



Rabid

Paul Doiron

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In this original short story in the Mike Bowditch mystery series, Mike is drawn into the story of a gruesome case from his mentor Charley Steven's past.

Maine Game Warden Mike Bowditch accompanies his old friend and mentor, retired bush pilot Charley Stevens, as he pays a visit to a mysterious woman, the widow of a Vietnam vet, living in isolation in the Maine wilderness. Many years earlier, she had called Charley, then a young game warden himself, for help. She claimed that her badly bleeding husband had been attacked by a rabid bat. But in the succeeding days, despite her husband's increasingly erratic and aggressive behavior, his wife resisted Charley's attempts to help, arousing his suspicions that more was going on than met the eye. Was the husband the victim of rabies, or was he suffering from post traumatic stress disorder? The situation finally erupted into horrific violence, leaving everyone involved deeply scarred. In the devastating finale to RABID, Charley reveals to Mike how he uncovered the awful truth about what actually happened in their home so many years before.

Rabid Details

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Author : Paul Doiron

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From Reader Review Rabid for online ebook

Sharon Mensing says

This is a short story, at only 62 pages. Although it's identified as #8.5 in the Mike Bowditch series, Mike plays no real role in the plot. This is the story of a troubled family that Charley Stevens became involved with during his days as a game warden. Charley was called to a home deep in the back woods by a woman claiming that her husband had been bitten by a bat. When he got there, Charley discovered an elegant Vietnamese woman and her brutish veteran of a husband. The husband refused treatment, but over time the wife became obsessed with the notion that he had contracted rabies. In the end, the husband and wife battle and only one lives to benefit from Charley's and his wife's ongoing care.

This short tale has the trademark Doiron backwoods detail and keeps the reader immersed in Maine for an hour or two. It's not really a Mike Bowditch book, however.

Sandi Willis says

Finally another Mike Bowditch book to listen to after such a long spell! This was a really interesting little short story about a Vietnam veteran and his Vietnamese wife, and their daughter. The only reason I mention her nationality is because it plays into the story that Charlie is telling Mike as they take some packages to this couple's home. It takes place in the 80's when Charlie was a Game Warden in the Maine wilderness. The first incident was a call to the Game Warden to say that her husband was bitten by a bat, and after Charlie arrives at the home and tells the man that he needs to receive a shot, the wife fears he might have rabies. There is a lot going on in this home that looks like an old military housing structure. Did the husband suffer from PTSD or was he rabid? This is not a long book but a good story to read, especially for Mike Bowditch fans!

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

I listened to the audio version of this novella and found the short little story to be both enough as a story but at the same time did I want more. But, that's perfectly understandable since the story is just 50 pages long, enough to tell the tale, but I loved getting a story from Charley Stevens' past.

The narrator was very pleasant to listen to. This novella is perfect for fans of the series!

Dawn says

a quickie but compelling!! great to hear stories from Charlie.

Deanna says

From the first introduction to Charley Stevens, it's obvious that there is more than meets the eye. Charley has a knack for chatter, something that annoys Mike on more than one occasion throughout the series. But Charley's conversational habits provide the most important weapon a rural law enforcement officer can have; information. How he or she deals with a situation is often based on the information at hand, and the more intel you have, the better.

I appreciate this short story for what it provides; insight into the dynamic relationship between Charley and his wife, Ora. Unarmed, Ora willingly goes into harm's way to try and stop violence; it's no wonder where their daughter, Stacey, gets her strong will and fearlessness.

Kevintipple says

As Rabid: A Story by Paul Doiron begins; retired Game Warden Charles Stevens is riding with Game Warden Mike Bowditch as he has done most of this June day. It is now early evening and finally the old game warden is going to explain why he put a large brown package in the bed of the patrol truck that morning. Mike Bowditch never asked him about the package as he knew that when his longtime friend would talk about it when he was ready.

While this particular story takes place several years ago when Mike Bowditch was stationed "Down East" the actual events that Charlie tells and later is explained in further depth by Charlie's wife, Ora, happened decades ago. It is a situation that has long haunted both Charlie and his wife and one that is very hard for them to talk about even today.

Author Paul Doiron has incredible story telling skills as first showcased in The Poacher's Son which begun the Mike Bowditch Mysteries series. He is at his peak performance in this intense and captivating short story. A tale that is incredibly intense and weighty despite its length as it has the impact of a novel. There is quite a lot packed into the sixty-two page read. Rabid: A Story is one of those reads that can be savored by those of us who have been onboard since the beginning as well as by readers who know nothing about this great series. Paul Doiron is one of those talented authors who, for whatever reason, do not get the national recognition he so richly deserves. Rabid : A Story is a very good read and one that is worthy of your time and your attention.

Rabid: A Story

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While awaiting the next novel by way of the Dallas Library, I saw this come up on an ad and picked it up using funds in my Amazon Associate account.

Kevin R. Tipple ©2018

Betty says

Excellent! Love Paul Doiron's books.

Cathy Cole says

A masterful little short story that relates something in Charley and Ora Stevens' past before Ora's accident. As game warden, Charley is called out to a cabin deep in the woods where a man has supposedly been bitten by a bat. He meets a very disturbed Vietnam vet and his beautiful Vietnamese wife and daughter, all of whom refuse his help. Doiron does an excellent job building a sense of foreboding as the story unfolds. This is a nice little addition and/or introduction to Doiron's writing and the characters in the Mike Bowditch series.

Tammy Mitchell says

Great Charlie short story!
