

In the Clearing.
By Robert Dugoni.

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(9781503953574); e-book, \$4.99.

In the third Tracy Crosswhite mystery, the Washington State police detective is still trying to pull her life back together in the aftermath of her sister's murder (*My Sister's Grave*, 2014). When a friend asks Tracy to look into a cold case involving the decades-old suicide of a high-school student, Tracy doesn't hesitate. Her investigation leads her to a small town, a nest of dark secrets, and the shocking discovery that a 40-year-old case isn't as cold as she thought. As with the earlier Crosswhite books, the author favors character and solid storytelling over plot twists and frantic running about. Tracy is a well-crafted character; the cop with a troubled past is a staple of the mystery genre, but a good author can find variations on the theme, and Dugoni has found a few good ones. Readers of the first two books will enjoy this one, and, because it can be read as a stand-alone, newcomers can jump right in. —*David Pitt*