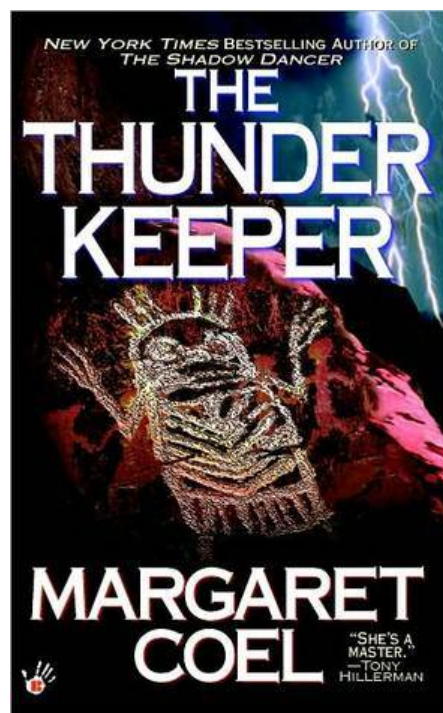




The Thunder Keeper

Margaret Coel

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The apparent suicide of a young Arapaho on sacred ground shocks the populace of the Wind River Reservation. But strange events following the death lead Vicky Holden and Father John O'Malley to suspect foul play.

The Thunder Keeper Details

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From Reader Review The Thunder Keeper for online ebook

Eloise says

Margaret Coel writes just the sort of mystery I love. She does not add endless pages of unnecessary what-ifs nor pads her story with unnecessary baggage. This one really grabbed me.

Cat. says

Oy. If the last book's tack was "partner abuse," this one is "can you trust priests?" I've never been a big fan of the whole Sanctity of the Confessional in the first place but I have to admit it's a perfect Jesuitical jumping-off place for a mystery: someone confesses to a crime and promises more to come so what can a priest do to fulfill the vows he's taken? He can't tell the police what he heard, and he can't let the confessor (whom he--naturally--doesn't recognize) get away with committing more crimes....

Meanwhile, his new assistant is ... problematic. Thank God Vicki has moved to Denver to keep herself away from temptation. Except, of course, she and Father O'Malley end up working on solving the same problem, working from two different ends of the story. She gets involved because a man who asked to meet her for lunch is killed in a hit-and-run accident right in front of her. Father O'Malley is trying to convince the FBI that no Indian would kill himself during a vision quest in a sacred area of the reservation. Oh, plus he's trying to stop his Unknown Confessor from doing any more killing. Eventually, they all these strands are woven together, with the exception of his problematic assistant who is completely unclear on the vows he took before becoming a priest. In one of the most telling exchanges in the series, and one of the most damning for the Catholic Church as a whole, he says to Father John: "I have no intention of leaving the priesthood. A priest forever, according to the Order of Melchizedek...I have a career, a reputation." He has no sense of honor, putting the Mission in the position of having sell property to pay off the woman he was "in love with."

Good ending to this book. I sure hope these two people get their act together pretty soon. Vicki's moving back to the rez so things will be more complicated in the next book, I'm sure.

Lorraine says

Good book

She is a good writer. Enjoy reading her books about the american Indian tribes in the mystery series. Sometimes the endings are surprising.

Cybercrone says

Enjoy these books mainly for the ambiance. Stories are enjoyable too.

Kathi says

Ok story. Good way to pass a rainy afternoon.

Denise Zendel says

Lawyer Vicky Holden, a member of the Arapaho Tribe, is on her way to meet a man who tells her he knows something that could have critical impact on the Tribe when she sees him run down on a downtown Denver street. The police think it's a random hit and run, but she can't let go of it.

Several hundred miles away, Father John O'Malley of the Saint Francis Mission on the Wind River Reservation hears of the alleged suicide of a young Arapaho while on a spiritual journey. He thinks this is ridiculous – people on spiritual quests do not kill themselves, particularly in such a sacred location. A stranger's confession to the Jesuit priest reveals the man's death was, in fact, a murder, the first of many to come. He can't break the seal of the confessional, but he still feels compelled to do what he can to save lives.

The hit and run and the "suicide" may be cover-up murders instead and both Vicky and Father John must uncover what it is about the reservation that people are willing to kill for. This will be a little difficult, because they're trying not to talk to each other. They have very strong feelings for each other, but each knows the relationship can never be more than what it is – friends. They are trying not to rely on each other quite so much. It's too painful, but time and time again they are drawn together, in service of the Tribe.

