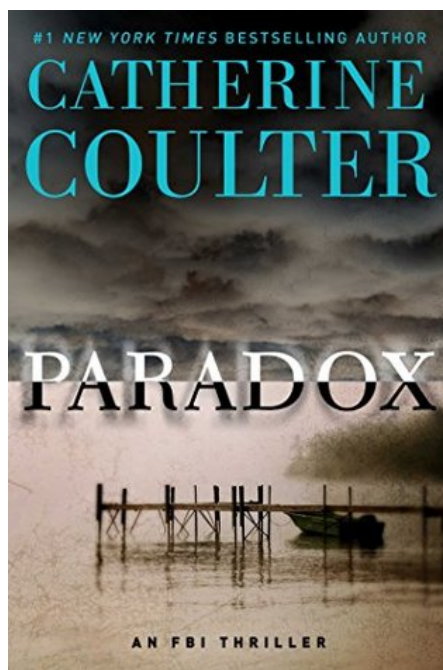




Paradox

Catherine Coulter

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Paradox

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Paradox Catherine Coulter

With unparalleled suspense and her trademark explosive twists, #1 New York Times bestselling author Catherine Coulter delves into the terrifying mind of an escaped mental patient obsessed with revenge in this next installment of her riveting FBI series. When he fails to kidnap five-year-old Sean Savich, agents Sherlock and Savich know they're in his crosshairs and must find him before he continues with his 'kill' list.

Chief Ty Christie of Willicott, Maryland, witnesses a murder at dawn from the deck of her cottage on Lake Massey. When dragging the lake, not only do the divers find the murder victim, they also discover dozens of bones. Even more shocking is the identification of a unique belt buckle found among the bones. Working together with Chief Christie, Savich and Sherlock soon discover a frightening connection between the bones and the escaped psychopath.

Paradox is a chilling mix of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, old secrets that refuse to stay buried, and ruthless greed that keep Savich and Sherlock and Chief Ty Christie working at high speed to uncover the truth before their own bones end up at the bottom on the lake.

Don't miss Paradox, the twenty-second FBI thriller.

Paradox Details

Date : Published July 31st 2018 by Gallery Books

ISBN :

Author : Catherine Coulter

Format : Kindle Edition 448 pages

Genre : Mystery, Suspense, Thriller

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From Reader Review Paradox for online ebook

Kathy says

This book touched on the paranormal, which is something new for this author in this series. The book opened with a foiled, attempted kidnap of Sean, the young son of FBI Agents Dillon and Sherlock Savich. Both Sherlock and Dillon, awakened when their house alarm turned off, rushed to prevent the kidnapping from happening. However, the would-be kidnapper escaped. Meanwhile, at a secluded lake in Maryland, Chief Ty Christie of Willicott, Maryland, witnessed a would-be murder from her cottage deck on Lake Massey in the early morning fog. The search for the body revealed, along with the body of a prominent attorney, what everyone believed were the bones of many victims and a unique silver belt buckle. How does this all come together? Following the clues, they had at hand and uncovered quickly, Dillon and Sherlock Identified the suspected murderer as a mental hospital escapee, who had an earlier run-in with Sherlock and Dillon, and who was now out to get revenge. In addition, the dead body in Lake Massey turned out to be a respected, well-known attorney, who had persuaded the judge to find the murderer in question mentally ill and had him committed to the mental hospital, from which he now escaped. What troubled to everyone involved was that this attorney saved the young man's life by keeping him out of prison and a death sentence. Why murder her then? Assisted by Chief Christie, another FBI agent who was with the now-deceased attorney until just before her death, and local law enforcement, Sherlock and Dillon rushed back and forth across the larger Washington, DC area, searching for and uncovering clues about what exactly happened and who was responsible for the attorney's death as well as those of the other dead bodies found in Lake Massey.

