Sharon McCon (A Walk Through the Fire, McCon & Friends, Both Ends of the Night, etc.) is used to solving problems. She's been doing it for over 20 years in Marcia Muller's pioneering and acclaimed series about the San Francisco PI. And thanks to her extended and occasionally dysfunctional family, she's no stranger to the consequences of revealing the occasional skeleton in the closet. But her latest case is both personal and deeply devastating. After her father dies, Sharon discovers documents that have been hidden for her entire life and they launch her on a voyage of self-discovery. Intent on exploring her own past, Sharon travels from a Shoshone Indian reservation in Montana to a ghost town in northern California, and she becomes involved in a larger story of deceit—and murder. Writing a series means treading delicately on a high wire between repetition and revelation. Having once created a character who will voyage through two or 10 or 10,000 books, an author must decide what facets of the character's life will reappear as touchstones in each book, what items may be left by the wayside, how the past will inform the
The present, and how the present will indicate the future. With each new novel, the author reaches out to readers who may be comfortably familiar with the series and to readers who may be discovering it for the first time. There is no shortage of mystery writers whose series are immensely rewarding (think Sara Paretsky or Sue Grafton), but it's a difficult balancing act nonetheless. With Listen to the Silence, Marcia Muller seems to stumble slightly, just enough to leave readers wondering whether a safety net is in order. It's as if the burden of the past becomes too heavy for either character or author to support. Sharon seems a trifle flat, and Muller's integration of family and familiarity seems forced and abrupt. A first-time reader would do well to seek out earlier volumes in the series, but confirmed Muller fans will still relish the intensity with which the novel plunges into deeply unsettling territory. --Kelly Flynn

Personal Review: Listen to the Silence (Sharon McCone Mysteries) by Marcia Muller

Mystery authors have created numerous awards, many it might appear primarily designed to influence our buying behavior, to improve current and future sales of the nominated and winning authors. The process progresses with these authors then recommending other authors on their jacket blurbs, thus providing a useful marketing network. In spite of the often self-serving nature of these awards, they often can help to point us to works that focus on our reading interests, but they may also screen out works that deserve our attention. Unfortunately, in more than a few cases, I found award-winning works or their authors somewhat wanting, and I often find personal recommendations far better than award recognition.

Thus, when starting Marcia Muller's "Listen to the Silence" I was somewhat wary, as I had selected this not because of a personal recommendation, but on Muller's status as a Lifetime Achievement Award winner. Fortunately, I need not have been concerned. The story starts strongly and continues that way to the end. Instead of the typical division of the story into chapters, Ms. Muller divides the story into days. The story begins on September 2nd and ends September 28th. In the course of just these few days we learn a good deal about Sharon McCone and her background, and are treated to an intriguing mystery along the way.

This novel is like the early movie serials where each chapter builds interest so you want to return to the theater next week to see the next episode. Each day of this story ends that way, i.e.; you will want to continue reading to see what the next day will bring. The mystery Sharon sets herself to solve involves the solution of some of her own family's secrets. In the course of its resolution, we are gently exposed to some Shoshone history, culture, and traditions.

In summary, this is an exceptionally well-told story without "dead spots". It moves along quickly, with new revelations occurring each day, and it ends has a pleasant and surprising twist. This is a story that will hold your
interest from beginning to the end, and Ms. Muller's easy writing style makes it readable in one sitting - definitely recommended.

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Listen to the Silence (Sharon McCone Mysteries) by Marcia Muller 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!