



## Dangerous Waters

*Toni Anderson*

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Toni Anderson

**Dangerous Waters** Toni Anderson  
2013 Daphne du Maurier Award Finalist

*Known as the Graveyard of the Pacific, Barkley Sound is notorious for surging swells with the power to pull helpless victims into its merciless abyss...*

Sergeant Holly Rudd arrives in the coastal community of Bamfield after local divers discover a body with a knife jutting from its chest in the waters of Barkley Sound. As she investigates the crime, Holly soon realizes the sleepy town is rife with secrets. But what unsettles her most is the residents' insistence that she bears a striking resemblance to the victim of a murder from three decades earlier. She shrugs off the uncanny likeness as a coincidence. But her simmering attraction to Finn Carver, one of the divers who discovered the corpse, isn't so easy to ignore.

Finn, a former Special Forces soldier, knows it's best to keep his distance from Holly. Yet it isn't long before they both give in to the consuming desire they share. And as the danger escalates, Finn and Holly must rely on each other to thwart the plans of a cold-blooded killer who's intent on keeping the past buried.

## Dangerous Waters Details

Date : Published November 20th 2012 by Montlake Romance

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Author : Toni Anderson

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## From Reader Review Dangerous Waters for online ebook

### Susan Tunis says

Only danger is to your brain cells

When one is a connoisseur of the genre known as "trashy underwater fiction" (coined by me), novels like Toni Anderson's *Dangerous Waters* are the risk you take. It's simply the worst thing I've read in quite some time.

I was attracted to the novel's plot, involving two divers out of a British Columbia marine research station stumbling upon a body while on a night dive in a wreck. The death is the result of neither natural causes nor a dive accident, but rather the large knife sticking out of the victim's chest. Enter Sergeant Holly Rudd of the RCMP, eager to impress her superiors and in charge of her first big case. Of course, it would be easier to proceed if she weren't so excruciatingly attracted to Finn Carver, the former special forces soldier who found the body and is considered, by some, to be a suspect.

Because, oh yes, this is much a romance novel as a thriller! I'm going to cut to the chase here. The writing was insipid. The plot boring. The dialogue cringe-worthy. The pace plodding. The novel was neither romantic nor erotic. The only thing worse than the material itself, was the amateurish reading of the audiobook by narrator Emily Beresford. The underwater segments were the best part of the book, but overall, I'm sorry to pronounce *Dangerous Waters* an epic fail.

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### Judi says

3.5 Stars

*Dangerous Waters* opens with a chapter that grabs you. A glimpse into the past that provides a puzzle piece that you know is somehow key to the current story but you have no idea how or why...so you just have to keep on reading.

The Canadian landscape provides the backdrop for this latest offering from Toni Anderson. As a Canadian I very much appreciate that the story takes place in Canada because it doesn't happen very often.

Scuba diver and former Special Forces agent Finn Carver's unlucky enough to find himself smack dab in the middle of a murder investigation and up to his ears in hot water when he discovers a dead body deep underwater in a wreck he and Professor Thomas Edgefield have uncovered.

Now his quiet little community of Bamfield is swarming with cops including one Sergeant Holly Rudd.

There's lots of sexual tension right from the get-go between Holly and Finn and first impressions are important. Here are Holly's about Finn:

"Surfer blond hair and bare feet. Rugged good looks and attitude to match. Arms crossed over his broad chest, radiating impatience and hostility. Sexy as hell."

Well hello there Finn Carter! But he's a suspect in the murder investigation and she's the investigating officer so he's strictly off limits...well for the moment anyway. Acting on any feelings can only result in

disaster. And Holly's just dodged one disastrous relationship with Staff Sergeant Jimmy Furlong, the rat bastard and her immediate supervisor. Add in the fact her father is the Commanding Officer of the unit and she's already on edge and under the microscope with her every move monitored and questioned. Finn Carver is definitely off limits!

For such a small community Bamfield is hiding a lot of secrets and it's Holly's job to get to the bottom of it all...if she can stay alive long enough to figure it out. She's making waves with her on going investigation and all of her questions and someone is out to shut her up.

As the case unfolds and all the puzzle pieces started to unravel, there were definitely some twists and turns I was not expecting or see coming.

