



Splintered Icon

Bill Napier

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As an antique map dealer in a small English town, Harry Blake appreciates the quiet life. But when a local landowner asks him to value a 400-year-old journal and is then brutally murdered twelve hours later, Harry begins to suspect he's being pulled into something sinister. What does the dusty journal contain that is a matter of life and death? Why is someone prepared to pay Harry a fortune for it? He turns to marine historian Zola Kahn to uncover the mysteries. And when they meet at the old Greenwich Observatory, Harry is convinced there is more to Zola than meets the eye. The trail of the journal leads him into a world of deadly Elizabethan conspiracies, with a thread of history that takes him through a thousand years of religious intrigue back to the blood-soaked Crusades and a long lost icon whose rediscovery has the potential to ignite a worldwide religious war. Combining the thrill of a contemporary chase novel with a historical puzzle this is one novel that will leave readers gasping for breath.

Splintered Icon Details

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Author : Bill Napier

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Di'ana says

Paveikta lobi? paiešk? bei Indiana Jone's nuotaikos nusigriebiau dar vien? lob?, kuris ne vienerius metus išgul?jo lentynoje (bent jau tai žad?jo aprašymas bei viršelis). Id?ja ?domi (užšifruoti dienoraš?iai, tuo pat metu pasakojimas iš j? apie plaukim? laivu su slapta misija, paslaptingas mirtis, detal?s apie J. Dee, jo sukurt? kalendori?, perversm?), veiksmo nestigo, kaip ir pavoj?, bet tai nebuvo stipriausia knyga apie relikvijos paieškas. Tiesiog neužkabino, nors labai m?gstu tokio tipo knygas, suriju jas su pasim?gavimu, bet ne š? kat?. Išsiblaškiusi sklaidžiau per puslapius ir vien tik iš smalsumo nor?jau sužinoti pabaig?. Galb?t ne mano rašytojas ir tiek.

André Belo says

Esta é uma interessante obra de conspirações históricas e maquinações religiosas que se insere na tradição literária de Dan Brown, James Rollins ou José Rodrigues dos Santos. Porém, vale por si, tem ação quanto basta e desenvolve duas intrigas paralelas, separadas por quatrocentos anos, que se conjugam harmoniosamente na parte final. Um livro de leitura bastante aprazível. Li-o num ápice.

Angie says

I bought this when I read the Dan Brown books. But it wasn't as good as those novels, if you like them. There are better mystery/ thriller books out there. I even gave my copy away in one of my book clearing out phases, and unlike a lot of books I regret giving away this wasn't one of them.

Nigel Hickey says

(3.5/5)

Finished reading this today. I won't bother with a synopsis of the plot since that is easily found elsewhere. The story has two different stories within, one set in the modern day, and the other set in the 16th Century.

Overall I enjoyed it. It's essentially a 'treasure hunt for a holy relic while being pursued by bad guys' type of story - which I like. Similar to Dan Brown's Da Vinci Code, though there aren't nearly as many 'riddles' etc. It is a fun 'story', not 'literature' - so if you don't usually like that type of book then you should give it a miss and read something else.

Personally I enjoyed the adventures of Ogilvie during the 16th century voyage the most (which actually surprised me, as I'm not usually a fan of books set in historical periods). In fact I found that character to be the most well developed, and almost wish that the entire story had been written about him - though if it had been I probably would have dismissed it as an historical thriller and wouldn't have read it in the first place! I suspect this was the part of the story that most excited the author when writing it, and wonder if it was trimmed down based on editorial advice.

It's a pretty short read, and think it needed another fifty pages or so, to develop the characters more (including the antagonists). Again I wonder if editorial advice came into play here - if so then it was a pity.

Fun quick read.

Joan Hodgson says

Very entertaining. An easy read. I liked the fact that there were two stories. One the current day mystery of everyone trying to find and steal the icon and the story unfolding with the decoding of the diary

Ken Schloman says

You have two stories in the novel. Clearly the best is the old journal that the modern story follows in pursuit of the religious icon. The modern story is basically bad guys chasing the good guys. Nothing really special. An attempt at the genre Dan Brown popularized in the Da Vinci Code . Falls short of Brown's work but still an OK read. Nothing special however.

Seizure Romero says

My favorite parts of this book are the title page, where we are informed that it was "Previously published as *Shattered Icon*"; and page 153 where the chapter opens as follows:

"Debbie?"
"Harry!"

