



## The Dead Man in Indian Creek

By Mary Downing Hahn

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### The Dead Man in Indian Creek By Mary Downing Hahn

While camping near Indian Creek, Matt and his best friend, Parker, get up early to see if they can spot a blue heron. Instead, they find the body of a dead man floating in the clear water.

Parker is sure that George Evans, the smooth-talking local antiques dealer, must somehow be connected to the dead man. Matt isn't so sure—but then, on Halloween night, while snooping around Evans's antique shop, the boys make another shocking discovery that puts their own lives in danger.

There are murderous grownups that would do anything to keep what the boys found in the shop a secret, and now they're after Parker and Matt. Are the boys clever enough to get away? Or will they, too, end up like the dead man in Indian Creek?

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### Editorial Review

#### From Publishers Weekly

Matt discovers a corpse and is convinced that his mother's boyfriend is somehow involved; in PW's words, "A combination of crackling language and plenty of suspense, this fast-paced yarn is likely to appeal to even the most reluctant readers." Ages 8-12.

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#### From School Library Journal

Grade 5-7 --Parker and Matt decide to camp out one last time before the weather turns too cold--and stumble upon a dead man. Parker swears he saw George Evans (his widowed mother's boyfriend and his least favorite person) at the scene of the crime. So begins a bumpy, peril-laden adventure. The boys spy out a cocaine ring in which Parker's mother and George are involved; a thug kidnaps everyone. Rescue comes when Parker's dog corners the thug and Matt's little sister pushes a doll carriage with a cocaine-packed doll through a Halloween parade into the police station. There's more than enough action, and Hahn's effortless mastery of kids' dialogue makes this an easy read. But there are illogical gaps: Why is Parker's mother, previously loving, so remote? How likely is it that 12-year-olds go camping alone? Why is it that Matt's flagging self-image shows little repair after such heroics? At the conclusion, when all of the drug traffickers are apprehended and Parker's mother is hospitalized and awaiting charges, Matt assures Parker: "Whatever happens, my mom says you're staying with us." Readers will find this less than reassuring. With the abundance of good juvenile who-done-its available, this one is dead in the water. --Carolyn Noah, Worcester Public Library, MA

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#### Review

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*—Publishers Weekly*

"Good, well-constructed entertainment."

*—Kirkus Reviews*

An ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

An IRA Children's Choice

An American Bookseller Pick of the Lists

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### Nancy Smith:

Do you one among people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys this kind of aren't like that. This The Dead Man in Indian Creek book is readable through you who hate the straight word style. You will find the info here are arrange for enjoyable reading experience without leaving even decrease the knowledge that want to provide to you. The writer connected with The Dead Man in

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**Stuart Ross:**

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