



The First Victim

Ridley Pearson

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Lieutenant Lou Boldt, the Seattle cop who stars in Ridley Pearson's deservedly popular series, is a sharp and touching figure--perhaps the most believable police officer in current fiction. Early in this ninth book about his public and private life, Lou has to put on a bullet-resistant vest to lead a raid against some dangerous criminals. "The vest was not physically heavy, but its presence was," Pearson tells us. It meant battle; it meant risk. For Boldt, a vest was a symbol of youth. It had been well over a year since he had worn one. Ironically, as he approached the hangar's north door at a light run behind his own four heavily armored ERT personnel, he caught himself worrying about his hands, not his life. He didn't want to smash up his piano hands in some close quarters skirmish. . . . Boldt plays jazz piano one night a week in a local bar, and despite his concern for his hands, he takes every opportunity he can to get away from his desk and into the streets. But money pressures, caused by his wife's recent illness, also make him think about the possibility of a better-paying job in the private sector. Meanwhile, some extremely ruthless people are murdering illegal Chinese immigrant women and leaving their bodies buried in newly dug graves. An ambitious local TV journalist named Stevie McNeal and the young Chinese woman she thinks of as her "Little Sister" risk their lives to investigate the killings, while Boldt and his team round up a most unusual array of suspects. This combination of hard-edged realism and softer sentiment has become Pearson's trademark, and once again it works smoothly. --Dick Adler

The First Victim Details

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From Reader Review The First Victim for online ebook

Mary says

Hard to put this book down. A mystery about illegal Chinese immigrant women in the U.S., a news reporter indirectly connected, an aging cop who can't quite give up the "hands on" part of police work. Quite involved. Made me think that this kind of situation probably does exist in bigger cities worldwide.

Linda Jean Heller says

I loved this book. It was extremely fast paced and impossible to know exactly what was going to happen until the very end. Also very well written.

Kellie says

The focus of this book is on illegal Chinese immigrants in the Pacific NW. There is very little plot focused on Boldt, Matthews or LaMoia. The story was interesting and had action, however, it wasn't as riveting as some of the other Boldt-Matthews series. As a result, I had a hard time getting through this book. It was slow going.

I also felt like there were things that just appeared in the plot without any substance. Assumptions made that didn't seem real...

Part of the problem was me. Because the plot dragged a bit, I had a hard time getting back to it and really struggled to focus.

I really like the series but this was not my favorite.

Diana Toole says

I just love his writing (for adults). He spins a great and exciting yarn!

Sandy says

Since I like Ridley Pearson, I was expecting more. Some exciting parts but found myself needing to skim--a bad sign.

Carolyn (in SC) C234D says

This was the first mystery I've read about Seattle policeman Lou Boldt, and I thought it was very good. It was about illegal immigrants being held as sweatshop workers. (Too long ago for me to recall any details.)

Lois Blanco says

Chinese illegals arrive via shipping containers - good action & moving the series along

Tony says

Ridley Pearson- The First Victim (Hyperion 1999) 3.75 Stars

Lieutenant Lou Boldt is investigating three women's deaths. They were found in a shipping container that was washed overboard during a storm. The shipping container was filled with illegal immigrants from China. He will find himself competing with reporter Stevie McNeal in a race for information as she hunts down her missing friend who was doing an investigative report on the illegal alien scam. Meanwhile he is also trying to work both with and against other departments who wish to take the case away from him.

I liked this novel. It was a different kind of thriller than I am used to seeing on the market these days; so it was kind of refreshing. The plot was a kind of two-fold one, two different purposes for the investigation, and moulding into one investigation. It was fairly intense in the latter half and was really hard to put down at the end. I like the characters in this book, they were really well done, especially Boldt. We see both the work side and the personal side of Boldt as he struggles to come to grips with his wife being healthy and having found religion. It was a perfect balance between the two. At times I did find that Pearson was a little wordy, which was kind of distracting at first, making the book harder to get into. I would definitely recommend this book, and will certainly read more books in this series.

For more of my reviews check out my website, www.tonypeters.webs.com

Tony Peters

Kids on a Case: The Case of the Ten Grand Kidnapping

<http://author-tonypeters.blogspot.com/>

Marilyn says

A great page turner...takes place in Seattle. A shipping container found floating in the Puget Sound...with screaming people inside. A great look into the horrifying "concept" of the importation of illegal aliens.

Bill says

Loved it! especially Mama Lu

Diane says

Not my favorite Of this series.

Cheryl Turoczy hart says

The second of two Ridley Pearson books I listened to on my Idaho trip.

Linda says

Newly promoted Lt. Lou Boldt is drawn back onto the streets of Seattle, when a shipping container, with its human cargo, is found floating outside the harbor. News anchorwoman Stevie McNeal is eager to score a scoop, with an expose of the smuggling of illegal aliens into the city, to slave away as prostitutes or in sweatshops. She assigns her adopted sister, a young Chinese journalist, to do some research, but she goes too far under cover and ominously disappears. Boldt and his former partner, Sgt. LaMoia, must cope with the INS, media interference, and the Chinese mafia, in their efforts to uncover the smuggling ring.

The First Victim is interesting enough, but lacks both the personal slant on Lou's life outside the police department, and the sense of sustained suspense that characterizes some of Pearson's other work in this series. It's difficult to become engaged with the TV journalist and her sister, who both make inane decisions, and Daphne Matthews, Boldt's counterpart, makes little more than a cameo appearance. Just OK.

Warren-Newport Public Library says

If you haven't had a chance to read any of his books—now is the time to start. To describe how Peter Pan met Captain Hook, Ridley teamed up with his long-time friend, humorist Dave Barry, to co-author *Peter and the Stargazers* (2004), a prequel to *Peter Pan*; it is published in the US by Disney and by Walker Books in the UK. The novel was adapted as a play, *Peter and the Stargazer*, written by Rick Elice, which premiered on Broadway in early 2012, and earned the most Tony nominations of any play in history— nine.

One of my favorite of his mystery series is the Lou Boldt series. I just finished *The First Victim*. It continues the terrific development of the central characters but is partnered with a great mystery. A shipping container washed ashore leads Seattle news anchor, Stevie McNeal and reporter friend Melissa on the trail of a scam involving the importation of illegal aliens. Initially Stevie saw this as a fabulous career steeping stone until Melissa goes missing. As Stevie delves deeper into the mystery she comes into contact with Lou Boldt, Sergeant John LaMoia, the Chinese Triad, and the offices of Immigration and Naturalization Service. Stevie must struggle with finding her friend and deciding whom she can trust. (Debbie)

Diane says

This is an interesting book, centering mainly on Chinese women illegals brought into this country to be enslaved in brothels or sweatshops in terrible conditions. It portrays the plight these poor women go through. However, the other story showing how they are discovered is a bit on the unbelievable side. I've read several Lou Boldt stories & found them interesting but a bit far fetched, and this one is no exception.
