

Last Song Sung by David A Poulsen

4 stars

There are cold cases and *really* cold cases

A detective procedural, set in Calgary, Canada, brings together again the team of ex-cop Mike Cobb and freelance journalist Adam Cullen in Poulsen's third book of the series.

When a young woman arrives at Cobb's office asking them to find out what happened to her grandmother, Ellie Foster, who was kidnapped after a shooting fifty-one years ago, our two heroes are doubtful whether they will be able to help. In 1965 Ellie, a singer, who was expected to rival Joni Mitchell, took a cigarette break in the alley outside The Depression coffee house. With her were two of her backing group. Out of nowhere a car speeds into the alley, two men get out and the two men are shot dead before Ellie is bundled into the car and is never seen again.

Mike and Adam agree to take on the case for one week to see whether they are able to find out anything at all; unlike many PIs they are unwilling to take a client's money if they are unable to help.

Despite the amount of time which has elapsed and the fact that there was only one, unreliable, witness they do make some headway and decide to continue.

Along the way they touch base with another ex-cop who has been unable to let go of another cold case which has haunted him ever since.

What follows is an enjoyable read where we are introduced to Mike and Adam's families who add a realism to the story. This is needed as the leads they obtain are very tenuous and one could be forgiven for deciding that their quest is less about detective work and more down to sheer dumb luck.

There is plenty to think about as the plot diverts in different directions, and despite some doubts over the credibility as the mystery unravels, it is an interesting and absorbing read.

Pashtpaws

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.