



Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel (Matthew Corbett Book 1)

By Robert R. McCammon

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Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel (Matthew Corbett Book 1) By Robert R. McCammon

Murder sparks a witchcraft charge and mob fury in this “absorbing historical mystery” set in seventeenth-century America from a *New York Times*–bestselling author (*Publishers Weekly*).

It's 1699 in the coastal settlement of Fount Royal in the Carolinas when Rachel Howarth is sentenced to be hanged as a witch. She's been accused of murder, deviltry, and blasphemous sexual congress, and the beleaguered, God-fearing colonial village wants her dead. But Matthew Corbett, young clerk to the traveling magistrate summoned to Fount Royal to weigh the accusations, soon finds himself persuaded in favor of the beguiling young widow.

Struck first by her beauty, Matthew believes Rachel to be too dignified, courageous, and intelligent for such obscene charges. The testimony against her is fanatical and unreliable. Clues to the crimes seem too convenient and contrived. A number of her accusers appear to gain by her execution. And, if Rachel is a witch, why hasn't she used her powers to fly away from the gaol on the wings of a nightbird?

God and Satan are indeed at war. Something really is happening in the newly established settlement—of that Corbett is certain. As his investigation draws him into the darkness of a town gone mad, and deeper into its many secrets, Corbett realizes that time is running out for him, for Rachel, and for the hope that good could possibly win out over evil in Fount Royal.

From the award-winning author of *Boy's Life* and *Gone South*, *Speaks the Nightbird* is, in the words of Stephen King, “a rarity in popular fiction, a book that manages to be thoughtful as well as entertaining.”

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- Sales Rank: #85455 in eBooks
- Published on: 2013-10-08
- Released on: 2013-10-08
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A trial for witchcraft proves the tip of an iceberg of intrigues in this absorbing historical mystery, the first newly published novel in 10 years from McCammon (the book was written in the mid-'90s), a bestseller in the 1980s with such supernatural novels in the Stephen King tradition as *Usher's Passing* and *Baal*. Set in 1699 in Fount Royal, a coastal settlement in the colonial Carolinas, this latest unfolds the adventures of magistrate Isaac Woodward and his assistant, Matthew Corbett, who have been summoned to the struggling town to adjudicate in the trial of Rachel Howarth, a young widow accused of devilry that is blamed for murders, wretched weather and other calamities driving settlers away. Though town leaders press for swift execution, Matthew is persuaded by Rachel's dignity and fortitude that she's innocent. Using skills honed living by his wits as an orphaned child, he pursues inconsistencies in testimony and throwaway clues and uncovers an elaborate plot involving pirate booty, animal magnetism and deadly deceit at the highest levels of town organization. This robust tale is as historically detailed as it is long, and its recreation of an era where superstition held its own with enlightenment is among its strongest achievements. Anachronisms, improbably fortuitous coincidences and private dramas that make Fount Royal seem a pre-Revolutionary Peyton Place lard the plot, but Matthew's race against time to save Rachel with the rudimentary tools to hand makes a compulsively readable yarn. McCammon's loyal fans will find his resurfacing reason to rejoice. (Sept.) Forecast: Those who enjoyed the author's last three novels (*Mine*; *Boy's Life*; *Gone South*), studies of the human condition that transcended genre labeling, will snap this one up, too. But McCammon also lost readers with these novels because in them he turned away from the horror themes that made his reputation. This latest could well gain him new fans, but it won't win back any horror readers.

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From Library Journal

After a ten-year absence from publishing, McCammon (*Boy's Life*) returns with this historical novel of colonial Carolina. In 1699, legal clerk Matthew Corbett accompanies magistrate Isaac Woodward to Fount Royal, where he has been summoned to decide whether a witch is living in the newly established settlement. The two are immediately thrown into danger, even before they reach the town. And once there, they must deal with the inhabitants, some of whom stand to gain if Rachel, the accused, is executed. Soon it becomes obvious to Matthew that everyone has secrets, even the magistrate. In the end, he alone must try to unravel the mysteries. While many of McCammon's prior novels dealt with the supernatural, his latest contains horrors that are more real. McCammon also provides extensive historical detail, re-creating the legal procedures, medical practices, and everyday existence of the time. The language and situations are often disturbing, especially because many of the accusations against Rachel are sexual in nature, but McCammon tells a compelling story that should find a wide readership. Highly recommended for popular fiction collections. Joel W. Tscherne, Cleveland P.L.

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Review

"Speaks the Nightbird is a rarity in popular fiction, a book that manages to be thoughtful as well as entertaining." —Stephen King

"No one can paint word pictures as vividly as Robert McCammon, and never has his palette had such depth as in *Speaks the Nightbird*." —Sandra Brown

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Leticia Hodges:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with training books but if you want feel happy read one with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. Typically the *Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) is kind of book which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

Ronnie Hamilton:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specifically book entitled *Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe unknown for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a reserve then become one contact form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get prior to. The *Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) giving you a different experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful information for your better life in this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Christina Bain:

This *Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) is great guide for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This book reveal it information accurately using great manage word or we can claim no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but tough core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having *Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no book that offer you world within ten or fifteen small right but this guide already do that. So , it is good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt in which?

John Tovar:

The book untitled *Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains her idea with easy approach. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read this. The book was compiled by famous author. The author brings you in the new time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you

can available their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice examine.

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