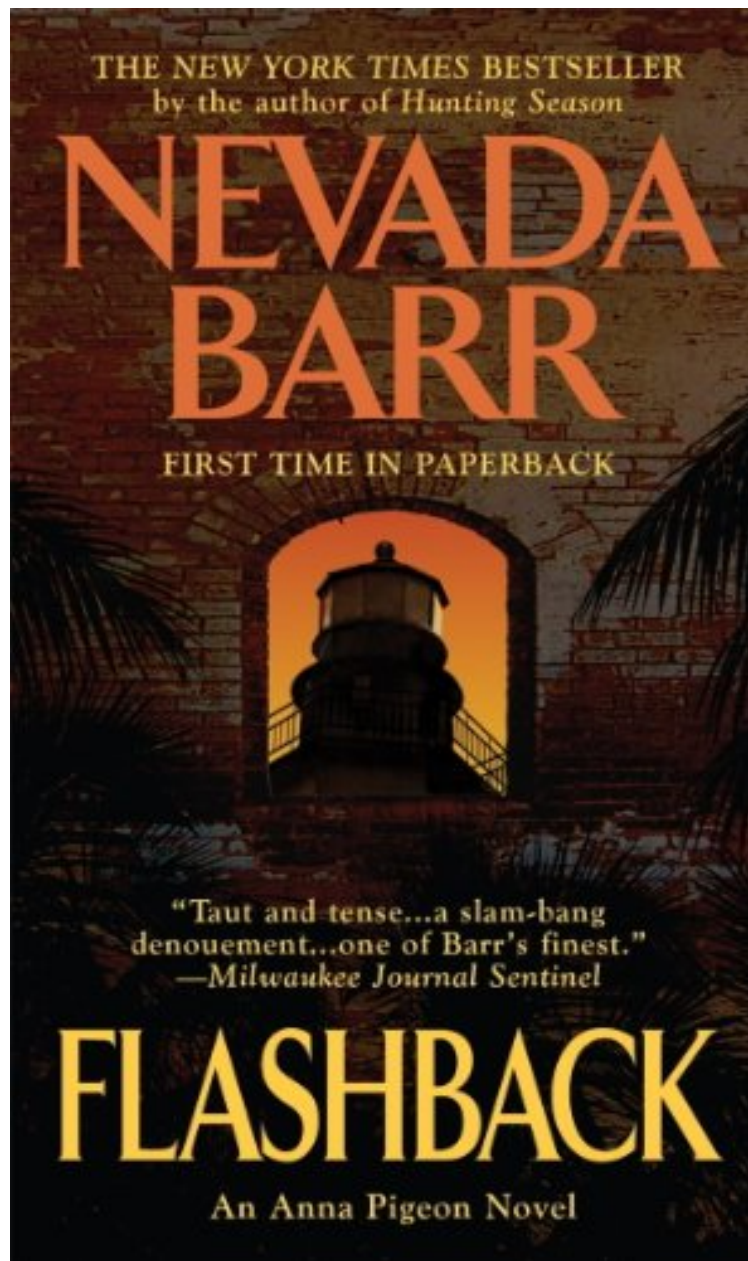


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## Flashback (Anna Pigeon Mysteries, Book 11): A spellbinding novel of mystery, crime and isolation (English Edition)

Von Nevada Barr

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Von Nevada Barr : Flashback (Anna Pigeon Mysteries, Book 11): A spellbinding novel of mystery, crime and isolation (English Edition)

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flashback (Anna Pigeon Mysteries, Book 11): A spellbinding novel of mystery, crime and isolation (English Edition):

