



A Death in Eden

Keith McCafferty

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"Keith McCafferty is a top-notch, first-rate, can't-miss novelist."

--C.J. Box, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author

When scarecrows appear in the cliffs above Montana's famous Smith River and a little girl reports being chased by one in the night, state investigator Harold Little Feather is brought in to find the culprit. Are the menacing effigies related to a copper-mining project that threatens the purity of the Smith? That's Harold's initial suspicion, but his investigation takes an ominous turn when a decapitated body is found in the river.

As Harold's search leads him back in time through the canyon's history, Sean Stranahan launches his raft upriver. He has been hired to guide a floating party that includes Clint McCaine, the manager of the mine project; Bart Trueblood, the president of "Save The Smith," a grassroots organization devoted to stopping the project; and the documentarian filming their arguments. McCaine and Trueblood grew up on the Smith on neighboring ranches, and as they travel downstream, it's revealed that the two share a past that runs much deeper and darker than their opposing viewpoints.

The currents of the seemingly unrelated trips will soon flow together, and Stranahan's long-time love Sheriff Martha Ettinger will enter the fray as the boats hurtle toward a date with danger at a place called Table Rock. *A Death in Eden* is the seventh novel in the acclaimed Sean Stranahan mystery series.

A Death in Eden Details

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Author : Keith McCafferty

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From Reader Review A Death in Eden for online ebook

An says

Disclaimer: I received a free copy of A Death in Eden through Goodreads' Giveaways. However, this has in no way influenced my rating of the book.

Hans Erdman says

Sean, Martha and Harold are back and better than ever. Although this is a Sean Stranahan mystery, it is really a Harold Littlefeather story and one that is a genuine nail-biter. I agree with a previous reviewer who was going to give up on the series after the Hemingway story. There are parts that are taut, gripping and even gruesome, and parts that are light and amusing. McCafferty is back in the groove, and I anxiously await the next story.

Al Dowling says

Another Great Read

Thank for another great read. Really suspenseful throughout the book. Keith McCafferty's prose makes me want to take up fly fishing. Strong sense of place, accurately portrayed. I hope Keith is at work on another in this series.

Deb says

Just wow. I loved A Death in Eden. What a book. It is splendid, inspiring, engaging, and sprinkled with such beauty and truth. It explores both sides of an important environmental issue while taking you on an intriguing adventure. A worthy, terrific addition to the series.

Chris Conley says

As usual, Montana is front and center in this latest Sean Stranahan story. Actually, this book is more Harold's story but still very powerful.

Marion says

Best one yet.

Michael Rowley says

As always, Keith McCafferty brings Montana alive in a way that makes me wish I'd been there, or was at least going for a visit!

This latest book feels like something of a departure at first. Sean is there, of course, and Martha, but this feels very much like Harold's book. A significant part of the plot and story revolve around him and from his point of view, and at first I was, just off a moment, a little disappointed by that. That quickly turned to enjoyment, however, as it really felt like Harold was now fully part of the experience. Always intriguing, but somewhat distant, we finally got to see the man himself.

This is a book about relationships: between friends, lovers, fathers and sons, people and animals, the land and the those living and working it. Of the threats and opportunities, the costs and responsibilities we all have to our environments.

I don't fish, I don't hunt, and I've never been to Montana, but Keith McCafferty brings it alive in all its seeming glory and faults. This may not be the most sophisticated plot of the series, or even the most satisfying, but it paints that landscape like you can almost hear the water and smell the trees. It made me think of larger things, and for that and the welcome return of characters that feel like old friends, I've given it five stars.

Cathy says

I received a copy of this book through the First Reads program. It is the seventh in the series. I have not read the first six. My library doesn't have them. This may have contributed to my dissatisfaction with this book. I found the characters to be bland. Maybe Mr. McCafferty did all the development of his main characters in the first six books. But I found nothing of interest here. I didn't care about the characters which makes the book very dull.

Too many plots spoil the book. Development of a mine versus preservation of wild land should have been the focus of the book. It was not developed enough. The other tangents were an unnecessary complication. What Mr. McCafferty does do well is his descriptions of Montana. He is writing about what he knows and loves. It shows.

