



Checkmate

Mark Dewar

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Tenth century Spain.

Cordoba, the capital of Moorish Spain is at the centre of a power struggle in the medieval world.

With its diverse population of Muslims, Christians and Jews, political and religious rivalries are never far from the surface in the city.

After a tense chess match between high ranking officials, one of the players, Aiden - a Christian professor of mathematics at the university - is found murdered.

With the threat of an international war at stake if the crime isn't solved, the Caliph's Jewish Vizier, Hasdai ben Shaprut, finds himself in a race against time to catch the killer.

Each of the chess players comes under scrutiny and it isn't long before another murder is committed.

As the plot thickens will the answer slip through Hasdai's fingers?

Or will he manage to Checkmate the killer?

'Checkmate' is a novel of murder, chess, astronomy and political intrigue set amongst the palaces and mosques of 10th century Cordoba. It is perfect for fans of C.J. Sansom.

'Brilliantly plotted and rich in period detail.' - Robert Foster, best-selling author of 'The Lunar Code'.

'A gripping historical mystery.' - Tom Kasey, best-selling author of 'The Dante Conspiracy'.

Mark Dewar has a fascination for Spain in the time of the Moors, Al Andalus, and for crime fiction. This is his first novel.

Endeavour Press is the UK's leading independent digital publisher.

Checkmate Details

Date : Published January 20th 2016 by Endeavour Press (first published March 25th 2014)

ISBN : 9781522987086

Author : Mark Dewar

Format : Paperback 274 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review Checkmate for online ebook

Ean Kewley says

I chose this book (thanks, Endeavour Press) because I have a great interest in most things historical ... and I'm a chess fan. Well, what can I say about it? Quite simply, WOW! What a fantastic book. Loved every single part of it. I'm now a lifelong fan of Mark Dewar (or Mark and Dewar!) and will read the other books, certainly in this series.

Sara VA says

Okay... interesting opening, but I lost interest. Not something I would typically read, but for mystery fans - probably a good story.
Didn't finish it.... but may try again in the future.

Erica says

I received a free copy of this book in a giveaway. I signed up for it because I'm a particular fan of historical mysteries, and I also am quite familiar with medieval Spain. It was a very interesting, compelling read, and I'd highly recommend it as a mystery. The author also clearly did research into the period, with a number of references and descriptions that help set the reader in medieval Cordoba. Sometimes, though, the prose sounds a bit modern for the setting, which jarred me out of the character's world. Someone less familiar with the medieval era might not find it a problem, though.

Mark Dewar says

'Brilliantly plotted and rich in period detail.' - Robert Foster, best-selling author of 'The Lunar Code'.

'A gripping historical mystery.' - Tom Kasey, best-selling author of 'The Dante Conspiracy'.

John Purvis says

"Checkmate" eBook was published in 2014 and was written by Mark Dewar (pseudonym used by Mark Heywood and Peter Dewar). Five novels have been published under the name of Mark Dewar.

I was notified that the book was available by the publisher. I categorize this novel as 'PG' because it contains scenes of Violence. The novel is set in 948 Cordoba, Spain. Then the capital of Moorish Spain.

The primary characters are Vizier Hasdai be Shaprut and General Ghalib. A noted scholar, astronomer and chess player, Aiden, is found murdered. He had just played six others in a public and tense chess match. Now his opponents, as well as the audience are under suspicion.

The Caliph's son, who was a student of Aiden, charges Hasdai and Ghalib with finding the killer. The situation is complicated by the presence of an emissary from Bagdad. A war with Bagdad seems likely in the future. Hasdai and Ghalib are told that the Bagdadians will be arrested and executed for the murder unless hard evidence is found pointing to another.

Hasdai and Ghalib must navigate through political obstacles, as well as through the tight lipped audience at the chess match. Few want the exact extent of the betting and exchange of funds resulting from the chess matches to come to light.

I enjoyed the 6.5+ hours I spent reading this 290 page novel. The setting in 10th century Spain set this Mystery apart. The diverse population of Cordoba - Muslims, Christians and Jews - along with the political and religions tension made this an interesting read. With the human eye and experience the only 'forensics' available, it was a very different kind of investigation. I give this novel a 4 out of 5.

Further book reviews I have written can be accessed at <http://johnpurvis.wordpress.com/blog/>.

Ellen says

Interesting mystery with historical elements.
