

Ring of Deceit

Logline

A Coroner's Investigator discovers that her own runaway daughter is the key witness in a shocking conspiracy involving human trafficking, sexual exploitation and murder.

Synopsis

Betty Bulowski's relentless personality has helped her become a rarity in a male-dominated profession. A tough-as-nails Coroner's Investigator, she approaches every inquest with a fierce determination to get at the truth. Pitbull-owski is what many in the Chicago Police and Justice Departments call her. Not to her face of course.

At home, Betty has always tried to inculcate her competitive, go-it-alone values into her daughter. But seventeen year old Lucy is made of less steely stuff. After years of being pampered by her father - Betty's now estranged husband – she has different ideas. Not for her the college grind her mother tries to push her into. She wants to be a model.

With Lucy's eighteenth birthday only days away the dispute escalates. But duty forces a time-out when Betty is assigned the case of a young oriental girl whose body is found in the streets early one morning. Her pockets are stuffed with condoms and twenty dollar bills, but no ID. Pathology tests indicate she fell, or was thrown, from a speeding vehicle.

All attempts to identify the girl fail. But Betty begins to suspect that she may be one of the Chinese twins brought into the country by an adoption agency with links to The Knights of Malta, a fraternal philanthropic society. The girls and their adoptive family have since disappeared.

Meanwhile, Betty surprises Lucy and her boyfriend taking racy photos. After an angry exchange, Lucy quickly grabs a few things and disappears, leaving behind her laptop. On it, Betty makes a startling discovery - an erotic website with Lucy as the main attraction.

Betty is now desperate to locate her missing daughter. At the same time, whilst pursuing her coroner's investigation, she uncovers circumstantial evidence pointing to human trafficking, sexual slavery and abuse. Have young orphans been brought into the country under the guise of adoption then forced into prostitution? Have the prestigious Knights of Malta corrupted officials and enforced a code of silence in order to protect their own?

As suspects begin dying mysteriously and indications of a major conspiracy and cover-up increase, Betty is suddenly faced with an agonizing dilemma. She discovers that her search for a mysterious key witness and her search for her daughter are about to coincide. Lucy has dark secrets linking her to the dead girl and her dangerous friends. To expose the murderous conspirators, the details of her daughter's secret life must also be exposed.