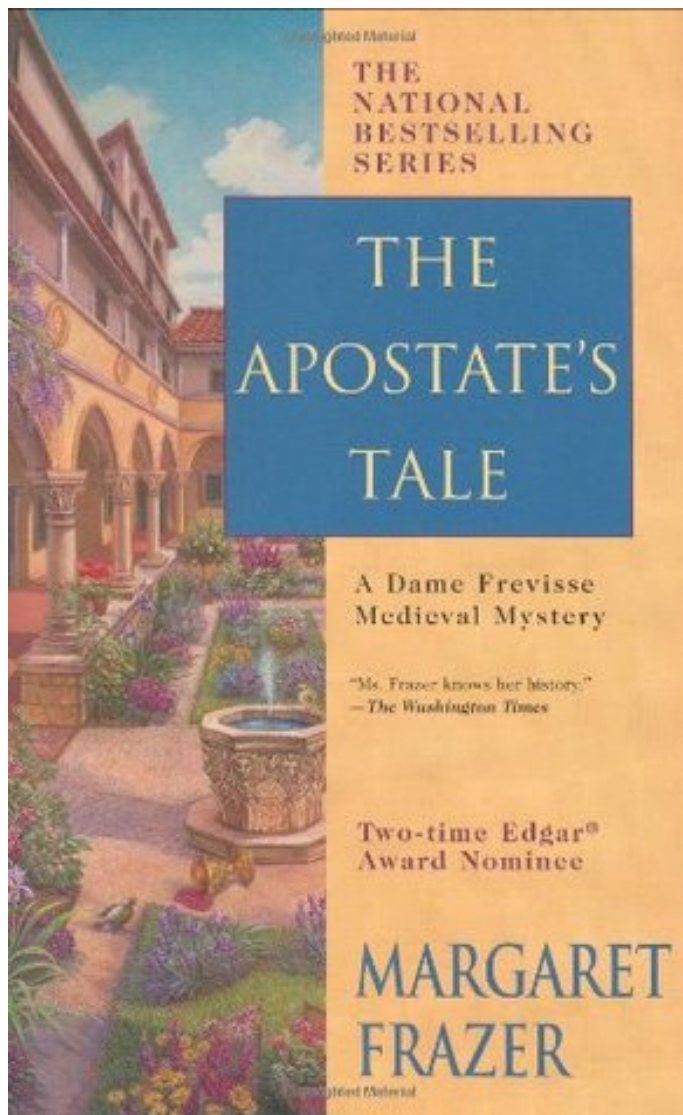

Margaret Frazer

The Apostate's Tale (Sister Frevisse #17)



Title: The Apostate's Tale (Sister Frevisse #17)

Author: Margaret Frazer

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Description

As the nuns of St. Frideswide's priory prepare for the welcome end of Lent, their peaceful expectations are upset by the sudden return of long-vanished Sister Cecely. Nine years ago she fled from the nunnery with a man. Now her lover is dead and she has come back, bringing her illegitimate son with her. She claims she is penitent, that she wants only to redeem her sin and find safe haven for the child. Neither she nor her son can be turned away, but their presence begins to stir doubts and questions in the hearts of some of the nuns about their own faithfulness to this enclosed life they've chosen to live. Sister Cecely may be penitent-however much Frevisse may doubt it-but fully truthful she is not, and as the apostate nun's lies begin to overtake her, dangers of more than one kind-and maybe murder-become an unwanted part of life in the priory.

Insightful reviews

Erin: I grabbed this book at work to something to read on the plane. The mystery was fairly simple (I had it figured out halfway through the book), but I enjoyed all the details of life in a nunnery in the 1450s. Dame Frevisse, the "detective," isn't a sympathetic character, but is probably realistic for a nun of her era.

Suzanne Schuckel Heath: I've decided to make this my first goodreads review, not only because I've been fond of Sister Frevisse mysteries over the years (I don't think I've read all, but certainly most) but because, sadly, the author (Gail Lynn Frazer; Margaret was a pen name) passed away recently from breast cancer. Fittingly, this Frevisse novel -- I suppose it will be the last one unless someone takes over the series -- was my favorite. Others cover the plot well below; I'll just say that the prickly nature of Frevisse and the other nuns seems perfectly period to me and that one of the things that drew me to the series is that the characters seem realistic. The Middle Ages was a brutal time; no place for sissies! I will miss Ms. Frazer and her creations.

Cathie: Sister Cecely who left St. Frideswide's nine years ago with a man suddenly returns with her son. She claims she is penitent and wants her son to be given to the Church so he can become a monk/priest. Her presence stirs up unhappy memories for the nuns and causes many doubts in the mind of Dame Frevisse, the 15th century sleuth.

This is the latest book (#17) from Margaret Frazer and it is an excellent read and very entertaining. I did figure out "who dun it" before it was revealed but did not count on the ending, which was a delight. I hope there will be more to come.

Elena: Wow--this used to be great! Admittedly, I am leaping in a section past due within the sequence yet I actually loved it. Type of Brother Cadfael-esque with probably a dose extra of religion and not more action. I additionally imagine Frazer does a great activity of having contained in the valuable character's heads, even supposing they've got very opposing viewpoints approximately cloister life.

Lynne: Very sluggish going and occasionally challenging to follow. Set within the 1700's England a few nun who ran away with a guy and had a child. the guy dies and he or she comes again to stand her sins and attempts deceiving everyone. when you appreciate what it occurring you ultimately get it.

Scot: 17th within the series. Dame Frevisse, the heroine, is a nun within the convent of St. Frideswide (gotta love those medieval names) in Oxfordshire, and the the time is Holy Week 1452. Dame Frevisse is a niece of a son of the good author Geoffrey Chaucer; this is able to account for her spunk, inquisitiveness, droll experience of humor, and talent to imagine outdoors the box. It additionally explains why each one identify within the sequence appears like it may even be a name of a brand new complement to the Canterbury Tales. If anyone simply picked up this booklet with out researching Dame Frevisse in the course of the previous installments, i believe they may get bored, because the secret part within reason restricted during this volume. The plot makes a speciality of the go back of an apostate nun, Sister Cecely, to St. Frideswide. 9 years earlier, in a second of scorching lust, she ran away with a guy passing through; now she returns with a small boy, claiming sanctuary and in the midst of a fight over the inheritance of a few manor lands. Cecely has damaged a few very powerful taboos, and whereas she is being held for wondering via the Lord Abbot, a chain of unlucky poisonings start to placed a major damper on existence on the convent. In a few interesting subplots, the mummy improved is headed right into a critical melancholy (we're speaking scientific depression), and a tender lady indicates up made up our minds to turn into a beginner over her mother's robust objections. This book's actual worth lies within the mirrored image it encourages over the stress among submission to communitarian self-discipline for the great of the all as opposed to the rights and needs of non-public freedom and fulfillment. the writer is sensible enogh to allow us to see the fight happening on the subject of this stress in either Frevisse and Cecely, and likewise within the mom enhanced and the will be novice, and leaves it as much as us to contemplate how we'd in my opinion react if we have been dwelling in this kind of social system.

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