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Frozen by Mary Casanova

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Author: Casanova, Mary

Title: *Frozen*

Year of Publication: 2012

Publisher: University of Minnesota Press

ISBN: 9780816680566

Number of pages: 241

Rating: Significant Shortcomings

Reading/Interest Level: Young Adult

Keywords: Historical Fiction; Identity; Memory; Families; Selective mutism; Minnesota; 20th century.



Review:

Sadie Rose has been mute ever since her mother's body was left in the snows of northern Minnesota. Eleven years later, Sadie discovers pictures of her mother in the garage of her not-quite-adopted family: Senator Walter and Elizabeth Worthington. Sadie finds courage to use her voice and the pictures to understand why her mother became a prostitute, who her father is, and who the man was that killed her mother. From her findings, Sadie realizes her mother's murderer is the paper mill tycoon, E. W. Ennis, and Mr. Worthington helped hide Ennis's crimes. With this knowledge, Sadie promises not to reveal the truth of Mr. Worthington's involvement if he agrees to use his political prominence to stop Ennis's business agenda.

Casanova based *Frozen* on an account in Minnesota's history of a prostitute whose frozen body was used as a prank in the early 1900s. Because of the subject matter and other adult related themes—prohibition, rape, murder, mental illness, etc.—this book is more appropriate for older teens and adults. The main story is Sadie's search for her mother's killer, but there are too many branching plots—like an underdeveloped romance and a suicidal friend—that jumble up the story instead of deepen it. Also, the resolution of the story might disappoint readers since no one paid for Sadie's mother and father's murders. On the other hand, readers can definitely see Casanova has done her research of the area by creating a vivid setting that helps solidify Sadie's environment.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

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