



# Murder in the Boughts

*Jamie Sedgwick*

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## **Murder in the Boughs** Jamie Sedgwick

Detective noir fiction and Grimm's Fairy Tales collide in the "Hank Mossberg, Private Ogre" detective series. The series takes place in the gritty streets of San Francisco and in the undercity, the massive underground cavern where thousands of fae creatures secretly make their homes. Here, nymphs walk darkened streets, imps are slave traders, and gnomes are elite hackers.

In "Murder in the Boughs," Hank Mossberg is a hard-boiled San Francisco detective who must race against time to rescue a kidnapped girl, expose a ring of "pixie dust" dealers, and find the killer of a high-elven San Francisco kingpin. Hank is also the last living ogre in the world.

Hank's troubles begin when he stumbles onto a briefcase full of the illicit drug known as pixie dust. He finally has the evidence he needs to bring down the notorious Kaisers, an elven crime family, but then the gang's leader is murdered and the pixie dust disappears. Hank is hot on the trail of the killer when he gets an urgent call from a desperate woman whose daughter has been abducted... only the kidnapper is no ordinary criminal, and even Hank's unique skills might not be enough to bring the girl home. Hank juggles both cases while navigating the complexities of fae-world politics and real life relationships, none of which ever seem to come easy.

## **Murder in the Boughs Details**

Date : Published November 15th 2011 by Timber Hill Press (first published November 12th 2011)

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Author : Jamie Sedgwick

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## From Reader Review Murder in the Boughs for online ebook

### Kim says

Murder in the Boughs kept my full attention, I could not put this book down! This is a perfect mystery novel without the cliches and too many plot twists. There were just enough questions to keep my intrigued and guessing without becoming overdone. The setting of the human and fae world was so imaginative and I have never read anything else like this. I highly recommend this read to anyone who enjoys a good mystery. The only reason I gave it 4 stars was because in some parts it did seem to drag out a little, but I still loved it. Received this book from Goodreads giveaways.

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### Amy\_Read to My Heart's Content says

This story was funny! I love elves but the author decides to take it to the next level and take our fairy tale heroes and put them into urban day settings. So we had elves that were mobsters, drug dealing Goblins, and of course an Ogre that is a detective.

Hank is a lovable character. He is brooding, smart, funny, and understanding-except when it comes to magic. He doesn't like magic, probably because he doesn't have any of his own. He is like a buffer to magic, zapping the said creature into dreamland.

There is mystery floating throughout and comedy everywhere. It is almost like someone took Grimm's Fairy Tales and combined it with CSI.

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### Lynn says

#### Ogre

Interesting book. I thought it was very well written and it kept my interest beyond the first chapter. It has to catch my attention in the first chapter or I don't read it. Good work!

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### Scott Marlowe says

I received Murder in the Boughs from the author via a GoodReads giveaway. Murder in the Boughs is a standalone novel and, unfortunately from what I could tell, the only "Hank Mossberg, Private Ogre" novel Mr. Sedgwick has written. Mr. Sedgwick has a number of other novels to choose from, however, many of which have caught my eye and found their way onto my Amazon Wish List.

Murder in the Boughs is a detective novel of the hard-boiled variety. Hank Mossberg is Sedgwick's Mike Hammer or Phillip Marlowe (my personal favorite), except for the fact that he's an ogre who walks a line between the "real" world and the hidden one, where fae exist. The fae of Sedgwick's world are more human-like than you might expect, though. They are thugs, hitmen, crime bosses, nurses, policemen, drug pushers (and abusers), and, of course, detectives.

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Hank Mossberg is unique in more ways than one. Not only is he the last of his kind, but he's also the Steward, a position appointed to him by the fae Elders. In the fae world, his job is to investigate crimes and enforce fae law. In the human world, he's more detective and less lawkeeper. Though magic is prevalent in the fae world, Mossberg is immune to all of it. Bullets, however, present their usual problem for him, especially when uzi wielding elves come looking for him.

Murder in the Boughs presents two crimes for Hank to solve: one involving the illicit fae drug known as "pixie dust" and the other the kidnapping of a human child. While the cases are separate from one another, we find Hank juggling each throughout the novel. Ultimately, they never really cross one another, something I found a little disappointing. I thought there could have been some connection between the crimes, and thus possibly a more climatic ending.

Sedgwick, however, does a nice job with the conclusion of the pixie dust case; the reveal of the responsible perpetrator was unexpected. With the case of the missing child, I was left a bit unfulfilled, only because the wrap-up comes suddenly and almost wholly dealt with towards the lattermost part of the novel.

Murder in the Boughs is an enjoyable, fun read. I'd like to see more of Hank Mossberg. I think the character has more cases to solve and enough character depth to become the next Hammer or Marlowe if the author chooses to spend more time with him.

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### **Ahnah says**

I absolutely LOVED this book!!!

This author has such a vivid style of storytelling that I was actually staying up at night to read this book. I love Hank, come on, what's not to love about a 6'6" ogre in a trench coat and hat?? This story perfectly creates a whole new world while mixing it with our world. This was a brilliant start to a series that I cannot wait to read all of.

