ForeWord Reviews

MYSTERY

Dark Lake
Louise Gaylord
Little Moose Press
978-0-9838386-0-9
(October 2011)

Allie Armington is back in *Dark Lake*, the fourth book in the mystery series named for her. This time, she finds herself at the Armington family retreat nestled in the Adirondacks. Allie is looking forward to relaxing with her family and revisiting the scenes of her teen summer vacations, but the idyllic retreat is hiding deadly secrets and murder is just a step away.

When Allie finds her favorite aunt dead on the shores of the dark lake, the lawyer-turned-private-detective sets out to find the killer. But when her search uncovers facts that implicate her own family, she soon discovers that the upscale summer haven is enmeshed in the illegal drug trade. Joining forces with a police special investigator, Allie uncovers a conspiracy that may reach even to the local chief of police. Knowing who to trust—and who to fear—becomes the ultimate test to Allie's survival and to unlocking the key to the dark happenings at the lakeside compound.

Readers who have followed the Allie Armington Mystery series will enjoy this latest installment. The Heroine's no-nonsense attitude and good instincts move the story along at a fast pace, while Louise Gaylord's descriptions of the summer retreat evoke the unique charm of the Adirondacks. Dark Lake keeps readers guessing with its gallery of questionable characters, snobbish neighbors, and troubled family members, while the disturbing trend of meth addiction and production adds a realistic undercurrent to the mystery.

Other books in the series include *Anacacho*, *Xs*, and *Spa Deadly*. Gaylord is also the author of *Recipes from Camp Trillium* and *Julia Fairchild*. Most recently, *Dark Lake* took a prize at the 2011-2012 Los Angeles Book Festival.

Brittany Dowdle