



A Touch Of Frost

R.D. Wingfield

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Detective Inspector Jack Frost, officially on duty, is nevertheless determined to sneak off to a colleague's leaving party. But first the corpse of a well-known local junkie is found blocking the drain of a Denton public lavatory - and then, when Frost attempts to join the revels later on, the nubile daughter of a wealthy businessman is reported missing.

Sleepy Denton has never known anything like the crime wave which now threatens to submerge it. A robbery occurs at the town's notorious strip joint, the pampered son of a local MP is suspected of a hit-and-run offence and, to top it all, a multiple rapist is on the loose. Frost is reeling under the strain, his paperwork is still in arrears and now, more than ever, his self-righteous colleagues would love to see him sacked. But the manic Frost manages to assure his superior that all is under control. Now he has only to convince himself...

A Touch Of Frost Details

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From Reader Review A Touch Of Frost for online ebook

KK says

There's a big retirement party at the police station, but Jack Frost and his prickly colleague have been left out in the cold. Literally.

Luckily, they have plenty to keep them occupied. There's a serial rapist prowling through Denton woods, stalking his next victim. A dead hobo is found blocking the drains in a public lavatory. A wealthy man reports his teenage daughter missing. The Coconut Grove, a seedy 'leisure complex', has been robbed. A hit & run is reported, the car belonging to an MP's son... And those are just for starters.

These investigations span from Frost's Tuesday night shift to the Friday, and I really liked how, despite being headed Day Shift and Night Shift, the chapters, days, nights, and investigations all seep together, never giving the characters (or the reader) a chance to stop and gather themselves. Frost's sleep deprived, caffeine and nicotine-fuelled brain is a pinball, jolting from one case to another, and you sympathise with his partner Webster because you too start to wish that Frost would stick to one job, that he'd organise his office, do his crime statistics and fill out those bloody overtime sheets.

You don't get to glimpse at Frost's world beyond his job because he doesn't have one. There's no appreciation of art or love of jazz, like in many other detective novels, and there's no family or friends, no women, no escape. Frost literally works night and day, with more and more crimes piling in on top of him, and I was surprised at how tired and claustrophobic the relentless onslaught made ME feel. A well executed ploy by the author that really got me involved in the story. Also - though this may just be the edition I read - the chapters always started straight under the one before, leaving no white spaces for a reader-breather. Simple but effective.

As with the first book in the series, there is quite a lot of crude humour in A Touch Of Frost, and readers may find it somewhat chauvinistic. So, if the term WPC still raises your hackles, this may be one to miss.

Laura says

From BBC Radio 4 - Extra Debut:

Jack Frost is a tough and rude detective and does it all his way, but has he come a cropper? Stars Derek Martin and June Brown.

Brandon says

Despite the fact that I thoroughly enjoyed Frost At Christmas, I put off picking up the sequel for several months (nearly 8 to be exact). After finishing it, I feel like an idiot for waiting so long. I can easily state that I will not be making this mistake twice. The third book is ready to go and I'll be diving in shortly.

Frost hates doing any sort of formal report. In fact, he hates it so much that he'll take on an unreasonable amount of additional work to avoid the inevitable paperwork that will follow the closing of any one case. At one point, Frost is involved, in some shape or form, with 5 separate cases. He's investigating the death of a vagabond in a public washroom, a hit and run potentially perpetrated by the son of a Member of Parliament,

the murder of a stripper, the robbery of a bookie and finally, the disappearance of a fifteen year old girl.

Wingfield is simply incredible here, there's no better way to explain it. As I've mentioned, he has Frost and his sidekick-of-the-week, Webster, running all over the streets of Denton involved in five separate crimes. What's remarkable is that at no point did the plot seem convoluted nor did I feel lost. When Frost starts to make headway in one case, he's reminded of, or provided with new evidence to, another.

It takes talent to present such an ambitious story and not leave the reader feeling confused. It also takes impressive writing chops to craft a type of prose that entertains the reader and keeps the narrative moving smoothly. There were more than a few moments where anything from a smirk to genuinely laughing out loud occurred.

It's only the second book in the series but you can tell Wingfield has Frost nailed down. Not only that but a tremendous supporting cast that keep up the overall flow of the story. These reasons should be enough for a fan of the mystery genre to at least give it a shot. Judging by the first two books, there doesn't seem to be any reason to read one before the other. Reading out of order shouldn't prevent any problems so if you're interested, give this one a shot first, you will not be disappointed!

