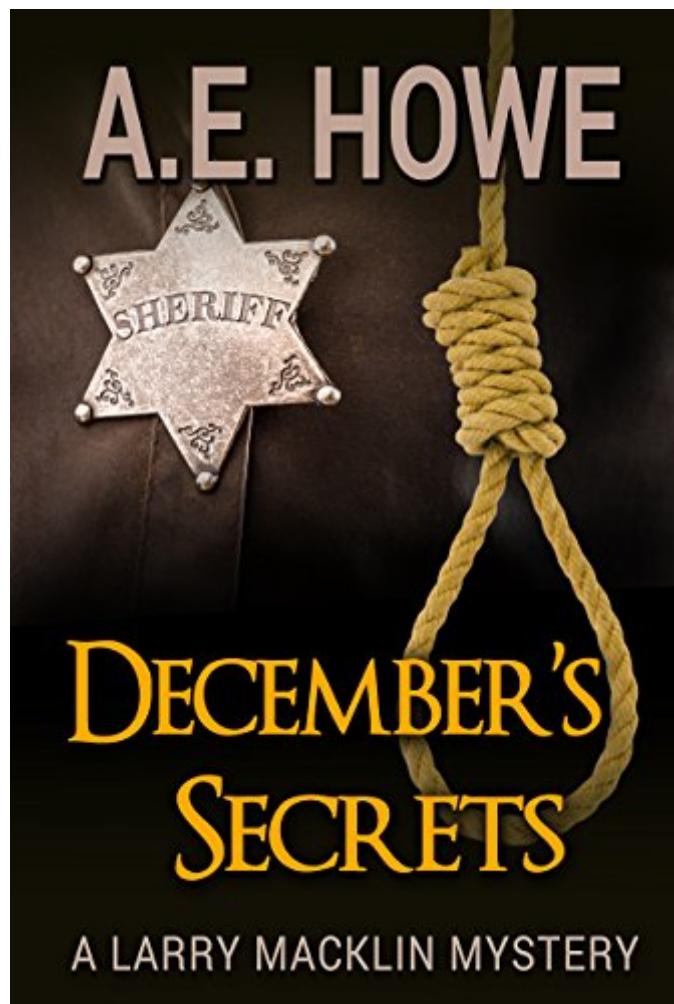


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December's Secrets (Larry Macklin Mysteries Book 2)



Synopsis

November's Past - Book 1 in this series - is now just \$.99! Still smarting from his disastrous last date with Cara Laursen, criminal investigator Larry Macklin is nevertheless thrilled to get a call from her. But when he arrives at her house, he finds the chief suspect in his latest murder case sitting in her living room - her father, Henry. Henry claims he is being framed and Larry wants to believe him, but evidence suggests otherwise. And when another murder occurs with direct links to Henry, Larry can't stop him from being taken into custody. For Cara's sake, Larry will do anything to prove Henry's innocence, but will he have to sacrifice his own ethics and risk obstructing justice in order to do it?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Larry does it again with style and grace in his own intrepid way. His appeal derives mostly from his self-effacing, aw-shucks manner. The best observation of Larry's professional prowess is delivered by a colleague... (paraphrasing here) "he is better at this [investigating] than would appear" Larry builds relationships with a bunch of new people, some more challenging than others, all quite memorable. Plus he makes good progress with those closest to him, two of which are

four-legged. SPOILER ALERT: The flaw is in the minute details of the first murder. It does not really impact the plot except it does help obscure one characteristic of the murderer that would have been useful earlier on. But by any measure, "December Secrets" makes a worthy contribution to the developing series and leaves this reader looking for more.

I have read both of these Larry Macklin books and have enjoyed them. The protagonist is an appealing character and the stories have kept my interest. Not too heavy or gory. I will definitely buy the next one which I hope will be soon.

Having really enjoyed the first book in the series (November's Past), I was looking forward to returning to rural Florida and joining deputy sheriff, Larry Macklin, again. This time he finds himself facing a difficult murder case where his own girlfriend's father is the top suspect! It was interesting to watch how he dealt with this ethical dilemma. The investigation takes him to a co-op - a rural community dedicated to an "alternative" lifestyle - full of interesting characters, each of them possibly with secrets to hide... but could one of them be the murderer? As always with Howe's books, the dialogue is fantastic - really jumps off the page and makes you feel like you're right there, in the story, listening to the conversations... These are pretty dark mysteries, set in the seedier/grittier side of Florida that most tourists don't see - and the crimes can be pretty graphic so if you're into light, humorous mysteries, these probably won't be for you. Not that there isn't humour - especially when Mauser the Great Dane is involved! - but this is no sweet, fluffy cozy. As a police procedural mystery, though, this is an enjoyable read.

In book one of the Larry Macklin series, we're introduced to Cara Laursen, a young lady that Larry would very much like a relationship with, but after a disastrous first date, book one ends with little hope for the couple. Book two begins with a murder and a call from Cara, obviously Larry isn't delighted about the murder, but he is delighted to hear from Cara until he finds out why. This series definitely focuses on relationships, but unlike the first book, this is all about Larry building one with Cara while trying to prove her father innocent of murder. I really enjoy the author's ability to build imperfect, yet (mostly) likeable characters as well weaving an intricate mystery. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a fun new series with a great cast of characters. Typically I receive books for free in exchange for an honest and unbiased review, however this is a verified purchase. To date, I've purchased all three books in the series and very much look forward to the next one (reviews for books one and three are posted

separately). See all our reviews at <http://www.bookexplosions.com/> or on Goodreads at [...]

The second in this series made me want the third just as the first made me want the second. While it may be that some of the secondary characters are not fully rounded, they become more complete in this book and I have no doubt that Mr. Howe will continue to make Calhoun and Adams County Florida a more complete place in our heads. The story line is compelling, the plot twists just enough, and the complexities of even fond family relationships are neither ignored nor overdone. The series is an entertaining addition to the police procedural genre.

I liked all of the people in this series. I feel like I know every one of them. That is very important in any book worth reading. Anyone who likes mysteries and cop books will have a fun afternoon. The reason for four stars instead of five is because it looks like these will be formulaic and I would like to see more original plots. I will read as many that are written. I personally recommend this series to anyone. It is now 3:00 am and I am starting book #3 now.

me by surprise in this one. I was quiet sure the Viking was not the perp, but could not piece enough together to solve the multiple deaths. Sheriff Macklin has the uncanny ability to control a small county department as it should be. Reminds me of my Sheriff where I retired from and that was a small county in Florida, also. I am anxiously awaiting book three at this time, so please bring it on. Good reading by a first class mystery writer.

Second book in series, equally enjoyable as the first. Great, realistic plot, well written, good character development. I especially like the author's economical writing style- enough detail to be believable and to add color and interest, but he sticks to the story, and covers all the details; nothing is left hanging and there are no "bit wait...." moments. Look forward to more from this author.

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