Intriguing murder mystery, fantastic characters and a world I would love to live in, but one of the the best thing to me was that there was no foul language, adult situations or anything else that I had to skip over!! That makes this story a 5 star in my book.

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### **Timothy VanderWall says**

I am a mystery fan first and a fantasy fan second. I was looking forward to reading a fantasy mystery with a "noir" feel to it; and I have read other books by Mr. Sedgwick and thoroughly enjoyed them. In Murder in the Boughs, I got the fantasy and the noir; and until the very end I was getting the mystery. However, the character who-dun-it was totally out of the blue to my thinking. I went back over the story in my mind, as I often do at the end of a mystery novel. I could not bring to mind even one clue that pointed to the perpetrator of the crimes. It felt to me like the author pulled a "Deus Ex Machina" out of his hat to wrap up the mystery. That being said, I loved the characters and the story. This is a very nice fantasy tale. And maybe I just missed all of the subtle clues to the solution. I will definitely read another Hank Mossberg tale, hoping that it will have a better mystery to go along with the fantasy.

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## R. Scott VanKirk says

Murder in the Bough  
by Jamie Sedgwick

Enjoyment \*\*\* Plot \*\*\* Interactions \*\*\* Characters \*\* World \*\*\* Originality \*\*\*\* Grammar \*\*\*\*\* Style \*\*\*

### Overview

Murder in the Bough is an urban fantasy detective mystery. To most people who know him, Hank Mossberg is a San Francisco private investigator with a skin problem. To the rest, he is known as the Warden and his skin condition is quite normal for an ogre. In this case, 'the rest' is the magical population of San Francisco. This population is actually quite large and varied and is filled with Elves, Dwarfs, Pixies, Nymphs. Pick a fairy tale, they are probably lurking around somewhere.

As the Warden to the magical fae, Hank Mossberg is the law. Being an Ogre makes him uniquely qualified for the job. He is large, strong and immune to most magic. He gets a small stipend and a small apartment in the 'Mother tree'. The Mother tree is a one hundred and fifty foot tall tree that the magical population has moved into a warehouse in San Francisco. It is the tree from which all other trees spring and it is home to hundreds of fae. Besides homes, the Mother contains is a five star restaurant and Hank's jail.

Hank has a few problems: he is an ogre - the last of his kind; a key piece of evidence his case against a drug running Elven mob family has disappeared from his impenetrable safe; the mob boss has been murdered and Hank's taking the blame; his latest PI case seems to be a dead end; and, last, but not least, his love life is on the rocks. Whenever he touches a magical fae woman, she passes out. It makes it hard to get a second date.

The story follows Hank as he attempts to solve his problems and not get dead while doing it.

### Cons

Mr. Sedgwick is a little too spare with his descriptions. For example, we find out that Hank has an apartment in the Mother tree, but we don't come away with any real sense of the place. I'd have liked to read more about the unique settings and more descriptions of the characters. As it is, Mr. Sedgwick relies on stereotypes and fairytales to provide that detail for the reader.

This sparcity is also evident in the characters in the story. They struck me as stereotypical without a lot of surprises.

### Pros

Hank is a likeable protagonist in an interesting world. He has a strong sense of justice with an unfortunate tendency to lose his temper and make rash decisions. The storyline is straight forward and entertaining and the story is overall a fast, light and fun read. Mr. Sedgwick has an interesting new take on the underground magical world that is the base of so much urban fantasy and his writing style is clean and transparent with some good humorous highlights.

Overall, it is a decent, fun read and I enjoyed my time in Hank's world. If this becomes a series, I will probably buy the second book.

## **Assaph Mehr says**

I was recommended this novel by a friend who knows my taste in fantasy detectives, and I wasn't disappointed. Mr Sedgwick weaves a great noir fairy tale, in a perfect balance between Philip Marlow and The Brothers Grimm.

The story introduces Hank Mossberg, a classic hard-boiled detective, as he juggles the cases and circumstances thrown at him. Mr Sedgwick does a wonderful job in constructing a modern fairy-tale world, with all the twists to keep the reader engaged.

I'd recommend this to anyone who loves a good old fashioned detective story, and has a penchant for fantasy.

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Assaph Mehr, author of Murder In Absentia: A story of Togas, Daggers, and Magic - for lovers of Ancient Rome, Murder Mysteries, and Urban Fantasy.

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## **Deanna says**

The basics of each book in this series is described elsewhere and so I am reviewing the series in whole. Each individual book gets a five.

That said, I review books based on the writing, not the editing as some people do. Because of this, I will state up front that the books would not get a five if editing was factored in. A good editor is definitely needed, but I've seen worse. There were a few minor discrepancies from book to book and out of order words that slowed things a few times. From my standpoint, small things compared to the enjoyment I received from reading this treasure.

Although there may be similar books out there of which I am unaware, I found this writing and storyline to be unique and refreshing. The main characters, strange as they were, became real and cared for.

This author definitely has a way with words and his own special way of using them. This book had some humor but it was not a humorous book. It was actually a very violent series. There was sex but not graphic. There was satire and innuendoes. I do not remember any foul language.

