



Death at Blenheim Palace

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Kate Sheridan is at Blenheim Palace to research King Henry's mistress Rosamund, said to have been poisoned there by Eleanor of Aquitaine. But her visit takes a strange turn when her hosts unwittingly begin to relive the legend.

Death at Blenheim Palace Details

Date : Published February 7th 2006 by Berkley (first published 2005)

ISBN : 9780425202371

Author : Robin Paige

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Mystery, Historical, Cozy Mystery, Fiction, European Literature, British Literature

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From Reader Review Death at Blenheim Palace for online ebook

Kelly says

Fun book to read while visiting Blenheim Palace! Love the insight to the history of the palace and its people.

Karen Hackett says

Another great mystery!!!!

Kailey (BooksforMKs) says

In this book Charles and Kate Sheridan are visiting the Duke of Marlborough, and they start investigating the disappearance of a housemaid. But the other guests are up to all sorts of hijinks, and it's difficult to sort out the clues from the red herrings.

The plot is a little thin and sometimes obvious, and every tiny detail is drawn out and repeated again and again. I do like the characters, and there is some good drama. I mostly enjoy reading about Charles and Kate doing their sleuthing, because they make such a sweet couple and a good team.

Steven says

This is another installment in the Victorian/Edwardian mystery series by the husband-and-wife team going by the Pseudonym "Robin Paige." Although this book has some typical elements found in the other novels -- historical facts mixed with fictional encounters -- and some fairly good characterization, this book suffered from having too many things going on at once, and it took far too long to get going. For example, although the reader knows a murder happened in one of the first chapters, Kate and Charles don't even find out there is a murder to investigate until near the end of the book. In this book, two different women go missing, and it is unclear for most of the novel whether the two disappearances are connected. By the end, neither mystery is satisfactorily resolved, and after taking 90% of the novel to build to an interesting climax, the story just... stops. The ending is entirely unsatisfying and feels very rushed -- almost as if the authors tired of the story and just decided to end it. It is very abrupt. Also, nothing new or surprising gets revealed at the end -- in other words, exactly what you thought was happening all along, was in fact, happening. There are no "aha" moments in this story.

At the end of the novel, the authors state that they decided to make this a story with Consuelo Vanderbilt as the central character, and I think this was the first mistake. Kate and Charles should always be the focus of these novels. I honestly cared nothing for Consuelo and every time a chapter came up with her as the point-of-view character, I put the book down, sometimes for days at a time.

This series was so charming and fun to read at the beginning, that I have stuck with it through the last few novels up to this one, but I feel like the authors have gone off the rails with the entire series. The Victorian

mysteries began as mostly fiction, with a few historical figures and tidbits sprinkled in to add flavor and spice. They have become more like documentaries, with mostly-historical figures being the central focus, and Kate and Charles being the spice. I much preferred it the previous way.

Heather says

I am a huge fan of Susan Wittig Alber and the Edwardian Mystery series that she and her husband wrote as Robin Paige is wonderful. As a matter of fact, I plan on going back and getting these books for my Kindle so I can re-read them anytime I want! (Hopefully they are available on Kindle?!)

Helene Harrison says

Review - I preferred this one to the previous one 'Death in Hyde Park'. I liked the fact that Kate and Charles were more central to this one, and I love the mysteries within the aristocracy, although perhaps that is more due to my personal interests than the story-telling; it's difficult to tell. I found Consuelo Vanderbilt to be interesting, but I thought the chapters from her point of view were a little boring. Nevertheless still an excellent and engaging read.

Genre? - Historical / Crime / Mystery

Characters? - Kathryn Ardleigh Sheridan / Charles Sheridan / Winston Churchill / T.E. Lawrence / Consuelo Vanderbilt Duchess of Marlborough / Charles 'Sunny' Duke of Marlborough / Gladys Deacon

Setting? - Blenheim Palace (England)

Series? - Kathryn Ardleigh #11

Recommend? – Yes

Rating - 19/20

Francesca says

Un libro che scorre bene nonostante qualche volta le descrizioni fossero troppo prolisse. Descrizioni che però aiutano ad immergersi nella storia. Purtroppo devo dire che per essere un romanzo "giallo" era fin troppo facile capire cosa stesse succedendo e chi fosse l'assassino.

Anne says

I am truly enjoying this series even though I've had to read them out of sequence. The history of the time and the inclusion of real historical figures almost makes the mystery a side issue for me. Almost.

Avid Series Reader says

Death at Blenheim Palace by Robin Paige is the 11th book in the Kathryn Ardleigh/Charles Sheridan mystery series set in 1903 England. Kate is an unconventional woman for the time. An American, she originally moved to England to work for her great aunt, then inherited her aunt's estate. She writes popular novels under a pen name, and leads a more independent life than a traditional wife's role in English gentry. Charles, although a titled peer with inherited property, is fascinated with the newly developing field of forensics. Together they have earned a reputation for solving crimes with modern methods and great discretion.

This time they're guests of the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, on Winston Churchill's ancestral estate. Subplots abound: the unhappy duchess vs. the duke's mistress, a missing housemaid and her boyfriend the footman, stolen family jewels for sale, a ring of thieves who rob country house parties. Chapters alternate with point of view from many different characters, providing the reader with much more information than either Kate or Charles have until the end. Kate and Charles separately pursue clues, each trying to protect the other from danger. An interesting mix of characters and plot twists. Historical figures include a young Winston Churchill, Consuelo Vanderbilt, and T.E. Lawrence, "Ned" as a young man just starting his archaeological career.

Virginia Adi says

vivid descriptions!

Niki says

let's say 3.5, but i liked it a lot :-)

Tracy Stackhouse says

A Good Read and Informative

Now I am inspired to read their other books. Much better than a "a historical romance," as I was spared the overblown and repetitive. sex scenes. This used actual people who could have been involved. Would have loved to know if the Royal Visit occurred and how the King and Queen related to the Duchess and the Duke. (I do not think I spelled Duchess as indicated by the red line under it .)

Lynne says

Complete and utter drivel - so bad I reached page 100 and wanted to hurl the wretched thing across the

garden. Why the authors think they can recreate the Golden Age mystery and utilise historical figures such as Churchill is incredible. Poor plotting, weak characterisation and simply bad writing. However, that didn't stop 50 Shades of Shite selling by the bucketload. Thankfully, this was a charity shop buy and will be returned asap!

Apparently there are several in this series and words fail me. Luckily, I found a collection of Wimsey short stories to alleviate the Golden Age craving. Why bother with cheap imitations when the originals are infinitely superior.

Avoid!

Ewa says

Quite interesting story, nice background, although slow at some moments.

Laura Jean says

I liked it better than the last book in the series. This one seemed to deal much more with Charles and Kate. I also like T. E. Laurence MUCH better than Jack London as a character. And I enjoyed Gladys Deacon and Consuelo Vanderbilt as characters as well. The mystery would have been a little better if I hadn't already known the history somewhat. That's an issue when you use real historical people in a fiction novel. You know Ned's not going to die during the course of this book. However, I went into this knowing that and it didn't diminish my enjoyment of the novel.
