



## Stone Angel

*Carol O'Connell*

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The latest in an evocatively written series featuring free-spirited NYPD sergeant Kathleen Mallory has this odd, intriguing cop taking her act on the road to the rural Louisiana town where she was born. She's trying, at long last, to reach closure in the mysterious death of her mother -- stoned to death by villagers 17 years previous -- and must sift through the creepy, dangerous layers of the past to get answers.

## Stone Angel Details

Date : Published July 1st 1998 by G.P. Putnam's Sons (first published 1997)

ISBN : 9780515122985

Author : Carol O'Connell

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## From Reader Review Stone Angel for online ebook

### Isblue says

Fourth book in the Mallory series, but the first one I read. It's fine as a stand-alone though I think reading in order gives a deeper grounding in all the characters.

O'Connell knows her characters bone deep, and doesn't hesitate to give them the flaws, imperfections and moments of nobility that make them so real. After my first book, I thought Mallory and Batman if they met, would not like each other; each would understand the other in ways no other could.

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### Cathy says

The best by far in the Mallory detective series. She goes back to her roots in Louisiana and confronts those who murdered her mother.

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### Heidi says

Alive with eccentric and oddball characters, "The Stone Angel" explores the sinister undertones of small town dynamics and the dark secrets festering in the hearts of communities which can drive people to murder.

I have not read any of the previous Mallory novels, which did not mar my enjoyment of this book – quite the opposite, I found the character of Mallory equally fascinating and disturbing, and was soon drawn into her quest to search for her mother's killer. There is nothing ordinary or predictable in this book and its characters, giving it an almost dreamlike feel – or nightmarish at times. Each character is so flawed, and so disturbed, that finding out about their history is like unpeeling an onion and finding it rotten in the middle. I admit it took me a little while to get into the author's writing style, but soon her wickedly dark humour and keen observations had me enthralled and wanting more. Feeling equally moved, repelled, shocked and fascinated as the story moved towards its climax, I was unable to put the book down until I had turned the last page.

A solid, unusual and spellbinding thriller - I am looking forward to reading the other books in the Mallory series.

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### Virginia Markhart says

Sorry. Not a good book for me. There was so much lying I just could not follow along. By the middle of the book I was completely bored and uninterested. My OCD forced me to finish what I had started. Took me forever to get through it, but I suffered and made it.

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## Melliott says

SO much better than book #3! That's a 4.5. This one takes place outside of New York City. Mallory has returned to her roots, to solve her real mother's murder. Charles has followed her down south to a small town seething with horrifying secrets in its past, not the least of which is the fate of Cass Shelley (Mallory's mother). The whole thing was perfectly paced. O'Connell did her usual number of throwing characters and scenarios at you from every side, letting them build from initial confusion towards the resolution of the grand finale, but in this one it worked. I had a few moments of "C'mon!" (the gunslinger outfit) but in general I was riveted. I'm glad I decided to move past the frustration with *Killing Critics* to try another. I will keep going.

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## Kathy says

It would probably work to read this without having read the previous books in the series but it will make more sense if you have read them first. Violent. Spellbinding. Explains a lot about the main character in the Mallory series.

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## Sharon says

The is an older, but excellent read. It'll keep you guessing until the very end. Worth a look if you can find a copy.

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## LJ says

THE STONE ANGEL - Ex  
O'Connell, Carol - 4th Mallory

Seventeen years after her mother, Dr. Cass Shelley, was stoned to death by an angry mob in Dayborn (La.), Kathy Mallory, who fled the scene to become a New York street kid and, eventually, an NYPD sergeant, is back to find out who provoked the mob and what became of her mother's corpse.

Mallory's loyal friend Charles Butler, following her down from the city with the idea of helping her out, naturally remains a consistent two leaps behind her, though he does get to spend time with some flavorsome locals--manly spinster Augusta Trebec, mute sculptor Henry Roth, enterprising innkeeper Betty Hale (who's turned the stoning into something of a local holiday), and the rest of the equally nasty Laurie clan--en route to a dizzyingly complicated windup involving spiritualism, child abuse, and good old-fashioned greed.

1997 Top Read - For me, this was a great book in an incredible series. Mallory is such a fascinating, unique character, I can't help wanting to know more about her. The secondary characters are just as interesting; the sense of place strong and evocative and the writing is first rate. I think this is the best book since the first. I loved it.

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### **Tasula says**

I love this entire series about a 10 yr old homeless girl adopted by a cop and becoming a cop herself. But without losing her sociopathic tendencies. She has a coterie of protectors, friends of her father's and some she collects herself. Her character is very interesting, as are the interactions with her friends and others. The mysteries are well crafted, and this one answered some of the questions about Kathy Mallory's past, while introducing some loathsome, some pathetic and some admirable new characters. I am looking forward to the next in the series.

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### **Louise Armstrong says**

I see this reader is super popular, but I thought it was hogwash! The flying stone angel bit - just a few minutes thought on how that would have worked in real life was enough to send the book flying across the room.

This is a book for people who want to mainline lots of emotion and don't care about reality at all.

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### **Lindsay (Santafefan) says**

Had a luxurious time reading this - all night long. I am captivated by Mallory, psychopath though she may be. This picks up after she leaves Charles and New York at the end of Killing Critics. "Oh no!", I grieved. I'd come to love brilliant and love-struck Charles and scruffily protective Riker - were they being left behind? Fortunately, no. Charles tracks down an angel sculpture clearly modeled after Mallory, in a tiny town in a bayou of Louisiana. It turns out Mallory lived here as a child until her mother was killed - how? By whom? Mallory has come to find out the answers in her own unique way. With help, even if unwanted. Mallory's mother, like Mallory, attracted unconventional allies with big hearts, long memories, and a flare for rough justice and revenge.

Not only is the story gripping but this was a pleasure to read - the sense of place, the characters - even minor ones - came to life and wormed their way into my heart.

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### **Alexandra says**

4th in series.

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### **Karen says**

When this book was first recommended to me, I couldn't stand it. O'Connell's writing style is so different than anything I had experienced, it seemed very stilted. But once I got used to it, the book was amazing. Every book in the Mallory series is good, but this one is definitely the best.

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## **Jlneacock says**

The book was written in a compelling manner, but I found that I didn't empathize with the heroine. There were other characters in the books that had my sympathy more than Mallory. I rapidly read the book since I was curious about the answer to the mysteries being presented, so I will say that it was entertaining on that level. My wish would have been for a more personable heroine.

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## **Serena says**

5-stars for the first half. Atmospheric, poignant, at times heartbreaking and at times absurdly funny. The second half had a bit too much crazy sauce, especially the come-to-Jesus scene. Overall, great writing and excellent narration.

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