



The Story Teller

Margaret Coel

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Father O'Malley and Arapaho attorney Vicky Holden return! When a sacred tribal artifact disappears from a museum, it's more than Arapaho history that is lost--it's an Arapaho student's life...

From back cover

When the Arapaho storyteller discovers that a sacred tribal artifact is missing from a local museum, attorney Vicky Holden is called to investigate. The lost treasure: a one-of-a-kind ledger book and the only eyewitness account of Arapaho history on the plains. The book is worth millions, so when the museum says they never even had it, Vicky's suspicion is aroused. Then she learns that an Arapaho student mysteriously died while researching the ledger. Vicky and Father John must begin a deadly search for the sacred treasure - and the killer. Lives are at stake, and an irreplaceable piece of Arapaho history could be lost. It is up to Vicky Holden to keep the story alive...

The Story Teller Details

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Author : Margaret Coel

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From Reader Review The Story Teller for online ebook

Roberta says

Wow! This Coel mystery is chock full of interesting history and action! The history involves an event that occurred in 1864--the Sand Creek Massacre (also known as the Battle of Sand Creek) where both Cheyenne and Arapahoe were killed by a 700-man Colorado militia. The dead and injured were almost all women and children. The involvement of both attorney Vicky Holden and Father John O'Malley in finding the true story of the historic event and what is behind a number of murders leads to high drama. This is one of my favorites in Coel's excellent mystery series.

Lori says

Artifacts are being returned by museums to tribes via a government act, but an inventory missing the ledger is what drew attorney Vicky Holden to Denver where the murder occurred. Father John O'Malley is on the campus of Regis University in Denver to try to secure funding for a museum. Meanwhile a graduate student from the Wind River Reservation is murdered and his death seems to be linked to his thesis. Father John and Vicky assist investigators in finding the perpetrators, but the way they reach their conclusions holds the reader's interest. I listened to the audio book read by Stephanie Brush who does a good job with this series.

Sandra says

Margaret Coel has become my substitute for Tony Hillerman. Vicky Holden and Father John O'Malley are the characters rather than Chee and Leaphorn, while the Wind River Reservation of Wyoming replaces the Four Corners region of Arizona and New Mexico. I enjoy the mysteries but always find myself going to my travel guide or Google Earth and looking at the places that are central to the story. Usually have to google to find out more info on the plot as well. This particular story concerns museums, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and the Sand Creek Massacre. As with Hillerman, Coel writes with reverence about the customs and traditions of the Native American tribes in her stories. We feel the loss of their way of life as well as their struggle to keep those customs and traditions from disappearing.

Gilbert Baron says

A story with beautiful history

Vicky and Father John investigate the murder of a student that finds something that he knows validates his research. Many people are not happy with what it proves and are willing to do anything to stop it. One of the more difficult Margaret Coel stories of the Arapaho Nation to stop reading once you start.

Jan says

Father O'Malley and Arapaho attorney Vicky Holden return! When a sacred tribal artifact disappears from a museum, it's more than Arapaho history that is lost--it's an Arapaho student's life...

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When the Arapaho storyteller discovers that a sacred tribal artifact is missing from a local museum, attorney Vicky Holden is called to investigate. The lost treasure: a one-of-a-kind ledger book and the only eyewitness account of Arapaho history on the plains. The book is worth millions, so when the museum says they never even had it, Vicky's suspicion is aroused. Then she learns that an Arapaho student mysteriously died while researching the ledger. Vicky and Father John must begin a deadly search for the sacred treasure - and the killer. Lives are at stake, and an irreplaceable piece of Arapaho history could be lost. It is up to Vicky Holden to keep the story alive...

Mark says

Margaret Coel's Wind River Reservation series is certainly an able replacement for Tony Hillerman and/or his daughter Anne...with a touch of Jan Karon's Fr. Timothy thrown in...in this one Fr. O'Malley and Vicky drawn into a hunt for a priceless "ledger book" that details Arapahoe involvement in the Cheyenne dominated history of the Sandy Creek Massacre by the murder of a young scholar from "The Rez" researching that history...plenty of twists & turns &, like the Hillerman's, a loving look at Native American culture!

Carol says

I'm a sucker for this series ... not sure exactly why. This one started off a bit slowly but picked up and then seemed to move along quickly enough. The descriptions of a sacred tribal artifact - the "ledger book" - kept by the Arapaho to tell the story of the native people on the plains were thrilling to me. My mom always told me we had a bit of native American blood, and I always loved the stories of the different tribal nations. For some reason this series calls to me, and I've enjoyed every one so far. This was Wind River Reservation #4, and I just downloaded #5 onto my Kindle! One of the main characters is Father O'Malley, a priest who originally was reassigned to the reservation Mission because he is a recovering alcoholic. The other main character is Vickie Holden, who is Arapaho and an attorney. Together these two solve problems and mysteries, usually getting into trouble along the way. If you're thinking about reading these, it's best to start at #1, The Eagle Catcher. Worth your time, IMHO.

