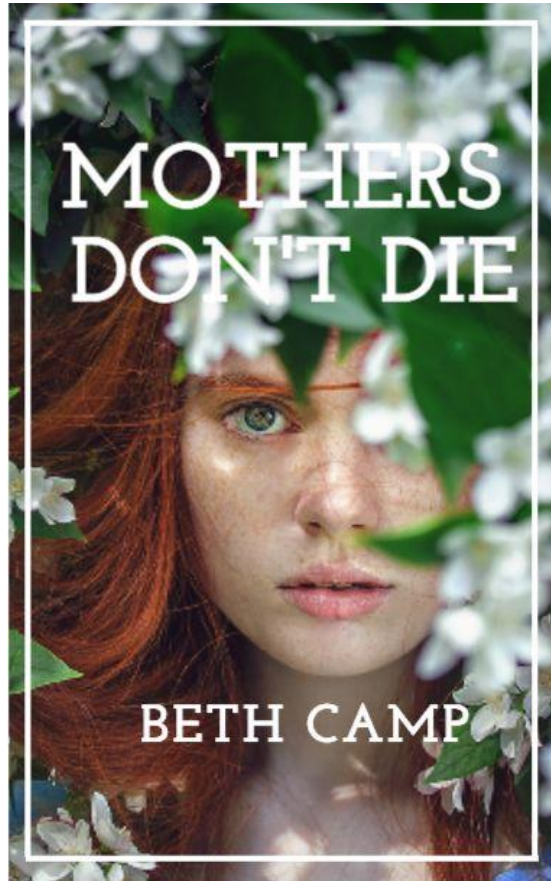


Mothers Don't Die



By Beth Camp

Reviewed by Sandra Mason

Master storyteller, Beth Camp's *Mothers Don't Die*, took me way out of my usual wheelhouse of reading choices. She scared the spit out of me in the first two chapters and throughout the book. The story is fast paced, with plot twists and turns that kept me turning pages, and thinking, *what would I do in a similar situation?*

A family goes camping, sets up camp and takes a walk when the father finds something so chilling that he wants to take the whole family with him to report the crime. The little daughter is asleep, and the mother does not want to wake her. The scene is set for disaster.

Beth's characters are vivid, believable, and real. I could NOT put the book down. I read most of the book in one day, then forced myself to wait to finish it the next day. I was breathless through most of it, hating the villain, frustrated with the police, and the husband, and hoping the wife would somehow escape with her child.

If you like reading thrillers, this book is for you! I don't normally choose thrillers, and I could NOT put this down. Check out Beth's other books. The McDonald Series and her art crimes mysteries. Beth writes strong women characters who overcome the challenges they face. Her characters are believable.

Reviewed by Joan Kopczynski

Mothers Don't Die is a quick and suspenseful read at 171 pages. The author had me hooked in the short prologue where we witness the antagonist, Donald, sitting by a woman's body on the bottom stair in the basement and we are introduced to his unhealthy obsession with his mother.

The book loses a little steam in the first chapter about Ron, Laura and their five-year-old daughter, Kerry, camping in eastern Washington but picks up at the end of the chapter where there is another hook. (Ron, the protagonist's (Laura's) husband finds a dark rock in the center of the road which turns out to be a body wrapped in a large plastic trash bag.) A detective, Greg Matheson, is soon assigned to the case.

The protagonist and antagonist meet in Chapter Six when the suspense ratchets up a notch. The reader wonders is Donald a kidnapper? A rapist? A murderer? Maybe a serial killer? Read on to find out.

The author has done an excellent job in researching such a crime. It reminded me a lot of the shows on Dateline, plenty of suspense, an exploration of the darker side of human nature and a satisfying ending where justice prevails. There is also a satisfying love story in the subplot.

She also does an excellent job with realistic dialogue and offers vivid settings in both the campground in eastern Washington and also Seattle where a lot of the story takes place.

Mothers Don't Die, in my opinion, is an excellent crime fiction novel, but I don't feel that it has all elements of a psychological thriller. I also felt this book would be better if it had gone through a professional line edit before it was published. (The author is revising it now.)

The book is a page turner. You'll have difficulty putting it down once you start reading it. Don't count on sleeping until you've finished. I highly recommend it.



Page revised 11/15/2024 dam
©2024 www.spokaneauthors.org