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Julianna Deering, DeAnna Julie Dodson

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Drew Farthering finds a new mystery on his hands when he arrives at Thorburn Hall in Scotland for the 1935 British Open. His host, Lord Rainsby, asks Drew to investigate a suspected embezzler--then dies in a suspicious accident the next day. However, the house is full of guests with potential motives. Can Drew discover the killer among them?

Death at Thorburn Hall Details

Date : Published November 7th 2017 by Bethany House Publishers (first published November 2017)

ISBN : 9780764218293

Author : Julianna Deering , DeAnna Julie Dodson

Format : Paperback 329 pages

Genre : Mystery, Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian, Fiction, Romance

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From Reader Review Death at Thorburn Hall for online ebook

Rebecca says

"How one is to predict accidental happenings, I cannot say, but I will do the best I can."

It's no accident after all. While visiting a distant cousin and her husband at Thorburn Hall in Scotland, with plans to attend the British Open, Drew and Madeline Farthering are appalled when their host is killed during a riding accident on the estate. Lord Rainsby was an accomplished horseman, which made the incident all that more suspicious.

Joined by Nick Dennison and Carrie Holland, the foursome begin their quiet investigation into the matter, only to discover that the case has more twists and turns than expected. When other house guests exhibit some rather bizarre behaviors, and another seemingly unrelated corpse is discovered, Drew begins to worry that national security is at stake, while Nick is terrified that Carrie is going to leave him again without a promise of "till death do us part".

Julianna Deering has crafted yet another brilliant mixture of murder and mayhem, mingled with the sweet fragrance of vintage romance!

Rachael says

This was the perfect final book to the series, where all those little things--like Nick and Carrie's relationship and a certain mystery I had completely forgotten about--are finally resolved. I loved the sense of the international scene in this one--not so much the golfing (a very minor part of the story, anyway), but how people are keeping an eye on eastern Europe and the new regime growing in Germany, and how it is a controversial topic and growing point of concern. The clock is noticeably ticking down toward WWII.

I really appreciate how the author portrays Drew and Madeline's relationship. They got married three books ago, and yet somehow the adventure hasn't ended! Plus they're still cute and romantic, even after several years of marriage (the climbing up to the window scene was adorable and funny). Like all married couples, they've had to work through issues, but they've also found their rhythm and now they get to help Nick and Carrie work through their issues, having experienced much the same things themselves.

This was a case where I really had no good guess on the murderer. Now that it's solved, I can see why Drew was as confused as I was; it was a sneaky trick on the author's part. I heartily approve. Complex, yet the clues were really all there, if I had only recognized them as such.

If I'm wrong about this being the last Drew Farthering mystery, then I won't be disappointed.

Thank you Bethany House and NetGalley for an e-book. I was not required to write a positive review, and all opinions are my own.

Hannah says

4.5 stars

An excellent Golden-Age style mystery. There's a subtle beginning, and then Bam! A murder. I love the vintage 1930s flavor to it, and the way it feels as though it could have actually been written in that time period.

I jumped into this one without having read any of the previous books and truly enjoyed getting to know Drew and Madeline and their friends. I own the first three books but haven't gotten around to reading them, so I definitely have them on my list to read next year.

The mystery kept me intrigued, and the murderer honestly had me guessing! I caught a few glimpses but didn't string the clues together rightly until the very end. Wow! It's hard to find a mystery that baffles me, since I have read so many. The references to period literature were great, and it was fun to see the edges of a spy movement leading up to WW2. I'm definitely hoping that the author writes more of these Drew Farthering books!

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for a free review copy.

Pamela says

On par with the first five installments; pun charmingly intended. I truly am enamored with this series!

The only divot worth mentioning was my annoyance with Nick's clingy, whiney, love interest. Her initial "fearfulness" was understandable. The repetitiveness of her fretting and whining . . . not so much. A bit of overkill, bordering on maudlin.

