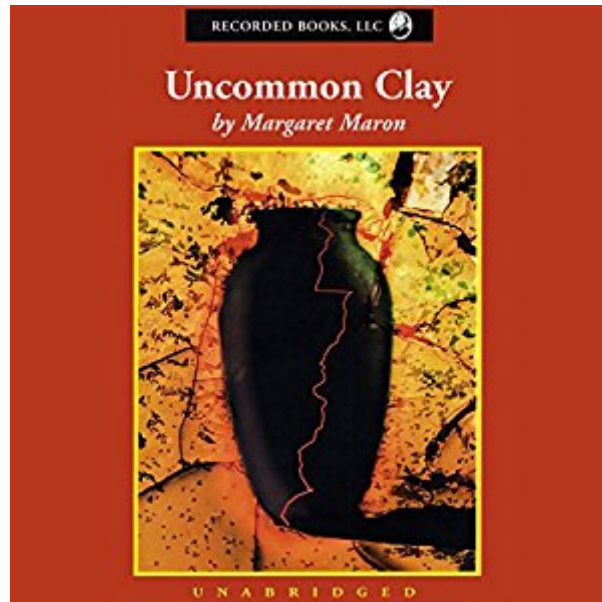




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Uncommon Clay



Synopsis

In the red clay country of Seagrove, North Carolina, Judge Deborah Knott oversees the distribution of property in the bitter divorce between two members of the Nordan clan, a dynasty of skilled potters long cursed by suicide and scandal. After a gruesome act of violence suddenly strikes the homestead, Judge Knott must stop a killer who will stop at nothing to continue a dark history of family secrets, old sins, and new blood. (July) --This text refers to the Unbound edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've been working my way through the Deborah Knott series because they hit the spot: better than what I call "popcorn" fiction but not quite the top rung of my fiction ladder. Why? Books move well, I learn things I didn't know, whether about pottery in the rural south, hurricanes far inland, fishing on the coasts, etc. And I can move through them quickly without a lot of Wikipedia or dictionary checking. The double edge of the latter statement is that sometimes I also like mysteries that make me work a little harder. All in all, it does well what it does, and I'll definitely finish the series, take a break with a more complex book, and then probably eventually go back to Maron's Sigrid Haller series.

If the truth be known, if all Deborah Knott did in a book was sit in the kitchen and ruminate, I'd probably still give her five stars because I love these books! Fortunately, much more occurs in Common Clay. In this story, Judge Deborah is sent to a distant town to mediate the disposition of property in two divorce cases. One of the people involved is gruesomely murdered and Deborah is

drawn into the situation. You will learn a lot about the making of pottery, and be amazed by her solution of the murder. Great book!

Continuing my love affair with the works of Margaret Maron, I returned to her Deborah Knott series and really enjoyed "Uncommon Clay", which is a quick read with an ending that surprised me. Deb is again on the road, visiting Asheboro this time, and the reader gets the treat of learning more about NC folk crafts...(prior novels have featured furniture), this time with the work of Carolina's folk pottery industry. Some interesting and colorful new characters and friends are added to the story line. The book also continues the saga of Deb's romances, and how badly they go sometimes. In this tale, Deb has two embarrassing scrapes with the down side of relationships. Maron also takes the time to insert a small tidbit about Oscar Nauman, a character from her Sigrid Harald series, in a way that makes the reference seem real and natural. With its interesting plots, spunky heroine, delightful descriptions of large southern families and friends, and its ability to educate the reader on the life and times of beautiful NC, the Knott series is a fast, entertaining, and well written group of books. Uncommon Clay still leaves me hungry for more!

Uncommon Clay is not one of Margaret Maron's best Judge Deborah Knott books. That said, it is still very much worth reading. The ending was a little too easy to figure out for my tastes. However, Maron (in the Knott series) has a great ability to describe people and places so that you truly feel that not only can you imagine what it would be like - but you can feel like you are there. Uncommon Clay taught me a lot about pottery making in the area. Also, we learn more about Deborah's friendships. I was glad to see the end of her relationship; although, I do think it would be nice to see her get revenge. "Living well is the best revenge" and by the end of the book, I'm not sure I was satisfied that she was living well. I highly recommend all of the Judge Deborah Knott books.

I love the Deborah Knott Mystery series by Margaret Maron because they are not predictable. I enjoy her style and the fact they take place in the North Carolina piedmont. This particular story is based on the history of the pottery industry in North Carolina. The writing is very well researched and factual yet the story is weaved through it all very well.

Really enjoy the ongoing adventures of Judge Deborah Knott. Since North Carolina is my home I especially like reading about places that are familiar and local. Margaret Maron does a great job with this story line and the characters.

I really enjoyed the use of pottery as a backdrop for the story, as I collect pottery. It could have used a sympathetic character or two in addition to Deborah.

As usual, Margaret Moran, has written a very readable book about Deborah Knott. Although this is one of the older ones, I had not read it and did not want to miss any of these. I really enjoy reading the Deborah Knott books to see how her life progresses.

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