



Fogland Point

Doug Burgess

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"Fogland Point is a unique, surprising, moving, occasionally hilarious, and entirely marvelous book about the complicated mysteries that lie at the heart of all families - although the Hazard family is definitely more complicated and mysterious and interesting than most." --Nick Petrie, author of *Light It Up*, the latest of the award-winning Peter Ash thrillers

"Elegant prose, a veritable Chinese box of puzzles, and authentic, well-rounded characters make this a standout." --*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

David Hazard wanted nothing more than to forget his renegade family and the foggy New England village "on the wrong side" of Narragansett Bay where he grew up. When sudden tragedy brings him back to Little Compton to care for his grandmother during her struggle with dementia, he discovers her fragile memories may hold the key to a bizarre mystery half a century old - and perhaps to the sudden and brutal murder right next door.

Once Chief of Police Billy Dyer names her as a witness, Grandma Maggie's recollections become vital. But can they be trusted, especially in a town where everyone has a secret, including David himself?

The investigation stalls. Then eccentric millionaire Marcus Rhinegold's yacht disappears into the fog, bodies begin to wash ashore, and Maggie's stories come vividly to life, setting off a chain of events both horrifying and hauntingly familiar. Puritans, gun-runners, Mafiosi, and a rogues' gallery from past and present converge in the mists of the bay, challenging Billy with layers of deception. On Christmas Eve, he enlists David in a daring move to uncover the many truths surrounding Fogland Point.

Fogland Point Details

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Author : Doug Burgess

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From Reader Review Fogland Point for online ebook

Joanne says

The characters in this book -- David plus his grandmother and two daffy 'aunts' - are delightfully strong and comic, if profane. I like that he's caring for his grandmother during her dementia, and her illness makes her assertions particularly unreliable, as in Turn of Mind. But the plot is both convoluted and implausible, and the romantic interest distracts as well as adding an ethically compromised ending.

Sue Em says

A fresh take on traditional themes with likeable characters and twist after twist. How much of his grandmother's ramblings are dementia caused and how many are dark secrets long held.

Lynn says

I read this book in a few days. I am not going to mention anything about the plot as I don't want to give anything away. I read it based on a 5 star review from a blogger/reviewer that I have respect for. I knew the writing was suppose to be very good. It was. That the location was New England. Also, that the characters were strong and unique. I knew that there would be some humor and that the mystery was very good. So as I read all the revelations were new to me. There were many of them. I think it is how this book should be read. It was like the often used example of the peeling off of an onion-layer by layer. Was I surprised at times? Yes- Did I say "oh" and sit and think about what I read? Yes, I did. This was an unique and surprising book. I enjoyed it. I don't think I have read anything similar to it. It was one of my best 2018 reads. I want to mention that I enjoyed the friendships in the book too.

Larry Fontenot says

Sometimes you read two first novels back to back and the second book suffers because of the extraordinary nature of the first book you read. I finished Mr. Burgess' first novel Fogland Point just after finishing The Ruin by Dervla McTiernan, her first novel. Fogland Point is an interesting book, both in plot and characters, but the quality of the writing pales besides the craft of Ms. McTiernan. Fogland Point has some wild characters, and a few mysteries to solve. The dialogue is good, but the action is a bit bland until the end, and the behavior of a few characters just seems a bit forced. But I did enjoy Mr. Burgess' book and I think he will write even betteer books in the future.

Neil Plakcy says

This book blew me away. Excellent writing and intriguing characters, with a quite unexpected bit of romance at the end that seemed very logical. Eager to read more of this author!

Kate Ayers says

This is hailed as "unique, surprising, moving, occasionally hilarious and entirely marvelous." Well, it is unique and sometimes funny. The main character's grandmother has dementia, which can have humorous bits, but also sad. That character, David Hazard, has his own challenges, which was part of why I had some problems with it. I suppose they were wrapped up with how the story worked, but it was tough for me. The mystery part was fun though. Grandma's neighbor dies, and grandma tries to tell people but, well, it's hard to believe her. David discovers the woman dead and then the local police chief, David's old friend from school, launches an investigation. It involves a new couple in town about to purchase a decrepit old mansion, so curiosity swirls around them until the husband disappears. Someone else turns up dead and there's rumors of sunken treasure in the harbor. All kinds of stuff going on. It's fun enough. Just had trouble truly liking David. Too conflicted.