I think Dangerous Waters would appeal to readers who enjoy when the who-dun-it/murder mystery takes center stage over the romantic aspects of the story. Don't get me wrong there was definitely sexual tension and attraction between Finn and Holly but given the scope of the investigation and their positions they have to walk a very fine line and it's one Holly wasn't willing to cross for the longest time.

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## **Bookphile says**

Nope, I give up. I just can't drag myself through this book any longer.

Full review:

Though I don't typically read romantic suspense when I'm looking for a suspense novel, there are some books in the genre that I enjoy. I'm always a fan of good romantic tension between characters, as well as the "will they or won't they" question (which, of course, usually turns into "Of course they will!"--but I digress.) However, it has to be done well, and the romantic tension is something this book does not do well. Some minor spoilers to follow.

The book gets off to a good start with a tense prologue that initially doesn't seem to fit with the main thrust of the story. The prologue grabbed me and made me want to read more, but then it took a while for me to see where it fit in. Once I did, I was still intrigued by the concept, but the poor parts of the book slowed the pace so much that I eventually ended up not caring about this aspect of the plot.

As for the male lead: he does not appeal to me, not at all. I don't mind a guy who's rough around the edges, but there's a fine line between aloof and off-putting. It irritated me that Finn relied on sexual innuendo to push Holly away. Why not just be terse with her? He comes off sounding like a sexist pig and, though he does show his knight in shining armor colors later, this doesn't improve him as a character. I find it hard to like a character who comes off as so derisive of women.

I don't even want to get started on Holly. For a woman who is supposedly capable and who believes she got her job on her merits and not by virtue of her family associations, she doesn't seem all that competent. Instead, she moons like a teenager who can't keep her hormones in check, something I frankly found unbelievable in a woman who is supposed to value her career and who is the lead in a murder investigation. I'm not entirely ruling out the idea that a female officer could find herself attracted to a suspect, just that I didn't think the premise was well handled.

Which leads me to my big beef: there is no suspense when it comes to the romance part. From the minute

Holly and Finn lay eyes on one another, it's all each can do not to rip the clothes off the other. I get that they feel this instant animal attraction, but what's wrong with a good, slow burn? So many of the books I read that feature romance get this wrong, it seems. It'd be nice to see more subtlety in the relationship, more of a buildup but, instead, from the minute the two meet, it's obvious they're going to end up sleeping with one another.

When the book shifts gears and the cop side of Holly is shown, it's jarring. It's almost like reading two separate books. Most of the time, the mystery side of the book feels like some sort of intermission, rushed through for the sake of getting back to the parts where Holly and Finn try hard not to rip each other's clothes off. It makes me wonder this: why even bother with the mystery? Why not just make this a straight-up romance novel?

Maybe I'm reading the wrong books lately. If there's a romance, I want to see a real love story, not just two characters immediately leaping into bed with one another. Call me old fashioned, but I prefer my romance with some real human connection along with the physical attraction.

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### **M.J. Fredrick says**

If you like Tami Hoag, you'll love this book! I was stumped until the end, but then it all made perfect sense. Taut, tense romantic suspense, with plenty of twists.

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### **SOS Aloha says**

Hawaiian Proverb: He ho'okele wa'a no ka la 'ino  
"A steersman for a stormy day"  
A courageous person

Toni Anderson had to work for this five star review from me as romantic suspense is not my first choice of reading genres. In fact, I tend to shy away from it because I want reading to be a pleasant escape. Yet I requested to review DANGEROUS WATERS because of the Pacific setting, the capable heroine investigating the murder, and the mysterious hero impeding her investigation. Plus the setting, heroine, and hero are Canadian. I have a soft spot for Canadians after working with them at NATO ... and the Canadian flavor sets this Romantic Suspense apart from a genre flooded with US military themed thrillers.

The book blurb is on target in describing the plot. This investigation gives Holly two opportunities – to demonstrate her abilities with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and distance herself from her former lover (who failed to mention he was married). Holly is determined to be “above board” as she leads an investigative team into Bamfield - an isolated town on Barkley Sound that harbors many secrets. Her determination is tested when she finds herself attracted to Finn Carver. Despite his stellar career in Special Forces, Holly suspects he is hiding his own secrets. Finn is hiding secrets but does not hide his attraction to Holly. Both show courage in responding to “stormy days” that figuratively hamper the investigation. As with Hawaiian warriors, courage is intuitive and that’s what scared both Holly and Finn – they cannot hide their feelings from the other.