**Kurzbeschreibung** Cut off from civilisation, can Anna weather the coming storm? Flashback is the eleventh riveting Anna Pigeon novel from acclaimed crime writer Nevada Barr. Perfect for fans of Sue Grafton and Paul Doiron. 'What lifts the Anna Pigeon novels far above most other contemporary amateur sleuth mysteries is Barr's exquisite writing - it swoops, it soars, sails then catches you unawares beneath the heart and takes your breath away' - Cleveland Plain Dealer Escaping a proposal of marriage from Sheriff Paul Davidson, Anna Pigeon takes a post as a temporary supervisory ranger on remote Garden Key in Dry Tortugas National Park, a grouping of tiny islands in a natural harbour seventy miles off Key West. This island paradise has secrets it would keep, not just in the present, but in shadows from its gritty past, when it served as a prison during the Civil War, and for the Lincoln assassination conspirators afterwards. Here, on this last lick of the United States, in a giant crumbling fortress, Anna has little company besides the occasional sunburned tourist or unruly shrimper. When her sister, Molly, sends her a packet of letters from a great-great-aunt who lived at the fort with her husband, a career soldier, Anna's fantasy is filled with visions of this long-ago time. But a mysterious boat explosion and the discovery of unidentifiable body parts keeps Anna anchored to the present, and she soon finds crimes of yesterday and today closing in on her. A tangled web that was woven before she arrived threatens her sanity and her life. Cut off from the mainland by miles of water, poor phone service, and sketchy radio contact, Anna must find answers and weather a storm that rivals the hurricanes for which the islands are famous. What readers are saying about Flashback: 'You'll be gripping the edge of your seat with tension whilst you read... I couldn't keep my nose out of it till I'd read it in two days!' 'I was captivated by the roller coaster storytelling' 'This [book] was fabulous... truly a page turner that I couldn't put down' From Publishers Weekly When it comes to a vibrant sense of place, Barr has few equals, as deliciously demonstrated in her 11th Anna Pigeon novel (after 2002's Hunting Season), set in little-known Dry Tortugas National Park, 70 miles off Key West in the Gulf of Mexico. Anna takes up her new post on Garden Key, home to Fort Jefferson, a notorious Union prison during the Civil War, after fleeing a marriage proposal from just-divorced Sheriff Paul Davidson. As she goes about her duties, Anna quickly becomes ensnared in one life-threatening situation after another. Anna's fans expect no less; all her postings somehow turn dangerous. Indeed, the contrast between the natural beauty of the landscapes and the human evils within them is a recurring theme. But this one has an added twist: a mystery concerning alleged Lincoln assassination conspirator Dr. Samuel Mudd interweaves with current crimes. In a coincidence best left unscrutinized, Anna's great-great-great-aunt was the wife of the fort's commanding officer, and her letters, relating a story of intrigue and murder, have surfaced. The two stories are told in alternating chapters, and only Barr's skill keeps this familiar device fresh. The pitch-perfect 19th-century phrasing in the letters makes it easy to forgive the occasional over-the-top prose in the modern scenes. But this is a quibble. Those who already admire the doughty National Park ranger will rejoice in this double-layered story with its remarkable setting, passionately rendered; new readers have a treat in store. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist The curmudgeonly, charming forest ranger Anna Pigeon returns in another engaging tale of life in a national park. This time, Anna seeks refuge from her life (needing to "renew herself" while she considers whether to accept the marriage proposal of Paul Davidson, a sheriff in her Mississippi town) by taking on a temporary post as supervisory ranger at Fort Jefferson, a rundown station on an island 70 miles out of Key West. Fearing Anna's peculiar occupation and current isolated location will do her in, Anna's sister Molly sends a box of old family memorabilia. Included in the box are piles of letters written by their great-great-aunt, who coincidentally had been living at Fort Jefferson during the Civil War. The letters are at once fascinating and chilling, a glimpse into the hard life of the times. Anna has her own drama to deal with, though, as the sleepy fort bustles to life when a boat explodes in nearby waters. As Anna investigates the explosion, she begins to unravel an eerie connection between the current turmoil and past troubles documented in the letters. Barr's technique of flashing between the past and present in intervening chapters works magically, weaving the two together into an exciting climax. After many years of being landlocked, it's nice to see Anna back on the water (Endangered Species, 1997). Whether on land or sea, few writers spin a more exhilarating web than Barr. Mary Frances Wilkens Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved