



Dead in the Water

Simon Bower

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THE HOT NEW INTERNATIONAL CRIME THRILLER THAT YOU CAN'T PUT DOWN!

Was it murder, suicide or an accident? Who will be next to die?

Six international friends all appear to be successful, albeit to different levels. A human rights' lawyer, an IT geek, a businessman, a waitress, a phone guy and a physiotherapist. None of them are known to the police.

One of them must know what happened that fateful night on the catamaran.

Agent Georges Fournier is assigned the case in the French resort town near Antibes. He's short on time, with a growing health problem and a District Attorney who just wants the case closed as accidental. But he's not letting go.

Chrissie is a single mother and respected flight attendant in New York. When she finds out who her father is, she's ecstatic and wants to meet him.

But within a week she'd wish she'd never known.

Dead in the Water Details

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Author : Simon Bower

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Genre : Fiction, Mystery, Crime

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From Reader Review Dead in the Water for online ebook

Claire says

Dead in the water starts with a bang, with a character floating in the Mediterranean and we read her last dying thoughts until she sinks to the bottom. We then zip five months back and we are introduced to the story through the character Charlie who seems to be telling the story. The chapters then go on to introduce the other characters Chrissie, Ana, Scot, Len, Mia and Agent Fournier.

The story jumps around a bit between the characters, locations and where we are in the timeline of the story. I found the beginning of the book a bit confusing as I struggled to grasp what was going on and who was who. Once I worked out what the formula of the book was I began to enjoy it more and tore through the pages.

The story is told in 1st person through Charlie's eyes and 3rd person for the other character's. Simon has carefully woven a novel out of seven different strands, seven character's stories and their views on the what happened and why they did what they did. Simon has more or less written seven different stories and then spent time weaving them into a novel.

This book involves some time invested in the beginning but once you get used to this unique and different way of story telling you'll be flying through the book. I am very interested and keen to see what Simon does next.

Mark Butcher says

Excellent book. Great read, fast pace - likable and unlikable characters and a highly satisfactory ending. Perfect for the beach this summer!

Carlotta Graffigna says

Simon Bower made two very daring decisions.

One, to adopt a multiple point of view structure (I, Charlie, and then all the other characters described by a narrator). It works!

Second, he provided us with a major twist there where we already thought to have figured out most of the story...

And I agree with most reviewers, that the second part is so fast paced and intriguing that one can't possibly put the book down ..

Lois Cameron says

Wanted an absorbing holiday read and that's what I got - Full of suspense and twist and turns that you don't

expect. You do have to concentrate at first to hold the different characters and timelines it's important you pay attention to the details ! It's racy and fast paced and there is definitely a sequel in there !

Zoé-lee O'farrell says

When you start the book with a prologue like that you know you are in for a winner and a great debut too! I love when you start a book and then are flown back in time before the "incident". Sometimes it can get frustrating but I love it, what I also love is a book told in multiple points of view, so guess who is a happy bunny reading this one then!!

You will need to concentrate as you have a lot of characters to get acquainted with, and as normal with any story, you have the ones you like and the ones you just do NOT like but it is the getting to them which I love. (God I love quite a lot don't I!!) For me, it reminded me of the TV show *The Affair*, with the different points of view of the same thing, all seeing the different things in their own way. All characters have been portrayed in a realistic fashion and the book is very character-driven which makes this so much more of a fascinating read. And then like *How to get away with murder* with the time jumping and the mysteries of what is going on.

All these people are in a luxurious vacation in France, having a good time, until the "incident" and leads us to meet Agent Georges Fournier, who is trying to make a name for himself. But not only do we travel to France we seem to travel all over, so many miles in so many pages!

This book is constructed in such a way that will keep you guessing and leave you breathless turning the pages over and it is definitely a book I could not put down. The writing of Mr Bower is one where he has painted it in an all too realistic way, that it could be true! He does like to also pull the rug from out under you, as you sit there smugly thinking you have figured it all out and then he likes to twist it around on its head! This will not be the last time I read something by this author for sure.

