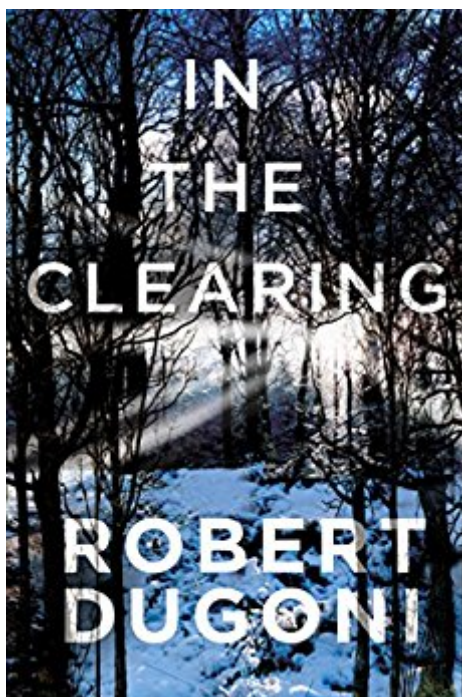


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In The Clearing (The Tracy Crosswhite Series Book 3)



Synopsis

A Wall Street Journal bestseller Detective Tracy Crosswhite has a skill, and a soft spot, for tackling unsolved crimes. Having lost her own sister to murder at a young age, Tracy has dedicated her career to bringing justice and closure to the families and friends of victims of crime. So when Jenny, a former police academy classmate and protégé, asks Tracy to help solve a cold case that involves the suspicious suicide of a Native American high school girl forty years earlier, Tracy agrees. Following up on evidence Jenny's detective father collected when he was the investigating deputy, Tracy probes one small town's memory and finds dark, well-concealed secrets hidden within the community's fabric. Can Tracy uphold the promise she's made to the dead girl's family and deliver the truth of what happened to their daughter? Or will she become the next victim?

Book Information

File Size: 3959 KB

Print Length: 368 pages

Publisher: Thomas & Mercer (May 17, 2016)

Publication Date: May 17, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B013UVNZ7A

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #86 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #1 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Series #3 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers > Legal #4 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Crime > Murder

Customer Reviews

When I read the author's first book in the series featuring detective Tracy Crosswhite - "Sister's Grave" - I absolutely loved it and vowed to read the second, "Her Final Breath." Alas, that one somehow got lost in my ever-growing list of to-read books, which I'm still hoping to rectify as soon

as possible; so when I was offered the opportunity to read this one, the third in the series, I jumped on it (thank you to the author and publisher, via NetGalley, for providing me with a copy in exchange for a review). Tracy, whose beloved sister was murdered when they were young, is now a detective and intent on solving cases involving other murder victims. Here, she is called in when a man, married to the daughter of a high-powered attorney, has been murdered. Apparently, he was killed by his soon-to-be-divorced wife as an act of self-defense as their son looked on. Concurrently, Tracy and her BF Dan attend the funeral of Buzz Almond, father of Tracy's former police academy classmate Jenny, who is now the sheriff in the rather remote Washington county where her late father once held the same position. Some 40 years ago, Buzz investigated the death of a Native American girl who, it was ruled at the time, committed suicide. Never satisfied with that ruling and believing the death to be murder, Buzz kept the file open; now, because it was so important to her late father, Jenny asks Tracy to look into it. Partly because of her friendship with Jenny and partly because of her experiences with her own sister, Tracy agrees - even though she must conduct the investigation on her own time. It is the cold case, in fact, that consumes the lion's share of this book.

My Rating: 3.5 stars In this third installment of the Tracy Crosswhite series there are two cases. The first case involves a domestic abuse/murder in Seattle. This case is very secondary, and quite cut and dry with a minor and obvious twist. Tracy isn't involved much in this case, which is quickly passed on to Tracy's partner Kins and their fellow detectives who, unfortunately, don't get much page time. The bulk of the book deals with a forty year old cold case involving the apparent suicide of Kimi Kanasket, a Native American teenager in Klickitat County, Washington. When case notes written by the now deceased sheriff come to light forty years after Kimi's death, the sheriff's daughter, a former police academy classmate of Tracy's, asks for some help to determine if Kimi's death truly was a suicide. Tracy is motivated to help solve cold cases due to the loss of her sister so many years ago and her desire to help family members get closure for their loss. This story line jumps back and forth from current day to 1976 as well as between Seattle and the small, tight-knit community in rural Washington state. For this case there were some twists and turns, as well as some interesting suspects and townspeople but overall there just seemed to be something lacking compared to the first two books in the series. Tracy is still the detective with a nose for solving crimes and I really like her. She's strong, has a good head on her shoulders but has some very real issues in her personal life, namely how the death of her sister still haunts her. I think seeing how this ongoing loss affects her gives her a very relatable and human feel and not just the head strong detective out to get the bad guys.

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