Killing Trail: A Timber Creek K-9 Mystery

Margaret Mizushima

Killing Trail: A Timber Creek K-9 Mystery

Margaret Mizushima

Killing Trail: A Timber Creek K-9 Mystery Margaret Mizushima
When a young girl is found dead in the mountains outside Timber Creek, life-long resident Officer Mattie Cobb and her partner, K-9 police dog Robo, are assigned to the case that has rocked the small Colorado town.

With the help of Cole Walker, local veterinarian and a single father, Mattie and Robo must track down the truth before it claims another victim. But the more Mattie investigates, the more she realizes how many secrets her hometown holds. And the key may be Cole's daughter, who knows more than she's saying.

The murder was just the beginning, and if Mattie isn't careful, she and Robo could be next. Suspenseful and smart, *Killing Trail* is a gripping read that will have readers clamoring for more Mattie and Robo for years to come. Fans of Nevada Barr and C.J. Box will love this explosive debut.

Killing Trail: A Timber Creek K-9 Mystery Details

Date : Published December 8th 2015 by Crooked Lane Books
ISBN :
Author : Margaret Mizushima
Format : Kindle Edition 320 pages
Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Animals, Dogs

 ⬇ **Download** Killing Trail: A Timber Creek K-9 Mystery ...pdf

 ▤ **Read Online** Killing Trail: A Timber Creek K-9 Mystery ...pdf

Download and Read Free Online Killing Trail: A Timber Creek K-9 Mystery Margaret Mizushima

From Reader Review Killing Trail: A Timber Creek K-9 Mystery for online ebook

Tulay says

Great story.

Really enjoyed this book, good start to series. Story is about the small town in Colorado, small but very capable officers. Maggie and her partner Robo joined them three months ago, she had a very painful life growing in this town. Abusive father's beatings made her call the police, he went to jail and mother left her and her brother. They grow up in foster homes. You'll know most everything about Maggie character, she hasn't seen her brother for years and wants to find her mother. Murders and drugs puts everyone on edge, but early in the story Robo let me know who was behind all this. Didn't like the very detailed description of surgery. Feel good story, do recommend to everybody and will be reading the next book.

Darcia Helle says

I love dogs. In fact, I am surrounded by my own three as I write this. I'm always happy when a main character has a special bond with his/her dog, and this book shines in that aspect.

Mattie had to overcome a lot of challenges in her life. Consequently, she is a loner and tends not to trust easily, if at all. Her partnership with Robo teaches her about trust in unexpected ways. The author clearly did her research on police dogs. The details of Mattie working the case with Robo, and Robo's responses, add much realism to the story.

I enjoyed the small town setting, and the way people's lives intertwined. This was handled well, with people feeding the gossip vine and often knowing one another's business. However, this also made it more of a stretch to believe that a major drug trade could be anonymously thriving within the community.

The pace was a little slow for me, particularly in the first half of the book. I also thought the 'whodunit' aspect was too obvious. Still, I enjoyed the offshoots of the plot and how all the pieces came together.

This book is a great start to the series. I'm looking forward to more escapades with Robo.

I was provided with a copy by the publisher, via Amazon Vine, in exchange for my honest review.

Amy says

Excellent debut novel!!! Well researched, realistic actions and scenes. The first book of this series is every bit as good, if not better than some already established authors. I am glad I purchased this copy so I can share it. Looking forward to the next in her series.

Kristen says

Real review to come when it's not 3:30am!
Later: This is a 5-star debut, easily.

I did guess the killer pretty early on, and the ending did seem to come on rather quickly and felt a tad rushed, but neither of these details outweigh the major plusses of this book.

So many first books are so rough - the writing isn't as good as it could be (or at all), the plot is predictable, the characters flat - all the usual first-time author issues. When I'm reading a debut, I keep that stuff in mind, because the first book is usually pretty rocky, but a good writer will get it worked out by the 2nd or 3rd installment and we're smooth sailing. Margaret Mizushima suffers from very little of those missteps. She's a pro right out of the gate. The writing is good (from a technical perspective), the dialogue believable, the story interesting, the mystery compelling, the characters are fully-realized beings acting in realistic accord with who they are.

The characters are just so well done - revealed in tantalizing bits and pieces. The dog stuff is fascinating, totally realistic, and factually correct. I love that the "sidekick" is a veterinarian, and a single dad at that! The main character is very likable and the author has done a fantastic job of showing the character's presentation to the world versus how she is inside herself, and how those two don't always match up, and the consternation that causes the character. That's some skillful characterize right there, folks.

In addition, right up front the author tells us what the main character (Mattie) wants more than anything, which is "to be found." By the end of the book you get the impression that Mattie wants more than merely "to be found," or perhaps that "being found" means different things in different circumstances. Again, skillful characterization.

I noticed only one boo-boo which should have been caught by editing: near the end, Robo's muzzle is removed twice within the same 30 seconds, and by two different people. That's the only thing I caught, though.

