



## Silent Sting

*Clair M. Poulsom*

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Catastrophe is looming over the Central Valley of California. The honeybees, vital to the economy of this agricultural epicenter, are dying at an unprecedented rate. The U.S. government is desperate for answers, and researchers at the University of California–Riverside are tasked with providing them. But when the professors assigned to the investigation seem to be systematically dying under mysterious circumstances, it becomes clear that there is something sinister at play. Following the murders of her mentors, it's up to entomology student Tiana Lambrose to move forward with the research. Special Agent Stu Whiteleather, part of a team of FBI agents assigned to assist in the investigation, is immediately drawn to the lovely entomologist. Together, they discover a breed of bees engineered to be killing machines, which, despite Tiana's expertise, are like nothing she's seen before. The question is, who could possibly have the sophisticated technology to engineer these specialized insects and for what motive? The perpetrator will stop at nothing to keep investigators from finding the answer. As threats to Tiana's life escalate, Stu must battle an unknown foe to protect the woman for whom he has come to care before she becomes the next victim.

## Silent Sting Details

Date : Published March 1st 2016 by Covenant Communications

ISBN :

Author : Clair M. Poulson

Format : Kindle Edition 188 pages

Genre : Mystery, Lds, Lds Fiction, Suspense, Fiction, Contemporary, Romance, Romantic Suspense

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## From Reader Review Silent Sting for online ebook

### **Lisa Johnson says**

Title: Silent Sting

Author: Clair M. Paulson

Pages: 188

Year: 2016

Publisher: Covenant Communications

My rating is 4 stars.

Silent Sting is a very interesting and captivating mystery that draws a reader into a realm that appears to be about bees. The massive killing of bees is detrimental to the local farmers in the novel and one honey business is losing millions from some unknown cause that is killing their bees. A grant written and approved allows a professor at a university along with his assistant to investigate the cause of such destruction. Then, out of the blue, the professor is murdered!

The president of the college and the dean are interfering with the federal investigations, but that doesn't stop what is becoming a race to locate the mastermind behind the murders. What appears to be a bee turns out to be a deadly drone and whatever is in the stinger proves fatal within seconds! The race intensifies to locate what is killing the bee population while keeping the assistant alive as the grant's mission must be completed. I stayed up all night till I finished this book! At first, I thought I had figured out who the mastermind was behind the two-pronged problem of killing bees and killing people. With twists and turns in the plot it got to be a quite an adventure to figure out who had done the terrible acts. There were a few terms in the novel that I didn't understand, but they didn't detract from the story at all.

There is a spiritual aspect in the novel that is probably where the terms originate from, but I am not a follower of the spiritual church or people mentioned. Yet, the story is solid and quickly engages the mind of readers and is very entertaining. I love good stories, storytellers and think many would enjoy the mystery while ignoring the other stuff in the novel. Entomology as presented in the novel sure looks like an interesting field of study, and I didn't realize how connected pollination is to the growth farmers need for their crops. Well done sir and thanks for the adventure!

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255. "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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### **Julie says**

This book has a great premise, but the writing! It's awkward and weird. It's full of stereotypical or unlikely characters, and sometimes I just rolled my eyes at the awful, gawky dialogue. This is not my favorite Poulson novel.

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### **Laura says**

Why do I keep reading these LDS fiction novels? The mystery portion of the book was pretty well done-but he romance was totally unbelievable and cheesy.

There were lots of suspects--which made for a good mystery. The preface and epilogue were about bees-which definitely did not need to be included.

Overall, an ok read. Definitely not one I will buy or reread!

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### **Margaret says**

I liked the twist and turns in the plot

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### **Susan says**

Excellent mystery, adventure, with a love story thrown in.

Keeps the reader guessing until the very end.

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### **Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says**

Whooee, I loved the premise of this book. What a great idea! Seriously. Honey bees are dying at an alarming rate and then someone finds a drone bee that is made to kill people. It has a camera on it so the operator can see to fly it and it has deadly poison on its stinger. Creepy crazy, right?

The beginning of this book pulled me right in. Immediately I was in the thick of the honey bee problem and feeling the desperation and magnitude of the situation. As the book progressed, I'll admit that it lost a bit of its appeal. I'm not sure exactly where things started to slip for me, but it all started feeling a bit off. A few of my peeves are nit picky (the character's name- Stu Whiteleather? Really? uugh.) (the girls sound like boys) and some are more valid and less nit picky, I think. The conversations when read aloud are sometimes stilted and not how regular younger people would talk, especially in extreme situations. The main relationship lacked depth.

I felt like there were situations and scenes that were just sort of randomly thrown in for the sake of making it more, I don't know, exciting? Or maybe just more? It didn't feel necessarily realistic- details were glossed over. And the ending? No. Just no.

Having said that, I would give this book a solid 3/5 stars. Like I said, the premise was fantastic and I loved the whole idea even if the execution was lacking a bit in parts for me. It gave me creeps to imagine how easily something like this really could happen and how devastating it would be. I grew up in California and I know someone who deals with honey bee's for a living. This is a chilling scenario to think about.

I love that the cover is a good representation of what is inside.

Content: Some violence and murders. Clean. LDS fiction.

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### **Jenny says**

Enjoyable. Nothing amazing, but it was a nice read - good for a long car ride.

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### **Katie W says**

Silent Sting starts and ends with an interesting twist--it takes place through the viewpoint of a honeybee. Other than that small twist, this story delivers a suspenseful novel that is typical of Clair Poulson.

