

Secrets

Frederick Ramsay

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SECRETS is a very worthwhile entry in a genre dubbed "medium boiled" by avid readers of suspense fiction. Set in a small town in rural Virginia and featuring a thoroughly believable cast of characters, SECRETS begins with a murder in a church.

The church secretary finds organist Waldo Templeton dead near the organ, shot twice with a small caliber weapon. Ramsay's title sums up the action perfectly - since the reader will find that layer upon layer of secrets have been concealed in the small community.

A malicious gossip works out her own life of frustration by hurting others. A sensitive group of church files is missing. Married couples deceive each other. An Episcopal priest new to the community has arrived fleeing the disastrous fall-out from a previous assignment. Ike Schwartz, the local sheriff, is startled when the FBI appears, protecting secrets of its own and striving to take over the investigation. Hiding in plain sight, the killer finds motivation in the protection of yet another set of secrets.

All the myriad tensions contained in the small community overflow and at least one more resident is found shot to death with the same weapon.

Ramsay makes impressive use of the tension and apprehension implicit in the interlocking webs of unknown facts and motivations. As the action unfolds, will the reader discover that revenge and hostility rule the day? Or will good sense and compassion gain the upper hand?

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