



The Dalwich Desecration

Gregory Harris

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Master sleuth Colin Pendragon and his trusted partner, Ethan Pruitt, leave their familiar cosmopolitan London for rural Sussex County, where the bucolic peace has been shattered by the murder of a monk...

At the request of his father, Pendragon and Pruitt travel to the town of Dalwich, where a gruesome crime has desecrated the hallowed halls of Whitmore Abbey. The abbot has been slaughtered in his cell with multiple stab wounds and his tongue cut out. Although Father Demetris, the local bishop's associate, has faith that the killer must be an outsider from the village, Pendragon considers no man above suspicion--including the brooding brothers of the order.

But before Pendragon and Pruitt can make much progress in their investigation, a second corpse is found--a barmaid who has been mutilated in the same way as the monk. Now they must determine if there is a connection between the butchered Benedictine and the victim from the village. Whether the killer comes from within the walls of Whitmore Abbey or without, it will be up to Pendragon and Pruitt to illuminate--and unravel--a deadly mystery before more lives are lost...

Praise for The Bellingham Bloodbath

"An incredibly pleasing mystery . . . the author nails it yet again." --*Suspense Magazine*

The Dalwich Desecration Details

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From Reader Review The Dalwich Desecration for online ebook

Ashley Clark says

Honestly, there were so many monks, I couldn't keep up with who was who.

R J Mckay says

I received this book from Goodreads in exchange for a review.

With a strong nod to Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, the duo of Colin Pendragon and Ethan Pruitt are much like the famous pair. With Pendragon's tenacity and Pruitt's more docile approach, they work well together. In 'The Dalwich Desecration' the investigative duo is heading to the rural town of Dalwich where the Abbot of the local monastery had been found murdered and his tongue removed. A murder most foul. The area's bishop has requested their help in solving the crime, much to the distaste of some of the resident monks.

While Pendragon ruffles more than a few feathers with his approach, he none the less continues to charge ahead. But when another body is discovered, a serving girl from the town's pub, with her tongue also removed, Pendragon finds his list of suspects growing. But are the two crimes linked? Is the murderer someone within the walls of Whitmore Abbey or is it someone from the village? Or are there two murderers?

This well plotted book, is perhaps a bit slow at times, but still it kept my interest. The author's skill draws the reader ever closer to the final reveal in a very 'Poirot style' event, with all interested parties coming together to draw out the murderer. While part of a series, this book can be easily read as a standalone.

Lynn Demsky says

This is the first Colin Pendragon Mystery I have ever read and I thoroughly enjoyed it --- the characters were most interesting and a tad unusual. The historic times of the novel seemed to be in time with what was going on and very interesting. The plot was well formed, the story well written and well worth the read! Quite entertaining, fun and easy to read!

Kathy Jund says

4 stars! The 4th installment in the Colin Pendragon series!

Colin Pendragon, not one to ever admit defeat while investigating a case (as he has never lost one before), refuses to admit defeat now, determined if need be, to follow the devious Mrs. Hutton all the way to Switzerland where she has apparently eluded him in her escape. Determined, even so far as to enlist the assistance of his Diplomat father. However, Colin's father arrives with a pressing matter of his own that will put further delay in Colin attaining his goal to clear his reputation and solving his open case. A brutal murder in a monastery in a small village outside of London has occurred, and Colin Pendragon and Ethan are called upon personally by the Bishop to investigate. Not a hospitable group these monks, taking umbrage with his

drilling questions and apparent disregard of all things pious in their secret assembly. While applying his craft another murder occurs in the village, a very popular bar maid is also found murdered in exactly the same manner, or is it? No one is above suspicion and Colin is determined that he will get his answers!

Kelly says

Sort of Sherlock Holmesish. Love detectives relationship dynamic.

Steve Wilson says

This book was received courtesy of Goodreads giveaways.

This appears to be the fourth book in a series of books involving "master sleuth" Colin Pendragon and his partner Ethan Pruitt. More than partners in the solving of crimes, Pendragon and Pruitt are gay partners.

While this is the fourth in a series, the novel works well as a stand alone read. While there are occasional references to previous books (at least I believe so), these references do not detract from the story line in this work.

I thoroughly enjoyed this novel which is probably described as an old fashioned style mystery focusing on the solving of the crime through intuition and following clues.