Honeybees are dying by the droves and it's up to Tiana, a student research assistant, and her mentor to determine if it's because of a disease or a new pesticide being used by farmers in the area. When people start turning up dead and tiny engineered killers are discovered, danger lurks around every corner and it's up to Special Agent, Stu, and Tiana, to find out what's going on.

I like the characters and the way they each play an intricate part in the story, but I felt a depth to their relationships was lacking. I would've liked a smoother connection between the characters, as well as more thoughts and feelings, but this story isn't driven by relationships--it's driven by the plot and the suspense. The criminals were always about three steps ahead of the investigators, which really leaves the reader on edge, as it's tricky to figure out what's going on and what will happen next. I always enjoy a good suspense that keeps me guessing.

Content: mild violence (deaths--non-graphic, kidnapping, mention of drugs); very mild romance; mild religious elements (some characters are LDS and things relating to that are mentioned). Clean.

\*I received a copy through the publisher in exchange for an honest review\*

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### **Kim Dennis says**

This was a really hard book for me to finish. The story was interesting, but to me the writing was juvenile, the dialogue at best felt forced, and the characters were pretty flat. I especially hated the university president. I do realize we weren't supposed to like the man, but I truly can't imagine that any man intelligent enough to become president of a university would act like such a complete buffoon. As an educator, I was especially bothered by this. If I didn't know better, I would have said it was Poulson's first attempt at writing.

If this had been my first Clair Poulson book, it probably would have been my last. However, I did enjoy the first one I read. I also have a couple of family members who really enjoy him. I also had some encouragement from another Goodreads user who said that his earlier books are better than his later ones. I will have to look into those.

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### **Amanda says**

Clean, but overly LDS and very predictable.

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### **Cass says**

I think I'm becoming a fan of this author-I've read three of his books this year and I liked them all. This book is filled with dying and dead bees, murders, bombs, killer drone bees, hunky FBI agent and smart, brave entomology female student, romantic attraction but only one, maybe two kisses, more murders, bombs, kidnapping, deceit, poison, family jealousy...you name it, you can probably find it in this story. But it does not have swearing, nudity, or sex.

A good book!

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### **Kathleen (Kat) Smith says**

The honey bees are dying in record numbers on farms in California and unless someone can figure out why it will lead to untold financial loss and a rise in not only the price of honey but in agricultural crops due to the loss of pollination. Why no one can understand is why some farms are not affected and others are.

In the novel *Silent Sting* by Clair M. Poulson, readers are taken into the high tech world of entomology to figure out the answers along with Tiana Lambrose an assistant working alongside Professor Silverstein at the University of California- Riverside. Taking samples of dead bees found inside honey boxes on the farms affected as well as any live bees they can find in farms in the area, they seem to point to either a disease that may have been imported from bee purchases outside of California that are impacting the hives or perhaps a new pesticide is responsible. Whatever it is, they have been tasked with finding out the answers within a limited span of time.

Just when it appears that Professor Silverstein has scheduled a meeting with Tiana for the following morning, she comes across a bee-like drone she discovers in her backyard and is able to capture. It seems like a harmless prank by perhaps a young college man possibly in the engineering or science department looking to put a video of Tiana on YouTube while it caught her swimming. That is, until she shows up at the University and finds Professor Silverstein has been stung and is now dead. Is it possible that there is something more sinister at work here? What do these drones have to do with anything? Is it possible that these two circumstances have nothing to do with one another? Time is running out and Tiana is the next victim.

I received *Silent Sting* by Clair M. Poulson compliments of Covenant Communications for my honest review. I did not receive any monetary compensation for a favorable review aside for a free copy of this novel in exchange for my honest evaluation of the novel. While I was hoping for some much more than this one delivered, it was a bit predictable and redundant in some areas. The attraction that FBI Special Agent Stu Whiteleather has for Tiana is reiterated numerous times even though they are meeting for the first time and he invites her to call him Stu, seems a bit forced for readers to accept. That in itself was distracting from the story line and felt it could have been a bit more elusive in the technology used to develop the drones and why they were used. In conclusion, I would rate this one a 3.5 out of 5 stars in my opinion.

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## **Melanie says**

This story takes place in California. Honeybees are dying and researchers are trying to figure out why. Tiana Lambrose is a student who has been helping with the research. When two professors are killed, she is able to head up the investigation, but she's not safe, either. One of the FBI agents assigned to the case, Stu Whiteleather, takes a personal interest in her safety. There are many people determined to find the mastermind behind this scheme and stop him or her once and for all.

I liked Stu and Tiana. They were attracted to each other but didn't have much time to get to know each other because things moved quickly. There wasn't a lot of romance, which was fine with me--they can get to know each other after her life is no longer in danger. I liked the interactions they had and could see the attraction.

I love the originality of a suspense novel that centers around bees and found this novel to be quite interesting! The pace was fast and lots of characters were introduced, but it wasn't hard to keep them all straight. There were characters that were obviously shady from the beginning but there were plenty of twists and turns along the way which kept me quickly turning pages to the final reveal. The ending seemed a bit abrupt (yet was still satisfying) and I had a few other minor issues along the way, but it was entertaining and clean, which are two big pluses for me!

I received a copy of this book from the publisher for an honest review. My opinion is 100% my own.

Mel's Shelves

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## **Mary-theresa Dameron says**

### **A page turner**

I have just started with this author; but this book had me glued to its pages from the very first one

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## **Teresa says**

I thought it was a very interesting story. The author did a good job at keeping me reading and having a difficult time putting it down. I disliked how the main character's name kept getting switched between Lambrose and Lambert. This should have been caught in editing.

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