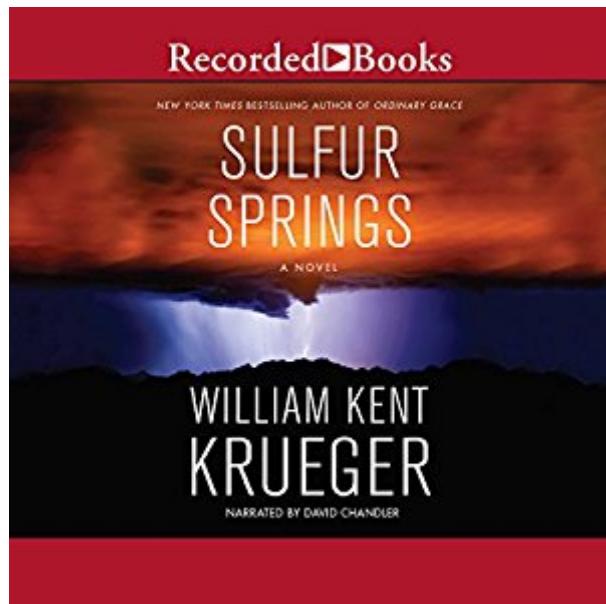


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Sulfur Springs



Synopsis

In William Kent Krueger's latest pulse-pounding thriller, Cork O'Connor's search for a missing man in the Arizona desert puts him at the center of a violent power struggle along the Mexican border, a struggle that might cost Cork everything and everyone he holds most dear. On the Fourth of July, just as fireworks are about to go off in Aurora, Minnesota, Cork O'Connor and his new bride Rainy Bisonette listen to a desperate voicemail left by Rainy's son, Peter. The message is garbled and full of static, but they hear Peter confess to the murder of someone named Rodriguez. When they try to contact him, they discover that his phone has gone dead. The following morning, Cork and Rainy fly to Coronado County in southern Arizona, where Peter has been working as a counselor in a well-known drug rehab center. When they arrive, they learn that Peter was fired six months earlier and hasn't been heard from since. So they head to the little desert town of Sulfur Springs where Peter has been receiving his mail. But no one in Sulfur Springs seems to know him. They do, however, recognize the name Rodriguez. Carlos Rodriguez is the head of a cartel that controls everything illegal crossing the border from Mexico into Coronado County. As they gather scraps of information about Peter, Cork and Rainy are warned that there is a war going on along the border. "Trust no one in Coronado County" is a refrain they hear again and again. And to Cork, Arizona is alien country. The relentless heat and absence of water, tall trees, and cool forests feel nightmarish to him, as does his growing sense that Rainy might know more about what's going on than she's willing to admit. And if he can't trust Rainy, who can he trust? Featuring Krueger's signature talent of "creating strong characters, building drama and conflict, braiding in Indian legend and spirituality, and spinning a good yarn" (Minneapolis Star Tribune), Sulfur Springs is a fresh, exhilarating, and white-knuckle mystery starring one of the greatest heroes of fiction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

William Kent Krueger had trouble making his last novel-in-progress work and that put him off his usual publication schedule. As a result, SULFUR SPRINGS has been much-anticipated and turns out to have been well worth the wait. It represents something of a departure from the Cork O' Connor series, whose hallmark is its northern Minnesota setting and the manner in which it is affected by the Ojibwe culture. SULFUR SPRINGS begins and ends in Minnesota (and Henry Meloux does appear in the novel briefly), but the bulk of the story is set in Arizona. Cork has now married Henry's great-niece, Rainy, but Rainy's son Peter is in trouble, the nature of that trouble not yet understood or defined. Ex-military, Peter is a strong, sensitive sort who was for a time addicted to painkillers. He spent some time in a posh clinic to re-hab, then worked for an Arizona winery and is now in the wind. He appears to have been involved with a person named Rodriguez and that relationship may, in some way, have involved murder. Cork and Rainy get on the first available plane to Arizona. The center of the action is a fictional town called Cadiz, which is located south of Tucson. We are thus in the Tucson-Nogales corridor with multiple visits to the local mountains and their abandoned mines. The mines may hold new riches if they are reopened. In the meantime they may shelter would-be immigrants and/or the wares of drug cartels. The author sets up the search-for-Peter story within a milieu that includes border guards, drug traffickers, coyotes, winemakers, real estate developers, an aging bi-plane pilot and a secret, sort-of supremacist group. We also meet Rainy's first husband, himself a member of a Mexican drug cartel, who is willing to invest time and resources in the effort to find his son. His entry adds sexual tension and jealousy to the quest story. Cork's job is to find Peter, help protect Rainy, and, in particular, dodge the bad guys when it's never really clear who those individuals actually are. The principal theme of the story is the nature of trust—its importance in marriage and its importance within society. WKK manages to capture the local setting with all of the specificity and intensity that he brings to the northwoods, no mean feat given its essential barrenness, oppressive heat and a sky full of vultures rather than the tops of evergreen trees. The story is strong, the characters interesting, the romantic subplot effective. WKK's novels are all excellent, so it is difficult to actually rank them. SULFUR SPRINGS is a fine addition to the series. Highly recommended.

I love the Cork O'Connor series, even though I feel depressed after. Krueger is great in conveying and setting the mood in his books. I also liked how he made an major human rights issue the center of the story, and have Cork some happy.

Absolutely fantastic book! William Kent Krueger only gets better with each book! I thoroughly enjoy reading about Cork O'Connor and it was very interesting learning about the new location. I highly recommend all of his books.

Williams Kent Krueger hit the ball out of the park again. I have not been disappointed in Mr. Krueger writings of the Cork O'Connor Mysteries. Thank you Mr. Krueger.

Enjoyed a change of venue for Cork O'Conner to Arizona

we read the whole series

exciting fast paced

I wait for this author's books. He is a true craftsman. He writes interesting stories and incorporates important social issues without preaching. Cork O'Connor's personal story line is worth going back to the first book in this series, Iron Lake, and following through to this one.

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