



Title: *The Praying Mantis*

Author: Berend Van der Poll

Publisher: Smashwords

Reviewer: Vanessa Finaughty

The Praying Mantis is a must read for anyone who enjoys a good crime thriller. After reading this book, you'll almost certainly want to keep an eye out for Van der Poll's next crime thriller, *The Butterfly* – I certainly can't wait to get stuck into reading it.

While Detectives Reeve and Porter juggle two serial killer cases, a group of prostitutes gets up to 'mischief' – just not the type one would expect. With *The Praying Mantis* killer always one step ahead of the law, both detectives are in danger of losing credibility, but one of them stands to lose a lot more if the truth doesn't come out soon.

The Singles Killer, while not being the focus of this novel, adds a nice twist to the plot and makes for interesting reading, perfectly emphasising the fact that it's a small world and everyone has their secrets... I found the characters realistic, making this a truly enjoyable read. We never really realise how much we affect those we come into contact with, but, too often, the ripple effect is catastrophic if you use or treat others badly. This author knows that and has portrayed it well, leaving me to ponder human nature and all its complexities at the end of the story.

Although this is not a whodunit novel – the reader finds out almost immediately who *The Praying Mantis* is – the characters alone will keep you reading to see what they get up to next, how that affects those around them and whether or not the killers will be apprehended. If you haven't bought this already, go for it!