Hobart says

★ ★ ★ 1/2 (rounded up)

This originally appeared at The Irresponsible Reader as part of a book tour stop (that includes a sure-win Giveaway, through 7/6).

I'll be upfront with you -- at the core here, there's one decent person in this book (at least among the core eight characters), and we don't spend that much time with them. The best you can say about some of the others is that one is an almost-competent professional, a couple of others are a short course of self-improvement away from being decent people -- and the rest are just horrible people. I'm not talking serial killers, stalkers, or dog abusers -- not vile, evil people; just the kind of people we all would like to pretend don't really exist. The book blurb describes some of them as "A human rights' lawyer, an IT geek, a businessman, a waitress, a phone guy and a physiotherapist." You could also describe them (I've shuffled the order to protect the identities of the guilty) as "A creep, a gold-digger, a busy-body, a drunken philanderer, an unscrupulous businessman who ignores international law, and a more successful gold-digger."

These six people find themselves on a vacation together, all carrying their own histories and circumstances and concerns -- on the whole, enjoying themselves -- until some sort of calamity occurs bringing them into contact with France's least-capable police officer, desperate to make his mark on law enforcement. Meanwhile, that one decent person is off living their life, unaware that they're on the verge of being plunged into all the drama ensuing off the coast of France and in the mountains near Switzerland.

As I'm reading this, I get the impression I'm being awfully judgemental when it comes to these characters -- and maybe I am. But that's only in retrospect (and occasionally while reading, but that was a passing thing). While reading it, they were just "Charlie," "Ana," "Scott," "Mia," etc. Sure, you'd cringe while Scott makes another poor choice, or something, but you're not sitting there looking down your nose at them the whole novel.

Beyond the experience of enjoying a story well told there are different things that will attract a reader to a novel. For me, usually, it's character; frequently it's voice or style. But sometimes -- like, **Dead in the Water** it'll be something else -- the way the novel is put together. This story is told in a very careful, complex way -- weaving multiple Point of View characters (frequently narrating the same events) and time-jumps together to tell this story. I'd accuse Bower of cheating once (and I'd be right, too) having a character show up in the middle of a sequence without any warning/indication that the character was even on the right continent. Still, it made utter sense that X would be with Y in the middle of Y's plan, so it still worked -- and the suddenness of Y's appearance in the middle of the action was a well-timed and well-executed surprise, that guaranteed the success of story telling.

This doesn't mean that there's not a strong voice (or several, in this case), or that the characters were wanting -- they weren't. We have 8 well-drawn characters here, but man, you can tell this was a well-planned and (I'm guessing here) carefully finessed and re-written book to get these dominoes set up just "so." There is a good deal of setting up -- you spend the first 27% or so of the novel waiting for the crime part of this Crime Fiction to get going. Until that point, this could be a General Fiction kind of read. But then the dominoes start to fall, and initially you think that you've got a nice little puzzle before you (made more difficult by *everyone* lying about something), but then a few more fall and you realize that the novel you're about halfway through is not at all what you thought it was.

The core of the crime part of this novel comes from a few characters trying to cut corners here and there -- and then more than corners -- to get ahead. Not because they feel life owes it to them, but the opportunities present themselves and these people are too weak/too opportunistic to let them slip by. There are no criminal masterminds at work here (or investigative geniuses on the other side, I should stress), just everyday folk -- people you likely work, live and shop with -- that decide to take the easy way.

This almost-Everyman nature of the criminals/would-be criminals in this nature leads me to my last point. I do think this novel could've been more effective -- but not much more. The entire time, it's never more than a couple of inches away from being a wonderful dark comedy. If Bower had just leaned into the humor just a little bit further, every twist and turn would've worked a little better and the novel as a whole would have been better for it. It almost succeeds as one now, it wouldn't take much. But that's not the direction Bower went, so we're left with a pretty good straight crime novel.