Rajnish Sharma says

An unusual detective, unorthodox ways, a rotten sense of humour, disregard to authority an example how ..the detective should not be like this,,, but he dabbles with multiple cases,,, with accomplished efficiency, and some how solving them all, by hook or by crook,,, Jack Frost a refreshing change from well suited , booted elegant detectives,,, he looks human not some super cop,,,although the plot was too tedious, too many subplots and excessive intermingleness of events and character some what make it heavy to keep the track ,,,, what is originsl plot,.but nice read,, fast , pacey, and witty,,,

Christine Blachford says

After reading the mammoth Crimson Petal, I needed something a bit lighter to read. I want to say easy-going, but that's not really the right word for these Frost books.

I read the first in the series a while ago, and was keen to see what hijinks Mr Frost could get up to this time out. It's more of the same, of course, Frost paired up with a younger partner who gets frustrated at his lacksadaisical ways but is ultimately impressed when the mysteries are solved.

There's something about the way Wingfield writes that really brings you into the story. Last time, I mentioned that although it was set in winter, the story made you feel warm and cosy and involved. This time, the pair are so overworked and tired, cases piling on them, and you just really feel it too. Maybe it's just because I was feeling tired as well, though.

Anyway, overall, I really enjoyed it. It felt, perhaps, slightly more serious in tone than the first book, but I'm still keen to read more.

Bill says

Very enjoyable read. As I read through it, I started to remember the episode that was based on the book and I think was fairly faithful to the story for the tv episode. Frost was what you expect, curmudgeonly, scruffy, imperfect and probably a bit more politically incorrect than on the TV series. But at the same time, he is still very sympathetic to those he feels deserves it. Mullett is if anything even more sycophantic and self-absorbed. Almost too much goes on, but it flows well and keeps you interested. I look forward now to reading the other books.

Tyrone says

DI Frost is having a bad day. While the rest of the station is enjoying a retirement party, which Frost is determined to attend, he has been called out to the death of a well known local addict in a flooded public toilet.

His every attempt to slope off and attend the party are further frustrated by what can only be called a crimewave of epic proportions, which he and a few other officers, not in the favour of Mullet, are trying to hold the line against tide of crime afflicting Denton.

Frost, in his attempts to get to the party is sloppier than normal and his and others inattention at a crime scene will come back to haunt him later.

In this the 2nd of the Frost books, the tropes of the series (both novels and TV series) become concrete. Frost, the copper with the nose for crime and lies, but hopeless at playing the game, terrible at all of the things that modern policework entail like computer systems and paperwork. The supposed competence and organisation of those around him like Mullet and the ambitious DC or DS who scorn Frost for his faults but are blind to his qualities and the system which attempts to bury him in paperwork and starve him of resources, just when they are needed the most.

In these books i think that Wingfield has given us the most complete picture of what actual policing in the 1990's is like, the clash of old and new, the fight for resources and the bureaucracy.

I'm not actually sure that i like Frost. He is honest, at least to those that he thinks deserve honesty. And he is a good detective, while not being a good policeman. He is crude, rude and slovenly. But for all that he has heart and he is the true heart of these books. But probably his best quality is that he has no regard for the acclaim and spoils which go to those close cases, routinely giving the credit to others so he can avoid the paperwork, much to the frustration of his more ambitious team members. Simply knowing that the crime is solved is enough for him.

Matt says

As a long-time fan of A Touch Of Frost on the TV, I was delighted to find this in a charity shop. Of course, having seen David Jason's performance of one of the most loveable characters in the TV crime canon, it is impossible to divorce yourself from his mental picture when reading it in print.

With that in mind, I proceed.

The book itself was impossible to put down. The restless (practically superhuman) energy that Frost puts into his never-ending day is infectious, and there isn't even time to breathe. There seems to be no natural breaks, you just have to find out what happens next. And it doesn't stop. Case after case, interruption after

interruption, and still he hasn't done his paperwork which Mullett is nagging him for, yet still he has time to crack tasteless, sexist jokes and ridicule his partner's beard.

Four stars not five because everybody's constant smoking was starting to put me off, to the point where it turned into a caricature of what a nicotine habit is. Bear in mind, of course, that this was only 1987, in which people were still allowed to smoke in public buildings. Never mind, we'll let that pass -- but it smacks to me of lazy plotting.

In the books, Frost is far less likeable than in the TV, and even more scruffy and bumbling, and despite the fact that he does manage to solve the cases, he has little respect amongst his colleagues, who (almost to a man) think him incompetent. Frost, however, has so much self-belief that he just does not care -- and that endears him even more to the reader.

Nick says

To some extent, Wingfield seems to have hit his stride with this second Frost novel, which is funnier and faster-paced than the first. Unfortunately, it's also more offensively chauvinist: every female character is a sex object and there are jokes about rape that just wouldn't fly these days. While this is possibly a true reflection of what the police was like in the 1980s and early 1990s, it's written in such a way that the reader is clearly expected to share the joke. If you can overlook this, there's some good character-based humour based on the conflicts and rivalry between the policemen (especially Frost, Webster, Allen and Mullett) and some exciting hostage-based action at the climax. As before, though, Wingfield is too patchy a writer to give total satisfaction, and he ends the novel abruptly having barely tied up the loose ends.

