



## Death in Bloodhound Red

*Virginia Lanier*

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## **Death in Bloodhound Red** Virginia Lanier

Jo Beth Siddon is a bloodhound trainer with a special talent for harrowing search-and-rescue missions, and a bad habit for mouthing off to deputies who refuse to take orders from a woman. She has seen her share of trouble: moonshiners poking guns at her head, crooked cops, and an abusive ex-husband with a terrible temper. Then she's suspected of murder and finds herself treading a quagmire as thick and treacherous as the Okefenokee Swamp. If she can't prove her innocence, she might lose not only the thriving business she loves, but the freedom and independence she's fought for all her life.

## **Death in Bloodhound Red Details**

Date : Published July 1st 1996 by HarperTorch (first published March 1st 1995)

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Author : Virginia Lanier

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Genre : Mystery, Animals, Dogs, Fiction, Cozy Mystery, Thriller, Mystery Thriller

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## From Reader Review Death in Bloodhound Red for online ebook

### Morgan Stansell says

Greatest series ever. I first read these when I was in fourth grade (backwards, of course) and then several times after that. Most important series of my life after Harry Potter.

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### Janell says

I liked the story.. I hated the nitty gritty detail. I don't care about five minutes of furniture shopping or her desire for a specific kind of jam on toast... just tell the story. I know that seems mighty whambamthankyoumaam of me but truly, she did wander more than just a tad. That being said, I liked the overall plot, loved the characters, and have continued on in the series.

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### Rose says

A nice mystery with cool fellers, jerkwad characters--male and female--and bloodhounds! Stayed up entirely too late last night so I could finish it. If you like older mysteries (this book was published in 1995) then I highly recommend this one. The characters have flaws and those flaws are acknowledged without the author being overboard about them. Much more to my preference than some current authors offerings.

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### Lori Whitwam says

I read this book shortly after it came out, and it inspired me to do something I never do... write to an author. I found that Virginia Lanier was in her 60s and had written this book at age 62. She had recently retired, along with her husband Hoss. They weren't in great health. She read a book and threw it on the table, declaring she could write better. Hoss said, "So do it." She had a million excuses. No education, couldn't spell, didn't have anywhere to write. Hoss bought her a dictionary, a used desk, and a typewriter, and four months later she had the 600-page manuscript for "Red," the first in the Bloodhound mystery series. Virginia and I became "pen pals." She was never online, so I did her website and Yahoo group. She wrote several more books in the series, before passing away shortly after her beloved husband.

This book is unique. Her heroine, JoBeth Sidden, owns a bloodhound kennel. Having escaped from a horribly abusive marriage to a "good ol' boy," she's making it on her own, raising and training bloodhounds and doing search and rescue for her local law enforcement. She's a feminist who frequently rubs the "boys" the wrong way. Sweet on the inside, though, JoBeth would do ANYTHING for her friends or her dogs. This gets her indicted for murder, though, when Bubba (the ex-husband with a fondness for lead-filled baseball bats) gets out of jail and is beaten nearly to death, and JoBeth can't provide an alibi without divulging information that could be harmful to a friend. She also gets a mysterious inheritance, goes on some exciting searches, and frets over the extensive security measures she's put into place in and around her home.

This book is fascinating, fast-paced, and a glimpse into a world that those who have never lived in the rural southeast couldn't imagine. Virginia was a dear friend, and is greatly missed.

### **Liz says**

Very fun read. Takes place in my neighborhood in SE Georgia and the working bloodhound stuff was interesting. I didn't care for the protagonist's Stephanie-Plum-like need to describe her clothes and makeup and her ability to attract all the hunky men but the book was still very fun. And although I read all the Stephanie Plum books, I much prefer JoBeth Siddon, who knows how to crawl around in the swamp and isn't as quick to need the help of some hunky guy to save her from her own mistakes.

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### **Jeanne says**

My library has just one copy of this left in its collection and I'm glad I found it! The sense of place was intriguing and so well permeated characterization and plot. I don't know anyone like Jo Beth and we'd never be friends, but I could understand even if I couldn't relate. Frankly, I think I like her better in 2017 than I would have in the 90s. Fortunately my library has at least one copy of the remaining series, so the plan is to give it a wee rest and then continue on.

