



Baynard's List

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October 1262 should have been a quiet month, that melancholy time following the death of summer dedicated to the chores of readying Ludlow for the onset of winter and the hard months ahead.

But the game of spies is afoot. A valuable list identifying the secret supporters of both King Henry and his rival for power Simon de Montfort has disappeared following the murder of Henry's master spy in the west of England. Whoever possesses that list obtains a significant advantage in the open war that is soon to break out between them.

Stephen Attebrook, the part-time deputy coroner for northern Herefordshire, has been forced to find this list by his former master, the grasping and ambitious crown justice Ademar de Valence — projecting Attebrook into a cesspit of murder, intrigue and betrayal.

Attebrook faces his greatest challenge as a discoverer of secrets as he races to obtain the list before a rival gets it first, while the life of someone close to him hangs on the outcome.

Step through this time portal to 13th century England and relive the sights, sounds and sensations of a lost world as they have never been depicted before.

Baynard's List Details

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Author : Jason Vail

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Gregory says

This is the sequel to *The Wayward Apprentice*, and is a really fun read. The detailed and unsanitized look at the 13th century provides a cool backdrop to a well-plotted story.

Voirrey says

... In which we learn more of Stephen's back story and he finds romance! And in which there is a very good mystery to keep him on edge.

Mel Fouch says

This is the second book by the author featuring Stephen Attebrook, a knight fallen on hard times in 13th century England and just barely making a living as a coroner (the first is called *The Wayward Apprentice*).

I enjoyed the first book and was hoping another would follow, and this certainly doesn't disappoint.

If anything I felt the central story is a better one than in the first book, and that's not intended as a criticism of the first one I just think the author has perhaps hit his stride a bit with this second story and has more confidence in his writing and the characters he's created, freeing him up to focus on the plot a bit more.

There are references to events in the first book, and incidental characters and events from that story do play a part, and I think to get the most from the story you might want to read *The Wayward Apprentice* first, but it's not vital as enough background detail is given in the story. But as it's currently only about 70p on Kindle, why not give the first one a try anyway ?

The same gritty and darkly humorous approach to the period is employed as in the first book, and to equally good effect. We learn a little more about Attebrook's past and the author takes the opportunity to flesh out the other central characters further.

All in all I will be keeping an eye out for the next book by this author.

Jan McClintock says

This was the second book in this series, and I liked it better than the first. I think Stephen is shown in a bit more favorable light, and he's becoming more of a real character. I would still like to see more internal feeling from him, however, as I sometimes felt he was just going through the motions.

The atmosphere is described very well in this series, and you can almost feel the mud sucking at your shoes

and smell the straw in the stable. The town of Ludlow is a real place, of course, and the author loses no opportunity to name the streets and waterways to good effect. Given the setting and story, the violence was applicable. There's no descriptive sex and no foul language.

This mystery had a real surprise in the end, too, which was enjoyable.

Jayne dArcy says

It took me a bit to get into the story but once I did it moved quickly.

Jen says

Baynard's List takes up some of the plot strands developed in the previous novel. The major plot thread in this novel concerns the list that the merchant Baynard kept. There was a list of Baynard's spies (Baynard supports the king) and a list of men believed to support Simon de Montfort. Both sides badly want the list.

If either side gained the list names, the result would be many deaths.

An old nemesis of Stephen's, Ademar de Valence, is the Crown Justice who desperately wants that list to gain favor and influence for himself. He takes Stephen's young son as a hostage to force Stephen to find the list and deliver it to him. Stephen's efforts involve him in a web of deceit, intrigue, and murder.

I thought this one was even better than *The Wayward Apprentice*; a satisfying plot, further development of the characters already introduced, and the addition of several new and interesting characters.

For some reason, all of these are 99 cents at Amazon. I consider myself lucky!

Read in March.

Medieval mystery. 2011. Print version: 219 pages.

