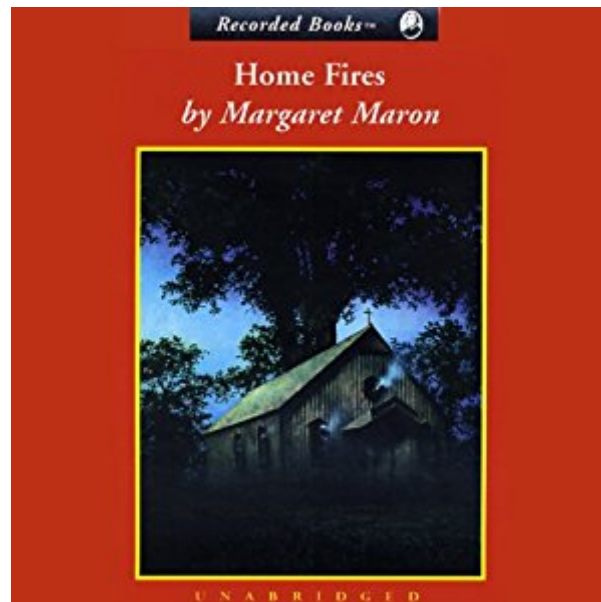




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Home Fires



Synopsis

If there's truly such a thing as an American "cozy," Margaret Maron's novels of the contemporary South fit the bill. Not that Deborah Knott, the sexy, smart young district court judge whose extended family of 10 siblings, a curmudgeonly father who used to be a moonshiner, and uncles, aunts, nephews, and nieces too numerous to count, bears any resemblance to the maiden ladies of that beloved British genre. But like her English counterparts, Maron eschews blood and gore, and concentrates instead on manners, mores, and motives. And she has few equals on either side of the Atlantic; she weaves telling portraits of ordinary people coping with out-of-the-ordinary circumstances, often in less than a couple of sentences, and tells the whole history of a landscape and a way of life in one short paragraph. In this tradition, *Home Fires* delineates the remnants of prejudice that linger like an indelible stain on the fabric of race relations in mostly rural Colleton County, North Carolina. When Deborah's family calls on her to help her teenage nephew, who's accused of vandalizing a family cemetery with racial epithets and hate slogans, she butts heads with an angry, aggressive, black female D.A., a charismatic preacher, and an activist and former Black Panther whose closet full of skeletons seems linked to the church arsons. As the plot unfolds, Maron brings the New South into focus, illuminating not only its physical beauty and the complexity of its inhabitants but also the changes and problems caused by integration. Deborah is a steel magnolia whose own fires smolder sexily in scenes with Kidd, her lover, and whose own values and beliefs come in for a penetrating reexamination in this newest in the popular series from Edgar, Agatha, Anthony, and Macavity Award-winning author Maron. --Jane Adams --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have read all of Margaret Maron's books and they are always a decided treat. Since I have read so many, and since I am almost 80 yrs old, I tend to forget titles. It would help so much if you would print the original publishing date---so I avoid ordering a book I have already consumed. Thanks, Joanna Spaulding

I have read the Deborah Knott series from the beginning for the mystery and for the picture Margaret Maron gives of life in non-urban Eastern Carolina. For me this was the best in the series to date. Not only is the mystery good, the picture of race relations in today's South from both Black and White perspectives is extremely well drawn. The reality and the complexities of racism are illustrated along with possibilities. The mystery is complicated by the reader's own reactions to the apparent racial motivation behind the fires. This book is for those who desire an accurate look at today's South along with a good story line and intriguing characters.

Margaret Maron has beautifully developed the character of Deborah Knott, along with her extended family and friends. Woven throughout her intelligent mysteries is a wonderful picture of life in several areas of North Carolina as well as information about the special towns, crafts and industries in that part of the United States. I recommend starting with her first Deborah Knott novel and proceeding in order, but you can read them independent of one another.

very good

The Deborah Knott series is the best mystery series on the market today.

An excellent mystery! Margaret Maron is a master storyteller. This is the fourth or fifth time I have read this book, and guess what? I'll read it again someday!

Margaret Maron's books are like putting on a cozy sweater and having a good friend visit to entertain me. I love the family and setting descriptions. The mysteries are always fresh and there is an unexpected twist somewhere. Can't get enough of her books. I hope she keeps writing for a long time.

While not a great mystery in general all of the Deborah Knott books are a good read. The books lead you through the daily life of a rural county judge, her huge family of brothers, in-laws, nieces & nephews; love life and a local mystery. The books are interesting, colorful, descriptive and very readable. These are good books to curl up with when you do not want to tax your brain with a Clancy, Patterson or Berry. Probably best read from first book forward but not absolutely necessary.

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