



## Red Leaves

By Paullina Simons

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From the internationally bestselling author of *The Bronze Horseman*, the tale of an Ivy League campus devastated by the intractable mystery at the heart of a student's death

Four students and their relationships lie at the core of this dazzling novel of mystery, murder and suspense, set in a snowbound Ivy League college. Their focal point is brilliant basketball star Kristina Kim – apparently happy and stable, but soon revealed to have hidden secrets.

When she is found dead in the snow, it falls to local detective Spencer O'Malley, a man who had half fallen in love with her, to investigate the crime. The spotlight falls on her three closest friends... and a story as gothic and intense as a modern-day *Wuthering Heights* begins to unravel.

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## Red Leaves By Paullina Simons Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

After her heralded but somewhat overwritten first novel, *Tully*, Simons has sharpened her craftsmanship to produce this suspenseful work about four friends at Dartmouth College whose close relationship is coming apart. The disintegration doesn't appear mortal, but it is. During a cold Thanksgiving weekend and its aftermath, Kristina, Jim, Conni and Albert study, play and occasionally sleep together, passionately addicted to each other's company. When Kristina's nude and frozen body is found in a snowbank, having been concealed there for some days, young small-town detective Spencer O'Malley investigates her death. He is drawn into the group's games and lies just as he was drawn to Kristina's compelling liveliness when he met her the day before she was killed. Why did her best friends fail to report her missing? Their answers to his fervent questions reveal a network of hidden secrets and jealousies that have long existed among them. But the hardly surprising solution to the crime doesn't appear until three years later, when the full significance of the title becomes clear. The narrative has striking similarities to the events in Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*, but Simons is not as fluent a writer, nor does the plot carry the philosophical resonance of Tartt's more sophisticated work. Yet Simons handles her characters and setting (both the New Hampshire campus and the moneyed neighborhoods of Greenwich, Conn.) with a certain skill, creating mystery from the ordinary, protected lives of these Ivy League kids, slowly peeling away their deceptions to reveal denial, cowardice and chilling indifference. In doing so, she tells an often engrossing story. BOMC selection; audio rights to Brilliance Audio; author tour.

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From Library Journal

At 21, Kristina Kim is a senior at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. She is beautiful, pleasant, and the star player on the women's basketball team. Surrounded by her close friends Jim Shaw, Conni Tobias, and Albert Maplethorpe, Kristina has her whole life before her. But a week after Thanksgiving her body is found frozen in the deep snow near her dormitory. Spencer Patrick O'Malley, the detective in charge, coincidentally met Kristina shortly before her death and even had a date with her the week after the holiday. As Spencer conducts his investigation, he uncovers many peculiarities; for example, why did none of her trusted friends report Kristina missing in the nine days previous to the discovery of her body? When Spencer learns that Kristina died leaving \$9 million to her friends, he digs deeper and finds a frightful secret. Simons's (*Tully*, LJ 4/15/94) characterizations are excellent, and she quickly draws the reader deeply into the nuances of the story. Highly recommended for fiction collections. Maria A. Perez-Stable, Western Michigan Univ. Libs., Kalamazoo

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From [Booklist](#)

Simons, author of *Tully* (1994), continues her fascination with the importance of friendship in young adulthood and its ability to supplant an impaired family. Beautiful, brainy, and athletic 21-year-old Kristina Sinclair should be having the time of her life at Dartmouth College. However, when she is found dead after one of her midnight jaunts (walking naked along the length of a wall on a snow-covered bridge), the drama of her calamitous past comes to life. Detective Spencer O'Malley, infatuated with Kristina shortly before her death, embarks on a mission to uncover the mysteries surrounding her existence and sudden demise. When he realizes that Kristina's body was left in the snow for days and none of her close friends found her absence alarming, they become potential murder suspects. Although the bond between Kristina and her friends is not fully developed, Simons compensates with an intensive and enthralling treatment of the tragic incident that derails their lives. *Liz Rifken*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Margherita Pettit:**

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. These are reading whatever they get because their hobby is definitely reading a book. How about the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, man feel need book after they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will want this Red Leaves.

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#### **Heidi Crenshaw:**

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