



In the Blood

Steve Robinson

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Two hundred years ago a loyalist family fled to England to escape the American War of Independence and seemingly vanished into thin air. American genealogist Jefferson Tayte is hired to find out what happened, but it soon becomes apparent that a calculated killer is out to stop him.

In the Blood combines a centuries-old mystery with a present-day thriller that brings two people from opposite sides of the Atlantic together to uncover a series of carefully hidden crimes. Tayte's research centres around the tragic life of a young Cornish girl, a writing box, and the discovery of a dark secret that he believes will lead him to the family he is looking for. Trouble is, someone else is looking for the same answers and will stop at nothing to find them.

In the Blood is the first book in the Jefferson Tayte mystery series.

In the Blood Details

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Author : Steve Robinson

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From Reader Review In the Blood for online ebook

Virginia says

This was a three-and-a-half-star read for me. The beginning almost lost me because the writing felt formulaic. In fact the mystery itself never really gipped me, although the later chapters involving the present-day crimes became page-turners. The plot made me realise how tricky it is to make the reader care about something that happened several centuries ago and Robinson gets close to doing this with a diary from a teenage girl and flashback scenes involving a feisty young woman, brilliantly named Lowenna.

The mystery of what happened to a whole family after they left America for England by sea and disappeared is complex and the reader has to keep paying attention as the present-day clues create twists and turns. When I stopped reading for a few days and then returned to it I found that I got a little lost remembering all the characters. It became an exciting read in the end, with the many genealogical threads coming skilfully together.

I'm giving *In the Blood* this rating because I was let down by the resolution. Not by what happened three centuries ago, although I wonder along with other reviewers about how plausible such actions would have been at the time. No, Robinson got me to suspend any disbelief about the plausibility, but the resolution felt strangely unsatisfying, after everything the characters and I had been through. Firstly, I was never convinced by the motivation of the present-day villain -- that he was prepared to kill so many people for his quest. And secondly, although I now knew the answer to the old mystery, knew what happened and why, I found I didn't really care.

T says

You know how, sometimes, it seems like all the stars align and, somehow, you stumble across a book that that is a perfect blend of what a 'dream book' would be about?

Yeah. That's how I feel about *In the Blood*. Genealogy? A mystery? A gothic feeling setting? A lovably flawed main character? Oh, and did I mention genealogy AND mystery? Oh my!

I don't even know where to begin singing the praises of this book. It was, to me, **that** brilliant. As soon as I flipped to the last location on it in my Kindle app, I quickly jumped online, hoping and praying that there was a sequel available. I simply had to see if there were more [mis]adventures of JT to be devoured.

Looks like I'll have to wait until Springtime.

If you're interested genealogy, history, and/or mysteries, I cannot recommend this book highly enough. A genealogical mystery...What an amazing idea. And Mr. Robinson wields a mean pen in putting it on paper. Be prepared -- once you start this, your house will remain a mess, errands will not be run, the laundry will remain unfolded, your kids (and/or husband) may go hungry, and your employer might be getting a bleary eyed employee. You will not want to put this down and will find it compulsively readable into all hours of the day.

And night.

~~ Victoria

Rosen Trevithick says

Before you read this book, grab a pen and paper and keep them with you. That way you can plot a family tree, delighting every time a new character is revealed. You will meet a lot of intriguing Fairbornes and you'll want to keep track of them, in order to get the most out of this book.

"In the Blood" is a mystery drama that combines suspense, intrigue and revelation, set in and around the beautiful Helford Estuary in Cornwall. Its author, Steve Robinson, really makes the most of the Cornish setting, including the boating culture to maximum effect.

It's one of those tales that spans across many generations, which really widens the variety of subplots combined in one riveting tale. Parts are reminiscent of Daphne Du Maurier but with a modern edge, making this one of my favourite indie books.

The characters are appealing and well developed to the extent that when the protagonist was in danger, I had to keep reading to find out what happened to him.