This book read well, as do just about all the author's books. Some might complain that there was a lot of Chief Christie, the FBI agent who was with the now dead attorney and other law enforcement and not enough of Dillon, Sherlock, Dillon's trusted computer Max and the other usual agents with whom they work regularly and who figure in all their books. However, I think there was just enough of the FBI duo and their familiar counterparts to keep the story theirs, and the story needed the other characters to make it all happen. It was interesting to see how the two cases intertwined, and, in the end to see how it all really happened and how everyone mentioned or included was brought into the tale. There was also a bit of a surprise at the end, though not too big. In addition, I enjoyed watching the interplay between Chief Christie and the other FBI agent, and figured there would be more about their relationship in future books. The story is set in the Maryland/DC area, with which I am very familiar. Thus, I found this an added benefit to the book. One thing that threw me was the continued "discussions"/"talk" between Victor and Lissy. At times, I felt it was a bit overdone, though it usually seemed about right. I am not sure yet, but I am pretty sure this will not be one of my favorites in the series, though it was well done and kept my interest. With the touch of paranormal, it was different—as well as with all the time spent on others than the two main FBI agents, Dillon and Sherlock. If you enjoyed the rest of the series, you will enjoy this. If you have not read any of the other books, I think this can be read as a stand-alone, though there are a few things that my confuse you--most of which are not essential to the story plot. I received this from NetGalley to read and review.

Chris Conley says

Sherlock and Savich never fail to satisfy. Paradox is a powerful entry into this series. Coulter's ability to create a villain for whom I feel sorry is one of her many gifts.

?LEAH? says

3 Out Of 5 "I struggled to finish this" STARS

It took me 25 days to complete this...and while it is a long book at 448 pages, it's not a lunger. I just couldn't get past the inane crap and sappiness this book is bogged down with. Every single person that is brought into the story has most of their life history thrown into the story...and yet I still felt that I was missing something by not having read the previous books in the series, at least in regards to Savich and Sherlock. I figured I was taking a chance with that, anyway, since I haven't read any of the 21 previous books in this series.

Paradox is really a story within a story and it's filled with a busload of characters. Maybe all that inane crap is in there to help you remember all these characters more easily. IDK. Gunny/Leigh was my favorite character by far and I genuinely enjoyed her story...even her backstory. There was also this weird supernatural vibe that felt off to me...this could be something that is explained by having read the previous books, too.

I was all set to rate this from 2-2.5 stars up until the ending. It's the only thing that boosted it up to a full 3. The reveal of the mystery of the bones in the lake was really satisfying and ultimately left me feeling like maybe this wasn't quite so laborious to complete.

