



Spring 2006

RendezVous
Crime

MURDER, EH?

A Belle Palmer Mystery

Lou Allin

Northern Ontario realtor Belle Palmer is showing the lakefront mansion of a prominent businesswoman when she discovers the lady strangled in her bathtub. Could this third break-and-enter death reveal a serial killer at large in the Nickel Capital? The woman's only child, a precocious twelve-year-old nicknamed Micro, comes to stay with Belle's neighbours the Desrosiers and wins her heart and theirs. But after an argument, the boy disappears, riding off into the cold September night on his bicycle. His computer shows a cryptic correspondence

that sends the police checking sex offender registers as an Amber Alert is issued.

Racing against time as fall temperatures plummet, Belle hooks up with a bumbling PI hired by the boy's father and joins the search. After uncovering some unpleasant facts about the activities of people she thought she knew and trusted, Belle must flee with the boy into the bush, where she has every chance of becoming lost and disoriented, chased by murderers who will stop at nothing to protect a multi-million-dollar criminal empire.

The Belle Palmer series, which includes the Arthur Ellis shortlisted title, **Blackflies Are Murder**, has gained a strong following and recognition from both Canadian and American crime readers and media.

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