Diane S ? says

3.5 review soon.

Gillian says

Reviewed for Just Love

4.5 stars

Don't you just love it when the right book comes along at just the right time?

Fogland Point was that book for me. I had been looking for something a little surprising and a little unexpected, and I figured a good whodunnit might be just the thing. Thank goodness I picked this one up, because it delivered on both counts. Not only that, it was smart, funny and lovely.

In other words, it was all that and a bag of chips. I'm sure the kids still say that, right? No? Oh well, you get the idea.

At its heart, this book is actually a love story with some humour, murder and a whole lot of mystery thrown in for good effect. There is romantic love, familial love, the enduring love of friends and the love of home. It is also part ghost story part history lesson, and the fact that it succeeds at being all these things is a testament to the author's talent.

I can't even begin to tell you how much I loved all the characters in this book. David with his courage and patience, Billy with his open-heart and open mind, Grandma Maggie and her dignity, and Constance and Irene with their kindness and iron-willed determination. They were all marvelous.

I don't think I've read a mystery quite like this one before, but I certainly hope more of them are out there. In the meantime, I hope people who don't normally read this genre will take a chance on Fogland Point. I don't

think you'll be disappointed.

Natalie says

This riveting story was an unexpected delight from a new-to-me author. Expecting some mystery and suspense, this was both nothing like and so much more than I expected; murder, ghosts, Mafia, pirate history, queer experience and even a second chance romance. I'm from New England and the setting was personally evocative but anyone would be drawn into the unique setting and atmosphere the author has so skillfully drawn. David Hazard has been gone from Little Compton for many years, aside from short visits but a change in fortune and his ailing grandmother have brought him back and thrust him into a maelstrom of emotions. Central to the plot, the richly detailed secondary figures include David's "Aunts" and longtime friends of his grandmother Maggie; Constance, Irene and Emma. David's first love, Billy, is also the police chief of the small town where everyone knows each other and most of everyone else's business too.

I don't want to spoil anything as there are surprises and plot twists at every turn. Almost no one in this cast of characters is entirely who they first appear to be. I was engrossed from the opening paragraph, barely putting this down until finishing in the wee morning hours. I mentioned romance but this is NOT a romance story, even though romantic entanglements figure strongly in the plot. Fascinating reminiscences, humor and sarcasm, tales of history and legend, ghosts and ghost stories permeate the narrative and contribute to the occurrences and resolution of the mystery and murders. I strongly recommend this as a book that satisfies on so many levels. #NetGalley #FoglandPoint

An ARC was provided by NetGalley on behalf of the publisher and I have chosen to publish a fair and honest review.

Sofia says

Golden Girls goes New England

Superbly done. Bravo!

Bodies and Surprises keep raining in, all done with a great pen and a pinch of New England phlegm. Burgess is able to juggle all his balls and not let any drop whilst keeping me engaged there watching. He clears up all the fog bit by bit complete with dashes of humour. The fact that I read this on a busy weekend and turned to it every moment I had is enough to mark it a great read. I find that his treatment of both David and his grandmother to be delicate, loving and true. Having gone through Alzheimer first hand I tend to shy away from reading about it in my books, but this was a stumbling block which this book pushed away with it's gentle but truthful depiction.

Eleanor Parke Custis - "Fog", c.1939

Books like this make me appreciate my friends more. I'm glad that I listened when Lena said, come and read this, now. And yes of course I'll read more Burgess.

"Stormy Sea in Summer of Vivaldi" - Concerto in G minor Op. 8 No. 2

An ARC gently given by publisher/author in return for a review.

Bookreporter.com Mystery & Thriller says

Armstrong House sits on Fogland Point, overlooking Narragansett Bay. It's the spooky old place that David Hazard remembers as the scariest spot to hang around on Halloween. The mansion has fallen into disrepair now, but David still thinks of it as super creepy. He grew up in Little Compton, a small town where nothing happens. We can't always choose where we live in our childhood years, but we sure can when we're old enough. So David chose to leave as soon as he could. Not all of his memories from that time are good ones.

