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A Serpent's Tooth: A Walt Longmire Mystery, Book 9



Synopsis

In this ninth installment in the award-winning and New York Times best-selling Walt Longmire mystery series, the Wyoming sheriff follows his cowboy code of ethics in a religious range war that strikes a little too close to home.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Walt Longmire is more than just the sheriff of the fictitious Absaroka county in Wyoming; he's a renaissance man well versed in the works of Shakespeare and Dante, an old soul, a loyal friend, a Vietnam vet, a straight shooter with a mean right hook, and a softie when it comes to the women in his life. I'm not sure if it's Walt, or the author, Craig Johnson, or maybe both, but the books keep getting better and better. Years ago, when I first read *The Cold Dish* by the then unknown Johnson, I knew I had found an author and a lead character that would keep me engaged with each new book. Johnson's writing is clever with a wry sense of humor, multi-layered in context, and his novels are peopled with characters so compelling with their individual temperaments and personalities. And with Johnson's obvious love of the mid-western landscape, he makes it's terrible beauty another player in his novels as well. These are books that I recommend to friends constantly as Johnson's intelligent and nuanced prose makes every story a delight to read. His latest novel, *A Serpent's Tooth*, begins when Walt discovers a young boy has been living in Barbara Thomas' pump house, periodically breaking into her home to raid the fridge and repair whatever she has left on her to-do list for him. When Walt catches up to the boy, Cord, he discovers more than just a young man cast

out from the Mormon splinter group, The Apostolic Church of the Lamb of God. He finds intrigue involving big oil, big guns, cults, the CIA, a missing woman, the rather extensive Lyneer family with their rather large patriarch, and a cipher of a man claiming to be two hundred years old, blessed with immortality by Mormon leader Joseph Smith himself. Walt's job is never easy.

Craig Johnson's well-honed and crafted Walt Longmire mysteries are engaging page-turners that are as fresh and raw as they are multi-layered and nuanced. Furthermore, Johnson doesn't back down from the socio-economical issues taking place in today's West and bringing them to a roaring boil. Johnson's mysteries keep us turning the pages, but as we do, he gives us glimpses into the contemporary west, the people who live with the imposing presence of the looming Rocky Mountains, and the undercurrents of modern technology, and social ills. Dichotomies abound with cowboys on horseback with I-phones, raging snowstorms and the futility of technology in their midst, western machismo and the women with balls enough to stand up to it. As you read Johnson's works, he will divulge his characters' souls to you. We learn, bit by bit, about their weaknesses, their wounds, and their paths that led them to inhabit this remote corner of America. We also share in their triumphs and victories -- even if it is small as an ice cold Ranier beer after a day of driving dusty roads. Craig Johnson's "Walt Longmire Mysteries" series explore our world and our psyches with their imagery, symbolism, mythological archetypes and spiritualism. He does this without stereo-typing or rehashing old cliches, but with spot-on dialogue, engaging characters, and complex suspenseful plot-building. And that is what makes the reading of the Walt Longmire mystery series so very addictive. We root for Walt Longmire because he fights the good fights that must be fought--no matter what the costs are to him.

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