



And Grant You Peace

Kate Flora

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Most people run from fires; firemen and cops run toward them, especially when someone inside is screaming. It began when a boy banged on Burgess's car window. He got a gasped, "Fire at the mosque and someone's in there," and a frantic gesture toward the old commercial building that served as a mosque for Portland's Somali community.

His dash into the building leads to a very young mother and tiny baby in a locked closet, and to his worst nightmare -- investigating the death of another child. He must deal with suspicious, uncooperative refugees, members of a motorcycle gang, businessmen engaged in illegal activity, and threats to his family before identifying the mute and terrified young mother and getting justice for a helpless child who never had a chance.

And Grant You Peace Details

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From Reader Review And Grant You Peace for online ebook

Alice says

Good writing! Hard to imagine this kind of stuff happening in Portland, Maine. I must be very naive!

Sherry says

feb 2018 BK discussion BK. 4th book in series, stands alone pretty well though there are a number of incidents, relationships, tensions from previous books mentioned. Set in Portland, ME, a fire in a Somali Mosque almost emulates a young girl and a tiny baby. All efforts to investigate meet with opposition, violence, attempted murders, threats and assaults. Three cops have family problems with children. Tightly paced, frenetic and exhausting action. Believable characters.

Badass Lioness says

4.5 stars! Joe Burgess is in his 50s, has a bad knee, a girlfriend, and very recently got some kids... He's not typical. He's a Detective Sergeant and a decent guy. Not hot, debonair, or cocky. I liked that about him. He had conflicts with the Somali refugees, his fellow cops, the Captain, and with his kids. And yet I found him refreshing. He's not perfect, but rushes into a burning building to rescue a girl and her baby.

The case unravels with resistance from the head of the refugees in the main house, cop Perry is unreliable, and dead bodies accumulate. This is the first in the series that I've read. Yet I found it easy to 'catch up' to what was going on in his life and get fully involved in the story. I really liked how Joe dealt with his son's suspension. Classy. I am interested in reading previous books in the series to find out what happened prior to the start of this story that brought the three kids into his life.

The actual murder investigation was interesting. It was gritty, intense, had a feeling of reality, and didn't feel two dimensional. The cops all had their own personalities and issues going on in their personal lives as well as having to spend a lot of time on solving this case. Perry was the out-of-control younger cop actively avoiding his girlfriend; Kyle was frustrated and dealing with his girlfriend and daughters. The Captain was the one they all wanted to avoid and provided a bit of levity. There were female officers as well who were instrumental in guarding the patient.

The Imam at the mosque and the house showed two sides to the refugees. Some were evil; some were good. The good were trapped by the bad ones. There were good citizens of Maine and evil ones. It dealt with diversity and how Joe had to overcome his own prejudices, wanting to take justice in his own hands, and deal with real threats from criminals. There was a gripping scene where everyone that he holds dear is threatened. The climactic scene changes things for many of the cops and worked well.

Note: I received this book for free by eBook Discovery Read and Review Club in exchange for an honest review. This is yet another wonderful book that I would not have discovered on my own as I don't usually read police procedural/ male detective series books.

Lesa says

Every time I read one of Kate Flora's Joe Burgess mysteries, I'm reminded why I love police procedurals. Her latest one, *And Grant You Peace*, is topical, but it could be any time period, when the police are doing everything they can to find criminals, and keep the peace in their communities. And, Flora reminds us that the police are human, trying to deal with long hours and brutal crimes, while also trying to keep their own families intact.

Joe Burgess is known as the "meanest cop in Portland", Maine, but anyone who ever saw him deal with children would know he's a softy. And, his boss had promised he wouldn't have to handle a case with a baby again. It was just his luck to be hailed by a boy to help at a fire at a mosque. When he and a stranger went in, they found a young teen and a baby, locked in a closet. No one could save the baby. And, as the first officer at the scene, Sergeant Joe Burgess was determined to get answers. Who would lock two children in a closet? And, why had no one from the mosque shown up when it went up in flames?

What Burgess and his team uncover is a mess, and it all seems to be connected to the Iman and his Somali family, a family who won't answer any questions. Instead, problems grow as if they were fires sprouting up all over the city. "A fire that resulted in a death, a barrage of gunfire in a quiet city neighborhood, and a bad guy mistakenly released from jail? All in a day's work for Portland's finest." Before the Portland police can tie all the loose ends together, they'll face threats to their family, and threats to their own lives. And, it all comes back to that first crime. Who would lock two children in a closet?

