

“Ice Cold” by Tess Gerritsen. Ballantine Books, 2010. \$26.00, 336 pages.

Dr. Maura Isles, Boston medical examiner, is away at a conference in Wyoming when she runs into an old college acquaintance. Impulsively, she accepts his invitation to accompany him and a few friends to a ski lodge for a few nights before she returns home to her complicated, illicit relationship with Father Daniel Brophy. This act of uncharacteristic spontaneity throws Maura into a dangerous situation when the stranded travelers find themselves trapped in a snowstorm.

Forced to take shelter in a small, remote settlement known as Kingdom Come, Maura and her companions are troubled to discover that the community has apparently been abandoned. With meals left on the tables and cars still in garages, it is evident that something terrible must have happened to the residents of Kingdom Come. Dead pets and blood in one of the twelve identical cabins point to something sinister, and Maura and her friends are desperate to find help.

When an accident severely injures one of the travelers and footprints in the snow reveal the presence of someone watching the group, Maura is determined to ski out in search of rescue despite the fact that her college friend still has not returned from his attempt to find help.

Back in Boston, homicide detective Jane Rizzoli is devastated when she receives word that the badly burned body of Maura has been found in an apparent car crash. Jane and her husband, FBI agent Gabriel Dean fly to Wyoming, determined to find out what happened to their friend.

When the secrets under the snow at Kingdom Come reveal a horrific truth, Jane realizes that what happened to Maura isn't what it seems, and she must unearth the truth of what really transpired in the small, deserted village.

“Ice Cold” is the 8th entry in the Rizzoli and Isles series from Tess Gerritsen, but it is not necessary to have read the previous installments in order to enjoy this one. The fast pace of “Ice Cold” keeps the pages turning, and the icy winter setting will have you shivering even on the hottest summer day.

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