



## Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel (Matthew Corbett Book 1)

By Robert R. McCammon

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**Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel (Matthew Corbett Book 1)** By Robert R. McCammon

**Murder sparks a witchcraft charge and mob fury in this “absorbing historical mystery” set in seventeenth-century America from a *New York Times*–bestselling author (*Publishers Weekly*).**

It's 1699 in the coastal settlement of Fount Royal in the Carolinas when Rachel Howarth is sentenced to be hanged as a witch. She's been accused of murder, devilry, and blasphemous sexual congress, and the beleaguered, God-fearing colonial village wants her dead. But Matthew Corbett, young clerk to the traveling magistrate summoned to Fount Royal to weigh the accusations, soon finds himself persuaded in favor of the beguiling young widow.

Struck first by her beauty, Matthew believes Rachel to be too dignified, courageous, and intelligent for such obscene charges. The testimony against her is fanatical and unreliable. Clues to the crimes seem too convenient and contrived. A number of her accusers appear to gain by her execution. And, if Rachel is a witch, why hasn't she used her powers to fly away from the gaol on the wings of a nightbird?

God and Satan are indeed at war. Something really is happening in the newly established settlement—of that Corbett is certain. As his investigation draws him into the darkness of a town gone mad, and deeper into its many secrets, Corbett realizes that time is running out for him, for Rachel, and for the hope that good could possibly win out over evil in Fount Royal.

From the award-winning author of *Boy's Life* and *Gone South*, *Speaks the Nightbird* is, in the words of Stephen King, “a rarity in popular fiction, a book that manages to be thoughtful as well as entertaining.”

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## **Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel (Matthew Corbett Book 1) By Robert R. McCammon Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A trial for witchcraft proves the tip of an iceberg of intrigues in this absorbing historical mystery, the first newly published novel in 10 years from McCammon (the book was written in the mid-'90s), a bestseller in the 1980s with such supernatural novels in the Stephen King tradition as *Usher's Passing* and *Baal*. Set in 1699 in Fount Royal, a coastal settlement in the colonial Carolinas, this latest unfolds the adventures of magistrate Isaac Woodward and his assistant, Matthew Corbett, who have been summoned to the struggling town to adjudicate in the trial of Rachel Howarth, a young widow accused of devilry that is blamed for murders, wretched weather and other calamities driving settlers away. Though town leaders press for swift execution, Matthew is persuaded by Rachel's dignity and fortitude that she's innocent. Using skills honed living by his wits as an orphaned child, he pursues inconsistencies in testimony and throwaway clues and uncovers an elaborate plot involving pirate booty, animal magnetism and deadly deceit at the highest levels of town organization. This robust tale is as historically detailed as it is long, and its recreation of an era where superstition held its own with enlightenment is among its strongest achievements. Anachronisms, improbably fortuitous coincidences and private dramas that make Fount Royal seem a pre-Revolutionary Peyton Place lard the plot, but Matthew's race against time to save Rachel with the rudimentary tools to hand makes a compulsively readable yarn. McCammon's loyal fans will find his resurfacing reason to rejoice. (Sept.) Forecast: Those who enjoyed the author's last three novels (*Mine*; *Boy's Life*; *Gone South*), studies of the human condition that transcended genre labeling, will snap this one up, too. But McCammon also lost readers with these novels because in them he turned away from the horror themes that made his reputation. This latest could well gain him new fans, but it won't win back any horror readers.

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From Library Journal

After a ten-year absence from publishing, McCammon (*Boy's Life*) returns with this historical novel of colonial Carolina. In 1699, legal clerk Matthew Corbett accompanies magistrate Isaac Woodward to Fount Royal, where he has been summoned to decide whether a witch is living in the newly established settlement. The two are immediately thrown into danger, even before they reach the town. And once there, they must deal with the inhabitants, some of whom stand to gain if Rachel, the accused, is executed. Soon it becomes obvious to Matthew that everyone has secrets, even the magistrate. In the end, he alone must try to unravel the mysteries. While many of McCammon's prior novels dealt with the supernatural, his latest contains horrors that are more real. McCammon also provides extensive historical detail, re-creating the legal procedures, medical practices, and everyday existence of the time. The language and situations are often disturbing, especially because many of the accusations against Rachel are sexual in nature, but McCammon tells a compelling story that should find a wide readership. Highly recommended for popular fiction collections. Joel W. Tscherne, Cleveland P.L.

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Review

*"Speaks the Nightbird* is a rarity in popular fiction, a book that manages to be thoughtful as well as entertaining." —Stephen King

*"No one can paint word pictures as vividly as Robert McCammon, and never has his palette had such depth as in Speaks the Nightbird."* —Sandra Brown

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Brad Black:**

This *Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is actually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This *Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) without we know teach the one who reading it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't become worry *Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) can bring if you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even cell phone. This *Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) having great arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

#### **Yvonne Casey:**

The experience that you get from *Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) will be the more deep you searching the information that hide inside words the more you get interested in reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but *Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood by means of anyone who read this because the author of this book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this kind of *Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) instantly.

#### **Michael Hansen:**

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book might be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the guide untitled *Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) can be good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

#### **Rod Doughty:**

*Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) can be one of your starter books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to get every word into joy arrangement in writing *Speaks the Nightbird: A Novel* (Matthew Corbett Book 1) but doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can easily

drawn you into completely new stage of crucial imagining.

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