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Posted on 18 February 2017 By Mary Anna Evans

## [ Read Pdf ] ? Catacombs ? MOBI eBook or Kindle ePUB free

Catacombs, Faye Longchamp, Book #12  
by Mary Anna Evans

I would give this novel 10 stars if I could; 5 stars is simply not enough. How do you describe a book that hits the ground running from the beginning and never lets up, not even for a minute, to the very end? How do you describe a book full of actual history, married to a marvelous fiction that is as old as time and as fresh as yesterday's headlines? The usual applies: excellent plotting and pacing, a cast of wonderfully believable and relatable characters, stellar research, fantastic suspense, danger that never lets up, not even, if like me, you begin to suspect who the villain is about half way through the book, vivid descriptions that allow the reader to see the action and the surroundings as well as looking through a window. And, of course, a mystery that is neatly wrapped up at the end of the book, that leaves you breathless and feeling satisfied and still anxious to see what Faye and Joe's next adventure will bring.

If you've never read any of the books in this series, start it tonight. The first book is called "Artifacts," and it is available on Amazon. This is #12 in the Faye Longchamp mystery series, but it works as a standalone. This is my first venture into the books, and I was not confused by character relationships or any references to past events.

What I enjoyed:

1. The story reveals timely cultural issues.

I had expected a straightforward amateur detectivetype mystery. While I got that (and it's a doozy), I also got a thoughtful, moving look at prejudices in our society. Even better? These arise naturally from the story circumstances. This isn't a book about an issue but a story that reveals an issue. There's a difference.

Evans writes with compassion, even as she describes the horrible ways that prejudices filter down through the years. Cully (an old movie star returning to Oklahoma) and Sly (Faye's fatherinlaw) both attended Indian schools. The underfunded schools lacked even basic items that make up "backtoschool" lists each year in the United States: pencils, paper, books. There was abuse at some schools. All of this is a true and shameful part of U.S. history. Both characters left without diplomas and had to build lives for themselves without it.

The catacombs of the title are the underground dwellings of a Chinese community in the early 20th century. These creative people dug through the walls of their belowground basement apartments and created a multileveled living area beneath Oklahoma City. As strange as it sounds, this actually happened! Fascinating. Horrible, too. They weren't paid adequate wages and landlords refused to rent decent apartments to them. Why? Their

ethnicity.

And then there's protest against the academic conference on Indigenous Art. It's disappointing but not surprising that certain types of people would protest this exploration of a culture that is not "theirs".

There's a running theme about the idea of "invisible people." Faye observes that the hotel maids are invisible to most. Those with power might not see them as people or consider their needs. But Faye does.

2. Faye LongchampMantooth is unique.

She's observant and astute, two qualities that I imagine archeologists need in abundance! (The tidbits of professional knowledge are fascinating.)

While she's definitely a strong woman and a feminist, she is considerate and understanding of different codes of honor. For example, both she and Cully are somewhat hurt in the bombing. Medics attend Faye first and she wants to protest. Cully is an old man! Examine him first! But she knows that his chivalrous nature and generational ideas would never allow him to be treated before a woman. So instead of protesting, she respects that by remaining silent. (And Cully does a jig to demonstrate his "healthy" state.)