I now picture people playing a game a lot like Marco Polo, with an 80s pop icon instead of a 13th century trader.

That is all.

Plum-crazy says

The success of "*The Da Vinci Code*" seemed to lead to a be a glut of this genre...priceless artifacts appear/disappear & the chase is on the solve the mystery/recover the item before death, doom & the apocalypse hits! Some I've read have been poor imitations of the style, however this I'm glad to say was one of the much better ones.

When Harry Blake was asked to value a 400-year-old manuscript little did he expect that he would end up in Jamaica chasing an ancient Holy Relic & bargaining for his life

The mention of the relic is discovered in the journals of James Ogilvie & the story is divided between Harry's current day adventures in finding the relic & learning the 400 year-old-story of James Ogilvie & how he came by it. Both parts are entertaining & it all added up to an enjoyable read.

Angela says

From *Publishers Weekly*: Harry Blake, an antiquarian book dealer specializing in old maps and manuscripts, agrees to help Sir Toby Tebbit translate a 400-year-old journal, written in code, that Sir Toby has inherited from a heretofore unknown relative in Jamaica. The manuscript chronicles the adventures of a young cabin boy, James Ogilvie, who traveled to the Americas as part of a secret mission for the Elizabethan crown. When a mysterious woman approaches Blake about buying the journal, he refuses to sell. Later, Blake returns to the Tebbit household to discover that Sir Toby has been brutally murdered. Teaming up with rival historian Zola Kahn and Sir Toby's daughter, Debbie, the trio soon join a race to determine the meaning behind Ogilvie's encrypted text. A trail reaching as far back as the Crusades leads toward a holy relic that could be worth millions -- or could be the key to a worldwide terrorist plot.

Dan Brown has a lot to answer for, number one on the list being the plethora of "hunt for the holy relic" novels he spawned with the incredibly popular *The DaVinci Code*. Not that *Splintered Icon* is a bad read: it's fun, enjoyable, and somewhat more believable than many of its cousins. And this particular take on the genre gives us a look at a relatively obscure (at least on this side of the pond) expedition to the New World featuring Sir Walter Raleigh, his cohorts, and a suspected Catholic plot against Queen Elizabeth. That alone makes this novel worth slogging through the unsurprising surprises and not-so-twisty twists of a done-to-death storyline. Or maybe I've just read too many of this type of novel. I do have a weakness for them, regardless of their familiarity.

Fluffy, but fun.

Megara says

If you are a fan of Dan Brown's books, then you may appreciate this novel. I am no fan of Dan Brown.

Greg Dill says

This was, quite simply, a really good read. Not the greatest, but excellent nonetheless. I loved how the author interweaved a mysterious historical event with a mysterious modern day treasure hunt. As with all historical fictions, there always seems to be elements of truth in them. Which almost always prods to me read more about the actual historical event. I won't spoil it, but it's about a mysterious colony that disappeared, and an ancient relic lost in the annals of history, only to be recovered in fragment. Lots of action, adventure, and mystique fill the pages of this book. If you're looking for an easy-to-read, page turner, that entertains, try *Splintered Icon* by Bill Napier. You likely won't be disappointed.

Thorsten says

Ein netter Thriller mit historischen Fakten, die allerdings um Verschwörungstheorien erweiter wurden

Sharon says

Antiquarian book dealer Harry Blake is called upon to translate and provide a valuation for a journal -- which turns out to belong to a sailor on Sir Walter Raleigh's Roanoke expedition. When his client is murdered, the man's daughter (Debbie) retains Harry to continue the translation.

Pretty soon, Harry, Debbie and several others involved in the translation project find their lives in danger.

Bill Napier's "Splintered Icon" is part historical fiction, part modern-day thriller and part treasure hunt. The story draws the reader in straight from the beginning and doesn't let go until the end. The characters are multi-dimensional and interesting, and the plot is fascinating.

Highly recommended.

Alisha Kennedy says

Enjoyable read. It was a race to the finish to find the True Cross, or a piece of the True Cross. I liked going back in time with the journal, instead of it being all in present day. It gave it character.

Britt says

German title: Der 77. Grad

I liked the Ogilvie part of the book and could have read a lot more about his story as it was very captivating. But I didn't care for the rest. It was just boring.

Why swapped: sounded interesting
why read: monthly challenge on TT