I appreciated Anderson’s vivid descriptions of Barkley Sound – it’s dangerous coast, its stifling isolation, and its rugged charm. Anderson enveloped me into the open diving, marine biology, and smuggling operations that dominate Barkley Sound. Andrew kept my attention to the end with the plot twists akin to the

mountainous switchbacks required to access Barkley Sound. I came away with a new appreciation of the RCMP – not just the “Mounties” that are mimicked on TV shows. Anderson gave me hope that I would enjoy romantic suspense.

Recommend read for fans of romantic suspense who are looking for fresh perspective of this popular genre.

I received an ARC from the author for this review.

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### **Becky says**

Decent mystery. I did not figure out the complex mystery until the revealing. Mystery suspense and light romance, mild kissing and two sexy scenes make up this novel. The story was good it just kinda seemed flat to me. A good book but not a great book. As far as mysteries go solid 3stars.

Free with K.U. as well as audio but for God's sake don't use the audio the women narrating does all the voices male and female and is totally laughable.

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### **CD {Boulder Blvd} says**

3.5 Stars rounded up.

I liked Ms. Anderson's writing voice in this book and I was really pulled into the plot. These were elements of the story that I really loved and some elements that got on my nerves.

I have a love/hate relationship with romantic suspense stories of late. I hate insta-lust (present in this book), I hate when characters refer to lust as love (again - this felt like lust and not love) and I really hate when the h/H are present in scenes together that the only thing on their mind is sex (every single scene?). It felt like every time the h/H were in a scene together we switch from an exciting murder mystery plot to a "he so hot/she so hot" cliché of internal thinking. It's a cut and paste formula from thousands of other books and actually reduces the characters down to cardboard cutouts. It's really sad because the characters were so much more than this and it brought the whole book down to the level of cliché romance novels. I wished Ms. Anderson had developed the relationship without it being all on physical looks and lust. Plus once our main female lead gets into a really serious car accident, the lust really needed to take more of a back seat. As I've been in serious car accidents - and too many scenes following the accident didn't quite realistic.

What I did love and where Ms. Anderson showed a lot more talent and originality was the murder plot and weaving the new murder(s) to an old murder plot. The characters and their relationships in the story were really solid and the book provided enough potential bad guys to keep the plot moving. The pacing was good and I was really pulled into the book (I did skim over the insta-lust and the "he's so hot/she's so hot" scenes.)

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### **Pamela(AllHoney) says**

*Dangerous Waters* is the first book in Toni Anderson's *Vancouver Island - Carver Brothers* series. Sergeant Holly Rudd is in Bamfield on Vancouver Island to solve a murder. But she discovers she bares a striking resemblance to a woman who was murdered 30 years before. Finn Carver is a diver. He was one of the

divers who discovered the body and, apparently, a suspect.

I have read a few of Toni Anderson's books and have not been disappointed yet. There was a nice balance on the mystery/suspense and the romance but I do think the emphasis was more on the mystery/suspense. I will admit to being surprised at the outcome. I didn't see that coming! Definitely recommended to Romantic Suspense fans! I see there is also a book about Finn's brother, Brent, and I got to get it!

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### **CoffeeTimeRomance andMore says**

Sergeant Holly Rudd arrives in the coastal community of Bamfield, British Columbia, after local divers discover a body with a knife jutting from its chest. As she investigates the crime, Holly soon realizes Bamfield is rife with secrets. But what unsettles her most is the residents' insistence that she bears a striking resemblance to the victim of a murder from three decades earlier. At first, she shrugs off the uncanny likeness as a coincidence.

Finn Carver, a former Special Forces soldier turned dive instructor, is one of the divers who discovers the corpse in the shipwreck. When he learns that Holly is the primary cop on the case, he knows it is best to keep his distance. But their sizzling attraction for each other, not to mention his desire to protect her in a town determined to undermine her credibility, provide the yin and yang that romance is made of.

