

Broken Ground by Joe Clifford

5 stars

Compelling!

This is the fourth in Clifford's Jay Porter series and, in each book, Jay seems to have even lower self-esteem and even more righteous rage!

Jay's life hasn't been easy and, based on his experience so far, he holds no hope for a better future; but he is basically a good guy trying to keep his head down and stay out of trouble. The trouble is that trouble follows him like a hungry and stray dog.

When we pick up Jay he has just qualified for his first AA token, having not touched beer for a whole 9 months. He is attending meetings and building up his house clearance business whilst coping with his PTSD following his brother Chris's death. He is also getting over the death of his only friend, Charlie; life isn't exactly rosy but he is heading in the right direction.

Then he meets Amy at a meeting who wants him to find her missing sister, Emily. Jay's forays into private investigation have won him no points with the local sheriff, Turley, and soon he is again stepping on toes.

I actually have a soft spot for Jay, whose problems have not always been of his own making, and who basically wants to make his town a better place. However, his methods are questionable at best and before long his enemies get wind of his enquiries and the death count rises.

Clifford's novels are always fast moving with well defined plots, interesting characters, and a style of writing which fits the environment of Lamentation Mountain and Ashton town which are depressing places in themselves. You definitely get the feeling that, as long as Jay stays in this hick town, his fortunes cannot improve, and although he feels this himself he is unable to break free from the virtual velcro which binds him.

No disappointments here; Clifford delivers another satisfying volume on the trials and tribulations of Jay Porter, who is in fact his own worst enemy.

Pashtpaws

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review