It was a highly enjoyable read and I cannot WAIT for more books in this series. I absolutely will read every one of them. Mattie and Robo make a terrific team, and the vet is a neat guy. The other cops, Brody and Johnson, and Sheriff McCoy all have room to grow and develop, and I'm so excited to see how they do.

I stayed up til 3:30 one night to finish the book, so I definitely recommend it.

Liz says

I am a simple gal that appreciates a good mystery with a decent plot, fun characters, maybe a little romantic interest. Add in a dog and I am really one happy camper. This book, the first of a series, fits the bill. Mizushima does a great job of explaining the K9 training protocol. And also explaining the bond that goes into a successful K9 partnership. The main characters are well developed. And I love that the lead detective is another woman.

You have to enjoy her writing style as well, very sharp and intuitive. "The man could crack walnuts with

those jaws of his".

I enjoyed this book from the first page. Almost didn't get dinner on the table, I got so wrapped up in reading it. This isn't serious literature, but damn, I enjoyed it! Anxious to read #2. Best news of all is that I have book 3 on my kindle as an ARC from netgalley.

Cathy Cole says

Killing Trail is the first book in an extremely promising new series. Mattie Cobb is a fascinating character whose childhood in the foster care system gives her a rapport with children that sometimes leads her to err in the young ones' favor. Mattie is smart and brave, a loner who believes in the value of hard work. Her growing bond with Robo-- which is one of the strongest elements in this book-- has the added bonus of improving her social skills with her fellow humans.

Veterinarian Cole Walker is finding it difficult to heal from his wife's desertion, which leaves him as the sole parent to their two young daughters. He may be a potential love interest for Mattie, but he does have problems he must deal with. Mizushima has created two-- make that three with Robo-- very strong characters for her series.

Mizushima has also written some first-rate action sequences in Killing Trail, and the explanations of the training and procedures required for working with police dogs is fascinating. I found myself comparing it favorably to Robert Crais's Suspect as a matter of fact.

As much as I enjoyed this book, it's not without a rookie problem or two. The writing is a touch amateurish. As the K-9 training and work procedures are explained, these feel more like lessons instead of flowing smoothly as part of the narrative. Also, many of the clues are too obviously planted. But you know what? Things like this are easy for me to overlook because Mizushima nails her characters and the action in her engrossing story. These slightly rough edges can be knocked off by the second book, and speaking of that second book-- bring it on! I want more Mattie and Robo!

Kathy Martin says

Deputy Mattie Cobb and her new partner K-9 Robo are called in to search by a forest ranger who noticed something suspicious. Suspecting drugs which have started to be a problem in her small Colorado town, Mattie is surprised when Robo finds the body of a young girl being guarded by her wounded dog.

Mattie brings the dog to local veterinarian Cole Walker for treatment. Cole recognizes the dog because it is owned by one of his daughter's friends. Cole is overworked and stressed because his final divorce papers have just arrived and he is wondering how to tell his daughters and how he is going to take care of them alone.

Mattie and Robo are soon deep into investigating the girl's death and trying to find out who is bringing drugs

into town. Mattie is also learning to trust her new partner but trust doesn't come easy to her. She was an abused child who turned in her father to the police and then spent years in foster care. Luckily her last foster home was a good one and she still has a relationship with her foster mother. Beyond that, she is essentially friendless because of her trust issues.

I liked the mystery. I was sidetracked, as Mattie was, by the red herring suspect. However, I also figured out who the villain had to be from clues the author gave. I enjoyed learning more about K-9 officers and enjoyed Robo.

I will be eager to read more stories about Mattie and her K-9 partner Robo.

Ian says

Betty says

A first class police procedure featuring a K- 9 dog. Drugs are making a headway into the small town of Timber Creek, Colorado. Money was raised to add a K-9 dog to the police. A contest of physical strength among the focus to see who would be his handler. Mattie Cobb is nervous as this is Kobo, the German shepherd she trained for 14 weeks the first case. A large pool of blood found in a hunting cabin. Much to her dismay, Kobo wants to go off the grid. Mattie follows Kobo and he finds another dog, Belle. It was all Mattie could do to prevent a dog fight. When she gets control again, she finds Belle has dug up the body of a dead girl and was protecting her. The focus now was to identify the girl. Mattie meets the local veterinarian and his family. The details of the veterinarian treatment of the dog are fascinating and detailed. The dog was being used as a 'mule' to transport drugs.
The characters are developing in depth, descriptions accurate and the trading and how a K-9 works are fantastic. I HIGHLY recommend this book.

