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RendezVous Crime

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Memories are Murder

Lou Allin

**Someone has a secret in the bush...
and they'll do anything to protect it**

In the fifth Belle Palmer mystery, when northern Ontario realtor Belle's associate is called away in mid-season, she hires a flashy young woman named Yoyo, slightly pregnant and fresh out of jail. Then Belle's long-lost high-school boyfriend rents a property on her road.

Zoologist Gary Myers is studying the behaviour of elk released in the nearby wilderness. When his partner Mutt arrives, Gary is found drowned near his research camp. Did he fall and hit his head, or did a more sinister event occur? Mutt and Belle start to compile Gary's research. At his office, field notebooks and water-test results are not in the files, but Gary's notes mention a dead albino baby elk, and they discover that tissue samples have been sent for analysis. Meanwhile someone has broken into Gary's

cottage, taking a camera and laptop.

Shortly after, Belle becomes delirious, turns off the road, crashes, and ends up hallucinating in a desolate area. Hospital tests reveal that she has been given a date-rape drug.

A clipping of Gary's about poisoning on remote reserves leads Belle to revisit the place of his demise, bringing Yoyo to collect water samples. Seconds after they set off, they are pursued at gunpoint. In a rapidly escalating and dramatic denouement, they must paddle into the deep bush—with no way back.

Will Yoyo's baby make an untimely appearance, only to put them in fatal jeopardy with its cries? Ultimately, who has been causing havoc in the wilderness and will stop at nothing, even murder, to cover their crimes?

-The Belle Palmer series, which also includes *Northern Winters Are Murder*, *Blackflies Are Murder*, *Bush Poodles Are Murder* and *Murder Eh?*, has gained a strong following and recognition from both Canadian and American crime readers.

-The distinctly Canadian Sudbury setting appeals also to northern readers and regional media.

Napoleon and Company

178 Willowdale Ave., Ste 201, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M2N 4Y8
(416) 730-9052 or 1-877-730-9052 Fax: (416) 730-8096
napoleon@napoleonandcompany.com napoleonandcompany.com

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