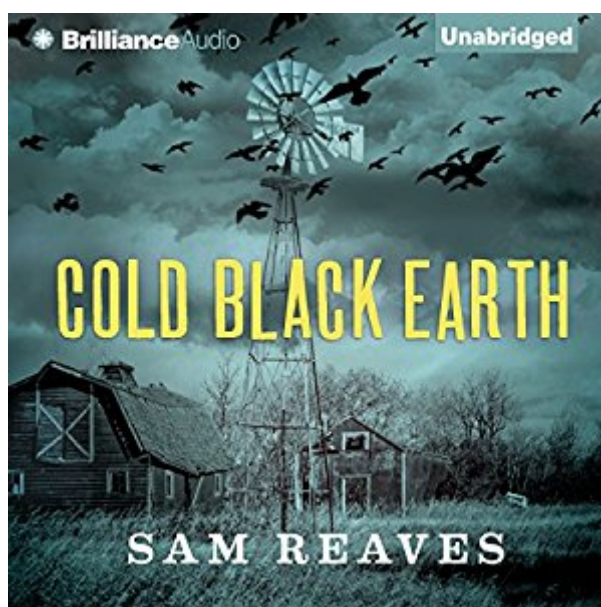


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# Cold Black Earth



## Synopsis

When Rachel Lindstrom fled from her rural hometown in Western Illinois to join the State Department and see the world, she never expected to return with her life in tatters. But after the horrors of war and a painful divorce, the only place where she can rebuild is the town she once escaped. At home, however, there is little comfort. Her brother, still reeling from his wife's suicide, struggles to run the family farm and handle a hell-raising son. Rachel's arrival also draws a pair of rival suitors: her brother's handsome friend and a rough-hewn sheriff's deputy who pined for her in high school. Romance is the last thing on Rachel's mind, but a little comfort would be nice - except for the complications. When a deranged killer escapes from a local prison, the far-flung farmsteads go on high alert - especially when the bodies start turning up. And in a county where the miles outnumber the people, it soon becomes clear that the madman is close behind Rachel.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours and 33 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: August 1, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B010MP0LXI

Best Sellers Rank: #924 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Suspense

#1514 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Amateur Sleuths #5698 in Books >

Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Women Sleuths

## Customer Reviews

A dangerous criminal has escaped from prison and is loose in a rural community. Sound familiar? We build prisons in rural areas because land is cheaper and high unemployment makes prison jobs more desirable, but when a psychotic murderer escapes there's trouble for everyone. The manhunt stretches poorly funded law enforcement agencies to the max. People living on isolated farms worry that there aren't enough cops to protect them. Meth cookers worry that increased police activity will threaten their livelihood. Can't please 'em all, can you? Rachel Lindstrom left Warrensburg, Illinois to go to college and never really went back. After years in the Foreign Service, stationed in hot-spots

like Beirut and Baghdad, she has become disillusioned with muddled Mid-East policies. When her marriage to a Lebanese man implodes, she quits her job and decides to visit her brother on the family farm where they grew up. Her parents are dead, her brother is widowed, and he lives in the old farm house with his angry, rebellious son. There are a lot of layers to this onion. It's a story of returning home after decades away. Rachel is now a stranger in the tightly-knit community and she's regarded with a mixture of envy, admiration, and resentment. There are awkward questions, evasive answers, tentative confidences. It's the story of a rural community settled in the 1850's by Swedish emigrants. Farming has always been a harsh, precarious way to make a living and now there's competition from huge Agri-businesses. Some families are still firmly entrenched on their ancestors' land, but others have sold out or been displaced involuntarily. There's a price to pay for carrying on old family traditions and a price for letting them go. Which is higher?

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