Vicky is an outsider in her own tribe, because she chose the untraditional path of leaving her children on the rez while she went off to law school, to make a better life for them. She is driven to help the tribe, even when it doesn't want, or respect her help. Father O'Malley was assigned to the rez from Boston, sort of as a punishment, so he could "dry out", but he came to love the land and its people. He, too, is driven to help the tribe, but has earned a place of respect over the years.

I just can't say enough good things about this series. The plots are always interesting – sometimes there's a historical thread, sometimes it's a current social issue – and the recurring themes – like Father John's inability to keep an assistant, Vicky's outsider status, and their chaste longing for each other – keep me coming back for more.

This is no. 7 in the series – no. 19 is due out in a few short weeks. I am an advocate of reading series in order, as each book references the preceding one and knowing the backstory enriches the reading experience. However, I somehow missed this one and read it way out of order. It was still good.

Wanda Hargrove says

The death of an Arapaho at a secret site doesn't sit well with Father O'Malley even though the police want to rule it a suicide. Well, the police in Riverton and Lander do, while the BIA police don't think it was a suicide. Father O'Malley tries to change the detective's mind but he isn't budging.

Vicky Holden the Arapaho Lawyer has taken a job in a Denver law office and is now living there. She gets a phone call from a man she's never met who wants to meet her, but as Vicky goes to the meeting a car comes

out of nowhere and runs the man down. Her friend a Detective Clark believes it was a drunken driver but Vicky thinks it was murder. The following day his widow is killed, beaten to death.

Father John and Vicky Holden find they're working on the same case but in two separate places. They're now in killers sights from two separate locations but how are the deaths related. Father John and Vicky Holden are determined to find out. But will it cost them their lives?

Tessa in Mid-Michigan says

Sometimes these just stretch credulity a little much. Still. I liked it.

Lkowalczyk says

I usually don't read back to back in a series, but I guess I was lonesome for these characters. Glad I read this now I can move on to something else for awhile. This was very good! Suspenseful, full of new dynamics and several new characters. Fast paced, was hard to put down. Looking forward to more.

Mary says

I am way behind on this series but I do enjoy it and will continue to read it. This is the seventh book in the series and is a good story with a good ending. I agree with some of the other reviewers that it is not her best but is still a good read. I learned a lot about kimberlite pipes and the geology of Wyoming which was interesting. I didn't like that Vicky and Father John were not together until the end. I like them together solving murders and tamping down the ever-present mutual attraction that simmers just beneath the surface. Recommended.

Debbie says

God bless the chatty murderer. He clears up any loose ends and allows time for the cavalry to show up. It is hard to believe that a multi million dollar company could fall for a salted mine, and the assistant priest's affair just disappears from the narrative, but doesn't seem to provide any sort of life lesson for father John or Vicki. That all said, the storyline was a quick, involving read.

Caroline Hayes says

Vicky gets on my nerves 3/4s of the time, but as usual, the plot is excellent!

Virginia Adi says

engaging series

Jan says

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Bridgette says

?The Thunder Keeper ? Margaret Coel?

Ugh...

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?BOOK REVIEW: Even though I'm not terribly enticed by Native American cultures, I decided to give this book a try since the story is based half of the time in Denver, close to where I live. However, I will be returning this book pronto to the #LittleNeighborhoodLibrary from which it was extracted.

The story is mediocre and is so stinking slow! A priest hears a confession. He can't/won't tell anyone that there will be more murders. He's conveniently in love with a woman who happens to be an attorney for and have the same ethnicity as the Arapaho nation where the murder occurred. She's consistently in the worst place at the wrong time. A clue falls into place—finally, at about 7/8ths into the book!—and they walk off into the sunset.

Exceedingly poor dialogue and incomplete thoughts abound amongst a sea of characters who, no matter what their station, ethnic background, education, or employment, spew the same drivel. Every single person in this ridiculous book has the same thought process and same voice. It doesn't matter who they are; they all--ALL!!!--speak the same way. There are no distinct voices. Beyond frustrating. Coel needs to learn some proper sentence structure, or better yet, fire her editor.

The only thing that was the least bit interesting was the geological info about diamond kimberlites.

This is apparently the 7th book in the series, and I can honestly say I will NOT be reading the rest of them.

?1/5

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?RANDOM OBSERVATIONS: I hate clipped sentences. Every single conversation in this book contains clipped sentences.

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