



The Opium-Eater

David Morrell

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From bestselling thriller author David Morrell comes a brooding Thomas De Quincey short story about the coldest of deaths and their heartbreaking aftermath.

Thomas De Quincey--the central character of Morrell's acclaimed Victorian mysteries, *Murder as a Fine Art* and *Inspector of the Dead*--was one of the most notorious and brilliant literary personalities of the 1800s. His infamous *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* made history as the first book about drug dependency. He invented the word "subconscious" and anticipated Freud's psychoanalytic theories by more than a half century. His blood-soaked essays and stories influenced Edgar Allan Poe, who in turn inspired Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to create Sherlock Holmes.

But at the core of his literary success lies a terrible tragedy. In this special-edition novella, based on real-life events, Morrell shares De Quincey's story of a horrific snowstorm in which a mother and father died and their six children were trapped in the mountains of England's Lake District. Even more gripping is what happened after. This is the true tale of how Thomas De Quincey became the Opium-Eater, brought to life by award-winning storyteller David Morrell.

An afterword contains numerous photographs of the dramatic locations in the story.

The Opium-Eater Details

Date : Published February 17th 2015 by Mulholland Books

ISBN :

Author : David Morrell

Format : Kindle Edition 67 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Mystery

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From Reader Review The Opium-Eater for online ebook

Jordyn says

I don't think this story was really necessary to read as part of the series. It went over some of the same back story details we already read about in the first book.

Dale says

An intriguing short story that piques my interest into more English history and biographies. Thomas de Quincey is such a fascinating individual, so little known until the author's splendid novels. A blend of fact and fiction, I read the books then go on to browse tomes on The Radcliffe Highway Murders, Coleridge, Wordsworth, and the multiple assassination attempts on Queen Victoria. Terrific!

Linda says

I was once stuck in an elevator with David Morrell, author of The Opium-Eater as well as many more books. I used to tell people I got stuck in an elevator with Rambo but everybody thought I meant Sylvester Stallone. Morrell is a nice man even though he looked at me like I was an idiot because I couldn't get my elevator floor card to work. None of this has anything to do with the review of The Opium-Eater. I just like to relive my few minutes with a famous author.

My favorite part of the opium-eater was the afterword. I found the history of Thomas De Quincey, Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Charles Darwin interesting.

His afterword made me do what good writing does...made me look up more information about the history and people involved. I even plan to watch the movie Creation because A) the movie made Morrell get interested in De Quincey which led to two novels and the novelette, The Opium-Eater, and B) it introduced the fact the De Quincey came up with the concept of a mind-body connect fifty years before Darwin did. Most readers probably skip afterwords but I recommend continued reading if you buy or check-out The Opium-Eaters.

And Mr. Morrell, if you happen to see this review, I did eventually get off the elevator.

C Valeri says

Like Morrell's full-length books, this short story is well paced and suspenseful with the historical and literary background to please any English major! A great supplement to the novels!

Alex says

Chilling story...loved it!!

Jeanine says

Excellent. I'm counting the days until the release of Inspector of the Dead.

Karen says

A retelling of a traumatic event in the life of Thomas De Quincey, a macabre writer of the 19th century and the main character in some of David Morrell's novels. Thomas De Quincey was also an opium addict like many of his peers. The book is nicely written and the photographs interesting, but as someone who loves genealogy and history, left more questions than answers so left me wanting more. It did pique my interest in reading Mr. Morrell's series featuring De Quincey.

Mark says

This very short story feels like an outtake from Morrell's very good novel, *Murder as a Fine Art*. It fleshes out some of Thomas de Quincey's back story from the original novel - the way his sorrow over the deaths of young children drove him to opium addiction. It's a topic very close to the author, as he has lost both a child and a grandchild to a rare form of cancer.

Fans of the series will want to read this, but it's far from essential reading. Morrell supplements the story with some interesting background and numerous photos of the sites mentioned in the story.

Erin says

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David Morrell's Thomas De Quincey series is one of my favorites. *Murder as a Fine Art* and *Inspector of the Dead* blew me away, but I didn't realize the series included a novella until I went looking for book three, *Ruler of the Night*. I'm not sure how I missed the publication of *The Opium-Eater*, but I couldn't resist snagging a copy for my personal library.

At only sixty-seven pages, the piece is hardly intimidating, but the content itself is nothing short of brilliant. Those new to the series get a taste of the style and tone of the larger volumes, while established fans get to satisfy their curiosity by learning what makes Thomas De Quincey tick.

Dark and emotional, *The Opium-Eater* packs a powerful punch and fleshes out Morrell's enigmatic antihero. Complete with photos, the volume also gives singular insight to the world De Quincey knew and memories he couldn't escape.

Chris says

Explains the beginnings of De Quincey's addiction to opium. This tragic story is a nice companion piece to

one of the best historical mystery series I have read. Murder As A Fine Art and the second volume Inspector of the Dead are thrillers as well as thought provoking. Can't wait for the third installment, Ruler of the Night.

Kindle it on a tab (preferably hi-def) because after the story David Morrell takes you on a tour of Wordsworth and De Quincey's England, complete with full color photos.

Rosalie Everts says

I'm giving it four stars because it's too short. That's the only reason. It's a nice treat after having read Morrell's De Quincey series. Wondering if it should not perhaps carry the name "non-fiction"????

Pamela says

This is the book that explains the main character from his book, Murder as a fine Art. A. Book that remains one of my favorites. Thomas DeQuincey, also known as the English Opium Eater. He was the first person to talk about our subconscious, and was a great admirer of Wadsworth. This book gives you a basic idea about this great thinker, and investigator. I enjoyed it. It was an amazing thing to, admit, and write about his addiction, especially during the time he lived. His essays inspired Edgar Allen Poe, and also Sherlock Holmes, who also was brilliant, and also suffered from drug addiction. The pictures included in the book were a nice touch.

Matthew says

This really should have been included within the first book.

Tim Potter says

In MURDER AS A FINE ART David Morrell introduced readers to a fictional version of 19th Century British author Thomas De Quincey. De Quincey is an old man in the story and becomes a sort of consultant to Scotland Yard when murders are perpetrated that reflect his writing "On Murder Considered as One of the Fine Arts." The book stands as one of Morrell's finest, which is saying something considering the brilliance of his body of work. THE OPIUM-EATER acts as a bridge between MURDER AS A FINE ART and the forthcoming INSPECTOR OF THE DEAD, which will also feature De Quincey. THE OPIUM-EATER is a very simple story that finds the fictional De Quincey telling a story that explains one of the reasons he became an opium addict. The great thing about the story is that it serves to further explain De Quincey's past and motivations. It gives the reader a very good feel for how the character came to be an elderly man still hooked on opium. It also serves to show the dynamic between De Quincey and his daughter, a great character in her own right as a strong, intelligent woman who is still a product of the times. The story De Quincey tells is very strong and carries a strong emotional kick. If you liked MURDER AS A FINE ART this is a must read while you wait for the next novel length installment in the series.

It's listed as 67 pages, but at least a third of that is a photo essay of the locations from the story, which is decent but ultimately not essential, and an excerpt from INSPECTOR OF THE DEAD. THE OPIUM-

EATER is about 30 to 35 pages long.

Phillydeb says

Terrific short story supplement to his book Murder as a Fine Art
