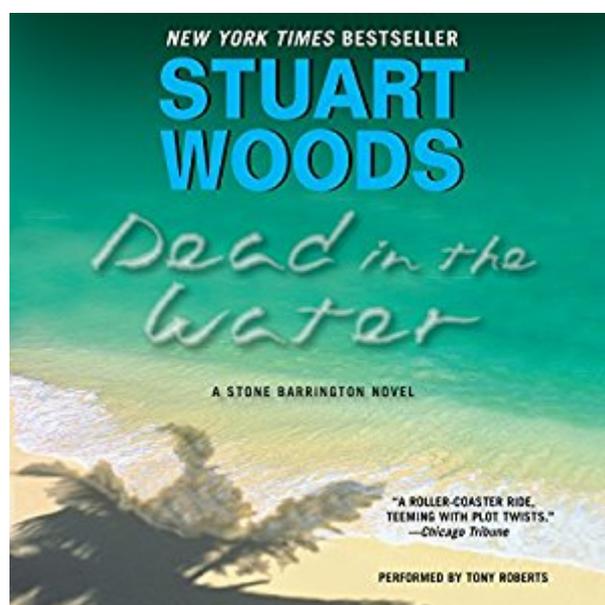


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# Dead In The Water: A Novel



## Synopsis

Stone Barrington is back. Stuart Woods has created no better known or loved character than the ex-cop, Manhattan attorney, and investigator whose work treads the thin line between the respectable practice of law and the dark side of humanity. In *Dead in the Water*, Stone has hardly arrived in St. Marks, a lovely Caribbean island nation, on a sailing vacation when something very strange happens: A beautiful young woman sails into the harbor, entirely alone on a large yacht. Before long she is under the intense scrutiny of the local authorities, in the very considerable person of Sir Winston Sutherland, the minister of justice. The problem is, though she arrived alone, she had departed the other side of the Atlantic in the company of her husband, a well-known writer, who is no longer in evidence. Evidence is what fascinates Stone Barrington, and he is all that stands between the apparently innocent Allison Manning and the patently evil intent of Sir Winston, whose motives are unclear. What is clear is that the St. Marks system of justice bears little resemblance to the American courts to which Stone is accustomed and that his smallest error could prove fatal to his client. *Dead in the Water* is a roller-coaster ride, teeming with the plot twists that have made the novels of Stuart Woods New York Times best sellers and international hits.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours and 26 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: HarperAudio

Audible.com Release Date: July 5, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01F9OIGCK

Best Sellers Rank: #46 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Legal Thrillers  
#366 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Legal #7791 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature

## Customer Reviews

This is the first book I have read by Mr. Woods. The plot combined with Mr. Woods writing style made for exciting reading. I found it extremely hard to put down. I often found myself feeling sorry for Allison and Stone as well as thinking "She Did It", only to find myself a few pages later thinking "She Didn't Do It". Later in the book I found myself thinking, "Insurance Scam". I won't spoil the book

by telling you what happens or if she did or didn't do it. What I will tell you is that this is definitely a must read book with a fantastic ending. Being the first book I have ever read by Mr. Stuart I was pleasantly surprised to find that there was nothing about this book I didn't like. Easy, smooth flowing reading. I will definitely be reading more of Stuart Woods writing. Even though this book is not listed as a legal thriller, I would rank it right up with authors such as John Grisham and Brad Meltzer's "Dead Even". Let me take a minute and reiterate that this is a great book and a must read for any avid reader.

Stuart Woods' novel *Dead in the Water* is a suspenseful tale of murder, romance, and deception. Woods has crafted a story that captures the reader's attention from the opening paragraph until the closing lines. Never is there a dull moment in this thriller. The reader follows the adventures of Stone Barrington, an ex-cop turned lawyer who is intriguing yet refreshingly real. Stone's tropical vacation is interrupted when he meets murder suspect Elizabeth Manning. Through his own good will, he decides to defend this mysterious beauty who stands to lose her life if found guilty. The case has a new twist at every corner, and somehow it never manages to get dull. The story rises to higher levels of suspense as Stone and his client become romantically and passionately involved. The characters develop nicely throughout the novel. As the story line progresses, the reader develops a seemingly intimate relationship with the novel's protagonists and exhibits genuine concern for their well-being. Woods should be commended for this stellar literary accomplishment. By constantly introducing new elements into the complexity of the plot, Woods manages to keep the reader guessing. In fact, the novel's outcome is not clear until the final pages; therefore, no reader can willingly put it down without finishing. The story's conclusion is slightly far-fetched but enjoyable and ironic nonetheless. Woods' endeavor is a page-turner extraordinaire and a treat for anyone lucky enough to pick it up. *Dead in the Water* receives four out of five stars. Highly recommended.

I was very pleased to see someone else comment on the slow dialogue in this book - it was PAINFUL. Page after page was spent on such exciting things as preparing a Caesar salad and other exciting tangents. The story moved slooowly and the plot, characters and ending were all terribly lacking. None of these lacked as much as the motivation for ANY character. I was so moved by how poorly this book ended that I had to come here and "warn" others! I am not a tough critic, but this book was a stinker.

I decided, after I retired, I'd go back and reread the authors I have enjoyed through the years. "New

York Dead" got Stone Barrington off to a good start, it was nice to go back and remember his roots. "Dirt" was a bit of disappointment, but a good, not great, read. "Dead in the Water" was the book that left me thirsty for more, and rereading was a joy. It is fun to see technology develop through the years, and how Woods embraces it over the years.... And as the book ends, he will use some of the ill gotten gains to buy his first airplane. We now are getting to know the characters we are going to be following for the next 20, and we hope, many more years. If you haven't read it read it, if you have and it is as long ago as I read it, read it again.

Another one of my favorite Stone Barrington books, couldn't put it down. Great writing, and this story continues on a bit two books later in the series. I saved the book for my husband who has sailed in the Caribbean, and even though he's not a big reader he was willing to try it, and I got a kick out of seeing him totally absorbed into it too and read it every evening for hours until he was done. The end is a good surprise you wouldn't have guessed and keeps you breathless the last couple of chapters.

The only reason I couldn't give this book a five star rating is the length of the story. I was ready for it to end and it kept going a little to long. However, I read it in two sittings and fell in love with Stone Barrington and his partner. I am reading the third book in the Barrington series and am enjoying it as much as the first. If you enjoy getting completely wrapped up in a book and find yourself buying the next three before your finished with the first, this is the series for you. I'm so happy a friend of mine brought these books to my attention as they are older and aren't overly expensive.

Stuart Woods has made Stone Barrington a national hero. Every man would love to have his life not to mention the women, but as we move along Stone is getting up there in age, how much longer until Woods finds a character to take his place or will it all be over. I like his books because he brings everything to the table. Fun, excitement, great group of in the crowd people, intrigue and of course love. Keep them coming, I enjoy them.

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