????????????????????

~~~~~MY RATING~~~~~

?3?STARS - GRADE=C

????????????????????

#### **~BREAKDOWN OF RATINGS~**

**Plot~ 3.8/5**

**Main Characters~ 3.5/5**

**Secondary Characters~ 3.7/5**

**The Feels~ 3/5**

**Pacing~ 2/5**

**Addictiveness~ 1/5**

**Theme or Tone~ 3.8/5**

**Flow (Writing Style)~ 3.5/5**

**Backdrop (World Building)~ 3/5**

**Originality~ 3/5**

**Ending~ 4.3/5 Cliffhanger~ Nope.**

**Book Cover~ Two Thumbs UP!**

**Series~ FBI Thriller #22**

**Setting~ Willicott & Hagersville, Maryland, DC, and Texas.**

**Source~ I received an ARC via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review**

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**Danielle Urban says**

Paradox by Catherine Coulter is a thrilling race to catch a murderer before it's too late. Two agents wake up to find their son being threatened by an unknown man in a mask. The man escapes from them. But his threat leaves behind a mass of fear and a start for a new investigation. Little do they know his tie to a bigger and former case will be connected. Until then, they have to be faster and outsmart their enemy.

Catherine Coulter creates a suspenseful new tale in Paradox. Immediately, I connected with the agents. Their level of protection for their son was amazing. Being in their field of work, it is understandable to have such security and plans made. It worked. Their plans gave them the alert and saved their son's life. Their young son is clever for his age. There was a hint of Winnie the Pooh bear somewhere in the boy's room, which suggested he was still pretty young. But like his parents, he came to the conclusion of what really happened. His parents couldn't lie to him. I liked that. It made the situation realistic. Then, there was the chase after the criminal and the procedures of starting an investigation. I felt like I was there watching and participating with the agents. The pacing of the plot was quick. I just kept on reading chapter after chapter. My attention was fully caught with this novel. A thriller with enough action and intrigue to keep me reading. Overall, I would recommend it to all fans of Laura Griffin, Heather Graham, and Criminal Minds.

I received this copy from the publisher. This is my voluntary review.

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### **Kathy Martin says**

This story begins with someone trying to kidnap five-year-old Sean Savich. Savich and Sherlock need to figure out who he is and track him down before he tries again. They soon learn that their would-be kidnapper is a criminal with a grudge who has had encounters with both of them.

Meanwhile, Chief Ty Christie is having her morning coffee on her deck at Lake Massey near Willicott, Maryland when she looks across the lake and sees one boater hit another over the head and dump the body into the lake. When dredging the lake for the body, they discover a cache of bones leading them to think that they have discovered the dump site for some unknown serial killer. These bones were found near an abandoned mansion that is the local haunted house since it was the site of a couple gruesome murders.

These two stories meet when Savich is called in to identify the body since an FBI agent known to him is missing. He discovers the agent's friend Federal Prosecutor Octavia Ryan is the victim and finds the agent - Sala Porto - bound and locked in a closet in the haunted house.

The would-be kidnapper and murderer is Victor Nesser whom Ryan managed to keep off death row by arguing that he wasn't competent to stand trial and got him committed to a secure mental health facility. Sections from Nesser's viewpoint definitely prove that point since he seems to be sharing his body with his deceased psychopath girlfriend Lissy.

I liked the complexity of the plot and how the viewpoint kept shifting. Ty and Sala are busy working on trying to identify the bones and track down their serial killer while Sherlock and Savich are looking for Victor. The characters were interesting and quirky. I liked the way the investigators followed their leads which expanded the story in interesting ways.

I think the book could have used some editing since some of the characters were described each time they appeared in the story and I didn't need to know that Savich wore a Micky Mouse watch each time he checked the time. Also, some of the dialog was quirky. So many characters seemed to want to tell their whole life story when they were introduced.

All in all, this was an entertaining thriller and a nice addition to a long-running series.

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### **Marj Ward says**

It was my privilege to read another fabulous book by Catherine Coulter. I love the characters and there are some new ones in this instalment. Sean is almost kidnapped sending Sherlock and Savich into a frenzy. An FBI agent is almost murdered. The hunt is on for the killer of a man 5 years before, and a serial killer has been dumping bodies in a local lake. Many twists and turns but it all comes together in the end. Thank you NetGalley, Simon & Schuster Canada and the Author for allowing me to read and review this book.

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### **Pamela says**

My thanks to NetGalley for an advanced copy of Paradox. I have enjoyed this series over the years. Sherlock and Savich are a dynamic duo: married, FBI partners. It is these endearing characters that have successfully propelled this series to 22 installments! PARADOX starts off with a bang and the enthralling action continues to rise as more (albeit outlandish) events occur. The author seamlessly and thrillingly weaves two unrelated crimes of passion together. The reader is hooked on who did what when and where to whom...perfect mystery! There are a number of involved players and red herrings and the mysteries are very intriguing and created a compelling curiosity in this reader!

