



Mayan Mendacity

L.J.M. Owen

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Dr Elizabeth Pimms has a new puzzle.

What is the story behind the tiny skeletons discovered on a Guatemalan island? And how do they relate to an ancient Mayan queen?

The bones, along with other remains, are a gift for Elizabeth. But soon the giver reveals his true nature. An enraged colleague then questions Elizabeth's family history. Elizabeth seeks DNA evidence to put all skeletons to rest.

A pregnant enemy, a crystal skull, a New York foodie, and an intruder in Elizabeth's phrenic library variously aid or interrupt Elizabeth's attempts to solve mysteries both ancient and personal.

With archaeological intrigue, forensic insight and cosy comfort, Mayan Mendacity takes readers back into the world of Dr Pimms, Intermillennial Sleuth. Really cold cases.

Mayan Mendacity Details

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Author : L.J.M. Owen

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From Reader Review Mayan Mendacity for online ebook

Tamara Petersen says

Fantastic! Riveting! Emotional in a good way. I never wanted to finish and wanted to know how it ended, and was utterly disappointed when I had to put it down as there was no more to read. I can not wait for the next installment of Dr Elizabeth Pimms. :)

Serena Armstrong says

It was great to settle down into a cosy armchair and relax with the next instalment of Dr. Pimms. Already I can see that the author's style has developed as the characters are well fleshed-out and the narrative carries more smoothly.

I found myself easily transported back to the Mayan civilisation with the tales of Lady Six Sky. I also liked how the author was able to juxtapose some of the issues that Elizabeth was facing in modern life with those of Lady Six Sky.

I have always had a fascination with ancient cultures and I love the way the author breaks down the technical components of the skeletal examinations to make the processes easily understood. Not only does this tell us more about the lives of the people themselves, but it gives the reader an insight into just how much work goes into these discoveries.

Ultimately a well thought out and engaging novel that I devoured in two days (despite what my goodreads start date says). I really do enjoy this series and can't wait for Alexandrian Athenaeum - the third book in the series!

Hayley Lewis says

I'm another one of the lucky readers who was able to read this prior to the official publication date. And like the first novel in this series, I loved 'Mayan Mendacity'. It was a great follow-up to the first novel with some continuing plotlines from 'Olmec Obituary' threaded into the main story and two fascinating new mysteries that kept me guessing right to the end. If you enjoyed the first book in the series then you will love this! And now begins the long wait till I can read the 3rd book in the series.

Mellisa Crawshaw says

I was never one for history at school, but LJM Owen has managed to draw me in again to a world of ancient cultures, really old mysteries and a fascinating look at Mayan history, especially the women. I won't give anything away, but wow, I really wasn't aware of just how much our idea of beauty has changed over the Millennia. Also, who knew Canberra had so many interesting places to visit? A nice, easy read, that reminds

me of "Bones", but with more imagination. I cannot wait for next year when number three is released. It's refreshing to have such a strong female lead in a series.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

After finishing the first book in this series, *Olmec Obituary*, was I quite keen to start the next book. So, of course, it took me a little over one year to get to book two. I finally decided to read this book because I got book three in the series, *Egyptian Enigma*, and I felt that now is the time to read this one and get straight to book three (which I now have started to read).

I love Indiana Jones and I wanted to be an Archaeologist when I was younger. So, books that future Archaeologists and mysteries are really up my alley! Dr. Elizabeth Pimms had to in the first book give up her dreams of being an Egyptologist to support her family after her father died. In this book, is Elizabeth still missing lost career (at the moment), but both her work and family life have improved. Although the return of her fiance is not the joyous moment she had expected. Thankfully a new project distracts her. Bones have been found on a Guatemalan island, and just as in the first book will we get flashback back to the past, in this case to the Mayas. I just love how the two storylines intertwine throughout the book.

It was a great joy to once again step back into Elizabeth Pimms world. I read the book during one day because the story was so enjoyable and interesting. I loved both the mystery of the skeletons as well as the drama in Elizabeth's world. This is a great series and I recommend it warmly!

I want to thank Bonnier Publishing Australia for providing me with a free copy through Netgalley for an honest review!

Marianne says

4.5★s

Mayan Mendacity is the second book in the Dr Pimms, Intermillennial Sleuth series by Australian author, L J M Owen. After a separation of almost two years, Dr Elizabeth Pimms, archaeologist, paleo-geneticist and librarian is very much looking forward to a joyous reunion with her boyfriend, Luke. And maybe an extra nice surprise involving a ring? So when things turn out very differently, Elizabeth is determined not to wallow in self-pity, but instead, throw her energies into analysing the Mayan skeletal remains he has brought from Guatemala.