Wanda Hargrove says

Vicky Holden goes to Denver to sign off on receiving Arapaho artifacts at the Denver Museum of the West. Only problem there's an elder who swears in 1920 he saw a book of Arapaho History. A picture book was written by an ancestor of his. But the museum claims they don't have it. Vicky sets out to find it, only a graduate student was murdered and his body found in the river. He was a graduate student who saw that book. Vicky is now determined to find the book.

Father John O'Malley is in Denver to speak with the Provencial about turning one of the buildings at St. Francis Mission into a museum. Only he finds out Vicky is also in Denver and soon the both of them are looking for the missing book. Two other young people are murdered and now Vicky and Father John are on the trail of the book with a pair of murderers chasing them and someone else who's pulling the strings.

Mike says

This is a very well written book in the Wind River Reservation Series. I originally found the series while looking on line and finding that Aimee Thurlo had died. I began with the first book in the series and have progressed to number four. The quality of her writing has definitely improved.

Late this Spring I had the pleasure of driving across the country. On the way we stopped at the Sand Creek Massacre National Park in Colorado. (Horrendously, the nearest town is named after the leader of the massacre.) I had always read of the massacre as an attack on the Cheyenne Indians. The museum there did justice to the Arapaho as well. While browsing in the gift shop I found a non-fiction book that dealt with the life of Chief Niwot (Left Hand) - written by Margaret Coel. Having read the first two of her fiction books, I picked this one up. In writing The Story Teller, it is clear where she obtained much of her material.

I highly recommend this book.

Charlene says

4.5 stars, rounding up

First off, and very important, DO NOT read the blurbs, descriptions, or covers, or too many reviews about this series of books. There are too many spoilers floating about, and you don't want to miss the enjoyment of reading the book without all the hype. It's that good; you don't want to spoil your sense of mystery!

In this book, Arapaho lawyer, Vicky Holden, seems to take first place in investigation and taking chances while trying to discover whether there is truth to an old Story Teller's recollections. How this becomes a legal and criminal nightmare is part of the excitement.

Father John O'Malley is on another mission, to start a museum of Arapaho artifacts on the Wind River Reservation, and he's determined to have a face-to-face conversation with his superior in Denver.

There was only one place, in Chapter 22, when I felt that the main characters missed an opportunity to preserve their "evidence," but that's a small niggle and does not detract from my decision to round up to five stars for this fourth book in Margaret Coel's wonderful series, begun in the late 1990s.

Debbie says

Interesting in this case, the information about Indian artifacts and the depth of the characterizations. My gripes have to do with character's behaviors, which can be judged to be entirely realistic. Very stubborn

people continue to do reckless things. So often someone should have gone to the police instead of rushing into danger. Vicky keeps tempting a priest, which kind of creeps me out, but the priest ought to wear a little something to remind others (and himself) that he is a priest. The murderer is the classic chatty antagonist. Vicky should give cop Steve a chance, there is obviously no where to go in the direction of Father John.

Jay Wright says

Why do I continue to read Coel's books. Well they are good whodunnits. In this book, a historical artifact is center stage. It is worth a great deal of money and someone is willing to kill for it. It is short, but delightful read.

Gerald Creasy says

#4 in the series and in my opinion, the best one yet. The reader begins to understand the bond between Father John and Vicky that transcends sexual attraction. Frankly, as a non-Catholic, I'm all for Father John ditching his collar as early as book one, but I understand that will never happen. This mystery of a lost Arapaho artifact and the murder of college students is very satisfying

Rick says

There is a small town near Boulder, Colorado, which I like to visit when I am out there. It's called Niwot. It's named after an Indian chief who was one of many Native Americans who were massacred at Sand Creek in 1864. This book references both Niwot and the Sand Creek Massacre; I like that. I like Margaret Coel's book too. It makes Native American culture come alive.

Barb says

Another incredibly complex tale from Margaret Coel. THE STORY TELLER is an elder of the Arapaho tribe, his position passed down from his father and grandfather. When the government decides to force museums to relinquish sacred and ritual objects from their collections back to the tribes, the old man remembers a special book, created by one of the survivors of a horrendous massacre in Colorado. The museum denies ever owning it; denies its very existence, but the evidence says otherwise. Meanwhile, a promising graduate student from the Wind River tribe is found murdered, and Father O'Malley along with Vicky Holden get involved.

Margaret Coel is an historian and is considered to be an expert on the Arapaho Tribe, and it shows. Her knowledge of artifacts along with her familiarity of the pervasive attitudes of the Arapahos makes this, not only a great mystery, but a lesson that enriches the readers knowledge. I'm so glad I started reading this series! Highly recommended.