Mark Robison says

The writing is workmanlike, whodunnit is easy to figure out early on, the characters are all regular people and thus not especially memorable, and the showdown in an abandoned mine was very "Scooby-Doo" — and yet I liked this. It's probably because there's not only a strong female lead (a sheriff's deputy who is a K9 handler) but a number of strong women characters; the knowledge of veterinary work, dog training and law enforcement protocol is spot-on; and there's a good heart and moral compass guiding everything. Plus a dog is a central focus yet always remains a dog and is not anthropomorphized like in other canine crime books. In short, I respect the author and will follow her to the next book in the series. Bechdel test: Pass. Grade: B+

Veronica says

You'd think the murder of a well liked high school girl would inspire more intensity but this whole book felt, well, generic - from the characters to the dialogue to the mystery itself. I'm not one who ever tries to solve a murder mystery before the protagonist does but in this case the answer was so obvious that I knew the guilty party the second the character was introduced. The supposed red herrings were also equally obvious and uninspired. As for the protagonist, well there are actually two - the first K9 unit in Timber Creek, Colorado's small police force. Robo, the canine half of the K9 team is the real star. By contrast his human partner, Deputy Mattie Cobb, always seems to either misread signs or else misses them altogether. Without Robo I fear she'd only be a mediocre deputy at best. All in all, there wasn't anything here to motivate me to read more of this series, not with a TBR list a mile long.

Amy says

I had a hard time putting this, the first in the Timber Creek K-9 Mysteries, down. I am absolutely in love with Robo, the German Shepard K-9 who is the "star" of the show.

There is a good story here and I can't wait to see where future stories in this series lead us.

Ann Jones says

The Killing Trail by Margaret Mizushima is a well written story about police officer Mattie Cobb and her K-9 partner Robo. Follow Mattie and her trusted partner Robo as they both learn to depend on and defend one another. Just enough twists and turns to keep me captivated! Will be reading more in the Timber Creek K-9 Mystery Series.

Mark Stevens says

Timber Creek Sheriff Deputy Mattie Lu Cobb has a new partner. "Born in Russia, he was a handsome guy: straight black hair, intense brown eyes, and white teeth that flashed when he grinned." In fact, the new partner "was the only one in the department who could outrun her in a cross-country foot race."

Mattie's new partner is Robo. A German shepherd. Together, they form the first K-9 unit ever mobilized in the small fictional Colorado town of Timber Creek. Robo is new but Mattie knows the town—she spent her childhood there, in foster care. She approaches friendships tentatively and with trepidation. She likes "prickly things" like the yucca and cholla in her backyard. She's cool to the touch, unexcitable too. Robo, of course, knows of no such human concerns and becomes Mattie's dependable nose on the clue-finding trail. The story starts with a bang as Robo discovers a wounded fellow canine guarding the dead body of a teenage girl. It's the local vet, Cole Walker, who recognizes the wounded dog and then the dog, well, expels several white balloons that contain a substance like "sand or powder."

Mattie's upbringing gives her weight and a solid grounded feeling. She is no "golly gee" cozy mystery heroine. Even though we have a rough idea where this story is headed from early on, Margaret Mizushima

portrays the Cobb-Robo relationship with robust dynamics. Robo fills certain gaps in Mattie's life (including her dreams) and it's the fine balance between her inquisitiveness and his tracking skills that give Killing Trail its drive. You will learn a few things about training police dogs—and it's interesting. Note that despite the gritty-sounding title, this is a fairly genteel story. I'd give it a PG rating. The next book in the series is due in September of 2016 and all readers of this one will certainly hope that Mattie adds a human or two to those she's willing to trust beyond her dependable dog.

Margaret is a fellow Colorado mystery writer, but I stand by my opinion. For a Q & A with Margaret Mizushima: https://markhstevens.wordpress.com/20...

Li'l Owl says

Officer Mattie Cobb is thinking that this could be the best partner she's ever been paired up with. He's dark, handsome, muscular, strong, and he's the only one who can out run her in cross country running. His name is Robo. He's a German Shepherd and he's Mattie's new K-9 partner. Together they've just finished three months of training and it's their first day on the job when Mattie gets a call on the radio to meet the Sheriff McCoy at a cabin in the mountains outside of her small hometown of Timber Creek, Colorado. When Robo leads her to an injured dog who's been shot then they discover that the dog is standing guard over a young girl.
And she's dead. Murdered.

There has been an increase of drugs throughout the town and now they wonder if the teenager was part of it and it cost her her life. First they'll have to identify her.

Mattie takes the injured dog to the local veterinarian Dr. Cole Walker who recognizes the dog as belonging to a friend of his daughter's, Grace Hartman. Cole is adamant that Grace would never have anything to do with drugs. Everyone is hoping that Cole's daughter Angela can shed some light on what could have led to the murder of her friend Grace.

As the investigation continues Mattie and Robo find themselves in danger. If Mattie is going to uncover the truth she's going to have to trust Robo but if she misunderstands the signals from her new K-9 partner it could cost her and her new partner their lives.

Killing Trail is the first book in the *Timber Creek K-9 Mystery* by Margaret Mizushima.
In short, I enjoyed it very much! I'm an animal lover and I'm always excited to read mysteries that involve K-9 partners but I always wonder how accurate the search and/or rescue work with the dogs will be. I am very happy to report that I needn't have worried. Margaret did her research and portrayed Maggie and Robo based on real life K-9 work.
This is a gripping, intriguing, and compelling novel from cover to cover and I was reluctant to put it down! I already have the next two books in this series sitting in my short stack ready to be read, with book four on my wish list.
Highly recommended especially if you love mystery thrillers and K-9 partners!