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Acclaimed novelist Trevor Ferguson writing as John Farrow continues his Storm Murders series--set in storm ravaged locations and featuring retired detective Emile Cinq-Mars.

In Seven Days Dead, a woman races in a small boat through a torrential sea storm to Grand Manan island, located off the coast of Maine. She is determined to reach her dying father's bedside. Meanwhile, Detective Cinq-Mars is enjoying a vacation on the island with his wife until he's caught up in the investigation of a murder. Long-held secrets start to emerge, and Cinq-Mars begins to wonder if the dying father and the other death are related.

The Storm Murders, the previous book in the series, received starred reviews from Library Journal, Publishers Weekly, and Kirkus Reviews. Bookpage said, "This terrific story, with sympathetic characters and Farrow's crisp prose, is some of the best fiction to come out of Canada. Louise Penny won't be bumped off the podium, but she'll have to clear some space next to her." Seven Days Dead may very well get even better reviews.

Seven Days Dead Details

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Author : John Farrow

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From Reader Review Seven Days Dead for online ebook

Kalendra Dee says

Emile Cinq-Mars and his wife are enjoying an idyllic vacation on Grand Manan Island when he is contacted by a distraught young woman. Her father, who owns practically the whole island, has been murdered and she is under suspicion for his murder. He agrees to help her find the truth only to have someone else decide that he needs to stop his investigation and they make plans to stop Cinq-Mars, perhaps permanently.

John Mosman says

Great mystery, wonderful location in eastern Canada, local characters and a mystery to solve. This murderer is not revealed until the end and the trip to get there is fun!

judy says

started well. became distracted because the detective was a famous retired Montreal policeman along with his wife. No, these people do not come from Three Pines. Frankly, thought the ending was super complicated and felt like it came out of nowhere. Advise reading only if you're completely rested and willing to follow all the threads. Not my day.

Jim Graham says

Fine, until the final pages, where the mystery is resolved. That is a lot of hoo-hah.

Gloria Feit says

From the publisher: During an epic storm in the Gulf of Maine, a lone woman races -- first by car, then by a life-threatening sea crossing -- to the island of Grand Manan. Her father is dying -- will she make it in time? Others also venture out into the maelstrom that night, including a mysterious band of men and women who gather on Seven Days Work, the sheer cliff that overlooks the wild sea. A housekeeper, a pastor, and a strange recluse are also wandering about in the tempest. Who else risks being out in the turbulent black night? And how many murder victims will be revealed at the break of dawn?

Emile Cinq-Mars, a retired Montreal detective whose reputation precedes him, is embarking on the first ever summer holiday he and his wife have taken in their long years of marriage. They have booked a cabin built in the 1920's, "tidy, clean, and as charming as a fawn nuzzling a doe in a spring meadow." When three men are found dead, he is asked to assist Officer Wade Louwagie (who suffers from PTSD) of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police,. They have absolutely nothing to go on, no leads, and too many suspects.

Early on, we meet 57-year-old Reverend Simon Lescavage, “a pastor who’s lost his faith yet still enjoys, and wants to keep, his job,” who is called – – ordered, really – – to hear the confession of Alfred Orrock, the patriarch of the island with the reputation, well-earned, as a tyrant, and now at death’s door. The day does not end well for either man.

The area is brought to graphic life in the wonderfully evocative descriptions by this author. As are the inhabitants: “For the most part . . . the natural friendliness of islanders surfaces first. Sometimes disputes are resolved by burning cars, but not a tourist’s car, and rarely even in the summer, because that’s just bad for the island’s reputation. Even when it comes to arson, a standard of etiquette is followed. You wrong me, I burn your dinghy. I wrong you, you burn my shed.” Towards the end, things take a much more lethal turn, and the writing at times had me breathless, as in literally holding my breath.

There is a wholly unexpected finish to the novel. I found this book, as its predecessor, “The Storm Murders,” very enjoyable, and it is recommended.

Mal Warwick says

Seven Days Dead is the second of three novels by the Canadian novelist John Farrow featuring retired Detective-Sergeant Emile Cinq-Mars of the Montreal city police. The common thread that ran through the first book, *The Storm Murders*, was that each in a series of murders took place after a natural disaster. *Seven Days Dead* is based in large part on the same device. It’s well written, the principal characters are drawn in three dimensions, and it’s suspenseful to the end. Like its predecessor, however, the resolution is overly complex and ultimately unsatisfying.

Now sixty-six years of age, Cinq-Mars and his much younger wife Sandra arrive at a picturesque village on the coast of New Brunswick to begin a long-awaited vacation. In short order, the village is buzzing with news of a savage murder. The village’s popular pastor has been tied to a tree, sliced open, and eviscerated on an isolated trail near the ocean. Meanwhile, the old man who has a virtual monopoly on the town’s leading businesses died the same stormy night in the enormous mansion where he lives high above the shore. The local Mounties have never been confronted with any murders, much less one that reeks of such savagery. They are desperate for help from the famous retired detective. Cinq-Mars stoutly resists their pleas. Predictably, however, Cinq-Mars is soon drawn into investigating not just the murder but the old man’s death as well. But that’s as far as the predictability goes. The case turns out to be inordinately complicated, and Cinq-Mars is challenged to his limits both mentally and physically before he can resolve matters.