They survive an exciting night dive only to be faced with other questions. The contributing characters such as Finn's inscrutable older brother, Brent and Thomas Edgefield, the grieving survivor of the brutal attack on his family thirty years prior, are only a few pieces of the puzzle. The crimes suck her into a hornets' nest of intrigue and escalating conspiracies.

Ms. Anderson uses her knowledge of marine biology and scuba diving to set up the labyrinth of betrayal that comprises an otherwise sleepy town with summer recreation on, and in, its waters. The vivid picture of the scenery adds ghostlike images to the dark and dangerous mystery. Plot twists interlock, never letting up until the last pages.

Maggie  
Reviewer for Coffee Time Romance & More

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### **Maggie says**

The female lead is hard to like. She falls victim to adolescent emotions and pouts when people don't fall in line with her plan. No need to mention she has just recently had an affair with her married boss and aside from not wanting to be around him doesn't seem to experience much shame about it. Found myself rolling my eyes nearly every time she spoke.

And I was totally jarred by Toni Anderson describing Holly's breath as "puffing like the Hogwarts Express." Was it necessary to bring a Harry Potter reference into a murder mystery?

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## **Kathy Martin says**

This was a romantic suspense title that nicely balanced both the romance and the suspense. The story starts with a murder of a 24-year-old woman and her six week old son. Her two year old daughter disappeared at the same time. Than thirty years pass.

The woman's husband is Dr. Thom Edgefield. He has never let the unsolved case rest. He has devoted his life to harassing the police to keep working on the murder. Along the way he has reported any suspicious behavior to the police which has not endeared him to the criminals who want to use the small isolated town as a base for smuggling and distributing counterfeit money. It is a town filled with secrets.

When the body of a local low-life is found stabbed to death in an unknown shipwreck, the police are called in again. Thom and his foster son Finn Carver discover the body. Sergeant Holly Rudd of the RCMP is the investigating officer who is called in. Thom takes one look at her and faints. She is the image of his dead wife.

Holly quickly gets involved in trying to sort out the secrets of the town and, although she is incredibly drawn to Finn, she is determined not to get involved with someone who could be a suspect in the crime she is investigating. She already made the mistake of sleeping with a fellow officer (who is now her superior in this case) without knowing that he was married. She is afraid another indiscretion will ruin her police career.

Adding to the cast of characters is Finn's brother Brent who has recently got out of prison for killing their father. He did it to protect Finn who was being beaten by the man. But Brent spent twenty years in prison and is determined to keep Finn out of his life. He has become a bitter recluse who lives in a very expensive home although no one knows where his money comes from.

Honestly, the story isn't as complicated as I might be making it seem. It was a well-crafted mystery filled with interesting characters. The romance was well-done as both Finn and Holly fight their attraction to each other. Finn doesn't feel that he has much to offer Holly. But love overcomes all sorts of obstacles.

Fans of romantic suspense will really enjoy this story. I immediately went to Amazon and bought three more of her romantic suspense titles for my Kindle.

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## **"E" says**

While I found myself enjoying trying to figure out whodunnit and why, this book fell kind of flat for me. The main character, Holly, acted ridiculously in my opinion. She is portrayed as very driven and dedicated to her career, but she very quickly gets romantically involved with a suspect in her investigation. She can't keep her hormones in check for even a week while they try to close the case? And I didn't really see the attraction to Finn.

I liked the Canadian setting, though what kind of small town has an entire population that won't tell the cops anything when they're trying to solve a murder? Wholly unrealistic and contrived.

I will say that the villain, while coming somewhat out left field, made a lot of sense and did work well to wrap up the mystery. Overall, it was a decent book and if you're looking for a romance with a bit of a mystery thrown in, this will fit the bill.

## Jacqui says

Toni Anderson's "Dangerous Waters" (Montlake Romance 2012) is from the new genre of romantic thrillers. I should have looked closer when I picked this book out of the 'thriller' category and noticed the publisher. Duh. Instead, I spent most of the 350 pages wondering how such intelligent characters could fall prey to teenage emotions so succinctly?

