



Rituals of the Season

Margaret Maron

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- "High Country Fall, Margaret Maron's most recent installment in the Deborah Knott series, was published in Mysterious Press hardcover in 8/04, with a first printing of 40,000 copies.- Margaret Maron swept the top mystery awards with her first Deborah Knott hardcover, "Bootlegger's Daughter (Mysterious Press, 1992), receiving the Edgar1 Award for Best Mystery Novel, the Agatha Award, the Macavity, and the Anthony. She also won a 1992 Agatha Award for the short story that introduced the character of Deborah Knott, and later, she received the Agatha Award for Best Novel for "Up Jumps the Devil (Mysterious Press, 1996). Maron was nominated for an Agatha Award for "Home Fires (Mysterious Press, 1998), and most recently, "Storm Track (Mysterious Press, 2000) won the Agatha Award for Best Novel. "Last Lessons of Summer (Mysterious Press, 2003), was also nominated for an Agatha Award.- "Last Lessons of Summer, Slow Dollar, and Uncommon Clay were all selected as Mystery Guild Main Selections.

Rituals of the Season Details

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Author : Margaret Maron

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From Reader Review Rituals of the Season for online ebook

Laurie Way says

This was a very satisfying read! I had forgotten this series and am glad I spotted a favorite author scrolling through the kindle mystery section. The main characters in the series are solid and the plots serve up a good mystery and interesting plot twists.

Kellie says

#11 of the Deborah Knott series-I have read 9 of the series just this year. Mostly because this was a bookclub book and I made it a point to read all the books that led up to #11. This was a critical book for the series. Deborah ties the “knot” in this one. I enjoyed the Knott story and the mystery wasn’t bad either. An ADA is shot while driving in her car and her adopted daughter dies in the crash. Dwight is working the murder and of course, Deborah is involved as usual. A third mystery is added to the mix because, Tracey, the murdered ADA, was looking into a case where the convicted murderer (a female) is currently on death-row. The question is, did she really do it? Two young law students are reviewing the case and Deborah gets involved because, like almost every other character in the series, they are distantly related to her some how. I enjoyed the book. I thought the mystery and the storyline blended well. However, it wasn’t spectacular.

Marilyn Heyman says

RITUALS OF THE SEASON by Margaret Maron

ADA Tracy Johnson is shot while driving on the freeway crashing her car and killing her adopted baby daughter. Judge Deborah Knott is stunned. Who could have murdered her friend and co-worker? Deputy Sheriff Dwight Bryant, Deborah’s fiancé, is handling the case. He and Deborah are planning their wedding in two weeks. Her brothers are building a room on to her house and promise to have it completed by the wedding. Deborah has her doubts. She is running around trying to get everything done, but she also wants to help Dwight solve the murder.

Two law students are looking into the guilt of a woman on death row for murder. They are convinced that she didn’t do it.

As Dwight investigates the murder, Deborah questions the people who knew Tracy. Several things come to light pointing in different directions, but no one seems to know much about Tracy’s personal life. She also gets involved with the law students while she is trying to get ready for her wedding. Beautifully written and an excellent story, Margaret Maron keeps readers on their toes trying to figure out who the culprits are. She is able to juggle both stories and come to a satisfactory conclusion.

Sandra says

I've enjoyed all the books I've read, by Ms. Maron, this one is my favorite. You have an intense investigation of murder, that kept me turning the pages until the very end. Also, a wedding, and wonderful characters that carry through all her novels, that brings every story to life and then some.
Great read!!!

Nikki says

Judge Deborah Knott is finally getting married but, since she's marrying a law enforcement officer, even their wedding preparations are interrupted by murder. The oft-used trope of amateur sleuth involved with official crimesolver is done very well by Margaret Maron, especially since there's the twist that Deborah is required to be impartial in her job. Her large family is always entertaining and I love "visiting" Colleton County.