The books can each be read standalone on their own merits, but I would recommend reading them in order. The last, Book 6, was the shortest but probably my favorite. It wouldn't have been if read alone because you really need the history to appreciate it.

My main complaint with this series was the length of the books. They were way too short. In my opinion, with a little more work, this could have been made an epic in the line of an adult Harry Potter but starring Hank Mossberg and friends. Jamie Sedgwick, this writing was genius, but I don't think you realized it. Get back to work (please).

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## **Travis says**

I didn't start this book with real strong demands. I thought it would be a fun, quick read. It was and I will read more in this series because sometimes its just nice to pick up a light read. I admit I have little knowledge on the relationship between ogres and fae to be able to say how accurate this book is in the specific details and quite frankly I don't care. In the end I probably give this more of a 3.5.

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## **Kenisha says**

Hank is a private eye known as a Steward, who protects the occupants of the boughs of the mother tree from trouble. Most of that trouble is magical in nature. This is because Hank is an ogre, green skin and all, and his natural abilities provide him with an immunity to magical spells. Faeries, nymphs, elves, and all manner of fairytale creatures live in this modern day tale of gangsters with wands.

I can't help but like Hank. He's got a good head on his shoulders, yet he's not afraid to mouth off. He's backed up by a few other fairly interesting characters, like his surly drunk dwarf partner Butch. Anyway, Hank finds himself burdened with two cases. First, a mob boss he was trying to get enough evidence to convict ends up biting the bullet. Narrowing down a suspect won't be easy, especially when Hank himself is considered suspicious by the Elders. His second case takes a back seat to the first and involves a human woman who claims her child was kidnapped from behind a tightly secured home with no signs of forced entry. The concluding chapters brought both cases to a satisfying and surprising end.

One pro is the setting, an intermingling of detective-noir-mystery with a side of fairytale characters. There are a few things that could be ironed out with editing (calling skin "pail" instead of "pale"), but it's fairly minor. This story is far from perfect, and it's not complex in either writing or content, but it's still very entertaining.

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## **So, I Read This Book Today says**

*One man's murder is another man's justice.* - Hank Mossberg

Hank Mossberg is a man out of time. Well, make that an ogre out of time. For he is the last of his kind, an anomaly amongst anomalies. Not that the humans around Hank, even notice that he is a 6'6" ogre with green hair and skin. People are good at ignoring the things that frighten them; things they don't understand or want to deal with.

Of course it is hard to be afraid of Hank, large and green as he is. Hank is a sweetheart, the last true Steward left in the world. The last Ogre in the world. How sad, to know that you are the last of your kind. Once the guardians of the forests, as the forests became parking lots, roads and skyscrapers, the Ogres have died away, until only Hank is left.

As a PI in the human world (remember that whole 6'6" and green thing? Nah. Nobody notices) Hank is also the Steward, the law-bringer for the fae world. And Hank is going to need all of his skills to solve his latest cases. For there has been a murder in the fae lands, and Hank is the main suspect. Well, he did truly hate the victim. What's not to hate? A high elf head of the elf mafia (Yep. Mafia.) guilty of all sorts of nasty, including making pixie dust. And pixie dust is a lot nastier than one might imagine - in all sorts of ways.

Hank is a wonderful person. A gentle heart and a strong sense of right and wrong is special in itself. Add in a wonderful supporting cast, creative world building (the Mother Tree, where Hank lives and works, is

awesome) and a quirky sense of humor, and you have a wonderful series I fully intend to follow through!

### **About the Author:**

Jamie Sedgwick is a northern California writer, musician, winemaker, mechanic, boat builder, blacksmith, etc. Jamie divides his time between his family, his writing, and his numerous hobbies, in that order. Jamie also writes Mystery and Thriller fiction under the name Jeramy Gates. For more info, visit [www.jeramygates.com](http://www.jeramygates.com)

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### **Tony Duxbury says**

Urban fantasy with a cast from Lord of the Rings. I loved Hank Mossberg, a Philip Marlowe type Orge, with two hearts of gold. Written in the best tradition of the old detective novels, with lots of magic thrown in. If you like both detective and fantasy stories, you will enjoy this.

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### **Sue says**

I won a copy of "Murder in the Boughs" (Hank Mossberg, Private Ogre:#1 by Jamie Sedgwick through the Goodreads Giveaway Contest. This is a noir-fiction, urban fantasy detective mystery novel, filled with Elves, Dwarfs, Pixies and Nymphs.

Hank Mossberg is a San Francisco private investigator, "The Warden", an Ogre, known as a Steward. He protects the people of the boughs. He lives between the real world and the fae world. His job is to investigate crimes and enforce the law.

Hank is working on two cases: one involving an illegal fae drug known as "pixie dust" and the other the kidnaping of a child.

This novel provides a nice combination of detective noir mystery with fairy tale heroes, and is an enjoyable read with touches of comedy.

Our fairy tale heroes come alive...

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### **Nate says**

I highly recommend this for Dresden fans. It doesn't fluff around with many extraneous details and the plot advances well. It was quite a breath of fresh air compared to the last couple of books I've read that meandered.

Plus this is free from the Kindle library!

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