Some readers are prejudiced against indie writers, but "In the Blood" goes to show that an independently published title can be, in every way, as good, if not better, than many titles from a mainstream publisher.

All in all, a jolly good read, which will appeal to men and women of all ages. I found it difficult to put down and am really looking forward to the sequel.

Wanda Hartzenberg says

Review for In the Blood: A Genealogical Crime Mystery (Jefferson Tayte book 1)

This was a delight to read.

The book was fast paced with twists and turns and a main protagonist with an identifiable human weakness in his fear of flight.

The twists were exciting and kept me turning the page. Who knew research could be so dangerous.

The story was above all logical. The mystery real and the characters fluffed out enough to engage me throughout the book.

A 5 * read without a doubt.

WaAr

Wendy says

I almost put this book down fairly early on, but I'm glad I didn't. What started off slow and a little bumpy turned out to be a very worthwhile mystery with an interesting genealogy angle.

Jefferson Tayte (JT) is trying to wrap up a family tree assignment for a wealthy and demanding client but runs into a problem - a huge hole in the Fairborne family tree. The client's descendants set sail from America to England just prior to the Revolution and there the trail stops cold for all members but one. What happened to the other Fairbornes?

It seems that the historical records that JT needs to fill in this hole are missing so off to England he goes in search of them. Apparently, someone else wants those records just as badly - or wants them to stay missing - and they are willing to kill for it.

The story switches back and forth from past to present as the reader follows the last of the known and recorded Fairbornes roughly in parallel to JT's search for answers.

The author provides a nice cast of could-be villains, keeping me from guessing the killer's identity until the end. The fate of the missing Fairbornes and the reason why someone wanted the records buried is also revealed and I would never have guessed what happened to them.

The killer did do a few things that had me scratching my head, such as deciding not to kill a particular person after indiscriminately killing others before. I wondered why the killer didn't clean up their trail and little better, especially once JT discovered the killer's identity. Being arrested and convicted of murder rather makes the information in the hidden genealogical records moot for the killer.

All in all, this was a good read and I would definitely pick up the second book in this series once it's available.

Emma says

I loved this book. I have a massive interest in genealogy and love a crime mystery so really it was not a hard decision to give this one a shot!

Although it did start off a little slow I did enjoy getting to know the characters and really liked and cared about the main character JT. I liked the Authors descriptive writing and felt that I could really imagine the places the book was set.

The main thing I loved about the book is that I did not guess the ending at all and I love it when that happens. I found that I struggled to put this down once I started and this led to a couple of late nights!!!

Cannot wait for the sequel :-)

Lynn says

When a person thinks of the profession of a genealogist, danger isn't the first word that comes to mind as a description of the career. However, that is what Jefferson Tayte runs into when researching a family for a client. He comes to a stand still when he can no longer track a mother and her children who returned to England after the Revolutionary War. He has to fly to England to find his information. It was an enjoyable description of Jefferson on this flight. Besides his fear of flying, his personality and appearance were different than I thought they would be.

The novel goes back and forth through past and present. It involves murder, lost love, a mysterious box and deeply hidden secrets. Someone want to keep those secrets hidden and goes full out to stop Jefferson and anyone else who is interested in unraveling the past. It is a wonder that Jefferson is still alive at the end of the book. It was a good read and I look forward to reading the next book in the series.

Trish R. says

At 47% DNF..

I find this book both confusing and it just jumps around too much. And it doesn't jump from chapter to chapter to a different year, you can be in the middle of something going on with Tayte and suddenly in the next sentence it's 1792 or 1803 or some other year in the past. I'm sure some readers like that but that's not for me. Sorry, Mr. Robinson.

Barbara says

I really enjoyed reading this book. It had a very believable plot and sequence of events. It had surprising twists and turns that were quite believable and an ending that wraps up all the loose ends. Robinson has an excellent style of writing that just seems to make the story very believable. This is my first time reading anything by this author but it will definitely not be my last. I just love finding all of these new (to me) authors among my Kindle selections. They have given me excellent reading and in many cases for excellent costs with many as low as \$2.99.

Carol says

The Hook - My new found interest in DNA and genealogy and an offer from Amazon to read this first in this mystery series featuring Genealogist, Jefferson Tayte, seemed a win-win deal.

The Line - *"Still, it's important to know who we are, don't you think?"*

The Sinker - The premise is irresistible. A family flees America on a journey to England to escape The War of Independence and there the record stops. Tayte is hired to fill in the gaps in this family tree but soon finds out someone doesn't want the leaves shaken. A bit uneven, and a bit dry, but all in all, I found this story told in alternate time frames entertaining. I read it with a keen eye to the research aspects of Tayte's field hoping to come up with some pointers in my own quest to find ancestors. I don't know how much this helped me but I'm willing to read the second in the series.

Caroline Pointer says

Stop.

Genealogists and family historians, stop what you are doing right now and read this.

You absolutely must read the book *In the Blood* by Steve Robinson.

Take a break from your own research and see what happens when a very creative person's mind takes some genealogical ideas and fleshes out a story of intrigue, mystery, and murder. If I had been reading a paper copy, I'd call this one a page turner, but as it happens I was reading it on my new Nook Tablet, Valentina. [Yes, I name my gadgets. Makes it easier to curse at them when they don't work.]

I stayed up late to read it. I woke up early [in part because of my Pug, Millie] to read it. And I read when I should have been blogging. It was that good.

It was good to see characters I could relate to on a genealogical level. Mr. Robinson did not assume I was dumb and wouldn't have a clue as to what he was talking about. Through his characters he briefly explained in dialogue or in a action what was going on genealogy-wise, and I appreciated that immensely.

I read a lot, especially suspense murder mysteries, and I can truly say that *In the Blood* is on par with the best. Then add the genealogy part, and, well, this one is a winner.

Mr. Robinson weaves a multi-layered tale with the flawed protagonist, Jefferson Tayte, being pushed out of his comfort zone to search for the answer. Kinda like what we genealogists and family historians do every day. We research the past looking for answers about our ancestors and our ourselves.

Does Tayte find the answers? I dunno. You're gonna have to read it. All 877 pages of it. [Told you he fleshes it out.]

Fran says

This was a free book I picked up on Amazon. It intrigued me because of the genealogical premise, and the setting in Cornwall where some of my own ancestors apparently came from.

I cannot tell you how impressed I was by Robinson's settings. His detail was incredible, and so accurate I could Google several of the buildings and coastal paths where the action occurred. They were dead on, and I felt like I was really there.

My only complaint was that the "hero" was one of these guys who thinks that if he tells the cops everything either he will get in trouble or someone will get hurt. He ended up needing the police help anyway, and I kept thinking, "fool, fool..just go to the police." If he'd done it sooner there would have been a lot less headache. Was it supposed to be a guy thing, like going to the police is akin to asking directions if you are lost?

My frustration with the character was balanced by the author's attention to detail in the settings. So I did kind of like it. I'd read more if he develops this genealogical angle into a series.

Steve Robinson says

I'm the author of this book.

Tom says

This was very good as a mystery and good genealogy, too. As an avid genealogist, I am always looking for genealogical mysteries. Dan Waddle had been a favorite, and Robinson will be one, too. There were plenty of clues, and it was exciting to read. The biggest fault, and the reason I gave it four rather than five stars, was the terrible accent he gave Jefferson. I read the paperback edition, and I understand the Kindle editions were changed. With that said, I am looking forward to getting To the Grave. Revised to five stars.

Phyllis says

I'm not one to read a mystery but what interested me was the genealogical part of it. I really enjoyed this book . Jefferson Tayte, a genealogist, is hired to find the descendants of a family that returned to Cornwall in 1783 from America. Lots of twists and turns. This was a page turner and I didn't even come close to figuring it out and I will be ordering the rest of this mystery series
