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The Vanishing Of Dr Winter: A Posie Parker Mystery (The Posie Parker Mystery Series Book 4)



Synopsis

Can the past really come back to haunt you? Cambridge, Christmas 1922 Posie Parker has cleared a space in her hectic schedule to try to unravel a tragedy in her own family. But Posie's past is hiding around every turn in the old University town, and she finds herself taking on a new case which is positively teeming with ghosts, shadows and secrets, where nothing is quite what it seems. In a quest to find out what happened to Dr William Winter, a brilliant Cambridge doctor who disappeared five years previously, Posie is forced to confront her own painful memories of the Great War. But just how safe is it really to go digging up the past? And will Posie get to spend Christmas this year with anything other than Mr Minks, the office cat and a lonely heart for company? This is a classic Golden Age of Crime mystery which will appeal to fans of Agatha Christie and Downton Abbey. 'The Vanishing of Dr Winter' is the fourth book in the delightfully classic Posie Parker Mystery Series, although the novel can be enjoyed as a stand-alone story in its own right. If you love an action-packed historical cozy crime with a feisty protagonist, download a sample or buy 'The Vanishing of Dr Winter' now.

Book Information

File Size: 2215 KB

Print Length: 192 pages

Publisher: Whitehaven Man Press London; First edition (February 4, 2016)

Publication Date: February 4, 2016

Sold by: Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01BHDLM9G

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #6,422 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #46 in Â Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Private Investigators #53 in Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Women's Adventure #56 in Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Traditional Detectives

Customer Reviews

Pleasant enough summer beach book - but the author needs a better editor. The book teems with anachronisms! I rather doubt that Posie Parker bought a "half-kilo" of chocolates; in 1922 Britain, pounds and ounces were used. The stone in her engagement ring is described as the size of a penny! In 1922 the UK penny was enormous (similar in size to a US half-dollar), not at all like the current penny, which is more the size of the old farthing. I doubt that in 1922, a well-educated middle-class English person would have used phrases like "thanks for the lunch invite" or "how come...". There are many other examples of period-inappropriate language.

I'm a relative newcomer to the Posie books within the last few months and devoured the first two in the series. With the 3rd and 4th being released simultaneously I wish that I could say I savored them but I read them both. What I really like is that this book has a different feel from the others - a slightly more serious tone which makes it no less enjoyable. Without divulging too much, this book sees Posie looking back into her own painful past but also forward. The years between the wars in England is a time period that I enjoy and there are some very good fiction, and mystery authors, already writing. LB Hathaway's books are so well researched and her characters are honestly enjoyable. Posie is a great heroine in her own right and it was nice to finally get a little glimpse into the past to provide her with even more layers. I found the last page or so slightly implausible but it is not a stretch to think that real people at this time in history were dealing with the ghosts of the Great War. It was a time of great changes and uncertainty but I admire Posie's pluck, fortitude, and penchant for sweets! I really like the tone of this book because it stands in a little more contrast to the others. I think it also shows a versatility in writing style. Can't wait to read more Posie books. PS....I love that the author does not waste valuable time reintroducing characters book after book for folks who might not have read them in order. I don't think it's necessary to read them all in order but there's definitely been story progression with the characters and I would think others would find it more enjoyable to read them in order.

A fan of historical mysteries, I'm also becoming a fan of Posie Parker, female P.I. in 1920s England. Posie was a volunteer during the Great War, tragically lost both her beloved brother and fiancé in that war, and, after the death of her father, has decided to make her living doing what she loves: solving puzzles. This is the 4th Posie Parker mystery and may be my favorite so far, or at least my second favorite after the very first one. Posie has had her ups and downs romantically in these books but she always manages to have a successful adventure solving a mystery in each entry of the series. In this one things that happened and people she met during the war come back to haunt

her, both figuratively and, it may seem, literally. Posie has decided that this is the year she will unravel the puzzle of what had been troubling her brother for some time before he left for the war. And at the same time, she finds herself drawn into another mystery: What happened to medical doctor William Winter, supposedly killed during the war yet recently seen briefly by his widow, who hires Posie to uncover the truth. So there Posie goes, digging around in the past not knowing what she'll uncover. It all turns out to be somewhat scandalous and salacious in one case and sad and bittersweet in the other. And, of course, there's Posie's love life to watch out for also. She's in a rather detached and passionless (IMO) relationship with the dashing explorer Alaric Boynton-Dale, whom she met a book or two ago. Will it last? Will it develop further? Stay tuned.

I'll admit that this series was entertaining enough for me to enjoy reading the first four volumes, in order, but one thing is consistent throughout the series: Hathaway needs a good copy editor/researcher to weed out gross anachronisms. The series takes place in the early 1920s, but the author uses many terms and descriptions that would have required a time machine. A few examples follow. In a couple of the books, characters say they are "gobsmacked," a term which according to the Oxford English Dictionary originated in the 1980s. In one, Posie refers to herself as "an airhead." OMG LOL gag me!! In another, someone is said to be arriving in an Avro jet trainer, which had it existed in 1920 would have certainly changed the course of the next world war. In this one, bomb sites from the Zeppelin raids are described as being hidden behind "chipboard," which hadn't been invented yet, although plywood had. In a previous one, Posie buys a "trouser suit" in a women's clothing store, which in 1920 would have been highly unlikely, as women wore trousers as sportswear or loungewear only, not streetwear. Even things like manners -- a person who invites her to a manor house weekend calls back to recommend that she bring something dressy. No one would have dared go to a manor house weekend without being prepared to dress for dinner, and Posey, with her aristocratic friends, would have known that. Other reviewers have pointed out other, similar issues. Now, the plots are entertaining, although at times they do seem heavily inspired by the original mysteries of the golden era -- sinister secret nightclubs and blizzard-stranded house parties come to mind -- but I find myself reading almost as much to spot the next blooper as to spot the next clue. If you are reading on Kindle, you'll want to keep your iPad or laptop handy so you can Google them (as Kindle functionality is limited in that regard).

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