This is a wonderfully constructed novel full of characters that are all-too believable in circumstances it'd be easy to see yourself in (assuming you had a pretty wealthy uncle and/or college friend who invited you along) in some fantastic locations throughout the world. This is a fun read that will keep you thinking through all the different things that could be happening next. Give this one a shot folks, I think you'll be entertained.

LJ (On The Shelf Reviews) says

I have to say this book turned out to be not quite what I expected. From the synopsis, I thought 'Oh, yes this going to be the usual murder mystery,' but there was kidnapping, blackmail with plenty of twists and turns and a little bit steamy to boot.

The prologue to the book starts off quite intriguing with an unidentified woman just on the edge of consciousness about to drown. Then it travels back five months and we meet the rest of the cast. Charlie, a bit of a chancer always bemoaning his luck. Ana, a seductress and Charlie's girlfriend. Scott, Charlie's brother, trapped in a loveless marriage, a bit jealous of his younger brother. Len and Mia Hubbard, Charlie and Scott's aunt and uncle, Len is a bit of a dodgy business man and Mia is a human rights lawyer. Chrissie, a flight attendant, who wants to find her father. And lastly Agent Fournier, a policeman used to dealing with small crimes but he's determined to prove his worth. I didn't find most of the characters are overly likeable but I thought they were very realistically portrayed.

I think this is the most I've travelled within one book! There's New York, Los Angeles, Switzerland, London, France, Holland, Monaco...phew I just thought of all the air miles these characters must have clocked up!

Unfortunately, I found the time line bounced around quite a bit and I felt there may have been a plot hole or two. Also a bit confusing at times as the cast was large and with each one having their own chapters it was hard to keep track of.

I'd recommend this for fans of fast paced, character driven thrillers.

Donna Maguire says

<https://donnasbookblog.wordpress.com/...>

I wasn't sure what to expect from this book so I started it with an open mind and am delighted with what I got!! It was an addictive read that had me hooked!!

The book is well planned out and the execution is very well done. I loved the characters and really enjoyed getting to know them as the book progressed. The pace for the story was spot on and I loved the flow that the author achieved with his writing. I loved the story being told from different points of view and over different times periods too.

4.5 stars from me for this one rounded up to 5 stars for Goodreads and Amazon – very highly recommended!!

Cheryl M-M says

Charlie thinks his ship has come in when he meets Ana. He is bored, she is beautiful and the location is

exotic. One thing leads to another and a toxic relationship is born from it, although one could argue that Charlie would have made certain decisions regardless of whether he met Ana, right?

What becomes clear quite early on is how Charlie believes life owes him some kind of favour. There is no real sense of regret or remorse, in fact it is always someone else's fault. Ana made him, Len deserves it, Mia shouldn't be so needy. There is no culpability and always an excuse.

I'm not sure if it is intentional, but the yacht scenes were very Christie whodunnit with a whiff of Natalie Wood salacious mystery thrown in for free. It's interesting because you get the volatility of a modern crime, but feel as if you are also reading a 'the professor killed him with a candlestick in the library' kind of crime.

The reckless and ruthless ploys of the killer bring a strong feeling of violence and chaos to the story, which is equalled out by the laissez-faire attitude of the police detective. You think he has left the potential crime to sink into obscurity when all of a sudden he pops up again.

I will say that although each character was given a voice of their own in individual chapters, it sometimes felt disjointed. The lead up to the last potential victim was too long and at times her story felt too outside the main plot.

What Bower does do well is capture the essence of two people who separately would probably never harm anyone, and yet brought together they become a lethal weapon. This, although it seems quite an unimportant element, is actually the main driving force behind the majority of violent crimes. The question is whether individuals in these situations would have committed crimes if they hadn't become part of a toxic and co-dependent killing team.

I guess this killer will never know, but then this killer would probably blame it on the victim instead.

I received a free copy courtesy of the publisher

Glen says

I won this book in a goodreads drawing.

There's a murder. We trace the murder to its very beginnings, which takes to a cast of eight people, none of them likable.

Dash fan says

4.5? A Steamy Crime Mystery/Thriller
(Round up to 5? for Amazon & Goodreads)

Dead in the water is a steamy crime thriller that gripped me from the start.

