



## Do or Die

*Barbara Fradkin*

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## **Do or Die** Barbara Fradkin

Ottawa Homicide Inspector Michael Green is absolutely obsessed with his job, a condition which has almost ruined his marriage several times. When the biggest case of his career comes up, his position, his relationships and several lives are put into grave danger. A young graduate student and scion of a rich family is found expertly stabbed in the stacks of a university library, but no one seems to have the slightest idea why. But as Green probes into the circumstances of the young man's life, a tangled web of jealousy and intrigue is revealed. Green finds himself in the middle of a rivalry in the delicate arena of university politics, where gigantic egos regularly collide. Was it the diligent but socially inept researcher, or the macho ladies-man golden boy of the laboratory? Or was it a crime of passion involving the over-protective family of his beautiful new girlfriend? When the murderer strikes again, Green realizes that he must waste no time in solving the case, no matter what the consequences may be.

## **Do or Die Details**

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Author : Barbara Fradkin

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## From Reader Review Do or Die for online ebook

### **Doreen Hyndman says**

Fun, straightforward police procedural.

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### **Doreen says**

I was looking for another Canadian mystery writer and came across Barbara Fradkin whose first book in the Inspector Green series was written a decade and a half ago. I was pleasantly surprised and left wondering why I had not previously encountered this author.

This book introduces Homicide Inspector Michael Green. A young graduate student is stabbed in a university library and Green is assigned to investigate. He brings to light a web of jealousy, competition and ambition amongst the researchers with whom the victim worked. Which one is guilty of murder?

Green is not a very likeable person. Though he can be admired for his persistence in solving the case, he lets his obsession jeopardize his marriage. His first marriage ended in divorce and he has no contact with his child from that relationship, yet he behaves in a way that may very well lead to another abandoned wife and child. There are instances when his treatment of his wife is truly offensive.

This police procedural is straightforward and solid. There are sufficient suspects to keep one guessing. Though there is a bit of a twist in the resolution, it is a believable one. Though there are red herrings, there are sufficient clues to the identity of the killer; information is not withheld from the reader.

Part of the appeal of the novel for me was the fact that the novel is set in Ottawa. Having lived in the city for four years when attending university there, I was familiar with the locations identified; the novel gave me a walk down memory lane.

I think I will read more of this series. If there is anything that may keep me from continuing the series, it is Green's objectionable behaviour.

**Please check out my reader's blog (<http://schatjesshelves.blogspot.ca/>) and follow me on Twitter (@DCYakabuski).**

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### **Catherine Croney says**

Great mystery! I love that it is based in Ottawa!

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### **Maureen Coyne says**

Excellent writer. Great detective in Inspector Green. Multi-dimensional.

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### **LJ says**

DO OR DIE – G+

Barbara Fradkin – 1st in series

When a popular university student from a wealthy family is found stabbed to death in an academic library, tenacious police inspector Michael Green is called in. As he sifts through the evidence, several suspects emerge. Was the killing a crime of passion and revenge or a consequence of competition and ambition in the cut-throat world of university politics? Putting his reputation and his rocky marriage on the line, Green is determined to uncover the truth behind this bizarre killing, at any cost.

By a Canadian author, it was nice to read a book set somewhere new to me; Ottawa. This is a solid police procedural with fully-developed characters, interesting forensic information, clues tracked down one-by-one, and enough suspense to keep me going. I shall definitely read the other two books, so far, in this series.

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### **Marilyn says**

**Good**

this was a .a mystery that had more than one murder.the suspects of the crimes were many the ending was a surprise.

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### **David says**

A new author for me but this was a very entertaining first novel. If you like books by Peter James and Peter Robinson you will also enjoy this one.

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### **Leslie says**

This was well written, marvelous twist and turns. I liked that there were multiple plausible murders. I liked how the case was solved. I was very disappointed in Green's behavior at times, but I guess that makes him human .... Good read overall.

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### **Philip says**

i enjoyed reading this book so much that it kept me up way past bedtime into the wee small hours this morning as I found it very difficult to put down until I finished it! Barbara's writing is good enough to keep a few rather convoluted plot lines moving at a good pace with enough red herrings and twists to keep Inspector

Green rather busy especially with the meagre amount of sleep he manages in this investigation. For most of the book I wasn't quite sure that I liked Inspector Green much, as a person, and I still don't have much liking for his wife but he sure is a dedicated and persistent police detective even if a bit of a lone wolf. Sergeant Sullivan however came across as a pretty likeable and reliable character. This a book reads as a good Police Procedural somewhat in the old Agatha Christie fashion with lots of detection and very little violence but, thankfully, brought into 21st century time and with a believable twist at the ending for which enough clues were provided and the author didn't parachute a character in from left field who hadn't really been involved. Barbara Fradkin and Louise Penny are making me rethink my somewhat irrational aversion to reading crime novels by women authors and helping me in my project of reading crime novels and series by Canadian authors.

The rest of this series is on my "To Read" list

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### **Joyce Coffey says**

Liked that it is set in Ottawa

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### **Anthony Bidulka says**

Fradkin's first Inspector Green gets the series off to a rollicking start.

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### **Risa says**

I didn't finish this book because the writing was so bad and the storyline so thin that I couldn't bear to read anymore of it. I stuck it out for 1/2 the book (a big mistake...I should have realized it wasn't going to get any better after the "50-page rule"). If you like mysteries, don't read this one!

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### **Lgl says**

First book in the series written by Fradkin. Was an entertaining read.

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### **Valerie Campbell Ackroyd says**

This is the first Fradkin book I've read and I plan to read more. Once I became involved in the story--it took about 30 pages--I read it in two days. The last evening, I actually stayed up until 1:00 a.m. and read 100 pages straight through. I thought the case was well laid out, the characters fleshed out. I actually don't like the main character, Green, very much. He is self-centred and selfish. Still, I don't consider that key and he may improve with further books. He seemed, at the end of the book, that there were possibilities. But, in this particular book, the story was more important. I know Ottawa and I know universities and university politics. I think Fradkin did an excellent job describing both. There were a couple of loose threads that made no sense--why WAS the second victim naked was one that I was left with. I think, though, that Fradkin did an

excellent job concealing the murderer's identity. I had my suspicions about one character who ended up being murdered halfway through. The mark of a good mystery :) I do wish the language was a little less coarse but that is probably real life. All in all, a good read as a mystery/police procedural.

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### **Sandra says**

Barbara paints sharp pictures with her words. I could easily visualize -- even hear -- Inspector Green as if he were in the same room as me. An intelligent whodunit!

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