Now, reluctantly, he's come back after receiving a frantic call from his grandmother. Truthfully, sometimes he ignores those calls, because Grandma Maggie is descending into dementia and makes up some whoppers nowadays. If he does answer, usually he can talk her down. But this time, he heads out in a panic late at night and arrives to find her dithering around her house. Exasperated, he finally coaxes something close to the real story out of her, discovering that the problem did not lie with his grandmother but with her neighbor. Poor Emma. She will be missed.

At the funeral, David and his aunts, who still live in Little Compton, notice an unfamiliar couple attending the service. It's easy to spot individuals who don't belong, being a small town and all. Rumor has it that this pair has purchased the Armstrong House and Fogland Point. Really? Are they planning to settle in here? People in places the size of Little Compton like to know what's going on around them, and new folks buying a historic property gets the gossip going. Also, when one of their own dies at the same time these newcomers arrive, suspicions naturally rise. No connection has been made, but there hasn't been an in-depth investigation yet.

David's old school friend, Billy Dyer, now Chief of Police, warily welcomes David back. Their friendship went through some rough times, and David's return might test its resilience. For now, though, the police chief teams up with his old friend to do a little snooping. They discover that the strange new couple is harboring more than one secret. In fact, "Marcus" and "Alicia" probably aren't even their real names. They appear to be married but don't seem to like each other. They also seem to be rich, having sailed into Little Compton on a fancy yacht, but then again who knows? Something is definitely off about them. David and Billy --- and probably the aunts, too --- will do a lot more digging into their background and keep an eye on them. It wouldn't do to let their guards down.

Then, on a busy evening, in the local gathering spot, one of the aunts blurts out the old story of long-lost sunken treasure and, well, the town goes crazy. Everyone wants to be rich, and there's gold right here in their bay? Meanwhile, the yacht has disappeared. And so has "Marcus." Alicia, though, unhappily remains. What is going on? Did that man pilfer their treasure and skip? Whether it's a hunt for the gold or something more sinister, death follows. An uproar ensues. Chief Dyer has never had to handle crimes of this magnitude. Murder? Multiple murders? There's even mention of some mafia guys. What has happened to their sleepy town? Where once David complained that nothing goes on in Little Compton, he now wishes for the return of those days.

FOGLAND POINT, Doug Burgess' impressive debut novel, has a giant heart, made more wonderful with the feeling of small-town charm. But it's the characters who will pull you in. David Hazard is like no other in

literature. He has been through a lot and has no easy life ahead of him. His attitude, though, is ever optimistic. You need to hear his story. Readers can learn a lot from him. Don't miss this one.

Reviewed by Kate Ayers

Bonnye Reed says

GNA Little Compton is east of everything on the northeastern Atlantic coast. The rumor is that it was once part of Massachusetts but they didn't want this grey, foggy little town and gave it to Rhode Island in 1741. History here is long and convoluted, the graveyard which is located in the center of town is filled with centuries of Barrow's and Hazard's, Heckman's, Robies, Godfrey's and Dyer's. Nothing exciting ever happens in Little Compton.

This is a tale about the Laughing Sarah's - Miss Constance Heckman, Mrs. Irene Belcourt, Miss Emma Godfrey and Mrs. Maggie Hazard, all aging matriarchs of the community and the keepers of the stories. Constance is strong and focused. Irene is the sweet one, but all that sugar is mixed with a stout heart. Emma too is kind but always sad, her focus on her lost love, Teddy Johnson, missing in action since Korea. And Maggie, a pip and a half, is now often lost to the heartbreak of Alzheimers. Her grandchild, once Rosalie but now David Hazard, with his new Phd in hand, jobless when his private life hit the rumor mill at the college, comes home to take care of his Grandmother Maggie. And with the help of the Laughing Sarah's he is able to keep her in her home and still a part of the community she has always loved.

And then Emma dies. But was it an accident? Who would murder this sweet little old lady? Sure, she had "a pretty little sum in the bank", but murdered with her own skillet? And thus begins the dance of complex mystery and murder in this small, isolated community. Billy Dyer, high school boyfriend of Rosalie and current chief of police, is doing his all to stay on top of the activities of the community. The rumors of lost confederate gold have re-surfaced bringing an influx of strangers. And the roll of the newly dead just keeps on growing....

