



The Blue Coyote

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Frannie and Larry Shoemaker love taking their grandchildren, Sabet and Joe, camping with them. But at Bluffs State Park, Frannie finds herself worrying more than usual about their safety, and when another young girl disappears from the campground in broad daylight, her fears increase. The fun of a bike ride, a flea market, marshmallow guns, and a storyteller is quickly overshadowed. Accusations against Larry and her add to the cloud over their heads. Frannie begins to puzzle out the mystery: Are the itinerant road workers as much of a threat as Frannie thinks? What about the lone woman camper who also disappears? Or is the girl's deadbeat dad behind it all?

The Blue Coyote Details

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From Reader Review The Blue Coyote for online ebook

RebeccaS says

I really enjoyed this one, maybe even more than the first. The writing flows well and I can just picture everyone sitting around the fire at the campground. Despite the dangerous things that seem to keep happening, this series really makes me want to grab my tent and go camping immediately. I really like these characters and their friendship dynamic always makes me chuckle. I had a feeling about the kidnapping culprit pretty early on, but like Frannie I couldn't figure out how it was pulled off. I liked that everyone was involved in this one so I got to know them better. The grandkids were too cute and added an extra fun element. I'm really looking forward to the next one.

Betty says

The Shoemakers are again camping with friends. They have their grandchildren along. They are staying at a park in central Iowa. At nights are wildlife programs. Bicycle rides provide activities. Larry is upset by a girl riding with training wheels. She later disappears and Larry is accused. Someone files an abuse charge against them. Frannie has some thoughts that help clear them. I like this book even better than Bats And Bones

Kim says

Once again Frannie and Larry Shoemaker are camping with their friends. This time their grandchildren are along for the weekend. The trip starts out with the Shoemakers getting lost on their way to Bluffs State Park because a detour sign has gotten turned sending them in the wrong direction. Finally arriving at the park they start getting settled in when all of a sudden this very loud unpleasant screeching sound. This sound is being made by a little girl on a bicycle with training wheels. The sound sends Larry, uncharacteristically, over the edge. Larry approaches the girl and offers to remove the training wheels, she runs away frightened. After the group settles in and Frannie takes her granddaughter and another little girl that is staying across the road on a bike ride. The two girls get ahead of Frannie and they stop to wait for her to catch up. Before Frannie can catch up she notices a man talking to the two girls and this makes Frannie very uneasy. The girls and Frannie get back to the cabin and they find out the camp is offering a puppet show for children that evening and the group decides to attend. Later on that weekend a little girl goes missing after last seen near the Shoemaker's camper. Larry quickly becomes a person of interest and the group is asked not to leave their camp site. Frannie is determined to clear them of all suspicion. Did the little girl just wander off and get lost? Did someone take her? Are the Shoemaker's grandchildren safe? Can Frannie clear Larry from suspicion and help find the little girl before she becomes harmed?

I loved this book. As a parent it just sucked me in and I felt for the mother of the little girl, could relate to her fear and anger. The author Karen Musser Nortman writes her characters with such realism. I could see myself reacting the same way, if I were in Frannie's situation. She didn't want to let her grandchildren out of her sight and she was upset at the allegations made of Larry. This story is well written, steady paced, and the action will keep you glued to the book to see if the little girl was found unharmed and who had her.

I loved how the narrator Michelle Babb brings the story to life. She has a flair for storytelling and you can

clearly distinguish between each character's voice. This is the first book in this series that Mrs. Babb narrated. I really enjoy her vision of the characters accents and personalities.

I would recommend this book. No bad language, sex or graphic violence.

I voluntarily reviewed this book provided by the narrator for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions are entirely my own.

Moondance says

The hills rolled out in front of them, alternating dead brown stubble in the harvested fields and emerging vibrant color in the tree rows, muted by a fine dust in the air.

Frannie and Larry Shoemaker are headed out in their thirty foot travel trailer with grandkids, Sabet (SaraBeth) and Joe. They meet up at Bluffs State Park with Larry's sister, Jane Ann and her husband Mickey. Good friends, Nancy and Ben are also along for the adventure. Soon after set up, a young girl rides in continuous circles near the campsites on a bicycle with training wheels. This annoying sound puts Larry on edge and he attempts to speak with the little girl about removing them. She of course goes into "Stranger Danger" mode and reports him. Larry becomes a prime suspect when the little girl goes missing the next day.

I enjoy catching up with Frannie and company on their excursions. I somehow skipped over this book and I'm glad I came back to it. The story is well told and introduces new characters with ease. I'm always fascinated by the sense of community in the camping world.

