



Badlands: A Novel of Suspense (Byrne and Balzano Book 4)

Richard Montanari

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BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Richard Montanari's *The Echo Man*.

Philadelphia police detectives Kevin Byrne and Jessica Balzano are working a new beat: the Special Investigations Unit, aka the cold case squad. Ironic, given that it's the height of a blazing hot August. But even these hardened homicide veterans are chilled to the bone as a dormant murder case stirs to life—leading Byrne and Balzano into the dark heart of their city, their souls, and a psyche of pure evil.

Months before, a teenage runaway's body was found in the desolate, dangerous North Philly district dubbed the Badlands. Dead runaways were no novelty on these mean streets, but the Caitlin O'Riordan case was different. Her corpse was found in the basement of a rancid tenement apartment, the inexplicable cause of death: drowning. In the end, nothing was solved and the case was closed.

Now a confession to the bizarre murder on the police tipline sends Byrne and Balzano rushing to make an arrest. But instead of a killer, they discover a ghastly scene: a jar containing human remains—along with a cryptic clue leading to an unlikely witness. Laura Somerville lives far from the squalor of the Badlands, and seemingly light-years from any connection to a murdered runaway. But moments after discussing the case with this elegant lady, Byrne and Balzano make another grisly discovery, and find an enigmatic word spelled out in Scrabble tiles.

Across town, another victim's shallow grave reveals deeper mysteries. Her secret diaries portray a woman haunted by a shocking past, and obsessed with finding a depraved killer.

Now, as the body count grows, a terrifying design literally takes shape. Pieces of a gruesome puzzle are being set into place by the cruel hands of a madman using the city as his game board. His playthings are the innocent, and his opponents—and pawns—are Byrne and Balzano, who must, before time runs out, decipher the truth about a shadowy house of horrors and its elusive master.

Internationally acclaimed author Richard Montanari works his black magic to spine-tingling perfection in *Badlands*, conjuring all the relentless suspense, dark twists of intrigue, and full-throttle action that make his brilliant, engrossing novels required reading for thriller fans.

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From reader reviews:

Angel Gardner:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love Badlands: A Novel of Suspense (Byrne and Balzano Book 4), you can enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

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Badlands: A Novel of Suspense (Byrne and Balzano Book 4) can be one of your basic books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into delight arrangement in writing Badlands: A Novel of Suspense (Byrne and Balzano Book 4) although doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource information that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information could drawn you into fresh stage of crucial pondering.

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