I loved the cachets of '50's history. The last pink princess rotary phone. Norman Rockwell plates and ceramic owls. Classic boats. American Bandstand. Maggie's conversations with The Hired Help and dead presidents. This was a book very hard to put down. I will watch for more from this author.

I received a free electronic copy pf this marvelous novel from Netgalley. Doug Burgess, and Poisoned Pen Press in exchange for an honest review. Thank you all for sharing your hard work with me.

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Poisoned Pen Press

Not able to post at B&N

Cathy Cole says

I picked up this book on a whim, and once I started reading, I was hooked. The evocative setting with its deep family roots screams New England, and every renegade character was better than the last. We hear everything through David Hazard's voice, and in a story that's laced with the destruction caused by his grandmother Maggie's dementia, there are flashes of humor that can provoke startled laughter from readers.

There are the Laughing Sarahs-- Maggie, Emma, Constance, and Irene-- women in their eighties who have been friends their whole lives. There is nothing they wouldn't do for each other. There's Chief of Police Billy Dyer, who may or may not be the stereotypical lump of a small town cop. Then there are other characters like the Bangladeshi couple from Queens who bought a store in Little Compton and proceeded to stock it according to their personal idea of what a New England country general store should be. (The townspeople aren't thrilled that they now have to drive for miles to get spaghetti sauce.) Street by street, house by house, character by character, I was drawn into Fogland Point.

And then there's the writing. With lines like "Aunt Irene is coming down the stairs, her big toe seeking out one tread at a time like a snail's antennae," it was so easy to picture each scene as it played out. Having watched snails and having seen old people going down stairs like that, I feel a bit dim for not putting the two together myself. There are several lines and scenes like that, and each one is a joyful discovery.

But how's the mystery you ask? It's a beaut. San Francisco's Lombard Street is as straight as a ruler compared to the plot of Fogland Point-- and I wasn't confused, I was delighted. As things were revealed, time and again I thought to myself that I should have seen it coming because the clues were all there. There's the mystery of Emma's death; and why did millionaire Marcus Rhinegold show up all of a sudden? There are ties to the Mafia and stories of shipwrecks and sunken treasure chests of gold. Just when you think you have one thing solved, you find out that you don't.

Or is it all a dream? "Because this is Little Compton, and nothing ever happens here." Or so the townspeople would have you believe...

Lena♥Ribka says

How do you know that the book was good?

You read it in an incredibly short time span.

You were not able to put it down and KEPT on reading even in the impossible situation.

You found the story-line extremely entertaining, and you NEEDED to know what would happen on the next page ASAP.

You CARED about the characters like they were your own friends. You laughed with them and suffered with them.

The author suddenly amazed you with a romance story that was totally new in this form for you, even if you thought you were an expert in all kind of romance stuff. (**This book is NOT a MM Romance!**)

Fogland Point is a wonderful novel that met ALL the criteria. Beautifully written, funny, thrilling and moving.

A mystery book about a family history and family secrets, about complexity of love and a very deep and strong friendship, about a greatest skill of making compromises and taking the right decisions.

Highly recommended!

To Sofia: Thank you for trusting my ~~noble~~ modest book taste!

ARC provided kindly by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Homerun2 says

This is not a particularly long novel, but it manages to pack a lot of enjoyment and a unique story into those pages.

David Hazard, recently terminated from a university teaching job, returns to his New England home town of Little Compton to help care for his grandmother Maggie, who is descending into dementia. The depiction of Maggie's illness and the reality of caring for her is a strength of the book.

David has lots of baggage to deal with by coming back, including an unfinished relationship with local police chief Billy Dyer. His extended family is the Laughing Sarahs, a group of older women bound by history and affection. His grandmother is one, local salvage owner Constance is one, and their friend Irene is one. The fourth member, Emma, is found dead under suspicious circumstances. David's grandmother discovered the body but nobody believed her when she reported it.

Meanwhile a millionaire and his wife show up in town and events start to pop up. Are these related to the past? Who exactly is the millionaire and who is looking for him? Decades old secrets emerge and things get more and more complicated. And David's life was complex enough already.

This is a difficult book to review because of the great possibility for spoilers. But the book has sweetness, warmth and humor and is a joy to read. This is an author to keep an eye on.

Thanks to Net Galley and the publisher for providing me with an ARC in return for my honest review.
