

Lost Voyage by Pauline Rowson

3 stars

An Art Marvik adventure

When Art Marvik (National Intelligence Marine Squad) receives a phone call from Helen Shannon telling him she needs him right away, he feels that there could be severe repercussions.

Helen had been working for Ian Bradshaw and had found herself backed into a situation on his boat. As she was getting off the boat, which was moored in the marina, having rejected his advances – costing her her job – she had overheard two men on another boat talking about a target being ‘taken out’. Feeling vulnerable she had called Art for help.

The situation worsens, with Bradshaw having his throat cut and a friend of Helen’s, Gavin Yardley, disappearing and Art and his friend Shaun Strathen are hard pushed to unravel the mystery.

What appears to be at the heart of the matter, the disappearance of a salvage vessel in the North Atlantic in 2003 takes on a sinister dimension.

The plot is skilfully handled with more than a few twists and turns and the characters are well fleshed-out. However, for me, there are too many questions asked and too many possible scenarios suggested. In addition, I feel that there is too much ‘looking back’ at what has happened previously in Marvik’s life. Such that this is difficult to read as a ‘stand-alone’.

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