The big delta is its length and pace. An easy crime mystery should cap out in the high 300's. Paradox labored on close to 450 pages, and it would have been more captivating if it had been slimmed and trimmed. Way too many unnecessarily trivial details and descriptions did not enrich the story, but only bogged it down. The earlier books in this series were more concise and tight....and much more compelling as a result! Word choice is another issue: "dark eyebrow raised" and "bespoke" used multiple times as to become annoying. Another unusual- and distracting- addition in Coulter's writing is to dabble in the paranormal: visions and otherworldly connections. However, if one can skip the "visions" entirely and skim over the obvious "fluff and fillers" and get back to the meat of the plot line, then one will find Paradox an interesting and suspenseful crime caper! Ideal summer travel book!

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### **Madison Warner Fairbanks says**

Paradox by Catherine Coulter

Book 22. This FBI series has gone to the paranormal a bit.

Two tiered story. The first is close to the family: someone tried to kidnap their child. The second story: skull and bones found in the lake. Dredging uncovers enough bones for dozens of people. The stories proceed following these two events twining together and merging at the end.

After 22 books it's become a bit of a standard formula. This one was better than the prior, but I'm not sure how much longer I'll stick. It's endearing watching Sean grow up and cute with his future wives. The mystery solving is good but becomes predictable now that Savich can see things beyond the norm. And the author still switches from last name to first and back that sometimes causes a pause.

An enjoyable read. The story weaving together is done well.

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley. I also purchased a copy to share.

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### **Sarah says**

This novel is classic Catherine Coulter and one my favorites of her books that I have read in a while. I loved the way it started and the story line kept moving forward at an excellent pace. Savich and Sherlock are being haunted by someone from their past who is trying to destroy their family. While this is going on, Chief Ty Christie is witness to a murder across the lake from her home. Through twists and turns in true Coulter style, their worlds intersect and so do their mysteries. I loved the characters and the writing of this story and it was fast paced and difficult to put this one down! Thank you netgalley for this arc in exchange for my honest opinion.

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### **Donna says**

Multiple story lines going on that eventually converge. The story starts out with the attempted kidnapping of Savich and Sherlock's young son Sean. Meanwhile the police chief of Willicott, Maryland, Ty Christie, was standing out on her back deck drinking coffee and she witnessed a murder on the lake. She quickly gets her boat and calls in reinforcements but the killer gets away in the fog. After dredging the lake, the body of a federal prosecutor is found but many other bones are also located. Ty calls in the FBI and Savich and Sherlock are on the case. All the extra bones turn out to be at least 16 other people. Is the lake a dumping ground for a killer?

I like this Savich and Sherlock series. In this book, I particularly liked Ty and hope to see more of her in future books. I figured out what was going on with Victor and Lissy pretty early on, although witness descriptions of some of the sightings threw me off a little bit. I didn't know until the end who put the bones in the lake.

I received a hardback copy of this book from a Goodreads giveaway. I'm happy to add it to my bookshelves.

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### **(Bern) Mom to 2 Posh Lil Divas says**

#### **??? 3.25 Paradoxical Stars for Catherine Coulter's Paradox ?**

This is the 22nd book in Coulter's Sherlock & Savich FBI series, but my first. I didn't feel it made a negative impact on my overall understanding or enjoyment of the book that I hadn't read of the previous installments in the series. Coulter did a thorough job of explaining any important back stories or relationships so that I was able to delve in seamlessly on this particular case.

**Paradox starts out BIG!** I was gripped from page 1 as we are instantly thrown in to an adrenaline pumping situation as Agents Savich & Sherlock are faced with an intruder who has broken into their home and is attempting to kidnap their seven year old son. Talk about getting your reader heart pumping wildly and that was just the prologue!

Things didn't seem to slow down with chapter 1 as we were transported to a seemingly tranquil lake scene only to find Police Chief Ty Christie of Willicott, Maryland witness a brutal murder while sipping her coffee

as she looked out over Lake Massey. She calls in her people to dive into the lake in the hopes of uncovering the body without success. Knowing she saw a body thrown overboard, she opts to drag the lake. No one expected what came next - including me! Her team uncovered the body of Octavia Ryan, a Federal Prosecutor along with dozens of human bones they knew to be from more than a dozen different bodies based on what was recovered. Knowing she needed more services than her small community could provide, Christie calls in the FBI for assistance.

**The first 5 chapters were a complete thrill ride for me.** Then things began to slow down - a lot. I felt there were so many scenes where the dialogue was unnecessarily wordy and the repetitive descriptions of people's looks were rampant. I can appreciate descriptive language as much as the next person but it just didn't fit with the book. I want my thrillers dark, twisty and fast paced. I don't really care about the "wide-oak planked porch and double front door that was once beautifully carved but now creaked and looked ready to fall off its hinges." Open the door and go search for the bad guy!

As for the twists & turns - I had them ALL figured out. There wasn't anything that surprised me in the end reveal. I was hoping I'd be wrong or may have missed something, but I didn't. I called this one completely. Maybe its just me. I might read too many thrillers and watch too many crime shows. Now, it takes a bit more to stump me. *Paradox* was easy to figure out. I felt like Coulture fed me a trail of breadcrumbs, in plain sight, throughout.