Drick says

This is the fourth McCafferty/Sean Stranahan novel I have read and the one I enjoyed the most. In addition to telling a good story, McCafferty slips in bits and pieces of Native American history and lore, Montana political issues and the wonder of nature in that vast state. I also enjoy the turns of phrase. An added bonus are his allusions to fellow college friends we knew when we were roommates in college together!

Susan Coley says

One of the best and not much fanfare for this latest edition. I still don't like Martha.

Dragonlady says

As tempers flare over a proposed copper mining operation close to Montana's beautiful Smith River, an important fishery habitat, a series of disturbing scarecrows begin appearing on the overlooking cliffs. Not only are the figures scaring river rafters, they are frequently close to ancient petroglyphs left by Native Americans inciting fears of possible desecration. State investigator Harold Little Feather is assigned to float the river and investigate the effigies just as he learns he has a teenaged son who is going to accompany him on the trip.

As Harold begins looking into who is behind the scarecrows, river guide and private investigator Sean Stranahan along with longtime friend, Sam Meslik are taking rivals Clint McCaine, manager of the mining project and Bart Trueblood, president of a grassroots group dedicated to saving the Smith River on a float trip through one of the more picturesque sections. The river trip is the brainstorm of Lillian Cartwright, a driven if bitchy documentarian dedicated to making a name for herself. She hopes to get the two opponents engaged in lively discussions around the evening campfires. During the course of the trip, old wounds come to the surface but it is the discovery of a decapitated human body that shows someone on the river is playing for keeps.

Seventh of the Sean Stranahan series, this tale grabs your attention with the strength of a river current and doesn't let go. The past plays a huge role in some surprising and potentially deadly ways. While the mystery is satisfying with plenty of twists and turns, it is the ongoing character building that really makes it work. One need not read previous titles in the series to fully enjoy this satisfying novel but of course, it helps.

Greta Cyrus says

really enjoyed this book!

MELISSA says

I "read" this book listening to it as I did my daily walking. A murder mystery, a river in peril, a really bad guy and Sean Stranahan and crew. This seventh book is as fresh and rewarding a read as the first book yet is even better because with every book in this series I learn more of these characters who are now like friends. Beautiful and lyrical writing -- sort of amazing when the topic is murder.

Homerun2 says

It can't be easy to sustain the quality of a character driven mystery series. But Keith McCafferty seems to be doing just fine with the Sean Stranahan books, of which this is #7.

These books are appealing on many levels -- the terrific Montana wilderness settings as affectionately described by fly fisherman-artist-private detective Sean Stranahan. The humor and wit of the dialogue and character interactions are a great pleasure, and the quirky ensemble cast never disappoints.

This outing highlights Harold Little Feather, Sean's friend, Sheriff Martha's ex-lover, and a superb tracker. He has been working undercover in a wild animal trafficking case involving some extremely nasty bad guys. And to spice things up a bit, Marcus, Harold's newly discovered teenage son is along for the ride. They are also checking out the appearance of large scarecrows bearing signs protesting possible copper mining development in the Smith River area.

Meanwhile Sean and Sheriff Martha are still dancing around their big question -- can these two independent and semi-cantankerous souls find happiness together on a permanent basis? I look forward to each new book in this enjoyable series. Thanks to the publisher and to Net Galley in return for providing me with an ARC in exchange for my honest review.

Cyn Mcdonald says

Someone is building huge scarecrows along the Smith River, apparently protesting a proposed copper mine in the area. Someone else is poaching bears in Yellowstone Park and taking just the gall bladders. Harold Little Feather is undercover investigating the second case, but he's pulled off it to investigate the first -- and then he and his son disappear. Sean and Martha have to solve both cases before snowmelt upstream swells the river to dangerous levels.

As always a little too technical with the fly fishing for those who don't fish, but the descriptions of the flies make them sound as gorgeous as the Montana scenery. McCafferty clearly loves the area. If you like your mysteries heavily laced with environmental consciousness, this is an excellent series.