Flora does allow the team to bring those loose ends together. But, she reminds us that police are often working short-handed, on multiple cases. She reminds us of the politics the police deal with daily. And, they're facing ugly crimes that tear them apart, knowing they have to go home to their own wives and families. Every day, those families wonder if their policeman husband or wife will walk through the door. Joe Burgess is only now realizing that. In his fifties, it's the first time he's had a family waiting for him, a family endangered because he's a police officer. He's only now seeing the reality that "families kept cops sane and balanced."

I love Kate Flora's police procedurals. *And Grant You Peace* shows those police working to keep streets and neighborhoods safe so citizens can sleep at night. Joe Burgess is just one of many, men and women with their own lives, who give up family time to solve crimes and work those streets.

Cardyn Brooks says

Everyone in this country except Native Americans had been a refugee or an immigrant at one time. [*And Grant You Peace*, pg. 33]

Well, that's a true statement if the designation of imported Africans and their descendants as non-human, non-citizen labor commodities is excluded. (Oh, details, details...) Each installment of this compelling series includes at least one racially targeted pronouncement from the lead character that reflects his wide blind spot regarding ethnic history in the U.S. and its multiple layers of present-day reverberation. This element of his

characterization feels consistent with Joe's backstory and adds to his edgy realism, which makes me feel torn as a reader because it's authentic and as annoying in fiction as it is in real life.

Anglo male authority (fictional, real, aspirational or delusional) figures regularly gripe about other groups' grasping entitlement attitudes without acknowledging that hetero, Anglo, male, Protestant (or Catholic), privileged humans make exactly the same claims; H.A.M.P.s just assert that their claims are the only divinely ordained legitimate ones. Joe's attitude reinforces the fact that patriarchal colonial imperialist doctrine, its trickle-down effects, and mutations continue to manifest in various forms.

Kate Flora writes with an enviable degree of gritty eloquence. She integrates police procedure and character consciousness in a way that intensifies and elevates both. Missing her Thea Kozak series does not keep me from enjoying this Joe Burgess series.

[Minor copyediting incorrect/correct oversights: Even/Ever since, whose/who, He'd/He's, did the cops of(<-extra word) the favor of]

Kathryne says

Wonderful entertainment. The next one awaits!

Harvey says

Fourth in the Joe Burgess series and the best so far.

Burgess is a homicide detective in Portland Maine who is an old curmudgeon but who is mellowing as he adapts to life with three children new to his home.

A mosque burns with a young girl and her infant child as victims. What was really going on at the mosque and what is the Imam and his family involved in? The investigation takes many directions as well as patience and persistence. Burgess continues to have disdain for his Captain and department politics calling for "political correctness" in acceptance of the Sudanese and Somali refugee communities.

Burgess is a well-drawn character and Flora captures the tensions in the neighborhoods between the police and the newcomers. She also handles the developing personal relationships and the tension of a workaholic who now wants to be home for dinner.

Lisa Haselton says

The fourth Joe Burgess Mystery is coming soon, but I was able to read an advance readers copy and here's what I thought about the novel.

This gritty police procedural was breath taking. Literally. I felt I was on Burgess' shoulder throughout the story (at one time I even thought about ducking behind Burgess so I wouldn't get shot). It wasn't just the fast-paced, crisp writing that had me feeling that way, it was the scenarios the cast of characters found themselves in and the immense attention to detail shared with the reader.

Author Kate Flora likes to get the details right and she spends a lot of time with on-the-job officers asking questions, doing ride-a-longs, and getting hands-on experience to do just that.

One scene in particular will stick with me - without giving away all the details, I'll just say it was a scene with off-duty officers encountering an unpleasant situation. The scene was so well written that I saw it clearly and my heart raced as the officers took things second by second. And that's not saying the scene was drawn out, it wasn't, it was written so the reader was in the moment with the characters. And Flora was able to do that because of her research. What really struck me is that Flora didn't stop the scene until the officers were out of the situation and able to take a breath, think about what happened, and basically say 'oh shit, that just happened.'

