



The Catch

Archer Mayor

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Joe Gunther, a policeman for most of his adult life, gets the call that every cop hates: A fellow officer has been killed in the line of duty. During what appears to have been a routine traffic stop on a dark country Vermont road, a deputy sheriff was shot to death. From what can be seen on the cruiser's video recorder, the killers appear to be a couple of Boston-based drug runners.

Gunther and his Vermont Bureau of Investigation are brought in to identify the killers—and track them down up and down the northeast shoreline. Meanwhile, Alan Budney, the disaffected son of a Maine lobsterman, is a man with big ambitions—to usurp and replace the state's primary drug kingpin, a plan that will inevitably place him on a dangerous collision course with Gunther's investigation...

The Catch Details

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Author : Archer Mayor

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From Reader Review The Catch for online ebook

Lis says

Another in the Joe Gunther series — Vermont police procedural. Well done, smooth reading.

Richard says

As the Joe Gunther books are generally set in Vermont, as am I, I enjoy this mystery series. This one strays into Maine, which is not a problem in itself, but it does bring in many characters, none of whom are developed. There were also some loose ends and coincidences, which may be realistic but left me unsatisfied. Even Gunther gets frustrated when it seems his cop-killer case veers into something of more interest to the Maine police than the Vermont Bureau of Investigation. I applaud anyone who can write 19 adequate to very good novels in a series (and as this was written in 2008, Mayor has added about seven more), but this one felt rushed. If you don't know Mayor's work, I highly recommend starting at the beginning with "Open Season" and "Borderlines."

Russ Leavitt says

Great ending!

Paulina says

Interesting. Didn't expect the twist ending.

Patricia says

Deputy Sheriff Brian Sleuter stops a suspicious vehicle for a routine traffic stop. Before he is able to complete his paperwork life comes to an end for Sleuter. Joe Gunther is called in to investigate. Joe is head of the Vermont Bureau of Investigation. Sleuter's vehicle was equipped so that he would be taped while making the stop and his killer was caught on tape.

Gunter has officers checking Sleuter's background just to be sure that there was nothing underhanded in his history that could have been the cause of the execution. He doesn't really believe that Sleuter was crooked but Joe wants to be very sure so that he isn't faced with surprises in the investigation.

While local officers are investigating Sleuter, Joe is chasing the man suspected of the murder. This chase leads him to believe that the suspect is heavily involved in trafficking drugs along the New England coast. Joe is working with more than one department in trying to uncover every lead in the case.

Joe's girl friend Lyn Silva even lends a hand in trying to track down the killer. Her brother Steve was previously involved with drugs and Steve and Lyn step up to aid Joe.

The chase is exciting and Gunther finds himself in a position many times where he is in great danger. The characters introduced in The Catch, both the good guys and the bad, make for a very interesting story.

This is the 19th Joe Gunther novel and the books just get better and better.

Rob1109 says

There was nothing extraordinary that stands out in 'The Catch.' It's a typical Archer Mayor novel--and there's nothing wrong with that AT ALL.

The story was good, albeit a touch confusing in the middle. But as always, it's very easy to identify and feel for the same ol' cast of characters--Joe, Sammie, Willy, Les, etc...plus the secondary characters are also developed well.

Mr Mayor, as always, does a fine job of bringing fictional characters to life with simple words, actions and dialogue. The book was entertaining, a fast easy read (read it in 2 nights) with a couple of very good twists at the end.

Keep it up, Mr. Mayor

David says

Good story for someone who knows the New England area where it takes place - somewhat weak ending however with too much of the plot left unresolved.

Chick Marks says

Good story. Didn't see the closure coming.

Maddy says

PROTAGONIST: Joe Gunther

SETTING: Maine

SERIES: #19

RATING: 3.75

WHY: Ambitious cop Brian Sleuter is killed during a traffic stop in a remote area in Vermont. His dash cam reveals the killer, who is associated with drug dealing and appears to work primarily in Maine. Joe Gunther of the Vermont Bureau of Investigation goes to Maine to work with various authorities there. They partner

with him but are more interested in their own problems. It was a nice change of setting for this solid series. The ending, however, was a letdown.