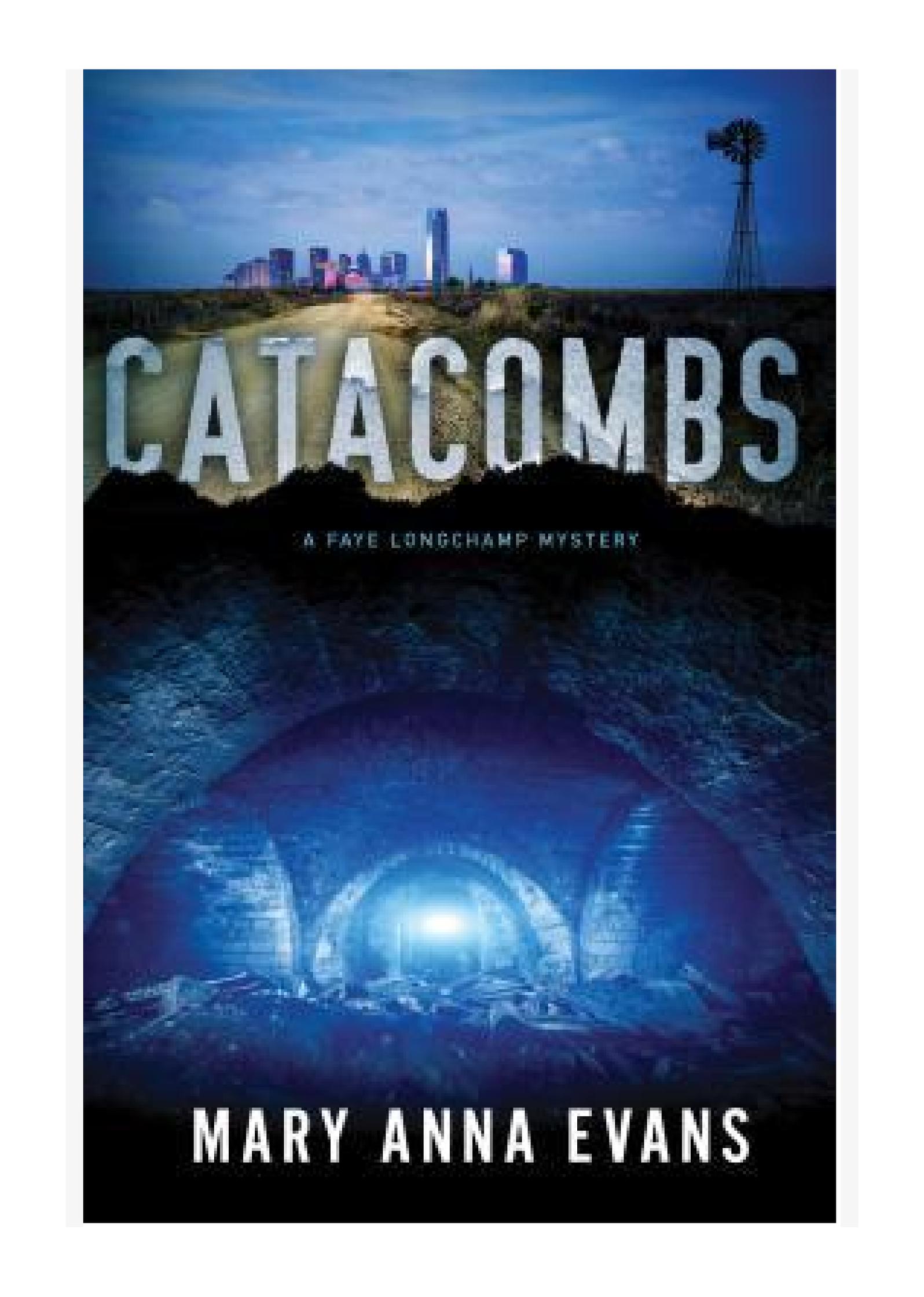
3. Faye and Joe's relationship is realistic and beautiful.

Evans gives us a realistic marital relationship here. Joe and Faye know each other, deeply care about each other, and feel secure enough in that love to argue together. (A healthy relationship doesn't mean a conflictfree one!) They support each other's work. She sees even more potential greatness lying inside him and is determined to make her husband shine. It's beautiful.

4. And more . . .

There's much more that I could rave about. The plot is great. The writing is terrific. All in all, it's a wellcrafted story. Evans writes with compassion and understanding, and this is a wonderful book.

Thanks again to Netgalley and Poisoned Pen Press for a copy of Catacombs in exchange for an honest review. It was a pleasure to read this book.



# CATACOMBS

A FAYE LONGCHAMP MYSTERY

MARY ANNA EVANS

This is Evans' Faye Longchamp mystery #12. Very interesting characters and stands alone even without having read previous in this series. Pages start off with a BANG with a BOMB going off in a convention center in Oklahoma City. Who makes the best FBI agent? An archaeologist by the name of Faye. Story revolves around who set the bomb and why? To really add depth to the story (HA HA) it is revealed that below ground are Catacombs that were homes to Chinese years ago. Unique story line and is worth the time if for no other reason than the historic flavor. "A copy of this book was provided by Poisoned Pen Press via NetGalley with no requirements for a review. Comments here are my honest opinion."

title: Catacombs

Series: Faye Longchamp #12

Author: Mary Anna Evans

Rating: 2

What secrets lie e2ep beneath the surface?

A deafening explosion rocks a historic Oklahoma City hotel, sending archaeologist Faye LongchampMantooth crashing to the marble floor of the lobby. She's unhurt but shaken—after all, any time something blows up in Oklahoma City, the first word on everyone's lips is the same: bomb.