Caitlin says

With only weeks left until the wedding, one would think that Judge Deborah Knott would be focused on preparations at hand, but a new murder case and an old one have her and Dwight tangled up in work. An attorney is shot in her car on the highway after looking into a death-penalty case, where the woman is due to take her final gurney ride in just a month. Are the two connected? Can the murders be found--the ones who killed the attorney and the one who really should be on death row?
Perhaps I shouldn't be reading about other people's weddings right now with my own only two months away; I get too emotional. But I have to say, Deborah and Dwight's wedding is as perfect as one could wish it to be.

Avid Series Reader says

Rituals of the Season by Margaret Maron is book 14 of the Deborah Knott mystery series set in contemporary North Carolina. In just a few days, Judge Deborah Knott will marry her lifelong friend Deputy Sheriff Dwight Bryant. Their social calendar is crammed with parties, receptions, renovating their house, and family commitments. When Deborah's colleague is murdered and Dwight becomes lead detective on the case, confidentiality is a challenge. Adding to her hectic schedule, young law students want her help with a stay of execution for a woman on death row. The story is well balanced between the personal and the professional issues. Enjoyable reading how Deborah's extended family pitches in and copes with a crisis. In a whirlwind of activity, Deborah and Dwight manage to solve their cases and finish all wedding preparations, just in time. Deborah's interactions with her warm and loving family make this series a positive, upbeat read with Southern charm.

Barbara says

I've said this before, but I'll say it again, I like Judge Deborah Knott. Yes, she gets involved in solving

murders; however, she's much smarter about it than most cozy heroines. Also, as judge, she's involved at least tangentially on a professional level.

In this one, she's really involved on a personal level - she knew the victims. As the countdown winds down to her wedding with childhood friend and "brother", Dwight, she's finding her way in how involved she can be in Dwight's cases and still remain impartial as a judge. It's tough for Dwight too. Obviously, as his love and partner in life, he would like to discuss and confide in Deborah, but doing so, on both their parts can compromise their professional careers.

I find these books well above most cozies written today. You have an intelligent, professional woman, who does not act impulsively and stupidly. Yes, she does find herself involved in very dangerous and life threatening situations, but she didn't get there by going off half-cocked and confronting murderers because she can't contain herself and has no impulse control. Hear that cozies.

Elizabeth says

This is a solid series.

With books that cross into the cozy mystery category, many series become predictable and formulaic. However, Maron does not fall into this trip.

Intrepid heroine, Deborah Knott, frequently ends up in a new community temporarily due to her work as judge. So you don't end up with the feeling, "Why doesn't anyone ever move to Jessica Fletcher's town when someone new dies there every week?" It feels organic and not contrived.

With a large family, there is usually someone who knows someone with requiring one character to know everyone.

That's all generic review material. Specific to Ritual? I enjoyed seeing more inoput into Deborah's finance/husband. I wasn't sure I would like the marriage plotline, but this episode set that at ease. I think it will work.

This is a strong, steady reliable series that I can always reach for knowing I will be satisfied.

Ed says

#11 in the Judge Deborah Knott mystery series. Finalist 2005 Agatha Award for Best Novel.

Judge Deborah Knott mystery - The judge and her fiancé, sheriff deputy Dwight Bryant, are distracted from their impending nuptials by a fatal car crash involving assistant D.A. Tracy Johnson. When it turns out that someone shot Johnson as she was driving, Deborah and Dwight become involved in a murder investigation that will uncover a web of crime and corruption in Colleton County, N.C. Meanwhile, members of Deborah's large, extended family, among other warm Southern characters, hurry to complete the renovations on Deborah's old farmhouse and to prepare, celebrate and sometimes complicate the upcoming wedding. When two young students approach Deborah about a death-row prisoner who they think is innocent, she can't resist

helping.

