

Book Review: The Riddle Maker
By Bruce Borgos

There are authors, and then there are *authors*.

The good ones will write the third or fourth or fifth book in a series in such a way as to enable it to stand on its own, with sufficient backstory where necessary, so if you've missed the first several installments (as I have) you can still jump in without missing a beat.

Bruce Borgos is one of those authors. This is evident in his treatment of "The Riddle Maker", the fourth installment in the Sheriff Porter Beck series. Not only was I able to jump into the storyline without missing a beat, but it's also a really well written book, easily enticing me to go back and read the first three installments.

You can read an interview with Bruce by clicking [here](#).

Beck is the sheriff of Lincoln County, Nevada, a huge area of desert and mountains, just down the road from Area 51. There, a mailbox enables UFO enthusiasts to leave messages for aliens. However, a recent message left for Beck contains a riddle. And when the riddle is deciphered, Beck and his team find the remains of a body that went missing fifty years ago.

AND not only does this decades-old crime link to Beck's family history, but it's also not the last of the riddles he'll receive in the coming days. Nor the last of the bodies he'll uncover.

Beck soon connects with FBI profiler Jett Lowell. She believes Beck's riddle is connected to one she received seventeen years ago. Together, with assistance from Beck's small but mighty team, they set out to find the source of the riddles; likely, a serial killer.

The pacing throughout is excellent. Short chapters that end with teasers entice quick and easy transitions into the next chapter. It makes for a book that's hard to put down.

The characters are likable. They're tough, flawed, vulnerable, and easy to root for. Even in the face of danger, Beck's ability to not only stay calm but crack a joke or two lighten the tension and make him that much more appealing. And his ability to solve the riddles is uncanny.

There are some nice twists and turns in the suspense-filled narrative. And just when you think the story might be over, it's not.

"The Riddle Maker" is a very well written murder-mystery that grabs you from the opening Prologue and steadily carries you throughout. I give it a 4.5 out of 5 stars, highly recommend it, and will now go back and read the first three installments.