Faye is in town for a conference celebrating indigenous arts, but is soon distracted by the aftermath of the explosion, which cracks open the old hotel's floor to reveal subterranean chambers that had housed Chinese immigrants a century before. Faye is fascinated by the tunnels, which are a time capsule back to the early 20th century—but when the bodies of three children are discovered deep beneath the city, her sense of discovery turns to one of dread...

My thoughts

Would I recommend it? no

Will I read more of this series? no

Will I read more by this author? no

it took me a while to get into the story , there was times I just wanted to put the book, but I went head and finished it even though it took me awhile to get into the story, while I did like the idea behind it , it just didn't keep me pulled into the story and the characters I just didn't feel like reading about at all with that said I want to thank NetGalley for letting me read it and review it [ Read Pdf ] ? Catacombs ? What Secrets Lie Deep Beneath The Surface?

A Deafening Explosion Rocks A Historic Oklahoma City Hotel, Sending Archaeologist Faye LongchampMantooth Crashing To The Marble Floor Of The Lobby She's Unhurt But Shaken?after All, Any Time Something Blows Up In Oklahoma City, The First Word On Everyone's Lips Is The Same: Bomb

Faye Is In Town For A Conference Celebrating Indigenous Arts But Is Soon Distracted By The Aftermath Of The Explosion, Which Cracks Open The Old Hotel's Floor To Reveal Subterranean Chambers That Had Housed Chinese Immigrants A Century Before Faye Is Fascinated By The Tunnels, Which Are A Time Capsule Back To The Early Twentieth Century?but When The Bodies Of Three Children Are Discovered Deep Beneath The City, Her Sense Of Discovery Turns To One Of Dread 5 stars

I read the Kindle edition.

Another wonderful story by Mary Anna Evans.

Archeologist Faye LongchampMantooth gets herself into another captivating adventure once more. This time she is attending a seminar on Native American crafting skills with her husband Joe in Oklahoma City. A bomb goes off in the lobby of the hotel where they are staying just as Faye is getting to know her new cousininlaw movie actor Cully Mantooth. He is a cousin of Joe's.

The FBI wants her expertise with some evidence that they found under the city where nearly a century earlier Chinese immigrants lived. They were felling from the hatred and discrimination they experienced above ground.

They set out to discover the identity of the bomber who was killed in the blast. Faye's eye for detail and some interesting art point them in the right direction. She gets herself in a pickle when a friend goes missing and she sets out to follow Cully who is acting mysteriously.

This is a very good book, flawlessly written. Ms. Evans' descriptions about Faye's surroundings are well put together; they put the reader right into the story. She seems to write effortlessly and beautifully. She makes writing look easy, and I'm sure it is not. I like Faye and Joe very much and really enjoy reading about their adventures and their relationship. This book reads very quickly. I was sorry to see the story end. I am very much looking forward to the next novel in this series.

I want to thank NetGalley and Poisoned Pen Press for forwarding to me a copy of this absolutely delightful book for me to read, enjoy and review. this is the first book I have read in this series and I am already looking forward to starting at the beginning to find out how it all came together for Faye.

I liked the character of Faye and her husband Joe. They were interesting to read about and

I felt that I got to know them a fair bit. Good people.

A good solid mystery with a few turns I certainly didn't expect. An archaeological murder mystery

Faye LongchampMantooth is a respected archaeologist visiting Oklahoma City for a conference celebrating indigenous arts when an explosion rocks the hotel lobby hosting the delegates. This event causes everybody to remember the dark days following the original Oklahoma City bombing, but as Faye soon discovers, the truth about the explosion is even more disturbing.

Buried deep beneath the city, there are ancient catacombs that housed the Chinese labour force that built the city at the turn of the century. This vast network of tunnels and secret entrances served as a safe haven for the Chinese at a time when their lives were made very difficult above ground. Poverty, exploitation and racism were the order of the day, and they found refuge under the city. This account of actual events was really fascinating to me. Anecdotal and photographic evidence still exists to this day. The explosion uncovers a staircase leading down into the catacombs and several chambers and in one of these the investigating team discovers 3 small bodies wrapped in shrouds. This sets the scene for the story as Faye is tasked with helping the FBI make sense of the ghastly discovery.

Many startling twists and turns set a fairly fastpaced story, but I found the writing lumbered, and the characters were not convincing. I did, however, find the background about the indigenous people and their customs and traditions fascinating so there is a very positive side to the book.