Director of the site, Diane Marsh is demanding, but Elizabeth is confident she can meet her high expectations. But what she doesn't count on is distractions: younger brother Matty's surgery causes life-threatening complications; Mai, a colleague at the library, makes disturbing claims about Elizabeth's father; and someone is interfering with the bones in the lab. At least she can rely on certain friends and on her family to support her.

Once again, the narrative is split between two time periods: seventh century Mutul and Sa'aal in Guatemala are the setting for significant events in the life of Lady Six Sky, descendant of the Lady of Tik'al; present day Canberra is where Dr Pimms tries to unravel the mystery of sixty sets of remains from a Guatemalan sacrificial well.

Readers may have to suspend disbelief just a little at the amazing efficiency with which Dr Pimms manages to examine such a large number of bones, the rather lax security at the laboratory, and maybe also her incredibly close, harmonious and supportive extended family... As before, certain questions remain unanswered, ensuring plenty of scope for further books in this cosy crime series.

Owen's characters develop a little more in this instalment: Elizabeth has certainly matured a bit, although still making the occasional naïve choice. Her phrenic library adds a quirky aspect: perhaps its purpose will be revealed in the next book? A wealth of information about archaeology, the Mayan culture, glyphs and genetics is fairly seamlessly incorporated into the story, there are a few intriguing mysteries and there is an interesting twist.

Owen kindly includes a glossary of technical terms, a lexicon of foreign language phrases, historical notes and book club questions, as well as six pages of mouth-watering recipes. This follow up is possibly even better than the debut novel of the series, so readers are bound to look forward to the next instalment, set in Egypt: Alexandrian Athenaeum.

With thanks to Echo Publishing for this copy to read and review

Natalie Aked says

This is the second of the Dr Pimms books. I enjoyed the first, Olmec Obituary, when I first read it as a good first novel by a new author. With Mayan Mendacity, author LJM Owen has found her footing.

I loved this book. Like with the first, it's cosy crime, so grab a cup of tea, curl up on the couch under a blanket, and spend a day with Elizabeth Pimms, her wonderful family, and true friends as she solves yet another 'really dead' case.

Perfect for young adult readers with a passion for crime (this isn't a sex, drugs, and rock&roll type story) or the adult wanting to escape from the hectic world we live in.

Mystery Lover says

Love, love, love it and glad I didn't have to wait too long to get book 2. I received a copy from NetGalley in exchange for a review.

I thought the story of Lady Six Sky was fascinating. I enjoyed the teasing out of all the clues to work out what happened in the past. I looked up her story on google and it was amazing. The Mayans were a fascinating culture and I enjoyed learning about them. I recommend not googling until after reading the book though.

There are a few family mysteries as well as the archaeology ones which is good for me. I like some personal things happening as well as the crime or history things. It's hard not to write spoilers but I was happy with how things turned out in this book. I was worried it was going to go off in a weird direction but it didn't. I had to look some other things up on google to check they were real and they are, so I learnt a lot more about other things, but I can't say what without spoilers.

I can see some other readers commented on book 1 they don't like Elizabeth, the main character, but I kinda like her and I like her family. My family has some introverted people in it who get all wound up inside when they have to deal with things so the way the characters behave makes sense to me, as in even if it's not the best way to handle a situation it rings true.

I love the new recipes in the back and the added book club questions. I made two of the soups from the first book and they were both yum.

Can't wait for book 3 because I have a feeling I know what is going to happen next when Elizabeth goes back to Egypt.

Yvette says

I read this book and the first one in the series because it was said to be similar to the Amelia Peabody series. My reviews for both books are the same and thank you to NetGalley for the books.

Even though the protagonist in this series Elizabeth has a different personality to Amelia's these books reminded me of Crocodile on the Sandbank. Elizabeth Pimms could be Amelia Peabody's long lost Australian cousin.

The archaeology in these books was as good if not better than Amelia Peabody as there was more of it and extra reading and notes in the back. The Olmecs are a culture I hadn't heard of before so at first I thought they were fictional but then found out they were real so that made the first book even more interesting. The Mayans were also interesting. I found the detailed description of the skeletons and teeth intriguing, like the descriptions in the Temperance Brennan series which I also enjoy.

In the Amelia Peabody books Amelia is 32 at the beginning while Elizabeth is only 25 so I think maybe Elizabeth becomes more like Amelia by the time she's 32? Maybe not a total personality transplant but different? The one thing these books don't have is a misogynist lead man like Radcliffe Emerson which I prefer. Although I love the Amelia Peabody series I never liked the misogynist characters so Dr Pimms is better in this way, I think, although they are still misogynists here.