The opening part 1 describes a young unidentified woman falling into the water to her death.

The next chapter we rewind 5 months before the death and the lead up to the events and interactions.

This book is told by several points of view which can be a bit confusing to start with, but once you get used to who is who it flows nicely.

My only criticism is that because there are so many characters you lose the connection you would normally build with characters. Although some I really liked others not so much.

There is a lot going on in within the story, it's fast paced, the chapters are nice and short perfect to keep your attention.

Prepare to be kept on your toes and guessing the whole way through.

It's a raunchy crime mystery/thriller, that's action packed and some beautiful locations.

I'm looking forward to reading more from Bower.

Thank you to Dampebbles for this copy which I reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

My Review is also on my Blog Website:-

<https://dashfan81.blogspot.com/2018/0...>

Kate Taylor says

Loved it. Had me guessing literally until the end. So many times I thought I got to the heart of these characters but the twists kept me hooked. Great book. Can we have a sequel please :)

Coustier says

I love driving. I rarely let someone else drive. But since I started this book on a thursday and that by saturday I read about half of it already and that I needed to go about 2 hours away by car, I let my wife drive and I sat in the back of the car with my son, reading Dead in the Water as fast as I could!

At some point I was hooked to it and could not believe what was happening!

The second half of the book is addictive, you can not let it go, you want to know how it is going to end and there is no way you can predict it!

I enjoyed the style, I enjoyed the character's description and could visualize the different areas of Europe where it took me in my head.

I also much enjoyed the little critics of the French society and the great british expressions!

Amanda says

If there's one thing this Ginger Book Geek likes, it's discovering new authors and Simon Bower is certainly a new author to me. His debut novel 'Dead In The Water' was released on 4th May 2018. The synopsis certainly intrigued me and I began to read it just as soon as I could. I thoroughly enjoyed it but more about that in a bit.

There are a fair few characters in this book and it took me a while to fathom out and remember who was who

and where they were. That's more to do with my dodgy memory than anything else. Different chapters are about different characters. The book starts with chapters about Charlie, who is experiencing some bad luck. His other half has dumped him and he doesn't think he has a lot left so he tootles off on holiday to visit his friend, who lives overseas. This brings him into contact with Ana, who is his friend's sister. Ana is manipulative and although she sleeps with him, she isn't really wanting a long term relationship with Charlie. One thing that bugs me about Charlie is the fact that he seems to blame everybody else for his problems and he doesn't seem to want to take responsibility for his own actions. Those are just two of the characters. I can honestly say that there was one not one character that I either took to nor that I trusted. That's possibly just me being highly suspicious and paranoid.

It didn't seem to take me long at all to get into this book. I think that is down to the fact that the author has such an easy writing style. I don't mean that in a derogatory way- far from it. I mean that he grabs your attention from the start and he keeps it all the way through the book. That's what happened to me anyway. I was hooked on this book from the moment I picked it up and for me, 'Dead In The Water' turned out to be a real 'CPID' (can't put it down) book. I enjoyed meeting all the individual characters and part of the reason I became addicted to the book was the fact that I was interested to find out how the characters were connected and what impact they had on the story. The further I got into the story, the more I just had to read and the quicker the pages were turning. It didn't take me long to get through the book for the reasons I mention just before this sentence. I didn't notice how quickly either the pages were turning or how the time was flying by. Reading this book was certainly a good way to escape for a few hours. 'Dead In The Water' had a bit of everything- there was an abundance of drama, suspense, intrigue, death, mystery and espionage. What more could you ask for in a book?

In short I really enjoyed reading 'Dead In The Water' and I would recommend it to other readers. I can't wait to read what comes next from Simon Bower. The score on the Ginger Book Geek board is a very well deserved 4* out of 5*.

Jill says

I received this ebook as a Goodreads Giveaway.

Started out a bit slow, but picked up and then I enjoyed it. Many twists and turns to keep you guessing. Recommend reading this book and I'm thinking there might be a sequel.
