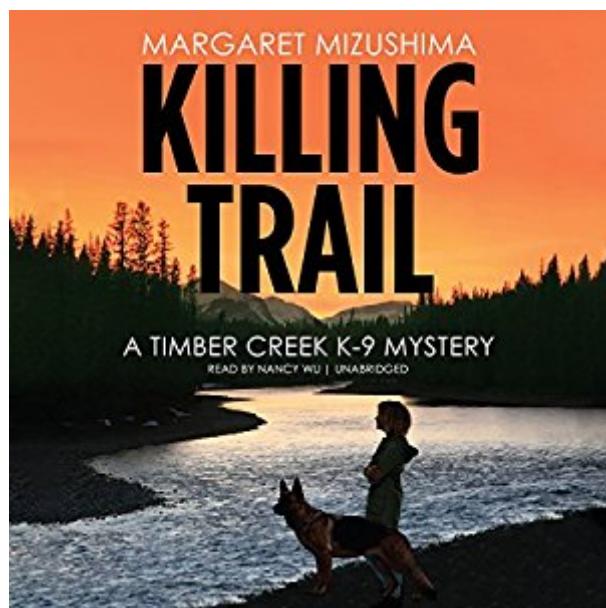


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Killing Trail: A Timber Creek K-9 Mystery, Book 1



Synopsis

When a young girl is found dead in the mountains outside Timber Creek, lifelong resident Officer Mattie Cobb and her partner, K-9 police dog Robo, are assigned to the case that has rocked the small Colorado town. With the help of Cole Walker, a local veterinarian and single father, Mattie and Robo must track down the truth before it claims another victim. But the more Mattie investigates, the more she realizes how many secrets her town holds. And the key may be Cole's daughter, who knows more than she's saying. The murder was just the beginning, and if Mattie isn't careful, she and Robo could be next. Suspenseful and smart, *Killing Trail* is an explosive debut that will have listeners clamoring for more Mattie and Robo for years to come.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed this book, especially the K9. But, the scene with the vet and the horse was never resolved. The reader is left hanging and the assumption is the horse died. I realize that isn't the point of the book, but why bring it up, if there's no resolution.

UPDATE: I just finished re-reading *KILLING TRAIL* and I'm off to re-read the second book in the series *STALKING GROUND* before I read the Advanced Reading Copy of the third book I received recently *HUNTING HOUR*, which is due out August 8, 2017. I revised my rating on this book from four stars to five after reading it again. I'm not sure whether the book has been revised since I read it last but I noticed many more descriptions of the Colorado landscape during this reading. Maybe I missed them last time or maybe they've been added but I just want to say I thoroughly enjoyed this

story - every piece of it - this time around. This is the first book in a new series by author Margaret Mizushima. I was excited to read it because: 1. It has a K-9 dog in it and I love dogs 2. It takes place in Colorado, my favorite state. Well, the parts with Robo, the K-9 dog are great and believable. I liked Robo's handler, Deputy Mattie Lu Cobb, too. She's gone through a hard upbringing, is a loner because of it, and is great with Robo and with children. The story takes place in and around the fictional Colorado town of Timber Creek. And I was disappointed in the way the author portrayed the setting of the book. It was so generic it could be practically anywhere, not just in Colorado but in the U.S. When I read a story set in Colorado, I want to get the feeling that I'm actually there, breathing pine-scented air and enjoying the majestic mountains. I didn't get the feeling that the author had ever been in Colorado. This was a fast-paced mystery with a few twists and turns. I figured out who the bad guy was fairly early in the book but still enjoyed the rest of the story. I'm off now to read the second book in the series STALKING GROUND, which I received as an Advanced Reading Copy.

KILLING TRAIL, by Margaret Mizushima was a good read and appeared factual. Having some knowledge of what K-9 dogs can do, I was not surprised about what Robo could accomplish when tracking bad guys. The author did a good job in articulating the capabilities of a trained police dog. Quite interesting! The book made me once again realize that every law enforcement agency should have K-9 companions. I did not give the book five stars as it moved slow at times and, while I am not bias against female writers; I think some of the descriptions in the book were clearly written from a woman's prospective. The story was unique and involved, of all people, the principal of the local high school. Deputy Mattie Cobb, who came up experiencing a tough life found her God given role as a top notch law enforcement K-9 officer. This is certainly a very good effort for Mizushima's first novel!

A first class police procedure featuring a K-9 dog. Drugs are making a headway into the small town of Timber Creek, Colorado. Money was raised to add a K-9 dog to the police. A contest of physical strength among the focus to see who would be his handler. Mattie Cobb is nervous as this is Kobo, the German shepherd she trained for 14 weeks the first case. A large pool of blood found in a hunting cabin. Much to her dismay, Kobo wants to go off the grid. Mattie follows Kobo and he finds another dog, Belle. It was all Mattie could do to prevent a dog fight. When she gets control again, she finds Belle has dug up the body of a dead girl and was protecting her. The focus now was to identify the girl. Mattie meets the local veterinarian and his family. The details of the veterinarian treatment of the dog are fascinating and detailed. The dog was being used as a 'mule' to transport

drugs. The characters are developing in depth, descriptions accurate and the trading and how a K-9 works are fantastic. I HIGHLY recommend this book.

I enjoyed the plot and characters, especially Mattie. She is a dedicated and professional police officer, but also has a vulnerable side because of her past tragic family situation and foster-child status. I also liked the character of Robo, of course! The only issue that nagged me--and this is the same with almost all small-town mysteries--the suspect pool is small and as each suspect is crossed off, the reader isn't surprised by the revelation of the real murderer. That person is the only one still standing after the other suspects are killed or crossed off the list! In this case, it was sad. Here was a person who was supposed to be a pillar of society and protect people in the community, but instead greed took hold of the person, turning him/her to crime. I look forward to reading more in the series by Ms. Mizushima.

The author tells a good story. Even though I figured out the killer fairly early on, I still enjoyed every minute of *Killing Trail*. The heroine, Mattie, is a Cop with a sad past; as a child, she called the police when her father almost killed her mother. He died in prison, her mother disappeared, and Mattie and her brother went into the foster care system. Mattie rises above this early trauma with the help of the policeman who rescued her and an excellent foster mother. Now she is a dedicated officer. The other main character is her police dog, Robo. The dog makes an excellent addition to the story--no, he IS the story in a way. I'd recommend this book to anyone looking for a good page turner.

You have to be a dog lover to read th book. If you're not don't bother. I am so I could relate. That being said... the short synopsis is screwed up girl grows up to be a cop and canine handler. This book starts out very slow and stays that way go a long time. It's all set up for the story, characters, and setting. But it's done in a very dry way that made me want to give up on it. I finally started to get into it about halfway through.

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