want anything else.

I am getting the impression that Woods is tiring of writing and this book certainly shows it. His characters are recycled from previous books, only set in an earlier time frame.

My recommendation is to skip this book. Earlier works are better and fresher than this title.

Laura Belgrave says

Stuart Woods knows how to write compelling novels. This isn't one of them. The story follows the careers of a few movie stars and writers during the Hollywood witch hunts of the House UnAmerican Activities Committee determined to route out Communist sympathizers.

The story might have had potential. The execution, however, is unbelievably lackluster with shamefully boring dialogue and wooden characters. Part of me thinks I should've been paid to read it to completion.

P.S. This was actually the paperback version I read. I think I might've demanded a refund if I'd paid full price for the hardcover.

Stephen says

So far Stuart Woods' book " Beverly Hills Dead " is a mixture of fiction and non-fiction. The main characters are fictional but the time period is Hollywood after WWII. The names mentioned are all movie stars or movie moguls that existed in a difficult time period. The HUAC , the House UnAmerican Affairs Committee is stirring up some grim business. They are looking for Communists in prominent places.....like Hollywood !

Rick Barron, an ex-cop , first hired for some protection for Centurion Studios has slowly risen to head of production for the studio. Although not discussed openly, Rick is concerned that several members of his Centurion team are facing questioning in Washington. And 'yes' this was a very difficult period in Hollywood's history.

There are some surprises along the way but Stuart Woods is always an easy read

Brittany says

Not as gripping as the first. The incorporation of the HUAC events was mild and could have been emphasized a bit more.

The author's note at the end about receiving fan mail is the most pompous thing I've ever seen.

Todd Schafer says

Great series. Disappointed in that it appears Woods takes the late 40's novel to more or less present day with the protagonist Rick being an 87 y.o man.

Not much chance for future activity.

Captivating the way he spun the HUAC witch-hunt. People who joined the part were mainly dissatisfied with what was happening in Depression era America.

They weren't necessarily Russian sympathizers intent on overthrowing the government.

Betsy Murphy says

I should've read the first book but what a mystery !

John says

Pathetic, high school writing. This is definite low for Woods!

Marie says

Stuart Woods usually writes a very entertaining read, but the sugary sweet characters (ALL of them) made me think this book was written by a Stepford wife. No character ever seemed to get angry over ANYTHING, including what sounded like an extremely bitter divorce. Whaaaaat ??? I just couldn't get past the images of all the sugary characters frolicking through the grass on both prozac AND valium. Way to unrealistic.

Marlu says

I enjoyed it. A good, quick read.

Shirley says

The profanity, adult situations, and lesbian relationship make this a book that won't be donated to the school library or passed on to friends. The story took place in the 1940s when the House Un-American Activities Committee attempted to weed Communists out of writing, producing, and acting in Hollywood. Stuart Woods did an excellent job of incorporating real people into the context of his novel. The homicide/mystery evolves late in the story. The assailant and motive were disappointing.

Karen says

We ride along with Rick and Glenna as their lives are entwined with those at the studio. Glenna finds a new star Vance and Rick directs an award winning film. The star actress is found murdered and the search is on for her killer.

David says

This takes place in Hollywood during the House anti American activities committee actions. The murder does not take place well into the book. The pacing is a bit different than most mysteries but the characters are

so interesting that I don't think that is a problem.

Kathy says

Awful. This is the first book I've read by this author and the last too. I can't believe this guy has written 30 best selling novels. The entire story was dialogue with no character depth at all. In fact, I've decided to add another shelf to my profile and label it "Bad Authors". This book will be on that shelf.
