



Effigies

Mary Anna Evans

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Archaeologist Faye Longchamp and her friend, Joe Wolf Mantooth, have traveled to Neshoba County, Mississippi, to help excavate a site near Nanih Waiya, the sacred mound where tradition says the Choctaw nation was born. When farmer Carroll Calhoun refuses their request to investigate an ancient Native American mound, Faye and her colleagues are disappointed, but his next action breaks their hearts: he tries to bulldoze the huge relic to the ground.

Faye and Joe rush to protect history--with their bodies, if necessary. Soon the Choctaws arrive to defend the mound and the farmer's white and black neighbors come to defend his property rights. Though a popular young sheriff

That night, Calhoun is found dead, his throat sliced with a handmade stone blade. Was he killed by an archaeologist, angered by his wanton destruction of history? Neshoba County farmers have been plowing up stone tools like the murder weapon for centuries. Did one of them take this chance to even the score with an old rival?

The sheriff is well-aware that Faye and Joe were near the spot where Calhoun's body was found and their combined knowledge of stone tools is impressive. They had motive, means, and opportunity....but so does almost everyone in Neshoba County.

Effigies Details

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From Reader Review Effigies for online ebook

Jerri Lincoln says

Great book! Great series!

Stef says

Very suspense, crime fighting mystery. Faye goes beyond her abilities and tries to save everyone around her and gets injured sometimes as well. Very little romance in this series so far.

The story keeps you right in and you want to find out what is happening and who the killer is . . . you will find out closer to the end if you haven't gotten it figured out as you read. . .

Sam Berretti says

Mary Anna Evans weaves a fine tapestry of mystery, characters, historical fact and science into a novel that's easy to read and hard to put down. Like the others in the Faye Longchamp series, we are introduced to the world of archaeology in a way that is neither dry nor too technical for the lay reader. Anyone can enjoy this series. Longchamp is a compelling character, a researcher who is outspoken, smart and adventurous. The plot is intriguing and comes with a twist. The wonderful thing about Mary's work is that you finish with new knowledge about the world around you.

Ed Napiorkowski says

An interesting and entertaining story sections of which I found to be quite similar in method as the previous volume. By that I mean the main story unfolds and there are snippets of tribal type legends and stories from 'interviews' with characters dispersed throughout the book. As a non American the places referenced are quite foreign to me and as such I found the historical nature of the book interesting. Though I did enjoy the story I found it less impressive than the first two of the series but still a good read.

Joan says

Although this book is basically fiction, Ms. Evans basis much of it on fact. Based on Archeology and the Choctaw Indian Nation, this book has a great mystery and a great history lesson. I thoroughly enjoyed another venture with Faye Longchamp and Joe Mantooth.

Pamela Cathcart says

This book brought up so many viewpoints on archeological exploration, that of the government, native tribes, scholars and landowners. And a raging war was fought, with surprising twists and turns, from the first page. I dearly love the challenge of researching facts brought up by an author, and it wasn't but a few chapters in when I looked up Poverty Point, the prehistoric earthworks shaped like an amphitheater, in Louisiana. After this, the third in the series, I feel I could make my way around a site with a trowel and paintbrush with the best of the team. As for the denouement, pfffft! Sure didn't see THAT coming. This series is the bomb. On to number four!

Jen says

Faye and Joe are off on another archaeological adventure in the Deep South, this time as assistants on one of Faye's grad school professor's summer digs in Mississippi. They are supposed to be excavating on the property of their Choctaw co-worker's family, but all of the archaeologists on the team are more interested in what appears to be an old Indian mound on the property of the farm across the road. They give up on it after a run-in with the property owner, but when a local farmer turns up murdered near the mound, and the sovereign nation of the Choctaws expresses their concern about what might happen to it, and an aging former Senator comes back to his hometown and announces a terrible thing that happened to him 40 years ago, and everything seems tied together...Faye can't seem to help but get herself and Joe in deep trying to put all the pieces together.

I didn't enjoy this one as much as the two previous books, but it was still a lot of fun. The negatives for me were: too much of Faye observing how attractive Joe is (this has been mentioned in previous books, but it was mentioned A LOT in this one, seemingly at least once per chapter); too many weirdly inconsistent details changed between scenes (At one point, Joe and Faye make plans to meet someone the next day at their dig site, and then in the next section, they are meeting him back at their hotel instead. There's a throwaway sentence explaining it, but it bugged me - either go back and rewrite so they plan to meet at the hotel if it's important for them to be there, or just have them meet at the dig site. Stuff like that happened a few other times.); and I knew who the murderer was halfway through the book, long before Faye did. Even so, I still love the history and archaeological details in the book - and it had a bonus guide at the end with some more information about the history and the author's research, which was fun to hear. I still enjoy Faye's company and personality, and I never wanted to stop listening to the book. I'm going to take a little break just to make the Faye books last a little longer, but I'll be back on book 4 before too long!