Let me back up. If you can leap over the nonstop romantic innuendos, thoughts, and emotions, this is a wonderful story. Thomas Edgefield and Finn Carver (it took me a while to figure out why the juxtaposition of those two names bothered me. Then I got it: 'Tom Sawyer' 'Huck Finn') discover a dead body while investigating a shipwreck. When Sergeant Holly Rudd arrives to investigate the murder, life will never be the same for her or Finn. They play off of each other, each hiding secrets as they uncover others, with a few close calls that leave Holly damaged but stronger and Finn (small spoiler) with a bullet wound in his chest.

Throughout what admittedly is a well-told story, the love interest is the driving force of the plot with everything else secondary. That mitigates what could have been a solid thriller. See if you agree: By page 66, Finn shares with the reader his growing lust for a woman he just met, nurtured apparently by nothing but his active imagination. When we pop into Holly's head, we see the same reaction. I'm sure it's inspired by body language between them, but wouldn't at least Rudd be professional enough to dismiss it, especially since she is hiding a recent illicit workplace romance?

Maybe that's the romance genre. Can anyone enlighten me?

Other than that, the story is fast paced, never slowing down, something always happening. I gave it four stars because I realized that the more I read (aside from the bee-stung lips and the manly muscles) the less I wanted to stop. Overall this is a decent read that the author could have delivered a lot better by maturing the romantic play.

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## UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

### 4 fast paced, exciting, romantic, stars!

*Dangerous Waters* by Toni Anderson is a romantic suspense-slash-mystery set in Bamfield, British Columbia. It's an intriguing tale of murder, cover-ups, and a community either too scared or too complacent to get involved in any of it.

### Description...

Sergeant Holly Rudd arrives in the coastal community of Bamfield after local divers discover a body with a knife jutting from its chest in the waters of Barkley Sound. As she investigates the crime, Holly soon realizes the sleepy town is rife with secrets. But what unsettles her most is the residents' insistence that she bears a striking resemblance to the victim of a murder from three decades earlier. She shrugs off the uncanny likeness as a coincidence. But her simmering attraction to Finn Carver, one of the divers who discovered the corpse, isn't so easy to ignore.

Finn, a former Special Forces soldier, knows it's best to keep his distance from Holly. Yet it isn't long before they both give in to the consuming desire they share. And as the danger escalates, Finn and Holly must rely on each other to thwart the plans of a cold-blooded killer who's intent on keeping the past buried.

### **My review...**

*Dangerous Waters* is the second book I've read by this author and I've thoroughly enjoyed them both! Toni Anderson is a former marine biologist and so she brings a level of knowledge to her stories that we don't often find in books like this, taking place in and around the water. She's a gifted writer who shares that information with us in a way that's never text-bookish, but makes it interesting, and even beautiful.

I enjoyed this story a lot! The murder had enough possible suspects to keep me guessing right until it was revealed at the end, and I have to say – I never saw that coming! Our hero and heroine were great! Honorable, intelligent, interesting – compelling people whose backgrounds fit the story well. Though I have to admit, I do wish there had been more to their romance earlier in the book.

### **The bottom line...**

*Dangerous Waters* is an entertaining story written by a very talented author. Ms. Anderson's descriptions of the people and areas of Bamfield made it come alive for me and that's a huge part of why I enjoyed this tale so much. I could see what she was describing and felt like I was there, and that was great!

Sometimes funny, sometimes heartbreaking, this romantic mystery is not to be missed!

*My thanks to Ms. Anderson for providing me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. It was a pleasure!*

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### **Kathy Altman says**

With vibrant writing, a cast of damaged, captivating characters and a plot that's deliciously diabolical, *Dangerous Waters* will have you mesmerized from page one. Anderson writes in a dark, edgy style reflected in the setting, the story line, and the secrets that haunt the members of this close-mouthed coastal community. Her characters are multi-dimensional and sympathetic—I was especially moved by the thorny relationship between Finn and his ex-convict brother. The sexual tension is high, the humor is gritty and Anderson's background as a marine biologist lends an energetic authenticity to the story's backdrop and the all-important dive scenes. A follow-on book entitled *Dark Waters*—featuring Finn's reclusive brother—is due out in June of 2013 and I. Can't. Wait.

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