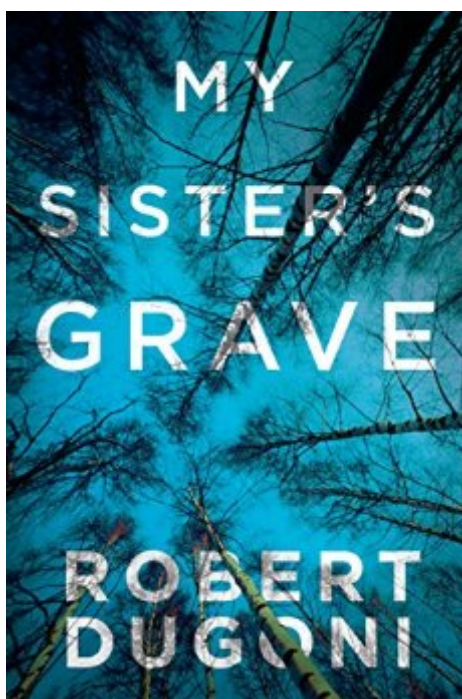


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My Sister's Grave (The Tracy Crosswhite Series Book 1)



Synopsis

Tracy Crosswhite has spent twenty years questioning the facts surrounding her sister Sarah's disappearance and the murder trial that followed. She doesn't believe that Edmund House is a convicted rapist and the man condemned for Sarah's murder is the guilty party. Motivated by the opportunity to obtain real justice, Tracy became a homicide detective with the Seattle PD and dedicated her life to tracking down killers. When Sarah's remains are finally discovered near their hometown in the northern Cascade mountains of Washington State, Tracy is determined to get the answers she's been seeking. As she searches for the real killer, she unearths dark, long-kept secrets that will forever change her relationship to her past and open the door to deadly danger.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Since I wasn't interested in a historical family drama or a book set in the boxing world and the science fiction selection (which would normally be my first choice) committed the unpardonable (to me) sin of being written in the present tense (why, oh why is that becoming so common?), I chose "My Sister's Grave" as my Kindle First pick this month. It also already had almost uniformly positive reviews which, for an as yet unreleased book, must have come from actual Vine reviewers not the

author's friends and family. I have to say that I liked "My Sister's Grave" as much or more than any of the Kindle First books I've read this year. It is a solid mystery written by an accomplished author. Unlike more traditional mysteries, the book focuses on a crime from twenty years ago that has already been "solved" with the main character being the victim's sister. Part police procedural, part amateur detective, part courtroom drama this is very much a modern mystery but not as involved as a Grisham or Connelly. The main characters are interesting and likeable. And I thought the author did a good job portraying a sister relationship and the power of guilt. He did try to create some nuance and question of good guys/bad guys but I thought he was less than successful there. Can't say that I found the end very surprising but it was still an enjoyable read. The book did have some editing fails, but not enough to have me foaming at the mouth or to completely derail the book. Note to the publisher- editing is more than proof reading. Exposition sentences shouldn't end with a preposition when it can easily be rewritten, there shouldn't be long conversational strings with he said/she said/he said/she said. And if a character makes even a passing comment that sounds jarring- take it out!

Tracy Crosswhite is a super-cop/star homicide detective. A master marksman and CSI star, her fellow officers call her, "The Professor." Haunted by the death of her sister 20 years ago, Tracy firmly believes the man convicted of her sister's death is not guilty. A theory she finally gets to put into play by both exonerating the wrongfully jailed and finding the real killer when her sister Sarah's body is located in a shallow grave. As in many books of this type, Tracy is, by far, the smartest person in every room. She's a sharpshooter who used to compete, a former chemistry teacher and amateur legal scholar. She always has the exact right skill to tackle every clue that comes up and has no problem doing a host of improbable things like getting herself assigned to her sister's murder investigation (which seems ethically unlikely) or maneuvering the legal system into a new trial. Despite her sometimes incredulous traits, Tracy does come across as fully fleshed out by the author. She is, at times, emotional and introspective and not always perfect. There's an emotional resonance in the character--a core of truth--that make her both believable and empathetic. This is a sort of a Law and Order-style story, with detailed elements of both the investigation and legal trial dominating the narrative. The plot is slightly predictable and relies on details, rather than red herrings, to keep readers' interest. And it worked, in that I remained engaged in both the hunt for the killer and the legal outcome of the retrial, long after knowing whodunit and what SHOULD happen. It also delves into the relationship of the sisters, adding a psychological element I wasn't expecting, that mostly worked, though occasionally seemed out of character for Tracy as she was originally

presented.

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