The plot with the storyteller is very good. I feel that I am actually watching the shows with the children (and adults). Frannie's daily activities make me feel like I am with her on her bike rides or visits to the nearby small town.

Having the grandchildren along brings up a lot of good points about watching after children in a world that has become far too dangerous. I would want grandparents like Frannie and Larry that know how to have fun even with rules and restrictions.

I had a pretty good idea who the kidnappers were fairly early on but it in no way distracted from the story. These books flow well and give great tips about camping.

I look forward to following Frannie through more adventures.

3.5 stars

Deb Thomas says

Once again Nortman has hit a homerun with "The Blue Coyote." The story line is plausible - in fact reading the day's news headlines extremely possibly, and every parent and grandparent's nightmare. Despite trials

and ails, the main characters come out ok, albeit slightly worse for the wear, and the book has a 'happy ending,' as it should. Nortman's works are a pleasure to read. Quick and easy, well written, enjoyable mysteries. Once again, while well-suited for any age reader or a read-aloud, with active, mature main characters, this book and its predecessor are especially appealing to the baby boomer generation. Although I expect any child would gladly curl up next to a grandparent and listen to this story of a grandparent in peril, then ultimately saving the day - reassuring the listening child that grandparents truly do rock and rule. Makes me want to be right out there in the woods camping alongside Frannie and Larry and their gang. I would like to know what happened to the road crew, and if Larry and Frannie were 'saved' from being put on some government list for child abuse. Can't wait for Nortman's next book.

April says

"This audiobook was given by the author, narrator, or publisher at no cost in exchange for an unbiased review via Audiobook Boom."

This was a quick fascinating listen. You never know what might happen on a camping trip. Make sure you know what is happening around you, because Frannie probably won't be close by to solve any crime. I hope there will be more adventures.

The narration was well done. Michelle Babb brings the characters to life.

Cindy says

The Blue Coyote was the second book in the series of Frannie Shoemaker. This is a fun cozy mystery about the campground adventures of Frannie, her husband and their camping friends. Since this book is meant to be a stand alone, you won't feel like you have missed anything in the previous volume. But for me, it was like meeting old friends once again since I had read the first one.

Cozy mysteries are meant to be fun and free of gore. Although this one dealt with a child being abducted from the campground, the author dealt with it in such a way you completely understood the seriousness of it without it being a nightmare causing, heart wrenching book.

This was a well written cozy with likable characters. Frannie and friends get along together with lots of fun that it almost makes me want to go camping. Note: I said almost! :) You will find camp fire recipes at the end of some chapters which sound delicious!

I would recommend this to anyone looking for a fun, feel good, all around great read. Especially fans of cozy mysteries and camping!

Allison says

I absolutely loved this book. After reading Bats and Bones, the first campground mystery, I couldn't wait for

the second installment! Frannie and her husband, Larry, are well-developed, very likeable characters who soon feel like friends. The plot is believable with enough twists to keep you guessing. I also enjoyed the camping tips that the author includes in her books. I haven't been camping in years, but after reading this book I am ready to rent a pop-up trailer and hit the road!

Lis Carey says

Larry and Frannie Shoemaker are off on another of their camping adventures with friends, and their two grandchildren, Sabet and Joe, are with them. All seems well except for a little girl who rides her bicycle with very noisy training wheels that drive Larry crazy--until that very girl disappears, right after complaining to another camper that Larry frightened her.

Suddenly Larry, a grandfather and retired police officer, is in the minds of many of their fellow campers the prime suspect in a child's disappearance.

Frannie just can't leave the investigation to the police, and soon she has their friends, Mickey and Jane-Ann, involved in the search as well. With clues pointing in several directions, and the missing girl's frightened mother having latched onto Larry as, at least, her prime suspect, it's only a partial comfort when a familiar face from a previous adventure turns up to lead the official investigation.

Overall, this is a good, strong mystery, with nicely developed characters who are likable and engaging. There's some reference to past events, but that acts to give the characters more depth without making it necessary to read the previous book first. It is unfortunate that, early on, a critical event depends on one character acting decidedly out of character. It's commented on at the time, and never really accounted for. Regardless, though, it's still an excellent story. The icing on the cake for this audio version is the narrator; Michelle Babb has a voice that's both pleasant and strong, capable of cutting through road noise effectively for those of us who listen to books in our cars!

Recommended.

I received a free copy of this audiobook and am reviewing it voluntarily.

Chris Curtis says

This is the second book I have read in this series and I have enjoyed them both. I like the characters. They observe the other people in the campgrounds. Sometimes they comment on unusual things they may be wearing or doing but nobody is written in an outrageous quirky manner. I really dislike "quirky" characters that are annoying but everyone puts up with them. I like the camping theme but not the camping tips. They might be better placed at the end of the book. I read the Kindle version and it was annoying to jump from a tense scene in the book to a couple of pages about organizing your camper.

