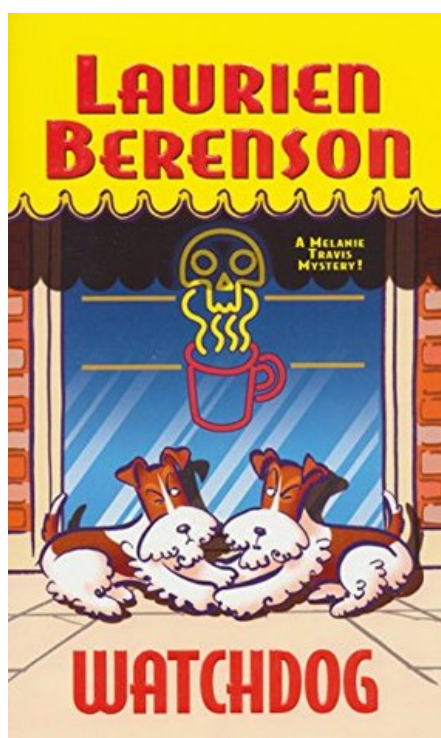




Watchdog

Laurien Berenson

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It's autumn in Connecticut. Melanie Travis has just started a new job, and with the added excitement of showing her Standard Poodle, Faith, in the fall shows, the last thing she wants is to become embroiled in yet another of her brother Frank's moneymaking schemes. His current brainstorm--remaking an old store in stylish suburban Fairfield County into a trendy coffee bar--already has the neighbors snarling. Worse, wealthy Marcus Rattigan, who's bankrolling the project, is found murdered on the premises, and the police think Frank did it.

"Fresh, lively writing, a tough mystery, light humor, and insight into the peculiarities of human and canine behavior."--*Booklist*

Always the family watchdog, and faced with Frank's imminent arrest, Melanie has no choice but to take on the investigation. Drawing on her connections in the dog world, Melanie is soon successfully unmuzzling the dead man's nearest and dearest, including a bitter ex-wife, a spurned mistress, and an ambitious second in command. But Melanie is about to learn that being a watchdog can sometimes be dangerous--especially when every clue she uncovers leads her one step closer to a murderer who is desperate enough to kill again. .

Watchdog Details

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Download and Read Free Online Watchdog Laurien Berenson

From Reader Review Watchdog for online ebook

Lena Harper says

Getting better and better. I'm kind of glad I waited so long to start this series so I have more to read :)

Julie says

It's only been a day or two since I finished this one and I don't know how to rate it because, frankly, I barely remember it. That's probably a bad sign, though whether about me or the book is questionable.

Kathryn says

Funny how we don't hear much from Melanie Travis's brother Frank in her previous mystery adventures. We know he exists, and we've seen him a few times during family get-togethers; all the same, I'm sure Melanie prefers not to have him around, for when he is he's either raiding her refrigerator or asking for money.

In Watchdog, Frank is asking for much more: he wants his sister to help clear his name when a business associate is murdered.

Frank's latest big venture in a string of failed jobs and prospects is a coffee bar in a nearby Connecticut township. Locals are protesting the business, and one would that was the worst of Frank's worries. Then his financial backer turns up dead on the construction site, and Melanie -- whose hands are full with dog shows, a new job, and a marriage proposal (finally!) from Sam -- must come to the rescue.

Berenson is always a delight to read, with fun characters and lessons in dog grooming. Watchdog is no exception; watch out for this one and for Melanie's future exploits.

Stephanie says

I absolutely love this series! Melanie seems to always find herself solving a murder and the story is so entertained that it keeps me reading. I love the relative between Melanie and Sam and can't wait to see what the future books have in store for the two of them and of course, Davey, Aunt Peg and the dogs!

Dyana says

This fifth in the series is another light-hearted cozy mystery with well-developed characters and plenty to learn about dog handling and shows. The title of the book refers to Melanie's roll as watchdog and diligent big sister when her brother Frank approaches her with another moneymaking scheme.

School is back in session and single mom Melanie Travis has a new job. She is now an on-campus tutor at Howard Academy which is a private school near downtown Greenwich, Connecticut. One morning Frank

shows up asking for money for his latest business adventure. He wants to renovate Haney's General Store in a housing development and turn it into a trendy coffee bar. His financial backer is wealthy and sleazy businessman, Marcus Rattigan. Rattigan is known for buying up tracts of land, then bending local zoning laws to the breaking point in order to accommodate the greatest possible housing density. Frank is running low on funds and wants Rattigan to think he can handle the renovation on his own. When Melanie refuses to help him, Frank approaches Aunt Peg who gives him the money.

