



# Death at Epsom Downs

*Robin Paige*

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Lord Charles Sheridan has launched an investigation into a jockey's recent (and mysterious) death-while his wife, Kate, puzzles over the long-ago theft of an actress's jewels. But soon the Sheridans can't help wondering if the two strange events are, somehow, connected.

## Death at Epsom Downs Details

Date : Published February 5th 2002 by Berkley (first published 2001)

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Author : Robin Paige

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## From Reader Review Death at Epsom Downs for online ebook

### Anne says

Great history of racing in England as well as some about Lillie Langtry. This is the first of this series I've read and I found it light on the main protagonists, characters I would have gotten to know in earlier books. The mystery was relatively simple and straightforwardly solved. I do love that there's authors' notes and references as about the history.

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### Dennis Fischman says

Who killed the bookie? That's the least interesting secret revealed in this book. Learning about Lillie Langtry gave me more insight into the birth of celebrity culture, and Robin Paige does better than Dick Francis at making horse racing a topic worth reading about. I have to say, though, that having the Prince of Wales wave his hand and make embarrassing problems disappear is not sporting.

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### Tanya says

I have never been interested in the glamour and behind-the-scenes intrigues of horseracing, and it turns out this lack of interest is not lessened when there is murder involved. I skipped every paragraph (and a few chapters) after page 50 that had the word horse or jockey or racing.

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### Lissa Notreallywolf says

Wasn't as thrilled with this as I am with her southwestern detective. I like historical novels but perhaps it's because I entered into the series on book 7

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### Annie says

I always learn something fascinating about Victoria-era England when reading a Kathryn Ardleigh novel. In *Death at Epsom Downs*, the mystery is set against the backdrop of horse racing and the dark world of horse doping. We also meet a very intriguing historical figure, Lillie Langtry, a notorious actress and personality in her day.

"Try as we may, we cannot get behind things to the reality. And the terrible reason may be that there is no reality in things apart from their appearances." - Oscar Wilde

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### Helene Harrison says

Review - I really enjoyed this book, but not as much as *Death at Whitechapel*. I love how we saw Timothy

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again, and we saw Kate and Charles pursuing independent investigations, more like the first few books which was enjoyable to see. I look forward with great anticipation to reading the rest of the books in this series as I love both Kate and Charles as characters, and the mysteries are all thoroughly engaging.

Genre? - Historical / Crime / Mystery

Characters? - Kate Ardleigh Sheridan / Charles Sheridan / Timothy / Edward Prince of Wales

Setting? - Epsom (England)

Series? - Kathryn Ardleigh #7

Recommend? – Yes

Rating - 18/20

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### **Bettie? says**

Bettie's Book

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### **Kailey (BooksforMKs) says**

I liked this mystery and it kept my attention, but it wasn't anything super special. A great book to read on a wintery night curled up in bed, but not amazing literature.

Kathryn and Charles are solving mysteries again, this time at the Epsom horse races. A conspiracy to dope the horses has resulted in a bookie being murdered, and of course, Charles is called in to investigate with Kate making her own inquiries in the background.

As always, I love the perfect understanding and love between Charles and Kate. Those two are a delight to read about!

The mystery itself kept me interested, but there were too many supporting characters for me to really feel invested in them all.

I enjoyed reading this book, and of course, I will be reading the rest of the series!

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### **Cristi McGill says**

Immediately forgettable but fast, fun read for fans of Victorian mysteries! Sleuthing out the whodunit will be a breeze for anyone, but the story is peopled with real historical figures and the characters are interesting.

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### **Helen says**

Despite my usual liking for mysteries with historical English settings, little things about this book irritated me from the start. While the history of the major characters was well researched, other things, like the titles of the British aristocracy were not.

I'm prepared to try one more in the series, as the racing theme of this one was not really interesting to me either.

Another annoyance was the very small print in the paperback version, making it a nuisance for my usual bedtime reading. The overlong quotes in italics at the beginning of each chapter were even worse.

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## **Barbara says**

Really enjoying this series. Not intellectually taxing; not overly complicated; not especially deep, but still more thought provoking than most mysteries these days and enjoyable as you read through. I am still enjoying the mix of real life people of the late Victorian Era with the main characters of this book. In this case the character is Lilly Langtry, an actress and the former mistress of the heir to the throne, Edward, Queen Victoria's son.

Lilly doesn't come across as very sympathetic character in this book. I really don't know much about her, except she was the mistress of the heir to England's throne, but this did surprise and intrigue me a bit.

The book centers on racing and the deplorable and criminal influence (at least in view of the horses and the innocent jockeys) that the incoming Americans have on the sport - basically the doping of horses to win or lose races. I really have hard time reading about abuse of animals. Thank god it was not graphic in this book. It was effective enough (at least for me) to get the point across.

As always, the evolving science of forensics is a bit of a let down in a way (maybe because we are so used to this, now; at least if you watch any crime shows) but at the same, kind of exciting to be there as it gains importance and momentum.

I will continue with this series. I look forward to the next book.

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## **Vontel says**

First one I have read in this series, by author Susan Wittig Albert and her husband Bill Albert, under the name of Robin Paige. Susan Wittig Albert is the author of the China Bayles series which I have been enjoying for years.

It was slow getting interested in this book, perhaps partly due to it being the 7th, and there is history in previous adventures. I probably read at least 50 pages before it really caught my attention.

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## **Kw says**

My first foray into this series of Victorian mysteries. The authors have woven historical figures into the mix, which enhances the interest for me. A good mystery, well-written, with interesting characters and a glimpse into 1895 English society. Wow, that Lillie Langtry was really something else!

### **Vickie says**

I love this series. Each time I read an adventure with Lady Charles and her husband, I learn something from the past. Each one has an actual person from history, this time it's Lillie Langtry, the stage actress. What a piece of work she was.

The majority of the book is about the world of horse racing. This was a world of rich and poor, bookies and lenders, and those that roamed the outskirts. Doping was considered an irritant rather than illegal. Those that condoned it had money to make. Those that didn't want it as part of the racing world had money to make.

The mystery involves a murder and all of the above. It takes place in an area where I used to be stationed so I could identify with a lot of the vicinity.

Rich characters and excellent historical tidbits throughout. I always feel like I'm reading a really cool history book with people I'd like to know.

I can definitely recommend this book, series and author. [Robin Paige is aka Susan Wittig Albert and her husband Bill]

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### **Denise Flynn says**

Simply constructed plot but I enjoyed some of the unravelling of the history around horse doping - no idea of why, just did.

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