Gillian

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review

I used to love this series but it no longer has the elements that I most enjoyed. I loved the setting in northern Florida where Faye's house is located, and the struggle she had to restore / keep it. I loved her interactions with Joe and her children, and other recurring characters. Apparently the author lives in Oklahoma, so that's where she's sent Faye. There's none of the magic of this unique character anymore.

As far as the plot, the ending was a little unexpected, which is good, but the theme a bombing at a cultural conference was so silly. I couldn't believe or care about any of it.

Available for purchase August 13, 2019

"Evil must be obliterated."

An explosion rocks an Oklahoma City hotel, killing only the bomber and ripping a hole in the hotel's walls revealing an underground system that a century ago housed Chinese immigrants who lived underground due to the hatred and discrimination they faced above. With an immediate FBI response, one bombing victim is Archaeologist Dr. Faye Longchamp Mantooh who, along with her husband and distant cousin in law movie, actor and composer Cully Mantooh, is in town for a conference on Native American artistry and indigenous crafting.

Given her prior experience with the FBI, she's asked to team up with FBI agents Micah Ahua (Assistant Special Agent in Charge), Liu, and Goldsby, to investigate the rediscovered area and what connection it may have to the bomber. Alongside Patricia Kura, an engineer from the Oklahoma City Department of Public Works, they delve down into the reopened area only to discover the remains of three small children in an intricately painted room. This discovery is what gets the story going and Faye finds herself in the center of a confounding situation that leads readers in one direction, only to twist them in another when least expected.

As the story continues to unfold, people go missing and when they're found and the person responsible for everything is revealed (as well as their motive) it leaves readers surprised, at least it left this reader surprised. I was not expecting it to unfold as it did, but I thoroughly enjoyed how everything was revealed and the motive behind the book's events.

I very much enjoyed the characters and the relationships between them, both new and old, in this book. Faye felt surprisingly realistic to me, she didn't come across as some one-dimensional, easily forgettable character (which shouldn't be surprising as this is the 12th Faye Longchamp book); she's relatable and knowledgeable about the career field she's in. I also really liked the realistic nature of the relationship between her and her husband, Joe, and the budding relationship between Faye, Joe, and Cully. Faye and Joe have their arguments, but I could still tell how much they loved and respected one another. As this is the first book I've read in the series, I'm looking forward to reading the others and seeing how their relationship began and developed over the previous 11 books.

One thing that fascinated me about the 'bad' character is that Even's wrote them and their storyline so well that I sympathized with the character and understood their reasoning for what they did, even if it wasn't morally or legally right. That's something that impressed me as I don't typically feel bad for the 'bad' characters in the books I read.

Catacombs (#12 in the Faye Longchamp series but can be read as a standalone) is a great way to be introduced to a new author and series character, Mary Anna Evans has certainly

got me hooked on Evans' writing and her character Faye; the storytelling reminds me a lot of Iris Johansen's (one of my absolute favs) and her character Even Duncan. I love the way Evans writes and how she seamlessly mixes fiction and nonfiction items together (ex. The historical Chinese underground city with her original storyline). The introduction to the factual underground Chinese immigrant settlement was incredible to learn about, it makes me wonder just how many other underground settlements there are around the country whose knowledge has been lost to time. You can read more about the underground settlement [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Thank you to Edelweiss and Poisoned Pen Press for an Advanced Readers Copy of this book, I thoroughly enjoyed it and look forward to reading the other books in Faye's series and what adventure awaits her in the future.

This review is also posted on [Fathoms Amidst the Lines](#) and [Functionally Fictional](#).

## New Post

Scones and Sensibility

Harmonic Feedback

The Iron Thorn

Crescendo

Everlasting

Anna and the French Kiss

The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin

Birthmarked

Last Sacrifice

Kat, Incurable

The Lost Saint

Bloodlines

The Cinderella Society

Under the Mesquite

## Recent Post

Hush, Hush

The Dark Divine

The Body Finder

Hex Hall

Sea

Brightly Woven

Fallen

Shadow Hills

The Secret Year

The Mark

Bleeding Violet

Clockwork Angel

Paranormalcy

The Iron King

A Match Made in High School

All Unquiet Things

The Line

Guardian of the Dead

Nightshade

Magic Under Glass

The Naughty List

Other

The Reckoning

Dirty Little Secrets

Forget-Her-Nots

Whisper

Scones and Sensibility

