



The Devil's Cold Dish

Eleanor Kuhns

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In the next 1790s historical mystery from MWA Award winner Eleanor Kuhns, Will Rees' small farm town begins to suspect his wife of murder by witchcraft

Will Rees is back home on his farm in 1796 Maine with his teenage son, his pregnant wife, their five adopted children, and endless farm work under the blistering summer sun. But for all that, Rees is happy to have returned to Dugard, Maine, the town where he was born and raised, and where he's always felt at home. Until now. When a man is found dead - murdered - after getting into a public dispute with Rees, Rees starts to realize someone is intentionally trying to pin the murder on him. Then, his farm is attacked, his wife is accused of witchcraft, and a second body is found that points to the Rees family. Rees can feel the town of Dugard turning against him, and he knows that he and his family won't be safe there unless he can find the murderer and reveal the truth...before the murderer gets to him first.

The Devil's Cold Dish Details

Date : Published June 14th 2016 by Minotaur Books

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Author : Eleanor Kuhns

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From Reader Review The Devil's Cold Dish for online ebook

Elizabeth says

This is, for now, the last in the Will Rees series, which makes me sad as I enjoy this series. Like my 7th, 8th, and 9th great grandfathers Will Rees is a weaver in colonial New England. He solves mysteries but in this story he is also the accused along with his new wife being accused of witchcraft. Although it's been 100 years since the Salem witch trials those found guilty of witchcraft are still punished by death, it's a serious charge. Who is the real murderer and why is Will being made to look like it's him?

The author is a librarian in Goshen, New York. I don't know if she plans another book in this series but I hope so.

Evelyn says

This post Revolutionary war mystery brings the political and social customs of the time to life. Will Rees is a weaver by trade, but he also has a farm in Dugard, Massachusetts. He hates farm life, so after first his wife dies, he leaves his son, David, with his sister and her family who are suppose to take care of the farm while he hires out to do weaving jobs around the country. When he returns home, with a new, pregnant wife, he finds out that his sister's husband had beat his son, and they had run his farm into the ground.

Most of the people in the town of Dugard, where Will lives and grew up, hate him because he has, over the years, slighted them in one way or another. His sister Caroline, who has a vicious tongue, blames him for all her problems because she is poor and he has so much more than she, spreads rumors that his pregnant wife, Lydia, is a witch. When two men who live in their area are murdered, Lydia is accused of killing them via her witchy deeds, and Will is suspected of helping her. When he goes to town to look for allies, he has few, if any.

This is the story of a man who is trying his best to protect his family and homestead, and to investigate murder in a time when vigilantes came after private citizens, laws were pretty much up to the current magistrate, superstitions ran rampant, and accusations of witchcraft resulted in arrest and hanging.

This novel is rich with historical detail and diverse characters. Oh, and did I mention—it's a page-turner.

OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/th...>

The Devil's Cold Dish
A Will Rees Mystery #5
By Eleanor Kuhns
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<http://www.eleanor-kuhns.com/>
Brought to you by OBS Reviewer Daniele

Synopsis:

In the next 1790s historical mystery from MWA Award winner Eleanor Kuhns, Will Rees' small farm town begins to suspect his wife of murder by witchcraft

Will Rees is back home on his farm in 1796 Maine with his teenage son, his pregnant wife, their five adopted children, and endless farm work under the blistering summer sun. But for all that, Rees is happy to have returned to Dugard, Maine, the town where he was born and raised, and where he's always felt at home. Until now. When a man is found dead – murdered – after getting into a public dispute with Rees, Rees starts to realize someone is intentionally trying to pin the murder on him. Then, his farm is attacked, his wife is accused of witchcraft, and a second body is found that points to the Rees family. Rees can feel the town of Dugard turning against him, and he knows that he and his family won't be safe there unless he can find the murderer and reveal the truth...before the murderer gets to him first. (Goodreads)

Review:

The Devil's Cold Dish is a study in just how destructive envy and anger can be to a family's livelihood and well being. Suspenseful, well paced, and full of historical detail, it is an interesting and enjoyable trip back in time to post-Revolutionary War Maine.

Weaver Will Rees has returned to his childhood farm in Dugard, Maine, with hopes of settling into a regular routine with his pregnant wife Lydia, sixteen-year-old son David, and five adopted younger children. He is a wanderer at heart and is quickly bored with the monotony of farm work. Things heat up when a local man is murdered and all eyes turn to Rees as the perpetrator. Rees, who has some anger issues, is guilty of fighting with Ward before he died, but he certainly did not kill him. Additionally, rumors are swirling that Lydia is a witch. To make things worse, his sister will not leave him alone wanting him to support her and her family. When a second man is murdered and the scene staged to look like black magic is at play, Rees decides that Lydia is in real danger and ferries his family off, hopefully to safety. Rees stays behind with intentions of finding out who has it in for him and unmask the true murderer. When a third man is killed on Rees's own property, he is in for the fight for his life to clear his name.

