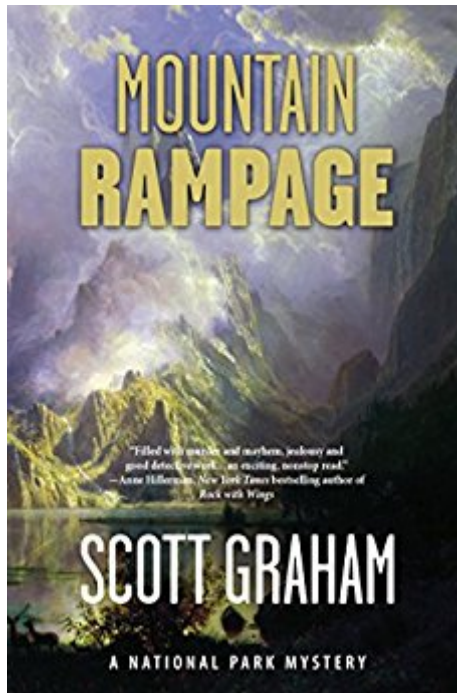


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Mountain Rampage: A National Park Mystery (National Park Mystery Series)



Synopsis

"Graham's clever tale is tailor-made for those who prefer their mysteries under blue skies;"—KIRKUS"Description and dialogue balance to bring both the rounded characters and the Rocky Mountain setting alive in this tale of danger, death, and intrigue;"…Scott Graham has created a satisfying and suspenseful adventure."—FOREWORD REVIEWS"[Mountain Rampage] combines archaeology education, family relationships, outdoor adventure and taut mystery."—ROUNDUP MAGAZINE"Filled with murder and mayhem, jealousy and good detective work;"—set against a stunning Colorado backdrop;"—Mountain Rampage is an exciting, non-stop read. I look forward to more good tales from this talented author."—ANNE HILLERMAN, New York Times bestselling author of Spider Woman's Daughter" In Mountain Rampage, Scott Graham delivers taut writing, solid plot twists, a cast of interesting characters, and an appealing protagonist both men and women will love. Get ready for a leave-you-breathless high country southwestern adventure."—MICHAEL MCGARRITY, New York Times bestselling author of Hard Country and Backlands" Move over Nevada Barr;"—clean prose and confident storytelling combine to make Scott Graham's second Chuck Bender/National Park Mystery Series novel a must-read for fans of Western outdoor fiction and for mystery lovers everywhere."—CHUCK GREAVES, author of Hush Money, Green-Eyed Lady, and The Last Heir" In archaeologist Chuck Bender, Scott Graham has created a flawed, all-too-human, and memorable investigator who had me rooting for him to the end."—MARGARET COEL, author of Night of the White Buffalo In the riveting second installment of the National Park Mystery Series, archaeologist Chuck Bender finds himself and his young wife and stepdaughters in the crosshairs of an unknown killer when he defends his brother-in-law from false accusations of murder in the brutal slaying of a resort worker in Rocky Mountain National Park. Scott Graham is author of Canyon Sacrifice: A National Park Mystery and Extreme Kids, winner of the National Outdoor Book Award. He is an avid outdoorsman and amateur archaeologist who enjoys hunting, rock climbing, skiing, backpacking, mountaineering, river rafting, and whitewater kayaking with his wife, an emergency physician, and their two sons. Graham lives in Durango, Colorado.

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Customer Reviews

This is not the first time I've picked up a second-in-a-series with trepidation. When the first is as good as CANYON SACRIFICE was, there's always a worry that the second will disappoint. Fortunately, MOUNTAIN RAMPAGE is as good as the first. The prologue sets up one of the story lines, and the initial scenes that have archaeologist Chuck Bender rushing to the hospital with his very sick new daughter sets the stage for his own personal growth. Once the main plot takes off, with Chuck leading a group of archaeology students in the excavation of an old mine in Rocky Mountain National Park, the reader is hard-pressed to put the book down. Graham knows how to build suspense, and throughout the book there are many scenes during which my house could have been burning down and I wouldn't have noticed. As in his previous book, this amateur archaeologist writes best when he is writing about the physical trials associated with climbing in remote locations and the history behind his plots. In MOUNTAIN RAMPAGE, this history has to do with gold mining, so the reader learns a lot about how a mine like the one the students are excavating came to be and what could be inside. Again, greed plays a significant role in the plot. The archaeology students are housed close-by to support workers for the Park, and there is much mingling between the two groups. When one of the workers is killed, and Chuck's new brother-in-law is a "person of interest," Chuck's desire to protect his new family causes him to make some poor choices. As the character begins to develop in the series, Chuck's fallibility helps give him dimension; at the same time, it can cause a certain amount of dissonance in the reader. One wonders whether any rational man would

make these same mistakes.

Chuck Bender is an archaeologistâ” founder, CEO and sole full-time employee of Bender Archaeological Inc. He surveys and excavates sites of potential archaeological significance that might be development on federal, state, and Indian reservation lands. So the switch in scenery from Chuckâ”s first adventure, in âœGrand Canyon Sacrifice,â” is a natural. Heâ”s used to digging, scraping, searchingâ” down. But trouble keeps pilingâ” up. And then some. In âœMountain Rampage,â” woe comes in spades (digging pun intended). Newly married and with his wife and a couple of new step-daughters in tow, Chuckâ”s latest project involves leading a summer field-study course at the abandoned Cordero Mine, five miles from the top of trail ridge road in Rocky Mountain National Park. Problems? He has a daughter with a feverâ” sheâ”s had seizures. Thereâ”s the delicate dance of trust with his new wife, Janelle. Can he adapt to his new role as father? Does he trust the men who come around, especially good looking E.R. docs? Thereâ”s a strange puddle of blood found outside the dormitories at the âœY of the Rockiesâ” where the students are living during the project. Rotted timbers inside the mine shaft lead to a near tragedy when a student tumbles through. And down. Chuck becomes a human rope and averts catastrophe. And then police come around and put Chuckâ”s brother-in-law, Clarence, straight in the crosshairs when his knife is found with blood all over it. Chuck finds a woman in the woods with a âœgrievousâ” wound in her neck and, if that wasnâ”t enough, thereâ”s a pile of headless âœtrophy-worthyâ” ram carcasses. Letâ”s hope you didnâ”t take the term â”rampageâ” lightly. Misery is piled higher than Longâ”s Peak.

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