Even though these books have a different overall feel to Amelia Peabody and Elizabeth's family is certainly different to Amelia's I conclude it is similar enough to agree that if you like Amelia Peabody there's a good chance you will like reading Elizabeth Pimms.

Brenda says

Dr Elizabeth Pimms was looking forward to Luke being home from his archaeological dig that had kept them apart for so long. She wasn't expecting the shock of what he told her when she met him in the laboratory of the archaeology building in Canberra. But the bones from the Guatemalan dig which he needed her to research and uncover the hidden secrets of the Mayan past thrilled Elizabeth –she was determined not to let Luke's revelation stop her doing her job.

As Elizabeth probed the boxes of bones, separating and itemising, she discovered a lot of the remains were

of children. But there were some anomalies as well – it would take her a lot of painstaking hours and lack of sleep to discover the long forgotten secrets – but she would do it. But when her laboratory was visited by an intruder who obviously wanted to show Elizabeth in a bad light; then a colleague started accusing her of shocking things, Elizabeth wondered how much more she could take. Would the final straw be her little brother Matty's dangerous surgery? Would she fail to get her papers in by the deadline?

Mayan Mendacity by Aussie author L.J.M. Owen is the second in the Dr Pimms series and I thoroughly enjoyed the ride. Set in Canberra, Australia, the visual journey back in time with Lady Six Sky and her Mayan court; the horrors of their day (filing teeth to points, shaping the newborn skull until it was an oval shape as an adult) and the mystery of the current day made for an excellent and fast-paced read. Highly recommended.

With thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for this copy to read in exchange for my honest review.

Angela says

Like the first one, great for readers of cosy mystery and history and family drama.

Read this one in two days, after getting it from Netgallery, thank you Netgallery.

As per my review for Olmec Obituary I can say this series is a great read especially the history and the forensics. The books are well written and kept me guessing to the end. The Olmecs (first book) and Mayans were both intriguing cultures but a bit sickening and upsetting with some of their cultural practices but then maybe that's true for all cultures.

Reading these books made me feel both happy and sad because my daughter is like Elizabeth. She's bright, focussed on her work and had a tough time at school. It was painful to watch her struggle with bullying at school. The same confusion and hurt in my daughter by not knowing automatically how to get along with loud or outgoing people seems to be part of the Elizabeth character although maybe that's not what the author intended. That seemed to change in this second book with Elizabeth making decisions faster. It's still good to see a character that was bullied at school become the lead character in a series. My daughter will love it.

Looking forward to the next one.

Sharon says

I was super excited for volume 2 in the Dr Pimms, Intermillenial Sleuth series, and it certainly didn't disappoint! The story picks up not long after the conclusion of Olmec Obituary, with Dr Elizabeth Pimms facing a new set of bones, and new developments in her personal life too. Written with heartfelt, down-to-earth gusto, the very Aussie characters and compelling mysteries propel you through the book, interspersed with the story of Lady Six Sky, a Mayan Princess. One of the best hallmarks of the series, reminiscent of Kerry Greenwood, is the strong feminist messages, including the important one that girls can grow up to be scientists and professors, no matter how male-dominated the field is. A "cozy mystery" with both style and substance, I thoroughly enjoyed Mayan Mendacity and can't wait for book #3!

D.Ann says

Author L.J.M. Owen has done it again with the second installment of the Dr. Pimms Intermillennial Sleuth series. Our protagonist returns again with her life filled to the brim with family, food, a job which spans many different aspects of Library Science and a passion for archaeology. What a perfect combination!

This story also has a strong theme of feminism throughout the whole book. There are many strong women having to overcome and carry on despite others trying to cut them down at every turn. Lady Six Sky, the ancient Mayan queen that Elizabeth is researching, had the men in her life trying to take what she had worked for, for their own gain and to keep her under their thumb. Let's just say that this was one Mayan queen who you shouldn't mess with and she got the last laugh. Elizabeth Pimms herself had both men and other women (isn't that the worst?) in this story doing all they could to harm her reputation and her career. She had to be smart and strong to get through the situations where the truth eventually made itself known. There was even a bit of detail in the story about Elizabeth Magie who was the inventor of the Monopoly board game, but who was never quite given the proper credit for this from the powers that be. I really enjoyed the story being woven together with this chord of feminism.

I will once again be looking forward to the next book in this series. I can't wait to see where life takes Elizabeth Pimms next!

Sophie says

The thing I love about this series is that you can truly feel how passionate the author is about them. It shines through the writing. The historian, the archaeologist, the feminist, the book lover and the crazy cat lady all shine through in equal measure to create a book full of personality.

Anne says

An absolute page-turner! I loved it! Can't wait for the next one!
