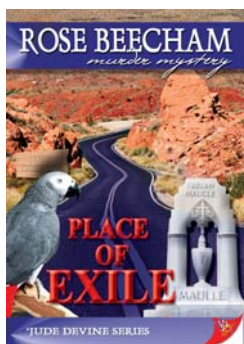


## Book Review: February 2008

by RLYnne (reviewer at JAW)



### **Place of Exile**

**Rose Beecham**

**ISBN: 978-1-933110-98-1**

**Trade paper, 256, \$15.95**

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**Lesbian Mystery**

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*Editor-in-Chief*

*& Publisher*

*Place of Exile* is the third book in the Jude Devine mystery series. Set in the Four Corners, it vividly shows the contrasts of the small towns, open wilderness, and the closeness to the homes of the rich and famous for which this area is famous. With its wide emptiness, the Four Corners provide the perfect place for individuals who wish to "fly under the radar." Jude finds it the ideal spot to heal from her work with the FBI's Crimes Against Children unit. Now working with the Montezuma County Sheriff, (and undercover for the FBI), she has her hands full with White Supremacists, the Russian Mafia, and a former paratrooper who seems to be stashing arms and disappearing at odd times.

Beecham deals with these weighty subjects with a sharp wit, and a certain "tongue in cheek" touch that keeps the book moving and engaging. Her use of current international politics adds a cut-from-the-headlines element of realism to her story. Her characters show growth, and the enigmatic Jude opens up more in each book. It is particularly revealing when Beecham allows the reader to see Devine through the eyes of her subordinates.

*Place of Exile* is an exciting read, as Jude goes from one crisis to another. Through it all, she has to deal with the return of her former lover, Dr. Mercy Westmoreland. The skill with which Jude handles the personal and professional demands are part of what makes her such a compelling character and Beecham's series such a "must read."

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