



Death at Daisy's Folly

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Sir Charles Sheridan is many things - an amateur scientist, a renowned photographer, and a skilled detective. And due to Victorian customs, he will soon become a baron - rendering him unable to marry Kate Ardleigh, an American writer of the popular, yet frowned upon "penny-dreadfuls." Even as the customs of the time keep them apart, a good murder case always seems to bring them together...

Death at Daisy's Folly Details

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Author : Robin Paige

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From Reader Review Death at Daisy's Folly for online ebook

Nickki says

Slow to get going but once further in good.

Tria says

Not so poor as its predecessor; the characters were more engaging and the setting rather less blatantly full of anachronisms and a lack of local and historical research. It still wasn't the best thing I've ever read by a long shot, but it's a notable improvement for the couple who write this series. 3.5 stars.

Dallass says

Have binge-read the first three books today, and although the mystery at the centre of this book was very intriguing (Prince Albert with his mistress Daisy), the pompous Prince and his attending courtiers just put my back up. I didn't really like any of the secondary characters, and the plot itself, while revealed in the end, just seemed to be so blown up and out of proportion with the motive that it totally blew my suspension of belief out of the water.

On the plus side, we do see a bit of conflict spring up between Sir Charles and Kate, and their relationship changes a few times during the book. I always enjoy a bit of tension between the eventual love interests. However, (unfortunately) Bradford is once again along for the ride. I really haven't developed any fondness for that spoiled bugger.

Haven't bought any more books in the series, but will definitely try to grab a few from my library to see whether or not I'll add more of these to my collection.

3.25 ★

Mary says

Clever how the authors weaved fact and fiction to make a good mystery. Enjoyed it.

Adele says

No wonder Kate Ardleigh struggles to understand the etiquette expected of Victorian English society. She might be unconventional but thankfully when seen amongst the company of supposed aristocracy, whose clandestine behaviour resembles that of common alley cats, culminating in multiple murders, Sir Charles recognises she's a keeper. Their alliance seems destined to become more than professional. I am looking forward to see how their relationship develops over the series.

Miranda says

It wasn't my favorite of the series so far. I didn't like the views expressed by Charles towards the end of the book. It seemed a little too manufactured. I got the sense that it wasn't a knighted British peer speaking to me, it was the author(s) telling me what they thought. Which I wouldn't mind, but this book is pre-9/11, if you get my meaning.

Sandy Shin says

The Prince of Wales, the British upper crust, servants hall, socialist plots, revolutionaries and a series of murders. The transplanted American must try to understand all of the undercurrents and work out a satisfactory conclusion at a weekend house party.

Still enjoying the ride

Vickie says

Gently, historical cozies are fab for me. I love cozies of all types since I tend to learn or yearn from each one. I learn something new and I tend to yearn to learn whatever skill that is the premise of each. I do learn from this series and I am fairly certain I do not yearn for Victorian times...poor or rich with no real in-between really. Feelings had to be couched in vague phrasing, bleah...

But one of the reasons that I enjoy this series is that the main character, Kate Ardleigh, bucks the system. She's known hardship and rose above it by working hard and discovering a talent for writing 'penny-dreadfuls' under a pseudonym. When she became an heiress, she didn't change her style, just her setting. Her concerns now are how she feels about Sir Charles and what will happen if anyone discovers her secret identity.

Each book so far eases the reader into the Victorian era and we gently follow along as Kate discovers her surroundings and feelings and we watch as she assists in solving each murder that occurs wherever she and Sir Charles go.

I love this series, a definite recommend.

Jennifer says

I'm hiding this behind a spoiler cut because I do mention very mild spoilers between the two main characters later in my review.

This is the third book in a very enjoyable series, and probably my favorite thus far.

This series has a habit of inserting real life historical figures into the stories, and this book was no exception. This time both Prince Albert as well as his mistress, Daisy, Countess of Warwick play starring roles. The bulk of the novel takes place at Daisy's estate, Easton Lodge.

The characters in this series continue to be well written, both the fictional characters and the 'real life' ones.

To that end, great pains seem to have been taken to be respectful to any historical figures used in the novels when writing their fictional counterpoints.