Rowan says

Faye Longchamp continues her archaeological career digging a site in Mississippi. We meet the local Choctaw Band and a variety of local folks. The dig is relatively accurately portrayed but isn't the meat of the story. The Neshoba County Fair brings out the politicians, local and regional, and a mystery near-lynching from the 1960's stirs up the local folks and embroils Faye in another mystery. This series has gotten better with each of these first three books and I am happily digging into book four. I love discovering a series after the author has had time to write lots of them!

Amy says

A good mystery, this story (#3 in the Faye Longchamp archaeologist series) is a little dry at first, but really takes off as the story progresses.

Effigies, set in Neshoba County, MS, finds Faye and friend, Joe Wolf Mantooth excavating a site near Nanih Waiya, the sacred mound where tradition says the Choctaw nation was born. When farmer Carroll Calhoun refuses archaeologists' request to investigate an ancient Native American mound, Faye and her colleagues are disappointed, but when he tries to bulldoze the mound, things get dangerous!

The archaeologists (Faye & Joe included) rush to protect the mound and this important piece of history, Choctaws arrive to protect the mound and the farmer's white and black neighbors come to defend his property rights. Tempers flare, but thankfully, a young sheriff is able to defuse the situation, for now.

That night, Calhoun is found dead! Who did it? Everybody had means, motive and opportunity, including Faye & Joe.

Joan says

With this third book, this series is getting better and better. Looking forward to the next.

Richard says

After finishing this a couple of days ago, I got lazy about reviewing it. Real life and all that. Anyway, I liked this book every bit as much as the first two in the series, perhaps a little more. At least my tear ducts claim it was teetering on the edge of five starry-ness, so I just pushed it over. Yeah, there was one spot where, wow. I won't give it away. Anyway, I'm going to keep going with this series.

At the opening of this book, Faye has taken another field-work assignment under a different prof, this time in Mississippi, and Joe is working with her as well. This other prof is not very methodical, and frankly kind of annoying, so she has her work cut out for her.

Like the previous books in the series, this is more than just simple murder/mystery genre fiction. It's pretty "literary" too. Yes, mysteries and murders occur, but there are also archaeology, history, race relations, philosophy, and even a bit of love interest. There are notes and a teaching guide at the end, which contextualize the setting.

The writing is ultra-solid. Student novelists: take note. The editing and copy-editing are both impeccable. Again I found no typographical errors in the book. It's apparently as spotless as the driven snow.

Full disclosure, since I'm dishing out all possible stars: I don't know the author. I paid the modest full retail price for this book, and it's worth every penny.

Susan says

Even for Florida native Faye Longchamp, excavating in Mississippi in summer is hot and humid work. The team is investigating the significance of a small site near a mound of great importance to the Choctaw people. They quickly come to suspect that the site was the location of a flint-knapping factory for turning out stone tools. The murder mystery is intriguing, but the main fascination of the book lies in its rich archaeological detail and weaving in of ancient and recent history.

Sharon says

Characters continue to evolve for the better. Interesting location for this mystery. Easy to read and keeps your attention to the end.

Joann Clifton-manske says

Mysteries always find Faye

Third in this series of mystery stories and I found it to be nearly as good as the first. Who knew Archeology could be so suspenseful?

Brick ONeil says

She creates a vivid archeological dig, that is both realistic in theme and nature. The characters are 3-dimensional with outside interests other than the plot, there are misleading clues as well as hidden agendas. I so wish many writers would take the time to craft such a well-written, thought-out plot.

Place is important and can be a character in and of itself. In *Effigies*, place is very important but doesn't overshadow the characters, rather, becomes impetus for their actions (or lack thereof). Why is the mound so important to so many? What happened out in the field? Why is the river so important? As the readers delve further into the book, more and more history of the region that Mary creates or brings forth, becomes crystal clear. Nothing written is ever wasted.

Mary also continues the friendship/close relationship between Faye and Joe. It's complicated, deep and moving. Are they a couple, unbeknownst to Faye? Does she realize she loves Joe? Mary shows how confused Joe is, about his heritage and wanting to fit in with other people. Conflicted emotions are shown and well thought out.

I loved *Effigies* and give a hearty 5-stars.