I can't think of another novel where I've been with officers after an incident -- it's usually, wham-bam-slam and racing off to the next bad guy. This novel is akin to a-few-days-in-the-life-with-an-actual-on-the-job-detective in Portland, Maine.

I don't know how I haven't read the earlier Burgess books, but now I have to. This worked well as a standalone, obviously, and I don't feel I'm missing out on anything, but I'm curious to see how Burgess has changed over the course of the novels.

Along with the Joe Burgess novels, Flora's 12 books include the Thea Kozak mysteries; and her true crime books, Finding Amy, and Death Dealer (which I reviewed last month). When she's not writing, or teaching at Grub Street in Boston, she's in her garden, waging a constant battle against critters, pests, and her husband's lawnmower.

I wasn't quite as exhausted as Joe Burgess by the time I finished the novel, but I was close. The writing is so well done that I was in the moment with the character through all 330 pages. I can not imagine being a police officer or detective where a phone call can change your life so incredibly quickly. I need some structure to my day and know that I will be able to eat when I want, take breaks when I want, and most importantly sleep when I need to. I'm hoping Joe Burgess and his team have some downtime now before the next phone call!

This is an exciting read, but make sure to have the seat belt secured before opening the book.

(I received an ARC of this book with no promise of giving review of any kind.)

Jeanne says

I received this book for free as a Goodreads Firstread and it captured my attention immediately. The author has a way of explaining the complexities of investigating crimes unlike a tv show where everything is solved in 45 minutes. She is realistic in showing the interaction of various fields such as firefighters, medical and law professionals with the investigators who work a case. Her main characters are believable and likeable but not always perfect, as it is in real life. The authors sensitivity to victims of crime and their ongoing struggles adds depth to the characters. Her story line is interesting and though it seems to have many loose threads

initially, all comes together in the end. However, the end also leaves the door open for the resurrection of some of the criminal characters in later reads if the author pursues this venue. I liked this book and would recommend it as a good mystery/crime fiction.

Skye Taylor says

Another great mystery

An incredible cast of characters and a plot that keeps you guessing to the very last page. This lady is a master of the genre.

Pamela says

With her very first sentence, mystery and true crime writer Kate Flora snatches the reader off the sidelines and places them squarely on the playing field in this, the fourth entry in her Joe Burgess police procedural series, **“And Grant You Peace.”**

Detective Sergeant Joe Burgess lives and works in the real-life city of Portland, Maine, a predominantly white city struggling to understand the new Somalian and Sudanese refugee populations inhabiting it. The Portland Police Department is tasked with maintaining some level of peace amid a cultural situation fraught with tension, a task made more complex by the addition of a sound-bite and statistics addicted Captain: “Anything that didn’t fit on a chart or graph or couldn’t be quantified was anathema to him.”

Burgess is in the habit of putting the tough details of days spent focused on major crimes away in an act of “mental housekeeping” before returning home to his family. On this night, his reverie is interrupted by local foster kid Jason and his cry of “Fire at the mosque and...there’s someone in there screaming.” Before the night is over, Burgess finds himself a hero for saving the life of a young mother and tasked with investigating the death of a tragically ill child.

After thirty years on the force, Burgess is starting to lose interest in the “adrenaline of the chase,” but not the desire to put the bad guys away. Who locked this woman and child in the mosque, and why? His case is compromised by the disappearance of his translator and the assault on a young police officer during an attempted kidnapping. While carefully navigating the stormy waters of local race relations, Burgess and his team, the young and impulsive Stan Perry and the seasoned Terry Kyle, face suspicion from the affected refugee community. Throw in an outlaw gang, corpses lost and found, illegal arms, and the stalking of a police officer’s family, and you have a maelstrom of violence, desperation, and potential motive. Who is the unidentified girl at the center of their case? Afflicted with traumatic muteness and carrying no ID, her identity is a mystery. As Burgess struggles to balance his work and family obligations, he must rely on his instincts and his team to keep everyone safe.

In **“And Grant You Peace,”** Flora deftly crafts a fast-paced, gritty story well-rooted in the realities of police investigation in a small Maine city. Flora’s extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system learned as a former assistant attorney general for the state, is skillfully applied in the crafting of a complex and nuanced plot. Authentic dialogue and fully developed characters encourage the reader to become immersed in the story. In Joe Burgess, Flora has created a sympathetic, imperfect, and likeable protagonist, one whose lead

readers are quite willing to follow.