I'm glad that Sir Charles and Kate admitted their love for each other and am thrilled with the fact that the authors chose to have Sir Charles propose to Kate very early on in the series and not make us wait 6 or 7 books in.

I must say, I have to love the way the proposal was made: In a somewhat awkward fashion while standing over the body of a dead man. I found it to be quite fitting!

Karla says

Who knew the "upper" society of Victorian England was so embroiled in infidelity? Apparently there were simultaneous demands for virtue and blind-eyes for vice. This book, as the preceeding two in the series, is a historical fiction. The book centers largely around Lady Frances (Daisy) Brooke, the Countess of Warwick. She throws a party for her lover, the Prince, and invites various people. Death and murder mar the party and Charles and Kate are charged with solving the crime without letting any information leak, thereby avoiding the worse-than-death consequence of scandal. The challenge they face this time is that they are tasked with investigating into the lives of people with lots of secrets to hide, and lots of skill at hiding them.

Ronda says

Interesting view of the differences upstairs and downstairs as well as a look inside the not-so-staid aspects of the Victorian upper crust. Automobiles, anarchists, fighting in the Sudan, blossoming forensic techniques such as ballistics and fingerprinting merge with stories of promiscuity, privilege, and poverty.

Wayne says

This is the third book I have read in this series. Each successive book has been better than the one before it. In *Death at Daisy's Folly*, the mystery - for me, at least - took a back seat to the social and political intrigues that framed it. Daisy Warwick was a real person in history that was, indeed, Prince Albert's mistress. I also read that she was the inspiration for the song, "Daisy, Daisy". Those familiar with the song will remember it being sung by HAL in the Kubrick film, *2001: A Space Odyssey*. All the bits and pieces of historical information that went into this story brought the novel alive in a way that a straight mystery could never do.

My highest praise for this book and what I have read of the series thus far is how the characters are written so well. They are believable and interesting, two hallmarks of good characterization. The writing is neither academic nor pop-oriented. Again, the style of writing fits in with the time period yet is written with a verve that fits into today's audience's tastes quite well. Good characterization, however, is nothing without a psychological dynamic supporting the thoughts and actions of the characters. In *Death at Daisy's Folly*, there are several moments where the main characters share their private thoughts in explanation of their motives. Truly, this is exceptional writing in the field of genre.

The whole Victorian Mystery series by Robin Paige is worth looking into. The writing and the story lines are much above even that found in "serious" literature. Extreme recommendations for this book as well as for

this series.

Helene Harrison says

Review - I really enjoyed this one, I think at least in part because it was a connection with something real - there are any number of books about the future Edward VII (Prince Albert Edward aka 'Bertie') and it was really interesting to see what life around him could have been like in a fictional form. I also loved the developing relationship between Kate and Charles and I can't wait to see where that goes next!

Genre? - Crime / Mystery / Historical

Characters? - Kate Ardleigh / Charles Sheridan / Prince Albert Edward / Frances 'Daisy' Warwick / Lord Warwick / Amelia / Eleanor Farley

Setting? - Easton Lodge (England)

Series? - Kathryn Ardleigh #3

Recommend? – Yes

Rating - 19/20

Lori says

Another solid entry in this series. This time around the mystery involves the Prince of Wales and the upper echelon of British society. Charles and Kathryn work together in closer proximity and the reader gets a good sense of how they work so well together as a couple.

Andree says

I continue to enjoy this series, however, this one is a bit problematic. I continue to enjoy the major pairing; however, when this one introduced the "obstacle" to their relationship, I genuinely thought: "Well, *that* feels ridiculously contrived."

Not ideal is all I'm saying.

The book did redeem itself when the two characters involved seemed to realize the ridiculous contrivance. In fact, the ridiculous contrivance is done away with at about the 50% mark, when the two characters do the almost unthinkable in a romance novel, and actually have a conversation. So, obviously that pleased me.

I found there was a little bit too much, "Kate, your American perspective is so refreshing!" in this one. Although, semi-justified when contrasted with the absolute power of the Prince of Wales. Sort of.

Basically, I continue to enjoy the world, and the characters, but this one was not entirely my favourite. Even if the romance did save itself.