Then things start happening at the coffee bar. Frank calls Melanie in a panic. He has found a sign that reads GO AWAY. WE DON'T WANT YOU HERE and the building is flooded in two inches of water from a supposedly burst pipe. The next frantic call from Frank reveals a gaping hole in the floor where a worker fell through to the basement and broke his leg. Were the support posts cut? Then Rattigan is found dead at the coffee bar where he has been pierced by a large, jagged piece of glass from a fallen skylight. It sure looks like murder. The police show up and Detective James Petrie considers Frank as a likely suspect. So Frank asks Melanie to help solve this murder because she has done so before. (No more mention of the police and their investigative progress throughout most of the book.)

Melanie begins interviewing possible suspects which include Rattigan's bitter ex-wife, his business partner, his secretary and spurned mistress, and John Monaghan who lead the protests against the coffee bar. It turns out Rattigan had once been a co-owner of a legendary Wire Fox Terrier show dog named Summer and John was his partner.

Sam Driver, Melanie's boyfriend, is not happy she is out sleuthing again. And Aunt Peg does nothing but encourage it. In the mean time, Faith who is Melanie's Black Standard Poodle has moved from the Puppy class to the 12-18 month Class. We get to experience some more dog show competition and are educated in all that involves, especially preparation, grooming, and handling.

Kate, one of Melanie's students, helps her ferret out the murderer. The murderer and his motives are a surprise with some convoluted plot twists. Sam has a proposal for Melanie on Halloween night that she readily says YES to. Looking forward to the next installment to find out further developments. And Davey, her son, and his friends are as cute and active as ever. A series well worth reading.

KyBunnies says

Review to come

A says

I didn't think I would enjoy this book because previous books about dogs and their handlers were often boring. But this book had a bit of a bite to it and I enjoyed reading about the world of show dogs and their handlers.

Julesy says

Another great entry in the series! It was a bit convoluted between the land development and dog breeding but I think I understood it all and was satisfied with the ending.

I enjoyed how Mel's brother Frank is included more in this book but he annoys me so! I wish Mel would just get a back bone with him and tell him emphatically "NO!".

Looking forward to reading the next one very soon!

I gave this 4.5 stars.

Shirley Ross says

Love this series

Kelly Peterson says

Enjoyable mystery romp in the dog show world

Another fun adventure featuring Melanie Travis. Recommend it highly for your beach reading list. A light read that wasn't lighting in.

Georgette says

Last time I read (recently) a Melanie Travis book, her son Davey was 5..now he is 6? Where does the time go. I adore this series while so many books sit on my shelves. The plots are different, from book to book but the subplots a intricately created all to crest to a fine end, with the threads of the next adventure.

This one finds a romance heating up, an Aunt being beat at her own 'game', her brother getting into more trouble, and introducing some new characters. Melanie is increasing both her teaching and skill sets - challenged at a new school, and clearing brother Frank(arrested development?) which I suppose will become a bigger issue as we continue into the series-some of us always have one sibling who will suck the oxygen out of the room, when well intended or not comes knocking at Melanie's door. Faith is now in the 12-18month group to be judged, and Sam has been given the opportunity by Aunt Peg to take on a new puppy which is named Tar.

Trouble ensues when Frank enters into a joint 'opportunity' to go into a business venture with a known 'manipulative' operator who seemed to be out of the business and open a coffee bar. Oh there are so many threads here...but I suggest you, the reader discover that on your own...

Candy says

I enjoyed this book because it includes a cousin to my breed - smooth fox terrier. I felt the mystery was the weakest of the series so far, and the story line of the brother was exasperating. But I still found it a pleasurable read.

Lynn Demsky says

A mixture of just too much ---Melanie has a new teaching job, is raising her six-year-old son by herself, showing her standard poodle in dog shows, falling in love ---along with the suspense of the murder of her brother's partner in business. I didn't really enjoy this one, that much. I did find the title interesting as it does not refer to any of the dogs in the book but as older sister to a careless, non-responsible brother she is again WATCHING HIM therefore making HER the watch dog.

Emily Cullen says

Teacher and dog show hobbyist Melanie Travis is pulled in again to find out who killed a wealthy business man when her brother is the number one subject. I really enjoy this cozy mystery series. It's got great characters, romance and good mysteries. It does delve heavily into the dog show world so if dogs aren't your scene you may not find it to your liking.

Dena says

It is so much less the mystery and more the characters that I so dearly love about these books. Loving watching Melanie's life grow. On to the next one!