Mary Garrett says

AND GRANT YOU PEACE by Kate Flora

I think Joe Burgess should be granted the title of Chivalrous Knight of the Handkerchief. “Decades of binding up his city’s wounds — physical and emotional — with little squares of white cotton.”

“Hankies to stop tears, stop bleeding, bind broken bones and broken hearts.”

Some years ago I proposed waving handkerchiefs as a quiet signal of need for intervention . . . I still think it’s an idea with promise, and I like the addition of Hanky Man coming to the rescue.

Keeping people safe, despite the odds, dealing with reluctant witnesses and unrepentant bad guys, motorcycle gangs and fire in a mosque, all while trying to be there for their own families is a massive, tiring, discouraging job, “it was a thankless task,” and yet they persist. I want Joe Burgess and his team on my side when there’s trouble, including school problems. What a great meeting with the principal! “As I see it, there are three ways this can go . . . “

“Hoping. Wishing. It only came true in love songs and Disney movies . . . Putting your shoulder to the boulder and pushing, that got results.”

Brava for well-written books! I find comfort in this hero and hope there are many like him in the world, the thin blue line keeping others safe. Lessons for life, hope for justice.

“Fairy tales do not tell children the dragons exist. Children already know that dragons exist. Fairy tales tell children the dragons can be killed.” ? G.K. Chesterton

John Clark says

Readers of the Joe Burgess series have become accustomed to opening a new book in the series, strapping themselves in and going for a wild ride as Joe and his Portland Police colleagues run themselves ragged, trying to get really evil people off the street. And Grant You Peace is arguably the best book in the series, not only because it has so many threads, but this time around, Joe has to find time to act like a father. His girlfriend Chris has convinced him to help her parent two kids from Joe's earlier cases, a teenage girl and an eight year old boy. Added to this is his son, Dylan, a child he didn't know existed until a long ago girlfriend died and her husband didn't want the boy. Dylan is very similar to Joe in both size and temperament, a similarity that Kate uses several times to highlight both Joe's struggles with fatherhood and his growing awe and pride in his new son.

Start with an opening that grabs you immediately when Joe is accosted by a former street kid he helped get into a stable foster home who tells him a Somali Mosque is on fire and he can hear a woman screaming inside. Follow that with Joe braving flames in an unfamiliar building and finding a young mother and her newborn inside a locked closet. Add in uncooperative Somalis, a biker gang, stolen goods, a dead baby, booby traps and more turns and twists that a bag of pretzels, and you'll realize this is a book you'll need to block out sufficient time to read undisturbed, because anything less will have you constantly making excuses as to why you have to get back into it. It's gritty, fast-paced and full of really, really evil perps. Grab a copy as soon as it hits your bookstore or local library. You won't regret it for a moment

Lea Wait says

Kate Flora's latest Joe Burgess police procedural is everything it should be ... and more. The more is the theme of family ... who it encompasses, what it means, and how important it is. In AND GRANT YOU PEACE Joe has to solve the murder (possible inadvertent?) of an infant, the almost-murder of his fourteen-year-old mother, who refuses to speak ... and the political repercussions of both the girl and baby being found in a locked room inside a mosque that has been set on fire. At the same time, he is realizing what it means to be a father himself. Plenty of action, several twists ... and a view of Portland, Maine the tourists don't see. On today's news a lot of attention is being given to the mistakes the police make. Flora tells her story from the other side: the daily challenges the police face. A story that needs to be told more often.

Dottie says

As the stars indicate, I really liked the latest in Kate Flora's Joe Burgess series. This is an exciting police procedural that has all the action anyone could want - fires, explosions, shootings - but what I found most interesting - and what felt most realistic to me - was the care she took in looking at what dealing with these things does to a policeman and to his family (Joe is a family man now). And how frustrating it is to deal with people who - for whatever reasons they may have - will not cooperate with you and with the rules and paperwork that all officers have to deal with.

This story begins when Joe sitting in his car hears banging on the window and a young boy is shouting that there is a fire and a woman is screaming inside the building. It takes Joe into the community of Somali emigrants who have been settled in Portland and provides some real challenges to the police officers attempting to deal with crimes while juggling all the political issues.