Christian says

After the last few Gunther novels, my expectations were low. (While on my latest reading jag, I read one of the books without even realizing I had already read it before!)

This one was a bit better. Once again, most of the action takes place outside of Vermont, but this time it did not seem as forced as the last few novels. Most of the references to Joe's age have been muted (I think, if the timeline for his life established way back in Open Season was still being followed, Gunther would be over 70 years old) and the background stuff for new readers did not seem so ham-fisted.

While with a lot of Mayor's books, the ending seems slightly rushed and dependent on far too many coincidences, overall it was worth reading, especially if you are a fan of the genre, had given up on Mayor or have a couple of days to kill.

Catherine Woodman says

I love Vermont and the character, but the plot was just a bit of a leap for me.

Jim Morton says

My first archer mayor book and I loved it. Staying at ardmore inn in Woodstock and was introduced to his works. A great find...

Dennis Fischman says

What I liked about this book: the developing relationship between Joe Gunther and Lyn Silva; the ongoing work relationships in the Vermont Bureau of Investigation; Joe's becoming more reflective as he ages; the character of the murdered cop's mother-in-law; the descriptions of Vermont and Maine, the landscape and the people who live there.

What I didn't like: too many characters mentioned but not fleshed out; a Portuguese-American character referring to himself as "Hispanic" (he would never do that!); too many coincidences; an ending that depends on Willy Kunkle never having viewed the video up to that point and then seeing something unexplained that lets him identify the murderer.

I enjoyed reading the book but felt disappointed at the ending.

LJ says

THE CATCH (Pol. Proc-Joe Gunther-New England-Cont) - Okay
Mayor, Archer – 19th in series
St. Martin's Minotaur, 2008, US Hardcover – ISBN: 9780312381912

First Sentence: Deputy Sheriff Brian Sleuter was looking for a better country/western station when the Toyota flew by, spraying a few roadside pebbles against the front bumper of his cruiser.

Joe Gunther and the Vermont Bureau of Investigation have been called in to assist on a drug-related cop killing. Pharmaceutical drugs are being brought in from Canada to Maine. Steve, the ex-con brother of Gunther's girlfriend helps them with locations, players and confirms that some lobster boats are bringing in more than lobster. Steve had heard of the area's main player, now a murder victim himself. It's up to the combined law enforcement team to find who has taken over the territory and stop them.

Mayor usually creates an excellent sense of place and, to be fair, some of that was apparent here. However, much of it felt as though it was map directions. As for the plot, there are lots of twists and turns and lots of red herrings. But nothing really goes anywhere and threads were left hanging.

We are introduced to a whole lot of characters. But we are given very little character development on any of them. Personally, since many of them are drug dealers, that was okay, but even the major characters felt thin and as though the author assumed you knew their background. A climatic scene, however, that could have lead to significant development of two characters, seemed glossed over and almost incidental.

This is a true police procedural. I do like that there are multiple agencies working together. But I found myself very disappointed in this book.

Jill Manske says

I didn't like "The Catch" as well as other Archer Mayor books, probably because of the topic. Drug running & drug dealers just don't interest me. That said, "The Catch" is a very well-written book with a complex plot and interesting characters. Vermont Bureau of Investigation leader Joe Gunther heads to Maine to assist a task force with the murder of a Vermont state trooper whose killer is thought to be part of a gang involved in smuggling drugs across the Canadian border. The group takes several wrong turns and spends a great amount of time on the hunt, with little to show for their efforts. Of course, Gunther is the one who finally puts the pieces together and solves the murder. Mayor is a very good writer, so I'll definitely continue reading his books. But this one just fell a little short, in my opinion.