The Devil's Cold Dish is the fifth book in the Will Rees Mystery series but the first book that I have had the opportunity to read. Since I do not know all of the characters' back stories, I had a hard time warming up to them all. I cannot decide if I like Rees very much, but he is an intelligent man and seemingly devoted to his new family. His family members and the town's residents are anything but boring, and I am particularly curious to find out more about David. The relationships are all complex making them realistic and believable. Rees's sister Caroline is the nastiest character in the book. I had the urge to slap her in every scene in which she appeared.

The mystery itself is well executed, and I like that it is such a personal endeavor for Rees. His vested interest adds suspense. He has obviously rubbed most of the town residents the wrong way so there are plenty of people to suspect of having it out for him. I did guess who is behind it all about midway through the book, but the danger to Rees and wanting to know the how and why of things kept me reading, rushing to get to the end.

The Devil's Cold Dish is a well written historical mystery. I confess that I enjoy the historical aspects more than the actual mystery this time around. I will definitely go back and read this series from the beginning. Though the book can be read as a standalone, I think reading from the start of the series would enrich the experience. I recommend this to fans of historical literature, especially those interested in the early days of

America.

Art says

This 1790's historical fiction mystery series hits a home run this time around.

Traveling weaver Will Rees is happy to be home in Dugard, Maine, with his pregnant wife, his son and his five adopted children. (He was as tired of being in Salem for the previous book as I was of having him there, apparently.)

But it's not a welcome home. First he is accused of murder. Then his wife is accused of murder and witch craft. And Will can only clear their names with his usual clever investigation of the deaths.

The characters continue to grow, their relationships mature and the plot leaves much to be addressed in the next installment.

writer... says

1700s mystery series featuring unique historical issues , views, and responses of the era. Fascinating reading, Ms Kuhns' research intrigues.

Beth says

I love this series!

Margaret Tidwell says

FTC: I received a free copy of this book from the author in exchange for my honest review. I received no other compensation and the opinions expressed in this review are one hundred percent true and my own.

The Devil's Cold Dish by Eleanor Kuhns was a great historical fiction book. I loved this book, and for the first time in a while, I didn't get bored while reading a historical fiction book. This is the 5 book in the series but you have to read them in order because this is the first book I read, and I had no problem following along with what is going on in it. This is the first book that I have read by this author, and I can't wait until I have the time to check out her other books. She wrote in such a way that I forgot from time to time that I was reading a historical fiction book. I loved that she was able to do that because it made the book fly by and I was able to read in just a few days. If you aren't the biggest fan of historical fiction books than I would tell you to give this book a shot because I think it is one that most people would enjoy even if this isn't their

favorite genre to read.

nikkia neil says

Thanks St. Martin's Press and netgalley for this ARC.

Great as always! I like this series because of the down to earth way they are written and the mystery solved. It's hard to describe the appeal of Will Rees.

Annie says

Jealousy is a terrible, powerful emotion. In *The Devil's Cold Dish*, Eleanor Kuhns shows us just how destructive that emotion is. Will Rees has just returned from business in Salem, but is unable to settle into a routine. His pregnant wife is the object of rumors that she's a witch. His sister and brother-in-law will not stop plaguing him for support. His son resents his absences. And then, a man who Will brawled with one morning is later found shot to death. *The Devil's Cold Dish* is the fifth novel featuring Will Rees, but even though I haven't read the other four, I had no problem diving into the book...

Read the rest of my review at A Bookish Type. I received a copy of this book from NetGalley for review consideration.

Jeanie says

After reading the 5th in the series, I want to read the earlier books. In doing so, I have not connected as I should but I am intrigued with Rees and his family. He now stands accused of murder and his wife is accused of witchcraft. During this time, it was easy to accuse others and make a living hell of ones life and that is the case with Rees. He is determined to get to the truth while protecting his wife and children. He has a history of this community doing the right thing and has made enemies along the way, including his sister. Who would go to great lengths to set up his family? He is a man that vulnerable but strong. A great read of historical fiction.

A Special Thank You to St. Martin's Press and Netgalley for the ARC and the opportunity to post an honest review.

Lia says

Less is more. The amount of detail is astonishing and unnecessary. It felt like we were grasping at frayed rope trying to accuse Caroline, goodness and then it was actually Charlie which seemed so out of character.

rain says

I accidentally came into this series for the first time.....by reading the 5th book in the series. Oops. As a standalone novel, it was decent. It had good moments of suspense and confusion, twists and turns like any mystery. However, I think because I hadn't read the previous ones, a lot of the smaller details were left unanswered and had be confused in some parts of the book. The writing itself was ok, it could sometimes drag on a bit too much and almost as if she likes to over explain things. Overall, though, it was good and it made me want to read the previous four at another time.

Maureen says

Started slow but finished strong.

Jessica Rickert says

A exceptionally detailed historical whodunit with twists and turns. Great ending and plot.

I won this book for free on the Good reads giveaways.

Jill says

quick story, surprise ending!