Overall, *Paradox* was an entertaining, if slightly too long and simple mystery/thriller. The beginning was amazing - I just wish that adrenaline pumping feeling had lasted for more than just the first five chapters.

*Thank you to Catherine Coulter, Gallery Books and NetGalley for the opportunity to receive an advance copy of *Paradox* in exchange for my honest review.*

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### **Theresa Alan says**

Catherine Coulter writes fun mysteries. In this one, Police Chief Ty Christie witnesses a murder on the lake that her house is on. When the lake is swept, bones from many different bodies are found, as well as a belt buckle that will be key to solving part of the mystery of how the dead bodies got there and who killed the person Ty saw murdered.

In this novel, just about everyone is described as good-looking, handsome, or pretty. In real life, I've never found that entire police forces and small-town communities can be described this way. She also used the word "bespoke" so often it became noticeably obvious.

This mystery is fun, but the writing is definitely not literary, so it depends on your mood. If you want something very light and untaxing to your intellect, this is a well-done novel.

Thank to NetGalley for the opportunity to review this novel, which RELEASES JULY 31ST.

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### **Monnie says**

Granted, I'm semi-retired - but finish a nearly 450-word book in two days? Certainly not a normal happenin' thing, but finish it I did. Yes, the story is engrossing and I love FBI agents Sherlock and Savich (this is the 22nd installment in the series). But I'll also credit the author's uncanny way of ending each chapter at such a

tantalizing point that it's almost impossible to resist the "just one more" temptation. So strong is that pull, in fact, that at one point I realized I'd read eight chapters beyond the point at which I really, really needed to turn off my Kindle and do something else.

Also curious, BTW, is that almost all the female characters have what at first blush I'd assume are "male" names, among them Ty, Morgan, Marty and Gunny. Happenstance, or intention? And if the latter, why? Inquiring minds would love to know. But I digress.

The married agents have a young son named Sean, of whom, some would say, they're overprotective. That proves to be warranted, though, when in the middle of the night Savich is awakened by warning beeps - and runs to her son's room to find an intruder standing over the child's bed. The man, who was wielding a knife, manages to escape - but the incident forces Savich and Sherlock to acknowledge that their family is on the hit list of a very nasty person.

Around the same time, Willicot, Maryland, police chief Ty Christie is relaxing at her cottage on Lake Massey when to what do her wondering eyes doth appear than a frightening scene: One of two people out in a boat smacks the other and dumps the body overboard, an apparent murder. When said body is found by divers, it turns out to be a female federal prosecutor who's been dating Salo Porto, an FBI agent-friend of Savich, who in turn is called in to help.

But divers find not only that freshly killed body, but a rather large array of old bones and a unique belt buckle - raising suspicions of a serial killer. Most of the bones were collected not far from an abandoned mansion in which two entire families were murdered; since then, the property has been deemed "haunted" and has stood empty. When Savich and Sherlock go inside, they find nothing noteworthy except a single very tidy bedroom amid an otherwise decaying house. That is, until Savich has one of his "visions," leading him to the upper level and the discovery of his old friend Porto, who's been locked in a closet and left to die.

Turns out the killer is a relatively young man who recently escaped from a mental institution - a man with ties not only to the woman he just killed but to Savich, who was forced to kill the man's young girlfriend back when he was arrested. Evidence leads to the certainty that he was the man who attempted to kidnap (or perhaps murder) Savich and Sherlock's son.

But strong suspicion isn't proof (nor are Savich's visions), so the chase is on to gather evidence and track down the killer. The investigation efforts get a big boost from Christie and Palo, who join forces and become major characters in the rest of the book. Even though the killer is known, though, there's plenty of action and even more head games to carry the story through to the end (with a little left over for another book). In short, it's another winner - and once again I thank the publisher, via NetGalley, for providing me with an advance review copy.

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## **Bea Charmed says**

I figured out parts of it but I enjoyed the story. It kept me engaged and I cared about the characters.

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## **katwiththehat says**

I love the FBI agent husband/wife team of Savich and Sherlock, who team up together to catch the bad guys

and solve awesome mysteries. I got hooked on Catherine Coulter last year through a NetGalley release which had a super twisty ending and have been working my way through her backlist, and was excited to see a new book coming out!

In PARADOX, Savich and Sherlock are awakened in the night by a threat. As they try to figure out who could be a danger to their son, a different mystery pops up in rural Maryland (there's always multiple angles going on in this series, which makes things extra exciting.) Without spoilers, I really enjoyed all the discoveries and twists and turns in this one.

Trigger Warnings: (view spoiler)

Please excuse typos/name misspellings. Entered on screen reader.

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