



Winter Frost

R.D. Wingfield

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Denton is having more than its fair share of crime. A serial killer is murdering local prostitutes; a man demolishing his garden shed uncovers a long-buried skeleton; there is an armed robbery at a local minimart and a ram raid at a jewellers.

But Detective Inspector Jack Frost's main concern is for the safety of a missing eight-year-old, and soon after another girl is reported missing, her body is found . . . raped and strangled.

Then Frost's prime suspect hangs himself in his cell, leaving a note blaming Frost for driving him to suicide.

Coarse, insubordinate and fearless, DI Jack Frost is in serious trouble.

Winter Frost Details

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Author : R.D. Wingfield

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From Reader Review Winter Frost for online ebook

Tyrone says

I felt that this was the strongest of the series so far, both from the imagery used but also in that it pushes our protagonist further than he has been before.

Love him or not (he is far less likable than the TV portrayal) one has to respect Frost's determination to discover the truth, and see justice served. It's not the type of dedication that sees all the boxes ticked or the paperwork completed, but it is about seeing the victims served properly and the perpetrators, where he deems them worthy for punishment, receive it. Because sometimes those that are the criminals in these books are as much victims as the true victims and Frost sees this perhaps more than any of his colleagues.

This time, a cold fog seems to envelop the whole of Denton making police work tricky, but the fog seems to also be affecting Frost's normally trusty intuition as he desperately arrests suspect after suspect in a serial killer investigation. As the pressure mounts on him to get results there are other complications such as his normally misguided but reliable sidekick has been replaced by Taffy, a gap prone DC who is even more lazy and slovenly than Frost. The trouble that this DC causes Frost along with his inability to make headway in any of the cases demanding his attention seems to increase his self doubt even further and threatens to end his career.

A fantastic read!

Myra says

Naujas romanas iš Frosto serijos - Rodney Davido Wingfieldo "Frosto žiema". Ko tikėtis iš Frosto serijos, viską gausite ir šioje dalyje.

Jos schema bemaž identiška ankstesniems romanams: iškrypėliai ir žiaurūs nusikaltimai, neįauki trintis ir subordinacijos trūkumas nuovadoje, grubus nevala Frostas, nusikaltimus sprendžiantis keisčiausias bėdais.

"Kažkas pasibeldė, ir inspektorius atsigręžė? duris perpykė. Po šimts velnių, dega raudona lemputė, jis kvočia? tariam? žmogžudyste! Inspektorius dūrė pirštu? duris, ir Simsas nuėjo? atidaryti. Seržantas Velsas, užuot kalbėjė su konstebliu, išsikvietė? koridori? Frost?. Reikalas buvo skubus.

- Džekai, skambino iš ligoninės. Viverio motinos bėklė blogėja. Doktorai nori, kad jis atvažiuotė.

Frostas išsiėmė cigaretė, greitosiomis patraukė kelis dėmus ir sumynė nuorėkė? grindis.

- Rado, kada galuotis. Nukvakusi senė! - suniurzgė."

Net gali nuspėti, kokius personažus sutiks Frostas šėkart, o kas vyksta nuovadoje, tai apskritai pažėstama iki kaulė? iulė?.

Dviprasmiškos nuotaikos mane aplankė skaitant šė romanė: viena vertus, malonu patirti tė saugumo jausmė, kai žinai, ko tikėtis, kita vertus - tai jau pradeda nusibosti.

Žodžiu, ir gerai, ir blogai vienu metu. Bet tai juk vadinama rašytojo stiliumi, ar ne?

Na, o kas ir kaip vyksta, net neatskleisiu. Negadinsiu malonumo. Apskritai, detektyvai - nemąstamiausias mano žanras apžvalgoms rašyti. Stilistinė priemonė? Jia nelabai rasi, lieka tik siužetas, kurį baisu atskleisti. Tik tiek, kad Frostui šįkart gresia tikrai dideli nemalonumai. Bet, kita vertus, kada jie jam negres??..

Apžvalgą galite rasti Jia: <http://knygoholike.blogspot.lt/2015/1...>

Jenn says

Ohhhhh, Frost is such a bastard! But I do love him. Almost more than the tv series. Okay, more than the tv series. His hunches always seem to go completely and utterly awry. And then something clicks. But not before everything goes pear shaped. And he always has multiple cases to solve. Mullett is an idiot and I always laugh when Frost dumps him right in the middle of it. His sarcastic remarks make me giggle. My only question after finishing this one is: why the hell does Morgan not get fired?? He's a complete moron who shouldn't be a copper. He screws up everything he touched and Frost just keeps covering for him. I realize Morgan reminds Frost of himself as a wee copper but enough is enough! Can his ass or someone important may die. An would Frost be able to cover for him then? I wish there were tons more Frost novels for me to pour through.

