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November's Past (Larry Macklin Mysteries Book 1)



Synopsis

The job of criminal investigator in a rural Florida county is never easy, but it's even harder when your father is the sheriff. When Larry Macklin investigates the murder of a mutilated stranger, the search for the victim's identity intersects with an arson investigation. The common thread is a small group of people who were in high school together in the '70s, including Larry's own father. Before Larry can rule any of them out as the killer, one of them turns up dead. Why is the murderer targeting this particular group? What past secrets could be worth killing for now? Larry is running out of time and suspects, and his search for the truth may make him the next victim.

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Customer Reviews

This had me gripped from the first page! Exciting mystery with a surprise ending that I didn't see coming " and I'm a pretty seasoned reader of mysteries / crime fiction. I also found it fascinating to learn more about rural Florida " a part of the US that I'm not familiar with at all and which is nothing like the fairyland-amusement-park-beach-and-casinos facade that is always presented to tourists! Great cast of characters " even the small supporting ones " you felt

like you really got to know them. And you really feel for the hero, deputy sheriff Larry Macklin, who is trying to solve a disturbing murder and the mystery of several arson attacks, while also carving out an identity and career for himself in the shadow of a father who is a well-known local authority figure. His relationship with his father was one of the most interesting parts of the story for me – and his relationship with his father’s dog, a slobbery Great Dane named Mauser, who stole every scene he was in! I also liked the (potential) girlfriend – she was feisty and it was cute the way Larry was so awkward around her. I had read this author’s previous book (a darker thriller called “Broken State”) and this one has the same brilliant dialogue. You almost feel like you’re eavesdropping on the characters’ conversations. They sound “real” and not like in some books where the characters sound like they’re reading from a script. Parts of the story are quite dark & graphic – there’s mutilation, domestic abuse and gang stuff – all in a day’s work for a county deputy sheriff – but none of it is gratuitous. If you like fluffy, cozy type mysteries, though, this probably isn’t for you. But if you enjoy grittier, darker, realistic crime fiction, then this should be a very enjoyable read!

I am so pleased that I decided to buy this book and get acquainted with this author. After years of reading murder mysteries, I have become burned out with most of them. They all seem to have the same type of premise, and the characters (detectives) are all similar. This author’s detective reminds me of one of the only other mystery detective series that I enjoy, Craig Johnson’s LONGMIRE series. The characters are believable and have strengths and faults. I really appreciated the humor in this book, and sometimes laughed out loud. I live in rural north Florida, which is a bonus to me as I recognize some of the locations and have the privilege of living in a small town. I truly enjoyed reading this book.

An intriguing mystery. Larry the Sheriff’s son is much better than he gives himself credit for. The story flows very nicely and the end will surprise you. I love that the main girl is a veterinarian assistant and there’s a dog (being that I’m an animal lover). Just a most pleasant read.

I enjoyed this book, it got right to the action and jumped right into the investigation without all the descriptive stuff I’ve been forced to endure trying to get through some of the crime novels I’ve chosen lately. I liked the characters and the humorous banter between the father and son as well, refreshing. I also like the fact that there was just a hint of romance. I even took a liking to the newly acquired snitch and his surprised role in saving Macklin’s life. Would definitely recommend.

Larry Macklin is a criminal investigator in a small rural Florida county. This is not what he wants to do the rest of his life â | but his father is the Sheriff. And daddy wants son to follow his footsteps. The crime in this small town is usually small-time stuff. But then a man is found brutally murdered. And a couple of blocks away a house is burned to the ground. Larry and his partner, Pete, plus another investigator, at first consider this an accidental fire.. but then Larry finds threads that connect the arson to his murdered man. And then more threads lead him to a group of people who used to hang around together some 30 years earlier â |. A group that includes Larryâ™s father. And then thereâ™s another body. Before he body count gets any bigger, Larry must determine why this group of people are now being targeted. What happened all those years ago? And who is next on the killerâ™s list? Larryâ™s running out of time and suspects â | but then everyone has secrets. The book is well written, the characters are finely drawn. I like Larry Macklin .. he has a sense of humor, although it comes across as somewhat sarcastic. He doesnâ™t like his job particularly, but he hasnâ™t decided what he wants to be when he grows up. And he loves his daddy. The suspense is not over the top, but there is enough combined with the mystery to keep the reader turning pages. Many thanks to A. E. Howe and NetGalley, who provided a digital copy in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

A very entertaining story about a deputy given a difficult murder case to solve. Almost as soon as the story begins I could tell this was going to be a good book and it did not disappoint. The characters are easy to like and private lives add to your enjoyment of the basic plot. I enjoyed every minute of the book and was sorry it ended.

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