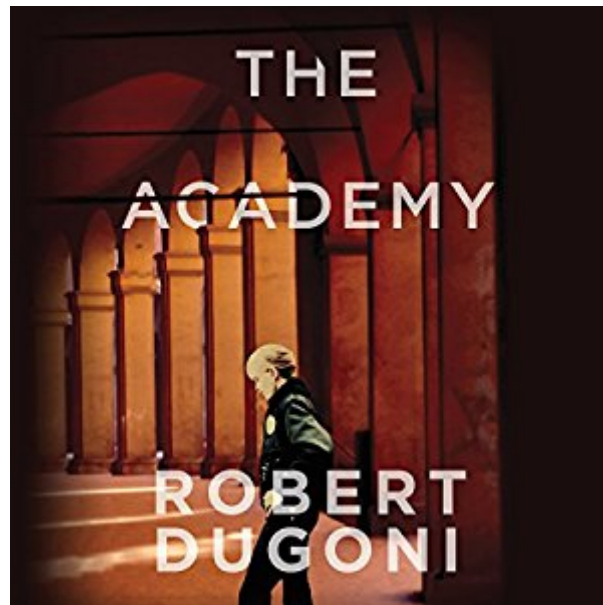


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The Academy: A Short Story



Synopsis

Quitting her job as a high school science teacher to join the Seattle Police Department was an easy decision for Tracy Crosswhite. Years earlier, what should have been one of the happiest days of her life instead became her worst nightmare when her younger sister, Sarah, disappeared. After the murder trial, while her family disintegrated, Tracy turned her heartbreak and her lingering questions into a passion for justice. But people don't just become world-class detectives. If Tracy wants to uncover the truth about what happened to her sister, first she must be forged in the fires of the Police Academy, where not everyone wants her to succeed.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I almost stopped reading after the first line, which included language that women (and hopefully, men) will find offensive. I was surprised, as this type of language is not typical of a Robert Dugoni book. But I kept reading and soon discovered the context for the language -- Johnny Nolasco, a crude detective who readers and characters in the book will love to see taken down a peg or two. Or ten. An interesting introduction to Tracy Crosswhite; am looking forward to the new series. This prequel takes less than an hour to read.

An excellent bit of backstory for those of us who can't wait to read MY SISTER'S GRAVE, but also just fine as a self-contained examination of the prejudices and difficulties faced by women in male-dominated professions. I look forward to spending more time with Tracy Crosswhite, a

protagonist I can root for.

Two of the women in the police academy have to deal with one arrogant guy, which adds to the story. It is interesting to learn some of the requirements to pass the academy. Yes, I really liked this short story.

The Academy is a short story that shows the determination and fortitude in one woman's story to serve a higher purpose. After the disappearance of her sister, Tracy chose her mission in life, to become a police officer. Her ultimate goal was to be the first woman detective in homicide. The need to have a woman on the Seattle police force opened a door for her. The Academy reads as if it is a true story of the good ol' boy network in police departments all over the country. She held her own against the bigoted and sexist s**holes that did all they could to make her life a living hell. And through it all, she goes above and beyond to help a fellow female officer. Tracy takes no s**t, but goes about fighting her battle in the right way. My feelings of respect and admiration for her makes me want to read more. I can only think her story will get better. I would recommend The Academy to all those who are looking for inspiration and a happy ending.

Dugoni has done it again, this time in a brief prequel to his soon to appear "My Sister's Grave." I have been a fan of his legal thrillers since his first one hit the shelves. A young woman has disappeared, and her older sister has tried ever since to locate her missing sibling. The lack of success in her search leads her to apply for entry into the Police Academy which serves all the police and sheriff's departments in the Seattle region. To become a police officer remains an uphill challenge for women, but her determination and hard work results in her graduation at the top of her class, which does not meet the personal approval of one detective/instructor. During this class of Academy, she works out physically and studies collaboratively with a small group of recruits, including a less confident younger woman. Both women make it through the Academy. Along the way she faces down a sexist detective who takes inappropriate actions with both women; and eventually regrets it. "The Academy" is a fast read, but the lack of size doesn't mean the Dugoni flavor and style is missing. I recommend it, especially if you are planning to read "My Sister's Grave."

Boy, was I cheering for Tracy Crosswhite.....every step of the way. This short story is lively and full of the old male-chauvinist attitude that has been dominate from the first git-go! However, not all the

guys in this short tale are jerks. The disappearance of Tracy's younger sister, a number of years ago, prompted her to become a law-enforcement officer. She leaves her job as a high school chemistry teacher to apply to the police academy. She shows lots of spunk beginning with her answers to questions asked by the selection board. She's accepted, and almost immediately, Tracy realizes that she must fight hard and fight back to excel and prove that she is good, even better, than her fellow male cadets.....and soon to be fellow officers. She shows courage. She is full of charisma. She has loads of self confidence and skill, and she is also attractive. She is respected by all of those in her academy class....male and female. Even most of her supervisors.....who are all male....respect her. Well, there is Detective Johnny Nolasco. He's a big guy at six feet and maybe 220 pounds. Tracy is 5 feet 10 inches and 130 pounds, but she will definitely embarrass the arrogant detective. This lively short tale can easily be read and enjoyed in less than an hour. It is good. It is sometimes funny. Parts are even a bit sad. Detective Nolasco is a character that you will probably learn to dislike with intensity..... very quickly!

The first sentence of this short story surely had me doing a drop-jawed double take and wondering just what I had chosen to read. After pulling my surprised eyebrows out of my hairline, I started on the second sentence. Forty-five minutes later, having finished the entire tale, I understood exactly why that first sentence was written in that manner and placed in that spot. It's 1996 and Washington State wants more female police officers in their ranks. Tracy Crosswhite, currently a high school chemistry teacher, has applied to enter the police academy. Being brutally honest with the recruiting selection board, she tells them that she is specifically motivated to join by the murder of her sister, Sarah, three years prior. She has aced her written tests, is clearly qualified intellectually and physically, demonstrates to the board the extent to which she can think on her feet, and is selected. The remainder of this prequel to Dugoni's new Tracy Crosswhite series concentrates on specific events that occur during the final weeks of academy training. These scenes give us an explicit demonstration of Tracy's character, her determination and integrity, and her ability to relate to another's potential as well as to their reality. They are also quite action-filled. Scene by scene, that first sentence on that first page loses its shock value and becomes the vital thread that weaves the scenes together into a whole. And its import winds its way through to the last scene, until the final sentence on the last page swamps the first with its own surprise. The stage is now set for the first book of the series, a tale which does not begin until seventeen years after that last sentence is uttered.

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