Sandi says

As usual, the Denton police force is undermanned and Inspector Frost is forced to cope with a serial killer, child abductions, a long dead skeleton, and other petty crimes. Frost is crude, unorganized, and jumps to conclusions with alarming frequency but he is fun to read about.

Mandy Radley says

I have to say having watched all the TV series of Frost starring David Jason this is actually the first novel I've read by the author R D Wingfield and I loved it just as much as the TV series. I thought Frost in the book was harder and grittier than in the TV series but still had the sense of humour which made me laugh out loud in places. Can't remember where I picked this book up from so didn't realise it was the 5th in the series, so will have to look for the earlier ones. The story line although not pleasant as it dealt with child abduction/killing and the killing of prostitutes certainly had me gripped till the end and I love it when I can't guess 'whodunnit' they are the best crime thrillers.

Ed says

A bit extreme--Inspector Frost seems to be the only officer in Denton who is capable of deploying manpower, writing manpower usage and open case reports for headquarters, interviewing suspects, going to crime scenes and attending autopsies. In "Winter Frost" he does all of those things all the time. While it is

explained to some extent by Superintendent Mullett's inability to do anything right, including sending ten detectives to another jurisdiction for a drugs investigation while a murder wave is sweeping his area, I think Wingfield simply decided to go for broke with this irascible Inspector this time. Frost sleeps at the office when he does sleep at all. When he goes home for a change his phone is ringing as he walks in the door with a new case that only can handle.

He is saddled with Taffy, an almost criminally incompetent assistant who is always late, can't stay awake during stakeouts, goes into erotic reveries whenever he is in the presence of a woman under 60 and is generally unlikeable both by the other cops in the novel and by the (at least this) reader. That Frost puts up with all of this makes him seem weak and not particularly smart. Which may be the point, of course.

Still a decent procedural, as long as you like slapdash procedure done on the fly by exhausted and bungling coppers.

Eric_W says

The Frost series just keeps getting better and better. Detective Inspector Frost is in top form dealing with a serial killer of local prostitutes, a new acting inspector Liz Maud, and the continual harassment from Superintendent Mullett, who can never quite understand why Frost can never seem to find a filling station that provides printed receipts for his gasoline reimbursement. Fortunately, Frost has a new DC who is quite adept at completing long overdue crime statistic reports and changing "5's" to "8's" on the gasoline reimbursement forms. Lots of the scenes had me laughing out loud. He continues to have a knack at dealing with suspects: "Do you want to confess now, or shall we waste time beating you up and claiming you fell down the stairs while drunk?" Insisting that a bus load of drunken revelers be kept out of the station, fearing the mess they would make, Mullett orders them to be gotten out of the way. Frost has the inspired idea of putting them back on the bus, whereupon they steal it, driving off quickly, and smashing Mullett's new car in the process.

Mullett is already livid because his usual parking place had been taken by the bus when he arrived. Frost meets him in the parking lot and begins, "Your best bet is to say it was parked and some drunken sod ran into it." "That's exactly what did happen," snapped Mullett. "Good for you!" nodded Frost approvingly. "I almost believe you myself, and I can always see through a lie." Frost really has his hands full in this one. He has someone killing and molesting children, a serial rapist and killer abducting and torturing local prostitutes, a DC who keeps getting everything wrong, and then suddenly a thirty-fiveyear old skeleton pops up with its skull bashed in. Throughout he keeps making mistakes, wrong guesses, constantly flagellating himself for his errors, no doubt wishing it could be Mullett instead.

Throughout, he has to cajole, bribe, and browbeat Mullett into assigning more men to stakeouts, spending more on overtime, and signing Frost's forged receipts. Then his prime suspect commits suicide in a holding cell, claiming that Frost badgered him and humiliated an innocent man. And to make things worse, the evidence begins to point to the man's innocence. Set aside some time for this one, the ending will keep you riveted to your seat and chuckling all the while. Great stuff.

