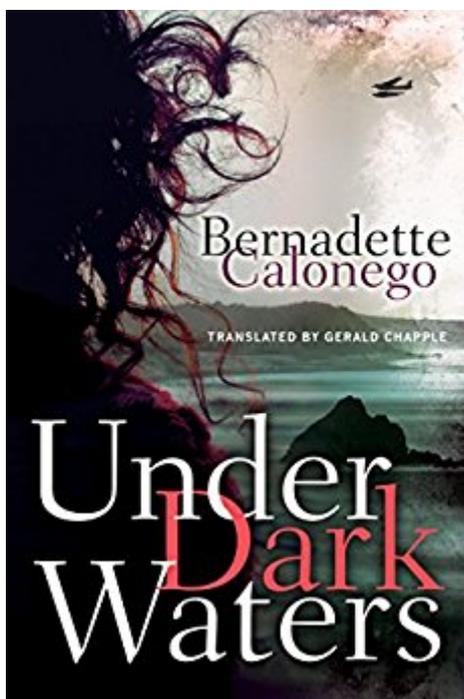


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# Under Dark Waters



## Synopsis

Driven by lingering pain and grief, historian Sonya Werner leaves her home in Switzerland to travel across the world. Officially, she's tracking down the German author Else Seel, who had left Berlin in the 1920s to marry a Canadian trapper and homestead in the wild woods of British Columbia. But the real reason for her trip is much more difficult to face: three years before, her husband took off to this part of the world on one of his usual mountain-climbing adventures, and never returned. Only after the police brought her word of his death—and the mysterious circumstances in which they found him—did Sonya discover the simultaneous disappearance of her beautiful best friend, Odette, and the possibility that her husband had been lying to her all along. Now, haunted by sorrow and jealousy, Sonya sets out on a dangerous mission to discover the truth, and to try to put back together the pieces of her broken heart.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a book that was originally released in Germany a few years ago and now has been translated for US release by Gerald Chapple. I think the author will gain a vast audience in the US for her work as this was a very entertaining read. There are actually two mysteries in this book.

Sonya Werner is a historian who travels to Canada to research the life of a German poet. The poet, Else Seel, is a real-life poet who left Berlin in the 1920s to marry a Canadian trapper who lived in the wild woods of British Columbia. Interestingly, the chapters dealing with Else Seel's son, Rubert, and also Alan Blackman, who went to school with Else's children, and Alice Harrison, one of Else's neighbors, were taken from actual conversations the author had with these real-life people. The mystery concerning this poet centers on the reason why a poet would leave the interesting life of the literary world in Berlin for the harsh, lonely life in the woods with a man she only knew from a newspaper ad. I found this part of the book to be very interesting and to learn in the author's postscript that this was based on fact made it even more fascinating. The second mystery involves the death of Sonya Werner's husband and step-son several years before her visit to Canada. She was never given a satisfactory account of the plane crash that took their lives so takes the opportunity while researching the poet's life to try to find out more about their deaths. Her search leads her into dangerous territory and there are some very suspenseful moments. One mystery leads to another and she has no idea who she can trust. Quite an unpredictable roller coaster ride. This is a well-constructed plot with many twists and turns. I found a few of the sections a bit improbable but that didn't take away from the enjoyment of the book as a whole. I received an ARC of this book from the publisher through NetGalley in return for an honest review.

This is a fantastic new book from this author, Bernadette Calonego. The research that has gone into the book gave not only a fascinating aspect to the plot of the story but gave wonderful insight into the way of life and culture of many of the peoples who live in remote communities along the coast of British Columbia. Perhaps this is what made the main character Sonya Werner so authentic - her journey of research took the reader on a wonderful journey into that research the opened up a previously unknown view of this hearty but tough Coastal way of life in remote communities. This also takes you into the world of big businesses and where it intersects with the old sacred ways of many First Nations peoples and how this has created tensions in communities. This was a beautiful story of friendships, of the yearning for truth, and the longing to find the beauty that is found when we seek out those who have the stories of tradition and are keepers of those stories. Rich characters take you on this journey. Great new book to have on your 'must read' list.

This new English translation of *Under Dark Waters* is a fast-paced story of mystery and adventure, which takes place on Canada's west coast. I enjoyed the gutsiness of the main character, Swiss

historian Sonya Werner, who easily evokes sympathy as she explores coastal British Columbia and the Yukon wilderness to discover the truth of her husband's death. The book was hard to put down. In various ways, Werner's journey mirrors that of her research subject, a real-life German author Else Seel, who left a cultured life in Europe to spend years in isolation with her trapper husband in remote B.C. The historian in me loved this angle. And such parallel tales of two strong women in one book are rare. Combine this with murder, romance, and surveillance by strange men and you've got an intriguing read.

Couldn't guess what would happen next in this novel set in the Canadian Pacific Northwest. Great atmosphere that brings to life the rain and lonely fog that can hide secrets and obscure the truth. A good read right to the end.

I read "Under Dark Waters" when I was working in Africa and moved to Canada's Wild West a few years later; how much Calonego's gripping novel had to do with my desire to move to this vast land remains a mystery | one thing I am certain about is that you will be too anxious to put the book down and fear at the same time to arrive on its last page.

This was an interesting book and the story was a great one if you like twists and turns but it had so many characters and it was hard to keep them all straight. I would recommend it. It kept my interest

I've been to places in this story. They became more focused as I read. I realized their historical importance as well as their weather. The pieces of the story are well laid out and magically fit together. This is a good read.

I read this book a few years ago in the Dutch translation ("Het Donkere Water") and I am glad it is now available in English. This book is hard to put down with its many surprising twists and turns in the plot and the surprising ending. A good thriller. But it has more, much more. I liked all the historical details about the life of Else Seel, the German poet who left a cultured life in Berlin for trying circumstances in the Canadian wilderness. Having moved to Canada myself, Calonego's descriptions of homesickness, loneliness, love and longing in a strange land totally ring true. I travelled to several of the locations in the book and her descriptions are spot on. I am sure the rest is similarly truthful. This is a beautiful land full of adventure and hardship. I have not read another book that captures that as well as this one does. Calonego has done a beautiful job combining

Canada with a well-executed thriller. It was hard to find my copy; I had lend it out so many times.

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