



Snake Dreams

James D. Doss

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With his Southwestern series, bestselling author James D. Doss and his dryly humorous, no-nonsense Native American sleuth, Charlie Moon, have brought law and whatâ€™s going to have to pass for order to Charlieâ€™s Columbine Ranch and the nearby Ute reservation.

Now the seven-foot rancher and part-time tribal investigator wants to carve out a little more space for himself alongside FBI Special Agent Lila Mae McTeague. Thatâ€™s right: Charlie has it in his head that heâ€™s going to get hitched. That is, unless Charlieâ€™s irascible aunt, her sixteen-year-old niece, and their visions of a dead womanâ€”her throat slit from ear to earâ€”have anything to say about it.

With a bit of romance and full measure of murder, *Snake Dreams*, the thirteenth in James D. Dossâ€™s widely loved Charlie Moon series, is a haunting tale best told under a full moon and beside a crackling fire.

Snake Dreams Details

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Author : James D. Doss

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From Reader Review Snake Dreams for online ebook

Marna Whitney says

A bit slower than other books of his I have read. Still enjoyed reading this as well.

Farhana Faruq says

Another wonderful read. The only drawback to this story (out of the Charlie Moon series) is I didn't like the style used. James Doss seems to switch from one narrative form to another, which ruined the flow of the story.

Betty says

Snake Dreams by James D. Doss: A Charlie Moon Mystery

Book 13 of the Charlie Moon series and I have read all of them up to and including this one. Waiting for me in my bookcase is #14 The Widows Revenge, and on my Wish List is #15, A Dead Man's Tale. Obviously I am a fan of James Doss and a fan of Charlie Moon. What is not to like? A 7 ft tall lean good-looking Ute cowboy, retired cop and now part-time tribal investigator. He has a wonderful ranch in a beautiful location, every girl falls for him but he just can't seem to hang onto them. Of course this is often because of Aunt Daisy's machinations.

His Aunt Daisy Perika, of ancient age, is a blessing and a curse, a disaster, sly as a fox, and a shaman, a crabby one at that. Daisy talks to spirits, not that she invites them, they come to her with messages and portents and try as she might, she can't ignore them. After all, they know where to find her anytime, anywhere. She also visits and talks to a pitukupf, a dwarf who lives in an abandoned badger hole, bringing him food and tobacco in exchange for cryptic answers to the spirits' problems which are now her problems. He also brings news of evil coming, if she can decipher what he is saying in time.

In Doss's earlier books, there was much more police action, mysteries, missing people, murder and such playing a rather major role, along with the great descriptions you can count on. Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona some of the most beautiful and extreme landscape in the country. Those readers of Tony Hillerman's series of the Navajo tribal police, especially Jim Chee and Joe Leaphorn, will understand what I mean. I expected similar when I started reading James Doss' books, and in fact there were a lot of similarities in the early books, although with Daisy there was a lot more myth, legend, because of her heritage, but there was still a lot of policing and investigation.

The Charlie Moon series has always been great fun to read, but in the latest books, possibly because Charlie is supposed to be on his ranch, not solving crimes like his best friend Scott Parrish, chief of police for Granite City, the focus has been much more on the characters themselves with a mystery running in the background. As mentioned, the books have always had some humor in the storyline, but the past few have been nothing short of hilarious, which leaves me to wonder if this series has done a crossover genre. I laughed out loud through a lot of this book Even the style of writing seems to be different and very unique,

but again, very funny.

The characters are true to themselves, and it's been fascinating to see them continue to grow and even to age, something that is often missed in a series. Who would be my favorite character? It's hard to answer that, so many diversities, but I think my personal favorite is Daisy, without her half the book would be missing. She is now tutoring her young protégé, 16 year old Sarah, in healing, magic and other shamanist knowledge. This is still one of my favorite series and great for a break between more serious books. Highly entertaining. This particular book made me think of Dana Stabenow's "Breakup", a book in another great series with wonderful characterizations and scenery, set among the Alaskan Aleuts.

M_latimer says

Not a big fan of Doss' writing style. Will not read another of his books.

Jane says

Didn't like his style. Won't read more. Author seemed to be different just for difference sake, not because it enhanced the story. Lacks art. This is his first book I read and the last.

Samantha says

While I was initially pleased to revisit familiar characters I've grown fond of, I was aghast to discover Doss' strange new writing style, as if he'd suddenly morphed into a giddy teenager trying to tell an unconvincing story. Charlie Moon deserves better than this.

Becky says

I honestly couldn't finish reading the book because of the way that Doss has changed the writing style. I don't like the narration that he has added to the stories. It was difficult to get thru three sisters but impossible for me to get thru snake dreams.

Marsha says

It's like some cutesy person was writing this book, not the author of The Shaman Game which was great. It was a kind of "dear reader" thing where the author was addressing the reader to add little snippets, but I digress...which is what the writing was like. I like my books straight without unnecessary remarks that have nothing to do with the story. I'll read the other ones but hope they will be better than this.

Samantha says

Another solid Charlie Moon mystery from Mr. Doss. This one is told in a slightly different style from the previous tomes, much more conversational than normal. The narrator has a lot of interaction with the reader audience. This might bother people who don't care for that style of storytelling, preferring the standard invisible narrator/invisible audience deal. I like it, though. Clearly Doss is aiming to set up that casual cowboy feel to the thing.. informal and laid back, just like Moon himself.

Aside from that, there's nothing particularly remarkable about the book. Its good writing and a fun story, with the usual cast of colorful characters that make the Charlie Moon books so endearing. A quick read. I will make this complaint, though. For all that Moon's sweetheart Lila Mae is supposedly so smart, she surely does act like a moron in this book. Of course, to some degree, so does Moon.

Marcia says

Good story - too many asides and side references that interfere in the flow of the story. Lots of little sidebars that don't add anything to the story.

SadieKate says

I think I've officially given up on James Doss. The new style of contrived suspense ruins the story.

Diana says

A good addition to the Charlie Moon series. It does start out with Charlie's aunt having some "visions" and that part was a little hard to follow. Then it changes into a regular Charlie Moon story and an enjoyable read.

Susan says

Charlie Moon is a Ute rancher and sometimes investigator, plagued by his ancient Aunt Daisy, a shaman, who is raising orphaned Sarah Frank. Aunt Daisy meets the ghost of Chiquita Yazzi, who asks her to help daughter Nancy, a school friend of Sarah's, who is being abused by her stepfather. But Nancy has plans of her own, involving her shiftless boyfriend. Next thing you know, the stepfather is dead and the boyfriend is on the run. Charlie and his friend, the local police chief, are suspicious of Nancy, too, who soon takes off "borrowing" Sarah's renovated pickup truck. But this plot outline omits Doss's trademark style, heavy on the humor, sometimes arch authorial voice, and with a few twists that you won't be expecting.

Dr T says

This book was a great disappointment to me. After reading the first 12 books in the series, this one seemed to be something the author had fun with while trying to come up with an idea for the real next book in the series. The plot was thin and the conclusion was really just a cliffhanger for the next book (we'll see). He spent considerable effort in trying to be cute-funny, to the point where he lost contact with the main themes of the series. I'll read the next one sometime; but I just hope he gets back into the groove.

Sean Byrd says

Well, this is the one that knocked Mr. Doss off my reading list. I love the Charlie Moon stories, but each subsequent book, gets more tongue-in-cheek and the last couple, the endings have almost been contrived using ancillary characters and one sentence clues to bring out major plots.