Rob Kitchin says

In the main, *Winter Frost* is a terrific read. Wingfield's characterization is superb, with well drawn characters who come to life on the page. His dialogue 'feels' real and narrative is well written. The first hundred pages or so, in particular, are very well done, sucking you in to the story and providing several laughs. My main issue with the book, as with the other books in the series is that there are too many plotlines. Not that they are difficult to follow, but that there's no way Frost would be trying to manage so many, especially given the seriousness of the cases. Two missing girls under the age of nine would have meant massive media coverage, an influx of national dailies, and huge pressure from senior police and politicians for a result. The same for a killing spree on prostitutes. The idea that both of these cases would be tackled by the same policeman, who is also looking after several others, and that a drugs case would have staffing priority is ridiculous. While having many plotlines makes for a lot of action it's really not needed as the book would have worked just as well with just one or two. I don't want to provide any spoilers, but as with one of the other books, I was also a little disappointed with the ending. That said, *Winter Frost* is a very entertaining read.

Steve says

Detective Inspector "Jack" Frost is in the fine tradition of fictional British police officials with whom any sane person might have reservations about serving. They are very loose cannons, rolling about on the deck. And yet, some of these, like Reginald Hill's Andy Dalziel, Ian Rankin's John Rebus, and Frost himself, are quite effective officers and excellent detectives. So maybe you might want to serve *with* them; but you definitely wouldn't want to supervise them.

Frost is a boozy, bad-tempered, bacon-buttly obsessed officer with a huge supply of jokes so bad that his co-workers never let him tell them. He is also fiercely protective of the people he supervises, to the point in which he does not take any action about Taffy Morgan, a subordinate so incompetent that his presence constantly endangers the public and other police officers. I think that the author, R. D. Wingfield, finds this quality of Frost's wholly admirable; I'm not sure that the men and (especially) women with whom Morgan serves would agree.

Unlike many police procedural mysteries, *Winter Frost* does not present the entire force working on one crime, nor do all the crimes somehow connect. There are a series of rape-murders of prostitutes, similar crimes against some young schoolgirls, a string of burglaries, robberies committed by thieves who seem all too willing to shoot their victims with a shotgun, a bus load of vomiting drunks to take care of, and a body turning up of a man who was evidently murdered decades earlier. And, of course, Frost must constantly face the greatest threat to law and order in that area, Superintendent Mullett, Frost's weaselly and incompetent supervisor.

Parts of the book are too caricatured, especially the characters of Morgan, Mullett, and a local woman who constantly claims to be the victim of stalking and sex crimes.

And the police's attitude toward women in general approaches being a perpetual sex crime itself. This may be more realistic than I would like to think, but whether or not the sexism is realistic, Wingfield seems to take an unhealthy pleasure in discussing it.

Leaving that matter aside though, there is much to like in this book. It is quite funny, the solutions to individual mysteries are well worked out, and Frost emerges as a rather commendable character on the whole.

One final note: Take a look at the covers of the various editions of this book, most of which are...uninspired. Then see the sad, perfect cover of the Corgi Books 2000 mass market paperback with a photograph by Michael Wildsmith. No, you really can't judge a book by its cover, but let's acknowledge art when we are lucky enough to find it.

Anna Engel says

I get to read trash on vacation. This book certainly qualified, although Jack Frost was witty at times. It was a quick read and everything was resolved by book's end.

One thing really bothered me: the portrayal of women. I'd hoped that the 20th century – to say nothing of the 21st – had opened the minds of male British crime authors, but I guess not. The male characters comment constantly about who they would do what to, often to girls 16 or younger. As long as they're over the age of consent (I'm not sure what age that is in Britain), all's fair in lust. The male inspectors objectify women – even their colleagues – every other page, which is appalling. I lost count of the different euphemisms used for breasts. And to talk casually about having sex with a girl of 11? Reprehensible. The author needs to go beyond misogyny and accept that women are far more than the negative stereotypes he portrays: boobs, butts, sluts, bad mothers, connivers, or mediocre members of the police force.

Christine Blachford says

I was so glad to get my hands on this book. I started reading the Inspector Frost series months ago, and going by Shelfari's series links, was expecting to read five installments. There were five available for the Kindle, all was well. Except, Wikipedia informed me of another - technically the fifth in a series of five - and lo and behold, there it was on Amazon, but not as an ebook.

I finished the fourth Frost and knew I wouldn't be able to complete the series without reading the entire series, so I waited. Thankfully, Winter Frost finally became available and I quickly snapped it up.

