



The Frozen Shroud

Martin Edwards

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Death has come twice to Ravenbank, a remote community in England's Lake District, each time on Hallowe'en. Just before the First World War, a young woman's corpse was found, with a makeshift shroud frozen to her battered face. Her ghost – the Faceless Woman – is said to walk through Ravenbank on Hallowe-en. Five years ago, another woman, Shenagh Moss, was murdered, and again her face was covered to hide her injuries.

Daniel Kind, a specialist in the history of murder, becomes fascinated by the old cases, and wonders whether the obvious suspects really did commit the crimes. He spends Hallowe'en at a party in Ravenbank – only to find death returning to this beautiful but isolated spot. Once more, the victim is a woman, once more her damaged face is shrouded from view.

The latest horrifying murder presents DCI Hannah Scarlett, head of the Cold Case Review Team, with the toughest challenge of her career. Is the case linked to the two earlier killings, and if so, what is the connection? Hannah has never had such a huge personal stake in solving a case, and it comes at a time when her private life is thrown into turmoil.

Hannah and Daniel join forces as they try to discover who killed the Faceless Women. But before the shocking puzzle is solved, both of them must confront ghosts from their own past, as well as the ghosts of lonely and mysterious Ravenbank

The Frozen Shroud Details

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From Reader Review The Frozen Shroud for online ebook

David Marshall says

Excellent murder mystery in the Golden Age mould, combining a historian to research an old murder with a police offer looking into modern copycat killings.

<http://opionator.wordpress.com/2013/0...>

Mike Gabor says

Another excellent addition to the Lake District Mystery series. Three murders spanning a century. All three victims have their faces smashed in and covered with a shroud. Historian Daniel Kind and DCI Hannah Scarlett from the cold case squad attempt to find the current murderer. There are plenty of suspects to choose from, the plot is excellent, the lead characters well fleshed out. The author's description of the Lakes District is very vivid. This is an excellent police procedural.

Patricia says

Very, very enjoyable! Some sadness, but the ending was happy. I just love all of the regular characters in the Lake District mystery series! Looking forward to book #7...

Sue says

This is the latest in Martin Edwards' Lake District series. In this episode, three women are killed at a remote estate over the course of a century, all in the same way...by having their faces bashed in and then covered by a shroud, one five years ago before the current murder. The setting is well done as always with the lakes and fog becoming characters themselves.

I will say that I had a glimpse or two of the solution this time, which I don't usually do, a plot point that wasn't dealt with during the story, but that didn't impact my overall enjoyment of the story.

A good installment in a recommended series.

E Dietz says

Have read all of the series so far , this one felt a little long winded and took awhile for the case to start

John McDermott says

Combining one of my favourite genres - crime - with one of my favourite places on the planet - the English Lakes, I thought I would have been on a winner with The Frozen Shroud.

How wrong I was ! Dull writing , terrible dialogue and two of the most boring heroes in all of crime fiction ! Although, to be fair, one of the main character's - Daniel Kind - gets really tough and becomes a man of action and succeeds in cracking part of the case by visiting the Library!! Eh ! WTF!!!

The blurb on the cover proclaims that this book is chilling and creepy. Er no! The ivy in my garden is definitely creepy. This book, less so.

Supposedly full of larger than life suspects ,The Frozen Shroud just comes across as a sub-standard Midsomer Murders.

What a let down !

Sally Williams says

Obviously this author is pretty successful but I actually didn't finish reading this book. I found the plots and characters quite unbelievable and the dialogue very stilted - sort of a hybrid between Miss Marple and Midsomer Murders that just doesn't sound right in the 21st century. However I accept that others seem to love his work - just not me.

Lynda says

Great who done it for the month of October....leaves falling and over the lake district a grey mist is surrounding the rural wilderness.

Three murders on the evening of Halloween spread over many years!

Why here? who had the motive ?

Many leads and many guesses...so get reading by the glow of a log fire, lock your doors, be safe! and enjoy.

Richard says

Mr. Edwards picked a tough subject to write about: three murders with the same appearance separated by 100 years from first to last.

Number 2 and 3 are both contemporary...they just don't make any sense, like regular murder.

He gave us a good look at the tiny community where all this takes place, but the people are pretty much unexamined. I think he needed fewer characters and more characterization.

Bev says

DK: He was dying, and it mattered little to him whether the story came out in five years or fifty. He settled for leaving it to be dug up by a researcher who shared his academic interests and had the time and inclination to wade through his journals.

HS: It's taken a long time.

DK: Unravelling secrets of history often does.

~Daniel Kind, Hannah Scarlett (p. 257)

The Frozen Shroud is the sixth book in Martin Edwards' Lake District mystery series. And it's good enough to me wonder what I was doing with myself when the other five came out. Fortunately, although it might have been useful to have the back story on our leading characters--Daniel Kind and DCI Hannah Scarlett--it's not absolutely necessary to have read the previous five to enjoy this entry.

This time out, we're taken to Ravenbank, a secluded community in England's Lake District. Ravenbank, originally called Satan's Head, has been home to murder twice on Halloween. Just before World War I, a young, beautiful housemaid said to have been involved with the master of Ravenbank Hall was found dead with her face battered and a cloth shroud frozen to her wounds. Locals talk of her ghost, known as the Faceless Woman, walking restlessly through Ravenbank on the night of her death...searching for justice. Just five years ago, another beautiful young woman, Shenagh Moss, was beaten to death and left with a cloth covering her injuries. Her death was blamed on a jealous ex-lover who conveniently died before he can be questioned.