Betty McMahon says

Tuck this delightful cozy into your camping gear this summer. You'll find Frannie and friends' latest

escapade just the thing for those rainy evenings spent inside. But be warned ... if you sample all the delicious recipes in the book, you won't be able to do enough biking, hiking and swimming to work them off! And most of all, stay away from Blue Coyotes!

Norma says

(Format : Audiobook)

"... when it hits closer to home."

Larry and Frannie love camping, a chance for all the family to spend time together and friends to join them, too. But amidst the bustle of intergenerational chaos there is one sound which Larry cannot abide - the clack, clack of trainer wheels on bicycles being ridden back and forth. It is this obsession to end his irritation which gets Larry into prime suspect position when a little girl goes missing.

Although the storyline itself is pretty weak and predictable despite the introduction of various red herrings, the strength of this book lies in it's portrayal of the group's interaction, young and old, enjoying time together away from the mundane everyday life. With numerous people and much conversation, Michelle Babb is excellent at giving individual voice to each as well as maintaining a well paced reading of the text. Her narration is warm, perfect for the family experience, and very pleasant to hear. But not even she is able to counteract the frequently repeated, "he said ... ", "she said ... ", "someone replied..." so often recurring during conversational periods - not really noticeable in print but unmissable when read aloud.

This is a fun to read/hear book which gives a great sense of the bustle of families enjoying precious time together with all of the pranks and easy going irritability of people who love each other. And there's a lightweight mystery thrown in as well.

Odee says

I'm in love with the Frannie Shoemaker Campground Mysteries series!

Karen Musser Nortman's writing style takes you along with her and her friends' adventures in camping. She paints a picture, draws you in and you cannot put the books down!

I love everything about these books, from the feel of the smooth matte covers, the chapters laid out in 'time-line' style to the wonderful Happy Camper Tips!

Win, win!

Evgeny says

First things first: I need to mention I received this book from Goodreads giveaways.

Frannie and Larry Shoemaker, a retired couple went camping with their grandchildren and their friends. The

trip started with them takings a wrong turn which took them to a dirt road dead-ending in a junkyard where they had to turn around (in an RV no less). From that point on their rest was interrupted by all sorts of annoyances which finally culminated in a crime with Larry being blamed for it - and I would be the first one to admit that Larry was somewhat a jerk and this led to the problem. As usual it is up to Frannie to clear up the mystery.

This is a good book with interesting mystery. The knowledge of the first one is not necessary; the book also does not spoil the mystery of the first one. My minor complaint was the end of the book where our "Scooby-Doo gang" rushes into bag guys' lair without any regards for their own and a victim's safety: Larry is a former cop, he should know better! The book also made me sad with the state of our society today - it is impossible for a guy to have any interaction with kids without being accused of pedophilia as Larry experienced in the book first hand.

The final rating is 4 stars. This book made me want to read the first one in the series: I own it.

Brenda says

Frannie and Larry Shoemaker were heading to their camping site at Bluffs State Park with their two grandchildren, Sarabeth and Joe, when they became lost. A carelessly placed detour sign had them heading down a pot-hole ridden dirt road which ended at a junk yard for old and abandoned vehicles. The turning in the gateway proved difficult, but eventually they found themselves back on the correct road and shortly arriving at their destination.

Sarabeth was called Sabet and had been since younger brother Joe could only pronounce her name as Sabet – the shortened version had stuck. They were being picked up by their father on Sunday morning, but in the meantime they had fun to attend to. There was entertainment in the evening – a storyteller for the children with his magic and mysteries; there was the campsite to investigate; trails to ride on – the excitement was endless.

Larry was finding himself irritated by a young girl riding her bike up and back on the path in front of their camper; she had training wheels which squeaked terribly and he was getting more and more irate. The rest of their group knew what he was like and tried to calm him down, but eventually he stood on the track and spoke to the young girl. When she disappeared a few hours later, problems suddenly mounted – Larry was accused and Frannie tried her best to defend him.

When the police began their investigation, Frannie realized she needed to clear her husband as well as find the young girl – hopefully before it was too late. She was frantic about her grandchildren and wouldn't let them out of her sight. But who could be responsible? There were strange events occurring, with danger escalating for the friends... then another person disappeared? What was happening?

I enjoyed this mystery, the second in the Frannie Shoemaker series. The characters were very likeable and down-to-earth plus the plot flowed well and the conclusion was satisfying. I have no hesitation in recommending this to all cosy mystery lovers.