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### **Barbara says**

Another review on Goodreads directed me to this author and her series. Wow - this first book was a little l-o-n-g but I'm not sure what could be left out (well, maybe the whole Mary Jane growing and removal from Jo Beth's lawyer's inherited home - but it was interesting). Loved the dogs and the tracking and training and all the characters (except the bad guys) were really likeable.

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### **Gloria says**

The only single thing I can say against this book is that it is unnecessarily long at 461 pgs.

Now for the good stuff... Virginia Lanier did not begin writing this series until she was in her 60s, after working decades in the deep South during the years of Civil Rights and good ole boy attitudes. In this, her excellent debut mystery about an outspoken amateur female detective who leads bloodhound searches for all types of missing persons, her love for and her regret about the American South emerge.

There are lots of insights into Georgia's backwoods culture, beautiful descriptions of the land, great information on training dogs to find missing children/prisoners/tourists, and nice inclusions of humor and even a touch of romance. This is an excellent, fast-paced mystery with multiple story lines that many will enjoy.

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### **Matt Mccann says**

I will start that this book is unnecessarily long and way too detailed in certain spots. It also took the author

way too long to get to the central story line. Also the main character, Jo Beth is too much of an energetic feminist for my liking. That being said the central story line was intriguing and I wanted to find out what happened.

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### **Miki says**

I think everyone knows or has met someone who can talk a mile a minute, without ever seeming to take a breath. This book is the inanimate version of such a person. The writer believes in never using one word when 50 - or 100 - will do. There were detailed descriptions of every single feeling, person, animal, building and piece of scenery, every meal and item of clothing. Comments were embellished with memories, which would lead to anecdotes about things that had nothing to do with the current situation. There were side thoughts that went on for pages before veering back to the story. There was constant commentary. On EVERYTHING. There were tips on how to clean a house! In a mystery with bloodhounds!

I got tired of trying to keep up.

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### **Jen says**

I am about to finish this one, and what a page-turner!

At first I wasn't sure I was going to like it. The heroine is a bit too feminist and ball-breaking for me, plus her smoking habit makes me feel like I can't breathe. The book is well-written, however, and I can see where the constant attention to detail is necessary. I mean, if *you* raised and trained bloodhounds for things like search & rescue, tracking, drug sniffing and arson detection, of course you would pay attention to detail. Much like the book is loaded with such things, it also circles and backtracks- full of asides, flashbacks, anecdotal stories and information. Metaphoric of a hound on a trail? Why not? It was frustrating, at first, but once you get used to the style, it all makes sense. Meanwhile, I had nothing much to do this weekend, and although I kept closing the book and going off to do other things, I found myself returning to read more. I was annoyed last night when my husband finally decided it was time for bed and I was a mere 20-something pages away from finishing.

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### **Donna says**

First book in this series I have read. Not good enough to read another. The main character is just too much of a ball-breaking, in-your-face woman. I am a strong feminist but I found her obnoxious.

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### **Nicole says**

Very interesting with a crime to solve using her blood hounds. Totally different world than I live in. She is a no nonsense gal that can talk anyone into place with words not always very feminine. She owns and runs a blood hound breeding compound and then trains them to sniff out drugs as well as for search and rescue in the Okefenokee swamp. She does all this with the fear that her ex is going to come after her. There are language issues though. But, I am obviously not a saint because I read most of her books. I bit like the Patricia Cornwell series.

### **Candice says**

What a ride! Jo Beth is sassy, brassy, & classy. What a great female lead.

The book is well-written and had a fast paced and didn't slow down. Had to make myself put it down a few times in order to sleep.

The author definitely did her research on Bloodhounds. As an owner of one of these slobbering, lovable, clumsy dogs she hit it on the "nose" with her descriptions.

I loved all the entwining stories and mysteries and that a woman stood up to that "good ole boy" attitude that is so prevalent here in the South.

Can't wait to read more.

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### **Becca says**

Terrible writing and the longest book in creation. I had to finish it because I hoped it would get better.

NEVER again with this author The tedious detail included make me want to shoot myself.

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