While the story is told primarily from the perspective of Ethan Pruitt, the majority of the "sleuthing" is done by Colin Pendragon. The novel is light on action sequences and while the murders being investigated are quite grisly there really is no gratuitous violence in the book. Similarly the gay relationship between the two does not predominate the story.

Overall a fully satisfactory read and worthy enough to explore other works in the series.

Ulysses Dietz says

The Dalwich Desecration
By Gregory Harris
Kensington Books, 2016
Four stars

I am really growing to love this alphabetical series of murder mysteries set in the Conan-Doylean world of late Victorian England. Gregory Harris has created a thoughtfully detailed universe in which Colin Pendragon and his associate Ethan Pruitt do their Holmes-and-Watson best, all the while keeping discreetly hidden the fact that they've been friends since boyhood and lovers for fourteen years. Only their outrageously common housekeeper, Mrs. Behmoth, seems to know the truth. She is the Cerberus at the gate of their comfortable flat, treating them with the same indiscriminate rudeness with which she addresses most of humankind.

This time, still stewing over a recent fiasco that seems to be working its way through several of the books,

our boys are called to a Benedictine monastery in a small country town. A brutal murder has happened in this place of holy retreat, and Colin must pick the truth out of a tangled knot of conflicting stories, a task made only more difficult when a second, secular killing is discovered.

The set-up of these books is not a simple imitation of the Conan Doyle staging, but a conscious evocation of that series that serves to underscore the great differences in Harris's books. There is a slightly unequal power dynamic between Ethan and Colin, largely focused on the fact that Colin Pendragon essentially saved Ethan Pruitt's life when they were both much younger. Colin is all pro-active fearlessness, while Ethan is diffident and questioning. But Colin consistently reminds Ethan of how much he is loved—a long-standing love that triggered Colin's rescue Ethan from a life not worth living. Colin sees Ethan as an essential foil to his own impetuosity.

Plus, there is Colin's father, Sir Atherton Pendragon, a powerfully connected diplomat whose influence played a strong part in Colin's initial success as an investigator. Colin may be arrogant and self-assured, but he is so because of his close and fond relationship with his father, who holds Ethan in warm affection as well. This is a critical detail in this series, and one that takes on particular significance at the close of this volume.

The precarious nature of Pendragon and Pruitt's relationship is always part of the subtext of Harris's books, and it is what makes them so very interesting to read. I'm pretty well hooked, and that's what any author hopes for.

Caryl V. says

Colin and Ethan are at a monestaty investigating the murder of an abbot and a second killing of a local bar girl. Enjoy reading about the two men although the solutions are a bit of a stretch.

Kathryn Green says

I joined Goodreads to become acquainted with some new authors, I was lucky enough to win this book. This is the first book that I have read, which was written by Gregory Harris. I was notably impressed. Colin Pendragon is an interesting character, who seems to love the chase of a mystery. I enjoyed reading about this murder in a monastery and, the steps that Mr. Pendragon took to solve it. Throw in another murder and it all seems in a days work for this sleuth. His sidekick (and partner in life), Ethan Pruitt, helps to investigate and keep things down to earth. I recommend this book if you enjoy murder mysteries.

Ng says

This Victorian Sherlock Holmes-like series certainly gets better with each book. Very engaging read with 2 seemingly connected murders: an abbot has been murdered in a gruesome way in a monastery and a local girl has also been murdered in similar manner. There was so much happening and the ending was very very surprising. The life within the town and monastery were described very well. I really loved more insight into Ethan and his addictions and its impact on him on an everyday basis. Colin seems more and more human and we see him without his crutches-dumbbells and coin.

Dean L. Randolph says

Very exciting and engaging read. I particularly enjoyed the surprise at the end concerning the unexpected perpetrators, including the part about extra-biblical discoveries and how that can effect the church and its ministries in good and bad (murderous) ways. Two thumbs up for this one.

Allison says

Entertaining mystery, based on the Sherlock Holmes stories. Someone has killed the abbott of Whitmore Abbey and a much-loved local barmaid!

April Rohrer says

Great book by an up and coming author. Love the writing style, unique characters and how they all fit together. The book had me guessing until the mysteries were revealed in a satisfying conclusion. Looking forward to the 5th book!