P. says

More smoothly written than the first in this series, and thankfully there are fewer martial-arts-isms which I found confusing in the first. Our hero, Attebrook, is ostensibly, at least, a detective. He's not very good at it, as he all too frequently admits, although he eventually gets his man. He's got two methods: spontaneous inspiration based on nothing evident to the reader - he's niggled by things he saw that he can't make sense of [neither could I] until he does, and the blinding flash where all is made clear - except 'the how of it' to the reader - but all is solved. Bad guy exiled or imprisoned. If you're looking for a thinking persons mystery this can't be it, but if you like to be comfortable with characters [not of great depth, but so it goes] as they wade through the omnipresent mud of 1262 England, and deal with the harshness of everyday life, this might be for you. BTW it's KU.

Karen says

Although not quite as good as the *The Wayward Apprentice* (the first book in the series), this was a pretty good second. I was a little blindsided by the ending. I will continue to read the series.

Sheri says

A Good Sequel

Sometimes sequels are lacking in character development and plot, however this cannot be said of this 2nd book in this series!

George says

A Stephen Attebrook mystery set in October, 1262 in the small town of Ludlow, England. Attebrook is an impoverished crippled (lost part of a foot fighting in Spain) who is seeking to earn a meager living by taking the position of deputy coroner. Attebrook is seeking a valuable list identifying the secret supporters of both King Henry and his rival for power which has disappeared. Whoever possesses that list obtains a significant advantage in the open war that is soon to break out between them. As he seeks the list, he becomes involved in murder, intrigue and betrayal.

Leah G says

really enjoyed this one, Jason Vail does great historical fiction. The accuracy and attention to detail is nice (though I wasn't too sure about an occasional "yeah" or other modern sounding exclamation.) The fight scenes are especially good, Stephen is a top notch fighter with nearly any weapon, but his main tool is his soldier's mentality and constant readiness, and will grab any advantage to do the unexpected. But poor chap, it's so annoying how people *will* go on attacking him and forcing him to kill them in self defense and risk getting into trouble with the law! so aggravating for him.

also I liked Margaret's character and how she tried to play up being an innocent weak female to manipulate everyone and get an advantage over them it was cleverly done. Stephen only mostly fell for it, I think, though he obviously liked her, he didn't underestimate her for being a woman as much as most men of the era.

Alison says

This entry in the series furthers the sense of peripheral involvement in broader events, and showcases Vail's strengths of unflinchingly looking at the morally and physically murky world of medieval people. Worth

mentioning are the fight scenes - Vail's somewhat indulgent decision to make his protagonist a god of hand-to-hand fighting does lead a swashbuckling air, and at least contrasts to the standard smarter-and-more-modernly-moral advantages that most writers of crime fiction in this period go for.

Kathleen says

Ludlow England in 1262 was so intriguing, that I had to read this one. My Faunt (Lenfant) is first found in England in this time period in the employ of the Plantagenet kings. I was not disappointed, as the period detail and history was very well done. Stephen Attebrook and some of his associates are a bit more modern than might be expected for that time, but it is a fiction after all.

Attebrook is the Deputy Coroner for Ludlow, and is connected as such, to the Crown. The duties he was responsibility for were accurate, although I thought he might have enjoyed a bit higher status than was apparent. He and his friends and associates seemed to be in danger much of the time, which of course added to the mystery that unfolded.

I am glad that I happened upon this book and plan to try others in the series. Jason Vail knows his period detail and weaves it into a complicated tale. Recommended to those who love mysteries as well as historical fiction.

Pamela says

Set in Shropshire in the 13th Century, this novel follows the quest for a lost list of names. Deputy Coroner Stephen Attebrook is trying to find it, but he becomes aware that others are also trying to track it down and then things take a turn for the worse with a mysterious death.

This was a readable enough mystery, and I liked the setting, but it wasn't as good as the first book in the series. Stephen is a likeable protagonist, but this plot was quite predictable and so his inability to spot the obvious was quite annoying, and not very convincing.

In addition, there were some irritating editing issues. On the whole, the narrative sounds authentic but there are some Americanisms that jar - particularly a character who is said to fall on his fanny! More seriously, a character is called Beth up to Chapter 15, and then becomes Helen in Chapter 16.

Not bad, but I'm not sure whether to continue with this series.

Ken Hines says

This second book of Steven Attebrook was greart

I think this book was better than the first. I really enjoyed the twist of the story. I couldn't believe how the plot changed and how many people had to die for a list of names. What Margaret did was a shocker

