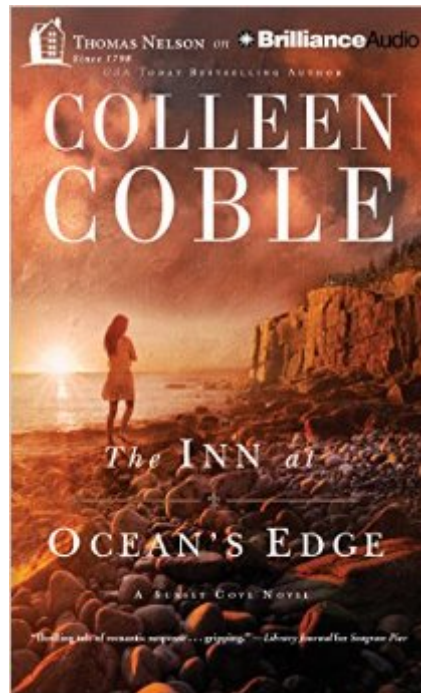


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# The Inn At Ocean's Edge (A Sunset Cove Novel)



## Synopsis

A vacation to Sunset Cove was her way of celebrating and thanking her parents. After all, Claire Dellamore's childhood was like a fairytale. But with the help of Luke Elwell, Claire discovers that fairytale was really an elaborate lie. The minute she steps inside the grand Inn at Ocean's Edge, Claire Dellamare knows something terrible happened there. She feels it in her bones. Her ensuing panic attack causes a scene, upsetting her parents. Claire attempts to quiet her nerves with a walk on the beach, to no avail. She's at too great a distance to make out details, but she believes she witnesses a murder on a nearby cliff. When local police find no evidence of foul play, they quickly write off the "nervous" woman's testimony as less than credible. But Luke Elwell, home on leave from the Coast Guard, has reason to believe Claire. Years ago when his mother went missing, Luke's father suspected she'd been murdered. He died never having convinced the police to investigate. So when an employee of the grand hotel doesn't show up for work, Luke steps in to help Claire track down the missing woman. As Claire and Luke put together the pieces of a decades-old mystery, they discover that some family secrets refuse to stay buried. And some passions are worth killing for.

## Book Information

Series: A Sunset Cove Novel (Book 1)

Audio CD

Publisher: Thomas Nelson on Brilliance Audio; Unabridged edition (April 14, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 150122221X

ISBN-13: 978-1501222214

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (406 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Romantic suspense is my genre of choice. I prefer to read it along with mysteries, suspense, and thrillers. I have read a number of Colleen Coble's contemporary and historical romantic suspense novels and have loved them all. Like a romantic suspense, Coble's books are

mysterious, filled with great characters, and unique settings. I really could not wait to dive into Colleen Coble's latest, *The Inn at Ocean's Edge*. From the very first opening scene when Claire has a mysterious panic attack, I was swept up into this mystery and its many twists and turns. Coble delivered exactly what I was expecting as a suspense and mystery fan, and kept me guessing right until the very end—just when I thought I had the mystery all figured out, she proved me wrong! As a fan of Coble's author page on Facebook, I have seen the posts about the number of trips she took the Maine coastline while researching this story, I felt all that work really paid off in how the settings were described. I felt I was right there, watching the waves crash into the rocks and sand, looking at the shingle and clapboard cottages, inhaling the aroma of fudge and candles. The prose and dialogue were equally balanced to both set the scene and show me the characters' thoughts and feelings. But I didn't feel quite as drawn into the characters themselves as I would've liked. I never felt really connected to Claire or Luke. Claire felt rather two-dimensional, a stereotypically rich damsel-in-distress. Even though she did want to find out the truth about her past, I think she depended too much on Luke to do the work for her. Likewise, I was rather unimpressed with Luke as this story's hero, and never felt invested in his and Claire's budding relationship.

I never like saying I couldn't get into a novel, especially one like this with so much clout behind it. I want to get hooked on every book I read. Unfortunately, that didn't happen here. It wasn't the story itself, which is "in and of itself" intriguing. Rather, it was something, somehow, in the way it was told. Starting, perhaps, with the way that I didn't feel the author trusted me, the reader, to connect obvious dots. Like in this brief snatch of narrative: "What had gotten into her today? First experiencing a panic attack and then jumping to unwarranted conclusions." This came on page 15, which meant I'd read about these two things (the panic attack and the jumping to conclusions) only a page or two before. I'm not likely to have forgotten so quickly what I was just so well shown. I felt there was also a heavier reliance on cliché than I'd prefer. (Her first impression was of impossibly dark eyes that seemed to look right into her soul. He would have been right at home on the cover of a pirate romance. page 14) And sometimes the dialogue felt stilted, as when characters used what they were saying to explain backstory to another character who would already be in the know. For example, "He hasn't hit you again, has he? I thought he stopped that after I threatened him when I was eighteen." (page 8, emphasis mine) And then there were passages like this, which to me just didn't ring true: "You're wearing a peculiar expression, Claire. And look at you. No shoes. You're filthy, and your hair is a wreck."

What happened to you this afternoon? Your father even called the sheriff. Are you all right?â™â •  
â^lâ™m fine, Mom. Some guy killed the woman at the counter when I checked in, Jenny Bennett.

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