It is in keeping with the rest of the series, very good, very personable, great characterisations. It seems as though each progressive book is getting a little bit more gruesome. I hesitate to say getting darker, but Frost seems to be in more and more trouble and the stakes keep on getting higher and higher. I dread to think what will be in the final book!

It was a great read, although I felt it ended quite suddenly. All the required ends were tied up, we weren't left wondering what happened, but it all happened abruptly after such masses of build up. Nevertheless, a thumbs up and I can now happily go on and read the final book.

Nancy Pierson says

The plot was good, but the sexist language was just too much.

Ron says

For a sleepy provincial British city, Denton sure has more than its share of serial murderers. This winter, it is a killer of young girls, spirited away and late found abused and murdered, and someone who has it in for the town's prostitutes, of whom there seems to be a copious supply in Denton. DI Jack Frost, insouciant, irascible, incorrigible, gluttonous for bacon sandwiches and cigarettes, averse to bean-counting paperwork and at times preternaturally insightful about his cases, is stymied on both for most of the book. But he is dogged, finding ways to maneuver around or ignore the budget-minded cheese-parings of his superior, Mullet, as he tries every angle to solve the cases. It turns out that a pair of animal-loving lesbians have it in for the prosties, and the milquetoast-seeming photographer that Frost hounds to suicide turns out to be the child killer after all, and a roll of toilet paper (used to gag the kiddies) is the last-minute discovered clue that will absolve Frost of the coming case of browbeating a supposedly innocent prisoner.

A recorded book, very well read by Stephen Thorne, who got all the voices spot on right. A very persuasive police procedural series, one that shows police work to be laborious and time-consuming and emotionally involving, having to be polite to the crabby public and able to figure out ways around the interfering bureaucracy that is concerned with costs and PR values above all else. Frost is a very well drawn character, perhaps wittier on the spur of the moment than is likely, but that makes for lots of amusing details within rather grim stories.

I will remember the range of minor characters, the protective mother of the addled son who killed her lover, the nice mother who identifies the skeleton, all the Denton citizens who invariably give the cops a hard time, and the various cops in the precinct house, who both admire Frost and are exasperated by him.

Tim says

'A Touch of Frost' was one of my favourite television police series. The British do know how to make those: Inspector Morse, Inspector Lewis, Midsomer Murders, Agatha Christie's Poirot, Inspector George Gently, Vera, Luther, and so on.

However, I've never read any of those books, which were the basis for some (or all?) of those series. Until I was given this book, albeit in Dutch translation and more precisely, a re-edition by the Belgian newspaper *Het Laatste Nieuws* (The Last/Latest News). I'm usually very careful with translations, especially when the source language was English.

In this book, inspector Jack Frost has to solve many crimes: young children disappearing (being kidnapped), prostitutes being murdered, a skeleton being found in a back-garden, a robbery, and more. Of course, commander Mullet is also present in his typical way: obnoxious, worried about his own image, always looking at costs, KPI, and so on. He is not involved in the team-work, has a love-hate relationship with Frost (for obvious reasons) and will do anything to score with his superiors. Anything.

Frost is unorganized (in his way of working, in his administration, ...), chaotic, very arrogant in his behaviour towards Mullet and his colleagues. Insults, dry humour, ... all part of his image and style. The man smokes almost every minute of every day. He eats only (or 99.9% of the time) sandwiches with bacon and ham, and drinks lots of tea. Taking care of himself (personal hygiene, for example) is trivial to him. He also despises structure and being on time for meetings or other appointments, like at autopsies.

In many of his cases, whenever he finds a clue, he will try to solve the puzzle, but the minute he can blame someone, that's the man or woman who's guilty of crime x or y, despite their statements and the severe lack of evidence. His direct assistant, Taffy Morgan, is an even bigger pain in the ass. The young chap likes beautiful girls/women, especially blond ones with long legs and big... You know. The stuff that's described here would be screaming METOO! more than enough. Then again, when you know the book was written at the end of the 20th century...

Another proof of Frost's clumsiness: He doesn't have a bloc-note, yet writes names and places on his cigarette package. But he never, or I must have overlooked it, uses that information to make progress in his investigations.

R.D. Wingfield can write, that's for sure. I can't compare this Frost-story with the other ones, but this is a page-turner of a book. The translation also helped, of course. Hats off to Frans Bruning for his work. And how you, as a reader, think you know who did it, but in the end you're left baffled, because you did not expect that rabbit to be pulled out of the hat.

