Lincoln Prairie Homicide Detective Marti MacAlister does not get along with her new boss. Lieutenant Gail Nicholson disapproves of what she calls Martis sloppy work habits, and regards her success as a fluke rather than the result of hard work and skill. Marti thinks the woman just may be feeling overly competitive with her, as one of the only other women on the job, and a black woman at that, but Marti knows she must put up with her bosses ill will or else she could be out of job.

When a homeless woman turns up dead, Lt. Nicholson dismisses the case. After all, being a suburb of Chicago, Lincoln Prairie has its share of homeless citizens, and another dead one—especially in the winter—ranks pretty low on the lieutenants radar screen. Shes more worried about an assault on a city alderman. But unable to let the womans death go, Marti takes it upon herself to figure out the truth, even if it costs Marti her job. Could this homicide be part of a larger pattern? Can Marti find the killer before another person turns up dead?

The twelfth book in Eleanor Taylor Blands acclaimed series, A Cold and Silent Dying is a suspenseful, compelling, compassionate story.

My Personal Review:
With a change in administration Lincoln Prairie homicide detective Marti McAllister reports to Lieutenant Gail Nicholson. This situation neither woman likes because the lieutenant wants to be the only African-American in the department and Marti because she put too many years into being a
police officer to deal with petty garbage. Lt. Nicholson is recording every move Marti makes waiting until she has enough evidence to fire her.

While Marti is coping with the Lieutenant, she and her partner are dealing with a case in which two homeless people were murdered in an abandoned house. A Desert Storm vet was in the house but they don't have enough evidence to arrest him. The lieutenant wants Marti and her partner to forget about trying to get more evidence on the vet because the public cares more about a man who served his country than two homeless people. The case is far from closed because more bodies turn up murdered in the same way the first two victims were. Marti doesn't know it but this perpetrator is known to her and poses a danger to her and those she cares about.

The animosity between the two cops feels realistic because Marti’s boss is a woman who wants no competition and she knows that her subordinate could take the limelight away from her. The case is solved by good old fashioned detective work with many officers putting in plenty of man hours to catch the perpetrator before he strikes again. Eleanor Taylor Bland is an expert at creating true-to-life characters for readers who like strong independent women will definitely want to read A COLD AND DYING DAY.

Harriet Klausner

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