Madonna says

Liked the mystery a lot. Missed the poetry of the first book in the series; Wingfield really hooked me in the first book with his writing.

As in the first book I ended up liking the new sidekick, Webster. As in the first book I was first annoyed by the sidekick's attitude towards Frost and his approach to police work. Webster is doubly arrogant--thinks he's too good for Denton Division AND is a "fallen" man. However, I believe he does change his mind about Frost.

Frost continues to be coarse, but I felt he was less coarse in this book than the first. Since I've read only these 2, I don't know if the coarseness will continue to lessen. Or maybe I was willing to overlook and skip it, knowing from the first one that it isn't really a problem.

I liked the mystery. I figured Shelby was a problem from the moment Frost met up with him given the time Frost thought about something being off and then realizing the grate couldn't be seen from where Shelby said it was. Shelby's wife and children made him all the more the cad.

And I'm glad the lines and images that made me laugh out loud were also in this book. Wingfield makes reading his books enjoyable with those.

I'll continue to read this series

John McDermott says

An uncompromising slice of 80s crime fiction complete with the attitudes of the time. Frost and his colleagues are overworked and underpaid, getting by on cigarettes and no sleep.

The TV Frost is very much a pale imitation of the character portrayed in this book ,he's pretty much beyond the pale but this only makes this Frost more authentic in my opinion.

Well written, this a compelling and satisfying tale.

Recommended 3.5stars

Joe Rodeck says

"Plan? Since when did I ever make plans? I shall just barge in and hope for the best."

Dishevelled, disorganized Inspector Jack Frost is more a gambler than a hound dog or a Sherlock. He has a gift for flushing out his quarry. He enrages his bosses but they can't get rid of him since he is the case solver.

Character interplay and dialog is very funny. I love British mild profanity.

Alisa says

My annual Christmas book of a TV series. Both the story and the character, the style and the philosophy, were close to what I was used to on screen, though Frost was cruder and more lascivious than on ITV. A busy (but not intricate) plot for a mystery, a sort of crazed zig-zagging back and forth from one incident to another. It seems this kind of half-attention and interruption might be the way real police life is. A diversion, and a curiosity satisfied.

Nanosynergy says

In *A Touch of Frost*, Frost continues his report avoiding/ fudging, slovenly, insubordinate, a bit misogynistic and sexist in his remarks about the women he encounters way - and repeatedly failing and yet somehow managing to solve all the cases while allowing others to take the credit. In this book, Frost investigates the murder of a drug addict, a serial rapist, a hit-and-run resulting in the death of an elderly man, and the robbery of a strip club, all the while working hard to blow off requisite paperwork like the crime statistics (which he makes up) and the overtime paperwork.

Ron says

Enjoyed this book. Usually don't want to start a series anywhere other than at the beginning, but, this one

slipped through that crack.

I had it in a list to order from the library when I noticed that the book was pulled from the library system. None of the others, just this one. Later that afternoon, my wife said that she'd seen a Frost book in the giveaway bin and had grabbed it for me. Turned out it was the same book that I'd seen taken out of circulation. And, neither one of us being of a mind to turn away free stuff just because it wasn't offered at the right time, I kept it. And, since I kept it, I might as well start reading it. Hence, out of series order. Although, since it's #2 in the order, it's not that big of a deal. Hopefully. No idea if anything that I've read in this one is a spoiler for the 1st book in the series.

At any rate, this was good enough for me to want to continue with the series. Which I kind of thought would happen as both of us like the PBS/BBC TV series. Which we get DVDs of from that same library system.

The book isn't really about one case. There are several cases that become intertwined as the book proceeds on. Hopefully, that isn't a spoiler for anyone reading this. But, since that possibility exists, I'll not follow that thread any further.

Frost seems to be a bit more of a problem for his boss, Mullett, in the books than in the TV series. And, more of a problem to his colleagues, also. But, the character is basically the same. A likeable character if a bit rough around the edges. And, more competent than even he wants to admit. I will read others that are in my library system.

Bettie? says

[Bettie's Books (hide spoiler)]

Nora|KnyguDama says

Perskai?ius pirm? Frosto serijos dal? "Frosto Kal?dos" jausmas buvo dvejopas, bet vis vien krypo ? ger?j? pus?. Pats detektyas ?domus, bet ne ne?tik?tinas, istorija užkabinanti, bet vietomis ir nuobodoka buvo, detektyvas Frostas - nuostabus personažas. Tad mano sprendim? skaityti vis? serij? b?tent šis veik?jas ir nul?m??. ?niasi antros dalies - "Frosto prisilietimas" ir, O DIEVAI - ji nepalyginamai geresn?! ?tampa išlaikyta iki galo, paslaptis taip pat. Veiksmo - nors vežimu vežk. Taip, taip, Frostai - draugausim iki paskutin? s tavo knygos.