Joyce Lagow says

11th in the Judge Deborah Knott series set in North Carolina.[return][return]Not only reconciled but now eagerly anticipating her marriage to Dwight Bryant just before Christmas, Deborah is caught up not only in preparations for the wedding but for the season as well. But marring the festivities for everyone is the murder of a young, attractive assistant DA, Tracy Johnson, and the consequent death of her infant adopted daughter.[return][return]Along with some fairly humorous and obviously nostalgic descriptions of preparing for a wedding and almost everything that can happen, Maron has written far more of a police procedural book than she has previously, something hard to do when her protagonist is not a police officer. But with this books, Maron brings Officer Mayleen Richards more to the fore, and through Mayleen and other officers in the Colleton Conty Sheriff's Department, Maron can lean more towards the procedural side. However, it's still no New York or Los Angeles type of case, and she stays utterly true to her regional slant on characters, dialogue, and behavior. The details of the preparations for the wedding are well done in that nothing is cloying; again, a major strength of the series is the very size of Deborah's family and the fact that Maron has given more or less distinct voices to Deborah's brothers and especially their wives.[return][return]The plot is good and the intertwining of murder investigation and wedding preparations works because Maron is a skillful writer who has this material thoroughly in hand.[return][return]Highly recommended.

Dail Sams says

Judge Deborah Knott prepares to marry long-time family friend Dwight Bryant while helping get a wrongly convicted woman off death row. Meanwhile Dwight is up to his eyeballs in a murder investigation involving an attorney colleague of Deborah's and her adopted baby. Throw in a fire at the country club where the reception was to be and preparing to welcome stepson Cal into their new home, and Deborah is feeling a little stressed. But through it all, she is suffused with a profound sense of gratitude at the gift life has given her.

Kathleen Buckley says

Why this is classified as a mystery is a mystery. It was a sappy romance novel with an incidental crime buried in all the lovey-dovey muck.

Also, way too many minor characters. They all seemed to be related and contributed nothing except to help with wedding preparations. Quite a dull bunch and that includes the main characters.

This is one book in a series. To be fair, it's the only one I've read and this is going to be it. There are too many good series in the crime/mystery genre so no need to waste more time on these.

I gave it 2 stars because I finished it. I reserve 1 star for books so bad that I just can't go on and quit mid

stream.

Nell says

Excellent addition to the series. Maron balances the personal and professional aspects of the main characters' lives and adds not one but two mysteries to solve. It takes a skillful writer to make that appear effortless.

The story takes place leading up to Deborah's and Dwight's wedding. Both are involved in pre-wedding preparations, holiday parties to celebrate their nuptials, merging households, blending families, decorating and shopping for Christmas. And then there's murder - an ADA is shot on the highway by someone she knew resulting in an accident that also kills her infant daughter. The ADA was raising questions about the guilt of a woman on death row scheduled to be executed in a month. Was her reexamining the investigation related to her murder?

Half of the focus is on Dwight, the Sheriff and deputies he works with making this one more of a police procedural. Members of both Dwight's and Deborah's families and extended families are woven in and Dwight's son, Cal, is introduced. Maron does an excellent job solving both cases (Dwight solves one and Deborah figures out the other) just in time for their walk down the aisle. Well done. Highly recommended.

Ellen says

Rituals of the Season by Margaret Maron.

A Deborah Knott mystery or so I thought.

Assistant D.A. Tracy Johnson is on the highway when she spots someone she knows well. She no sooner rolls down her window to say "Hi" in passing then she is shot and crashes. That shot killed her before her car ever hit the concrete support but the crash kills her toddler in the back seat. Judge Deborah Knott is horrified to learn the news of her friend and colleague. She's even more distressed to learn it was murder.

This wonderful mystery grows deeper with another case brought to the Judge's attention of a convicted killer awaiting execution. Can these two murders be connected and if so do they have the wrong person about to be executed?

The mystery element of the book would rate 5 stars and kept me focused and interested...however and unfortunately the romance portion of the Judge's life inappropriately interrupted the story line for me and brought my rating down to 4 stars.