I don't usually read detective/crime stories, for several reasons, but I wanted something more accessible, lighter (so to speak), to end 2017. Due to circumstances, my reading time had to be prolonged with 24 hours. Plus, it was a gift, so...

Anyway, as an in-between story, very much recommended! Even more or especially (!) when you imagine the cast of 'A Touch of Frost' in action.

Sophie Fransen says

Van tv ken ik Frost als een morsige, chagrijnige, maar ook grappige man, die sympathiek overkomt. Daar blijft in het boek niet zoveel van over. Ik vond het verhaal ook iets teveel naar verschillende kanten uitgesponnen om boeiend te blijven.

Miriam Smith says

I love this series and the tv series too and can't help feel that David Jason is just so perfect for the part of DI Jack Frost, every word spoken in the book I can hear his voice and so makes reading the book extra special. It's a great police procedural book although Frost's methods leave a lot to be desired but hes a loveable character, determined, funny but with a big heart that at times you feel sorry for him and at other times laugh with and at him. A must read!

Madonna says

Still liking this series. This book was sometimes a 4-star and sometimes a 5-star. The story line was pretty predictable for Frost. A couple of crimes are committed and then Frost/the police are involved and then a couple more crimes are committed and they aren't solving the crimes. But, then, the crime is solved and Frost looks pretty good. While the mystery was good, I was often tired (the 4-star period) of all the mis-direction, the red herrings, the false leads, the failing tracks of the investigation. Sometimes, it

takes too many turns, too many twists and too long to get to the end. However, I do appreciate the character development all this affords.

This time the crimes were against divergent groups: prostitutes and children. Prostitutes are being killed and the children are disappearing. So, Frost has 2 sides of the community on his case--in addition to the usual higher ups of the police force. And Frost is trying.

His sidekick this time is a terrible cop--he forgets, he doesn't follow through, he fails to check in, he puts his own pleasures ahead of the police work. Frost is often, I think, too forgiving, but then, the author needs this sidekick as the foil to Frost; and Frost acknowledges he is often at fault for the screw-ups. And, he thinks about his own failings and cuts the sidekick some slack. This sidekick is different from the previous ones since he has little ambition and doesn't think Frost is terrible. The female sidekick from last time is back and plays a prominent role in helping solve the prostitute murder case.

This was a fresh take on the plot device Wingfield uses, so I give him 5-stars for this. And, the mystery was a good one and I enjoyed the resolution.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

This book is awesome as well as the other Frost books. I got these books after falling in love and buying the series by the BBC with one of my favorite BBC actors, "David Jason" who was also in Open All Hours comedy. A Touch of Frost was his detective series that I own as well :) The books are good but not as good as seeing the show with David in all his glory :)

Bill says

I do enjoy the Frost series. Each story is somewhat similar, Frost bumbles and stumbles through a variety of cases, with a short - manned police station, fighting with his boss, Superintendent Mullett, to stay out of trouble and solve his cases. In this story, prostitutes are being raped and murdered, there are missing children, an old skeleton has been found and the 'pillow case' robber is robbing houses. Frost works on each case, as Mullett has loaned half of his station to another detachment working on a drug case. The weather is awful, Frost gets no sleep, working around the clock, trying to deal with a bit of a wastrel on his staff and with friction from a female acting inspector who is trying to make a name for herself. He stumbles from one solution to another, often finding himself on the wrong track. But even with that and with his sexist remarks and curmudgeonlike personality, Frost draws you in. He cares about his people and about the victims. I like how cases are worked on, methodically at times, with bursts of inspiration. The story moves along nicely, keeps you hooked and the result is always satisfying. Only one book left in this series. I look forward to reading it, but not finishing it.

Linda says

I listened to this book on my way back from holiday, in the car. It was a bonus that it is read by David Jason. It's a fantastic story and reminded me very much of Stuart MacBride, whom I know was a fan of R D Wingfield. Grim storytelling interspersed with black humour.

Set in Denton, UK, Frost is looking for a missing school girl, last seen 9 weeks ago, the eight year old seems to be vanished off the face of the earth. Another child goes missing, from the same school, and is found raped and strangled. Frosts prime suspect strongly protests his innocence, then commits suicide blaming

Frost. Subsequence evidence points to the mans innocence, but Frost is sure he is guilty.
Great story, I will definitely read more books by this author.
