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Navajo Police Special Investigator Ella Clah has seen a lot of death in the decade since she returned to the Reservation, but nothing quite as bad as a series of violent murders of young Navajo. Something about the crime scene reminds Ella of her days in the FBI, and she calls on Agent Blalock for help. And that's not the only link to Ella's past--clues indicates that Ella's father may have tried to stop this killer before his own murder.

Working long hours, desperate to identify and stop the serial killer before he strikes again, Ella manages to squeeze in a few dates with Reverend Bilford Tome. Ella's father was a man of the cloth as well--is Ella following her mother's path, falling for a man whose faith she does not share?

Turquoise Girl Details

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Jewett says

I have quit saying much about these books because I hate to keep repeating myself, but I love the whole series. In this one, we see a problem with religious fanatics that carries over into our world today. Ella does her usual great job and Justine is always there too.

Maureen says

Love the characters and their interactions, wonderful setting, can't remember the plot!

Douglas says

Another very satisfying read. I really enjoy the Ella Clah mysteries. The way the detectives are able to tract down the killers and yet the Navaho balance is always restored and they walk in beauty.

David says

Honestly, I just gave up on this one... Why? I was more than halfway through the book and happened to peek at the book jacket, only to discover that the identity of the killer was revealed on the book jacket, or so it appeared. It was already dragging terribly for me, with too many suspects, and interviewing people not even remotely close to the case for local gossip-- it just didn't do much for me.

So, this one doesn;t enter my count-- but I will likely not try anymore of them. Just meanders around a bit too much for my taste.

Jan says

An Ella Clah detective mystery. For some reason, I found this one to be grittier and harder to get through than some of the others. It took a long, long time to find out why it was named turquoise girl and by now I have forgotten the tale.

Not my favorite but ok.

Catherine Woodman says

I love Ella Clah, altho' it wouldn't be bad for her to get a love interest that lasted at some point--this one has her in more danger than is usual and more contemplative about her role as a parent

Gail says

The Thurlos just keep coming up with interesting plots. This one was a little more grisly than some of the others.

DElizabeth DeWolfe says

Outstanding mystery

This is by far,one of the best ella claw books in the series..the story line allows the reader a chance to know how each member of the claw family fits into the unlikely scenarios for the family ella has before she had dawn.

Lois Hecksel says

More than a cozy mystery, this will appeal to fans of Tony Hillerman.

Angela says

Ella is a Navajo police special investigator. Trying to incorporate new police science with old traditional Navajo beliefs is not an easy job. Ella is not greatly welcomed by her fellow Navajo tribe when she decides to become a police investigator. She tends to stray from old Tribal beliefs in ways of doing things and solving crimes, which is not looked kindly upon. When a Navajo woman is found murdered in her home near a small diner on the Rez Ella and her crew are on the case. Not everyone is happy about this, many Navajos believe that their new age science is not the way to deal with murder. Ella and her crew then are forced to beat the race against time to try and solve this murder case before the local Navajos take the situation into their own, traditional, hands. When things don't seem to be moving fast enough for the Navajos on the Rez many things start happening that are clearly a threat, not only to the police force, but more so to Ella. The deeper into the case Ella becomes the more confusing it gets for Ella. She is forced to look at her family's past and look at traditional values that she has long since moved away from. Quickly the murder turns into threats against Ella's family, friends, and Navajo family. Can Ella solve the case with the help of her police and Navajo friends before it is too late? Can she solve it before a mother's grief of her murdered daughter causes her to enlist the traditional help of a Navajo group? Can she protect her family and friends while she tries?

This book was not the first in the series, but it was a very well written book, so was an easy stand alone book along with part of a series. I have not read any of the authors' other books and did not have any problems following what was going on in this book. I really liked and enjoyed this book. I loved the Navajo plotline and characters. I felt it was a great representation of what traditionalists really feel about modern police science being used. It has many twists and turns as the plot thickens with the murder and protesters that don't want a building built on the Rez and everything that happens because of these two things. The characters were very likable and were easy to feel for throughout the book. I thought I had the case solved at least three

times, only to discover I was wrong. I think Ella was by far my favorite character in this book. I enjoyed reading about Navajo traditions throughout this book and learning how they view things. I also loved how all the characters were respected by all the other characters, even if they weren't liked by all. I am looking forward to going back and reading more books written by this pair of authors. I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a good murder mystery with great characters and with a great Navajo plot to it too.

4/5 Stars!

Jeff Dickison says

A good entry into the Ella Clah series. In this one, Ella & Justine, must investigate a series of murders, apparently committed by an individual who knew Ella's father from years ago. Well written, exciting, with a good plot. Recommended.

Michael Starsheen says

Another great entry in this series

I gave this book five stars because it was a good read. I enjoyed the characters and their interplay. The book's setting on the Navajo reservation allows for a lot of cultural interplay that goes beyond what you normally find in mystery novels.

Doris says

Ella Clah gets to discover more about her father's background, and how he, as a Christian minister, was viewed on the reservation by the Traditional People and also by those outside the reservation.

Overall a good read, but there were places the dialogue lagged or seemed to skip a beat, which made comprehension difficult.

Kristen says

If you're tired of the same old police procedural mysteries and love Tony Hillerman's mysteries, give Aimee Thurlo's Ella Clah a try. Set on a New Mexico Native American reservation, she takes us on a wild ride. Ella Clah is a former FBI agent and an inspector for the tribal police with her cousin, Justine Goodluck, her partner in crime. When her mother's former friend is found murdered in her life, she's on her toughest case of her life. In the midst of this murder, there's the Fierce Ones, a vigilant Native American group who have their own ways of taking swift justice in their hands, and the protest at the power plant. Ella and Justice come across some hard truths and complications of the Rez, when there's someone who wants to send her a message of her own. Through her eyes, we witness what drama she goes through to discover hidden secrets in this case that might hit closer to home. A lot of drama and adventure, while she's protecting her daughter and dispensing the law to keep the peace, the shocking truth and his motive would blow your away. What an

enjoyable mystery!

Mariana says

A good fun read about Navajo in New Mexico.
