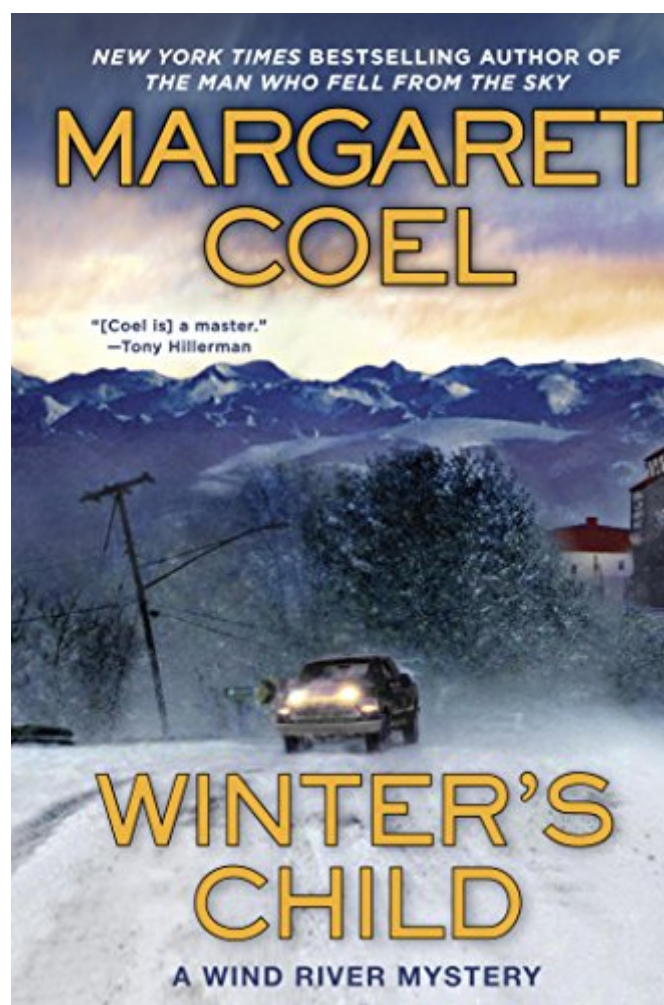


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Winter's Child (A Wind River Mystery)



Synopsis

Margaret Coel's New York Times bestselling series continues as Arapaho attorney Vicky Holden and Father John O'Malley discover that a centuries-old mystery is tied to a modern-day crime on the Wind River Reservation. In the midst of a blizzard, Myra and Eldon Little Shield found an abandoned baby on their doorstep and brought her inside. Five years later, no one has come back to claim the little girl now known as Mary Anne Little Shield. But now that she's old enough to start school, her foster parents fear social services will take her "a white child" away from them. Determined to adopt Mary Anne, the Little Shields hire lawyer Clint Hopkins, who wants Vicky as cocounsel on the case. But before their meeting can take place, a black truck deliberately runs Hopkins down in the street. Enlisting Father John to help investigate who would kill to stop the child's adoption, Vicky unravels a connection between the five-year-old girl and a missing alcoholic Arapaho wanted for robbery only to uncover one of the darkest secrets in Wind River's history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Margaret Coel is a superb writer, as good as the Hillermans. Her books featuring attorney Vickie Holden and Catholic priest Father John constitute one of the best mystery series around. *Winter's Child* is one of the very best of the series. Set on the Wind River Reservation in central Wyoming, these novels take you into Reservation life and immerse you in Reservation life and the way of the Arapaho, the people. Coel is adept at describing the many ways in which the people and the white world interact. Her plots are based on true incidents in history. The Wind River Reservation exists in the real world, as does the challenging central Wyoming weather. In this book, Vickie is asked to assist another attorney in handling an adoption and is in the middle of negotiating a plea and sentence for a troubled, alcoholic young Arapaho with the county prosecutor. A possible murder and the disappearance of the young man complicate the smooth resolution of both cases and place Vickie in danger. Meanwhile, Father John is caught up in the continual threat of the Reservation church being closed for lack of funds and the arrival of his niece, who is researching the story of a white child kidnapped from a wagon train and eventually being absorbed into the Arapaho life. Not surprisingly, he becomes involved with Vickie's cases, which impact his parishioners. As Coel is so good at doing, she ties the past and the present together with common themes and parallel situations. A sense of foreboding, implied and blunt threats and some chilling action blend to make the book move along quickly. You needn't have read the prior books in the series to enjoy *Winter's Child*, but you are missing out if you don't. The sole negative for me in the book is the uneasy feeling the last chapter left with me. If you are a fan of the series, you'll see what I mean. Wholeheartedly recommended.

The plot unfolds with a murder. Arapaho attorney Vicky Holden is invited by another lawyer, Cliff Hopkins, to consult on a complex adoption case: an Arapaho couple wish to adopt a little white girl who was abandoned on their doorstep as an infant. Soon after Vicky agrees to help with the case, she witnesses Cliff being run down by a truck. She's sure it's deliberate. Vicky, who has a penchant for running towards danger instead of away from it, immediately begins to investigate. Why would Cliff be murdered over an adoption case? Meanwhile a young woman at the Indian mission is probing a nineteenth-century mystery. Shannon is the niece of Father John, who runs the mission. She's writing her dissertation about Lizzie Brokenhorn, who was captured by Indians in 1865 and lived her whole life as an Arapaho. Lizzie was a real person, and the capture of white settlers by Indians is a fascinating piece of American history. Coel makes clever use of it in her intricate plot. Father John and Vicky are trying to keep apart from each other in this book, although they are trying to help many of the same people. If you've been following the series, you know that these two

love each other, with Father's John's dedication to the priesthood an insurmountable barrier to their love. Readers who know their story will get the most enjoyment from this book. If you jump into the series here, the relationship between priest and lawyer may be harder to appreciate. They've solved many cases and survived perilous situations together. I recommend the whole series for the interest of the cases, the exposure to Arapaho culture, and the romantic tension between Vicky and Father John.

I have enjoyed this series of books about the wind river reservation. I've learned so much about the Arapahoe people that I've come to love them and care about them. It takes very gifted author to make the reader feel this way. The mysteries in these books are only one part of the story. There are also historical events explained in the Arapahoe perspective vs what we had learned in the history books. I sincerely hope that this book isn't the last.

The Wind River Reservation books have been a favorite since I read the first. The information about the Arapahoe and Shoshone Indian is first-rate. Usually, my emotions are involved and this was no difference. as I had tears for all the individuals engaged in the affair. Vicky is brought into the case by another lawyer. This lawyer was killed before he could inform Vicky about the case. Five years before the Lilesheids found a white baby left on their doorstep. They want to adopt the child now. Father John's niece is visiting the Mission. Her Ph.D. thesis is about sisters captured in a raid on a wagon train, one was rescued she grew up with her family. The other married an Arapahoe and had 5 children. The sisters meet in there late in life. Father John's niece meets an Arapahoe Indian who was considering the Priesthood. The twists that this story takes will keep you turning the pages. The ending will leave thinking. This is must read for me. Disclosure: I received a free copy from Berkley Publishing Group through NetGalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions expressed are my own.

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