One thing lifts *Seven Days Dead* out of the realm of mediocre murder mysteries: Cinq-Mars is a supremely intelligent and thoughtful man who is clearly far more sophisticated and philosophically inclined than anyone might think a Detective-Sergeant would be. His thinking is intellectually challenging and makes reading the book worthwhile despite its limitations as detective fiction.

Jenny says

Entertaining. Evokes a place. Ending left me a bit unsatisfied.

Lis says

Another Emile Cinq-Mars book. Entertaining but rather implausible solution in the end.

Peacejanz says

An interesting murder mystery. Things get mixed up when a retired detective and his wife go on vacation to a small coastal town. They find a dead dog, discover that the richest man on the island has been murdered along with the island priest. And they had planned a vacation. This is a complex mystery with a lot of connections. It is the second in a trilogy. Reading the first one, The Storm Murders, helps understand what is happening here. A great mystery. No easy thrills and no red herrings.

Mary Kay says

A good read. Nothing exceptional. It did make me want to go up to Nova Scotia again and explore the outer islands and watch the tides in the Bay of Fundy.

Naomi says

Emile Cinq-Mars and his wife Sandra are trying to enjoy his retirement from the police force as a detective. But a murder and then other deaths draw him back into solving cases even though he does try to avoid it. The location and scenery of Grand Manan in Canada is beautifully described and the wild storms that rain over the island are very real in reading them. The mystery is intriguing for a while but develops rather slowly and the ending is hard to get straight as to who 'done it' and why.

Jovdb says

I haven't read other books in this series. I don't think it was necessary or impacted on this novel not to be acquainted with the previous books.

Emile, a retired police detective, and his wife, Sandra, are going on a summer vacation. Due to his occupation as a police detective, they have never had time to get away during the summer. They are both looking forward to this secluded island get away. Unfortunately, their arrival coincides with storms both meteorically and physically, as there are two deaths. One is definitely murder, the other a supposedly natural death of an old man, the patriarch of the island.

The island police do not have the resources or the experience to take on this investigation, especially when it is discovered that the old man was also murdered.

The beginning of this book read like a farce. When Maddy, the daughter of the old man, who raced through the storm to get there before he died, was interviewed by the RCMP, and accused of murdering both victims, it was nonsensical! I couldn't believe that any detective would interview someone in such a crass manner.

The solving of the mystery was reasonably well done, even though it was pretty obvious from the beginning who was involved.

Not the best laid out plot or execution of the mystery.

Really a 2.5 star book.

Philip says

I quite enjoyed reading this book and in my opinion it is considerably better than book one in this trilogy , "The Storm Murders", which by itself was not a bad book. The literary influence of Trevor Ferguson shows in the largely character driven story with most of the minor characters as well as all of the major characters being very fully developed and well rounded. Sandra and Emile were just as strong as in book one and in fact I think I liked Emile more than in any of the previous books and his philosophizing wasn't quite as long and drawn out and seemed more necessary to the plot. Roadcap is an amazing character but I think Officer Wade Louwagie is one of the real highlights of this book. John Farrow has done a tremendous job with the portrayal of his PTSD and how he battles it. I do think, however, that we could have benefitted from a bit more backstory on the trauma that caused Wade's problems originally. The setting, location, atmosphere and weather are so beautifully written that I was cold and wet and almost seasick just reading them. The genealogy leading to the conclusion was a bit confusing on first reading but it is all correct and sure explains the motives behind the murders. One slight loose end is what happened to the perpetrator of the episode with Emile's jeep? Another reason I have for slightly reducing my rating is the use of the American spelling such as "humor" for "humour". In a book written by a Canadian author, set in a Canadian location, with a mostly Canadian cast I can think of no reason to use the American spelling for "humour". However this is great read that I'll highly recommend and I am anxiously awaiting the third instalment and I wish it would be released a lot sooner than expected.

Bernadette Shelby says

The story takes too long to get there. Rather confusing until about 2/3 into the story, it finally gets really interesting and riveting that you have to read to the end to find out what happens, who did it, etc... good read in the end.

Kay says

The Isle of Grand Manan in the Bay of Fundy, someplace I've never been but would like to go, is the setting for this book. And the setting is definitely the best part of John Farrow's mystery novel. The island's major industry is harvesting dulse, a seaweed-type of red algae that comes in with the tide every day and is marketed in health food stores as a snack--an acquired taste apparently.

Quite well-known in Canada, Farrow is an interesting writer, with a Montreal-based detective named Emile

Cinc-Mars. Reminded me somewhat of Louise Penny, but Grand Manan is no Three Pines--nothing cozy about the island or its residents. I loved parts of the novel but found the denouement a bit contrived. Might try some more just to see how Emile is getting on.