Daniel Kind and his sister Louise are invited to a Halloween party by the current owner of Ravenbank. Kind is a former television celebrity and a specialist in the history murder. He is told the story of the Faceless Woman and about the more recent murder and becomes interested--wondering whether the most obvious suspects, the unbalanced wife of the lord of the manor in the original and the jealous ex-lover in the most recent case, were truly to blame. But on the night of the Halloween party a third beautiful young woman dies--once again beaten and shrouded--and this one falls close to home.

The victim, Terri Poynton, was the best friend of DCI Hannah Scarlett, a police officer who has crossed Daniel's path on several occasions. Although not officially allowed on the case because of her connections to the victim, Hannah and Daniel manage to follow up clues that will lead to the resolution of not one murder....but three.

This is a well-plotted mystery with lots of red herrings and plenty of suspects. I've got to give Edwards credit--he had me changing my mind about the culprit with nearly every turn of the page. I should have stuck with my first thought....but that my own fault. The descriptions of the Lake District are lovely and I thoroughly enjoyed the interactions of all the characters. I look forward to turning to the beginning of the the series and seeing how the relationship between Daniel and Hannah has come about. In this novel they are just figuring out that what their friends have been saying to them just might be true--they're suited for each other. But I can tell there's a lot of water under those bridges and I want to find out where it came from. An excellent entry in what seems to be a very fine series. Four stars.

This was first posted on my blog My Reader's Block. Please request permission before reposting. Thanks.

Lynn Halliday says

Not really my cup of tea. The story was pretty long winded and monotonous for my liking. The characters

were fairly unlikeable and this read more like an Agatha Christie murder mystery rather than a modern day whodunit. I definitely prefer crime novels which are more centralised on the investigation carried about by the police rather than the day to day lives of the people caught up in the crime.

Ann says

Frozen Shroud is the sixth and latest book in Martin Edwards Lake District series and, like the earlier books, is a blend of past and present crimes being concerned with three murders spanning a century. All three victims have their faces smashed in and covered with a shroud. Quite gritty at times but no gratuitous violence and a good twist at the end.

I have really enjoyed this series. The pace is fast and the Lake District setting is brilliant. As well as good plots there are well drawn characters in particular historian Daniel Kind and detective Hannah Scarlett. Whilst it is not essential to read the series in order it does help and I have enjoyed seeing the relationship between Daniel and Hannah develop albeit slowly.

Nancy Adams says

I love this English series, which takes place in Cumbria, featuring DCI Hannah Scarlett. In this one, I had guessed the murderer about halfway through the book, but that in no way lessened my enjoyment. Can't wait for the next installment!

Damaskcat says

Ravenbank is a small community on the shores of Ullswater in the Lake District. A faceless woman is reputed to haunt the place especially on Halloween. She was murdered a century ago but there was also a similar murder five years ago. Both crimes were apparently solved by the convenient deaths – one suicide and one accident – before the prime suspects can be charged. When history appears to repeat itself historian Daniel Kind, finds himself involved with both the past murders and the present one.

DCI Hannah Scarlett meanwhile, is dealing with her break up from long term partner Marc Amos and fears her successful cold case team is under threat in budget cuts. When personal connections drag her into the investigation into the current murder she comes into contact again with Daniel and starts to wonder about the possibility of a relationship with him.

I enjoyed this well written and atmospheric crime novel and I thought the author really brought the Lake District background to life. I like both Hannah and Daniel as characters and I think the way their relationship is being built up slowly is very well done and convincing.

The plot is complex, blending past and present and showing that received versions of historical events are not always correct and sometimes the death of suspects isn't the end of the story. If you like crime stories which blend past and present and which have a well realised geographical background then try this series.

This is volume six in the series. They can be read in any order but it is interesting to see the relationship developing between Hannah and Daniel if you read them in the order in which they were published starting with 'The Coffin Trail.'

Avid Series Reader says

The Frozen Shroud by Martin Edwards is the sixth book in the Lake District mystery series set in contemporary England. Historian Daniel Kind and his sister Louise are invited to a Halloween party in Ravenbank. He agrees to attend only because he's intrigued by the local story of a Faceless Woman ghost with two related murders: one woman was murdered in 1945, and one five years ago. In both cases, each prime suspect died soon after the murder, so the cases were considered resolved. A lengthy build-up to the Halloween party introduces many characters and their relationships; a bit hard to keep track.

DCI Hannah Scarlett, head of Cold Cases unit, faces severe budget cuts at the hand of her limelight-grabbing, highly political superior officer. Hannah will lose key staff members, and fears eventually the entire unit will be scrapped. In her personal life, she is trying to conclusively end a long-term relationship with bookseller Marc Amos, but he's obnoxiously pestering her to reconsider. Hannah vents her troubles with her best friend, and is mystified by the secret her friend isn't sharing just yet. In a funk, Hannah jeopardizes her professionalism, but her almost-fling is cut short by Marc, who then wrecks his car.

The Halloween party finally happens, and yet another woman is murdered. This time Hannah cannot be on the case. She and Daniel together research the past crimes, because they each sense that the murders were not actually resolved by the suspects' deaths. This is a story about relationships and their consequences; leisurely paced. Plenty of red herrings, but much more conversation than action. Hannah and Daniel are (very slowly) coming to realize they may be well suited to each other - as all their friends have been telling them for years.