Viena naktis - kr?va nusikaltim?. Ir kaip ty?ia tuomet, kada pareig?nai šven?ia vieno iš?jim? pensijon, o budin?i? policinink? nedaug. Dingsta penkiolikmet? milijonieri? dukra - t?vas ?nirš?s, mama keistai rami. Gurkšnodama visk? ji tik tarsteli, jog Karen tiesiog maišauja ir rimai vertinti visko nereikt?. Ta?iau Dentone siau?ia prievertautojas žaginantis jaunutes merginas. Policijai niekaip nepavyksta jo sugauti, ir t? nakt? jis smogia v?l - paslaptingas skambutis praneša apie miške išniekint? merginos k?n?. Negana to, prabang? mašina mirtinai partrenk? senuk?, telefono b?del?je skambinant? policijai d?l chuliganiško automobilio vairuotojo elgesio. Nusikaltim? daug - laiko mažai. Frostas deda visas pastangas - kartais net peržengdamas savo ?galiojimus - suvesti galus, o jo neken?iantys kolegos vis kiša pagalius ? ratus. Kuo giliau Frostas kapsto, tuo daugiau tamsi? paslap?i? išlenda, o susijusi? nusikaltim? ratas ple?iasi.

Tikrai, tikrai, tikrai "Frosto prisilietimas" nepalyginamai geresnis detektyvas nei "Frosto Kal?dos". Tai tikra žanro klasika su netik?ta pabaiga, gausybe paslapting?, ?tartin? veik?j? ir tuo pa?iu nuostabiu pagrindiniu detektyvu Frostu. Ir knygoje nebuvo šuoli? ?domu, ne?domu, nuobodu, v?l visai nieko. Viskas buvo nuosekliai ?domu, o knyg? pad?t šonan kaskart b?davo išš?kis. Tad jei esat užkiet?j?s ger? detektyv? m?g?jas - ?iupkit ši? serij? ir m?gaukit?s. Perskai?iau antr? dal? ir panašu, jog serij? galima skaityti neb?tinai iš eil?s - kažkoki? reikšming? knygas jungian?i? detali? nebuvo. Ta?iau, kad jau prad?jau tvarkingai tai ir imsiuos tre?iosios dalies - "Frosto naktis".

Pat says

Detective Inspector Jack Frost, officially on duty, is nevertheless determined to sneak off to a colleague's leaving party. But first the corpse of a well-known local junkie is found blocking the drain of a Denton public lavatory - and then, when Frost attempts to join the revels later on, the nubile daughter of a wealthy businessman is reported missing.

Sleepy Denton has never known anything like the crime wave which now threatens to submerge it. A robbery occurs at the town's notorious strip joint, the pampered son of a local MP is suspected of a hit-and-run offence and, to top it all, a multiple rapist is on the loose. Frost is reeling under the strain, his paperwork is still in arrears and now, more than ever, his self-righteous colleagues would love to see him sacked. But the manic Frost manages to assure his superior that all is under control. Now he has only to convince himself.

A little judicious editing would help these stories. I got kind of tired of hearing how messy Frost's office was every single time he entered. Also, I hope he drops the constant references to late paper work. I will try one more.

Terry says

R.D. Wingfield's Jack Frost is quite a bit racier than David Jason's TV version. A less likable crude bumbler with hopelessly disorganized sleuthing skills whose intuition cannot overcome his ineptitude. Furthermore, Frost's constant comments and preoccupation with women as sex objects would target him for eviscerated in today's PC press and legions of feminists. It certainly would never make it to the boob tube(pun intended) in it's expurgated form. Still, you want to meld the wonderful qualities Jason imbued in his loveable but supremely capable Inspector Frost. Qualities that outweigh his slovenly habits and get the job done.

Bruce Alexander who plays Superintendent Mullett with such panache is portrayed by the author as a despicable brown-nosing toady with few redeeming qualities. To me neither original character is as likeable as the made for TV versions. However, that's not the author's fault and he did create the seminal groundwork for England's longest running detective series.

Rich says

Another excellent outing of Inspector Jack Frost, a down to earth and forgetful copper. Found myself not being able to put this down, great suspense throughout and an interesting exploration of the characters that

are more and more coming to light in the series so far. Don't hesitate in reading this one, the TV series stays true to the books.

What do I enjoy the most? I think it has to be the way the author makes Frost criticise himself, whilst making him out to be useless - it also shows an edge which could be adopted in real life (my interpretation) don't let things get to you, be yourself.

All in all another good book about the acclaimed detective.