Ah, but yet, a jolly good whodunnit otherwise

FOUR **** A Jolly Good, Charming Whodunnit of Solid Moral Repute ****

Kav says

Just when I thought the Drew Farthering Mystery series couldn't get any better -- it does! Drew and Madeline are in fine form as they battle an intrepid killer and some surprising political intrigue -- this is Britain just years before World War II after all. As always the romance between Drew and Madeline makes me giddy and loyal friend Nick finally gets his chance in a secondary love story. Nothing like giving this reader exactly what she wants! The mystery is twisty turny with plenty of unexpected bumps along the way and just the right dose of humour to lighten even the most tense scenes. Fans of BBC period mystery series will adore Drew Farthering and I think we all need to start up a petition to get them to turn these books (six to date) into their next blockbuster success.

Claudia says

I am coming into this series at book six, but it made for a great stand-alone read. I am looking forward to going back and catching up on the previous escapades of Drew and Madeline Farthering and Nick Dennison. My husband and I are fans of several BBC mystery series, and I could absolutely see a series built around these characters. I would recommend The Drew Farthering Mysteries to both men and women.

Set in England in the 1930s, the Drew Farthering series has the feel of Christie, Sayers and James; names well known to fans of British writers from the Golden Age of Detective Fiction. In Death at Thorburn Hall Drew and his entourage are tasked to unearth the secrets of their host's formerly trusted business partner who has begun to act in a very suspicious manner. The investigation quickly turns into the search for a murderer, a search that turns even more deadly and pits our detectives against possible Nazi spies. Nick, Drew's right-hand man, struggles throughout the investigation as he is torn between dedication to Drew and love of country and his attempts to win the hand of Carrie, the love of his life who has a major aversion to his detective work.

Julianna Deering, who also writes under her real name, DeAnna Julie Dodson, may live in Texas, but she provides her readers with a real flavor of 1930s England's upper class. In the fashion of other writers of the same era, Deering provides a cast of suspects and plenty of red herrings. She allows her readers to wade through these and to weed out the important clues, avoiding giving them surprises that come out of nowhere as the solution to the mystery comes to light. Mystery fans will find this book a real treat.

I thank NetGalley and Bethany House Publishers for providing me a copy of Death at Thorburn Hall in exchange for my honest review. I received no monetary compensation for this review.

Joan says

Reading the Farthering mysteries has been a delight. I grew up reading Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers and Ngaio Marsh so these novels by Deering are ones I thoroughly enjoy.

I like Drew Farthering. He's an amateur detective whom none of the officials want to have around interfering with their investigation. I am getting to like his wife more and more. She's a good sidekick for him, someone with whom he can discuss his theories. The repartee between the two is intelligent and fun to read.

I like the setting of Scotland during the British Open. It's a refreshing change from the London area. I like the time period. It's during the troubling years of Hitler exercising his power.

I like the plot. The murders offer no apparent connection and that really tests Farthering's investigative powers. I kind of had an idea of the murderer but there were so many red herrings that I was unsure of the culprit until near the end.

I really like Deering's writing style. There are great scene descriptions. There is snappy dialog. There are well developed characters. I like the historical information. I like the subtle romance.

While this novel can be read on its own, I'd recommend starting at the beginning of the series. Each one is enjoyable to read.

I received a complimentary egalley of this book from the publisher. My comments are an independent and

honest review.

Cara Putman says

There is something about these novels that always makes me think of the Thin Man movies, but Death at Thorburn Hall did even more so. There's a sweet development in a romance, and Drew and Madeline are as sweet and cute as ever, so like Nick and Nora. This time Drew and Madeline are off with Nick and Carrie to enjoy the 1935 British Open. You know if they're going to be there a murder won't be far behind. Unfortunately, one soon happens, followed by others. And our sleuths are determined to get to the bottom of the mysteries. It's a true puzzle and one I enjoyed trying to figure out before I reach The End of Death at Thorburn Hall. I won't tell you if I was successful :-)

Sarah Sundin says

Once again, Julianna Deering brings us the delightful team of Drew and Madeline Farthering and their friends Nick and Carrie. Death at Thorburn Hall provides witty banter, a brooding Scottish setting, characters with layers of secrets, and a mystery that keeps you guessing to the end. I heartily recommend this book.

Lisa Johnson says

Title: Death at Thorburn Hall (Drew Farthering #6)

Author: Julianna Deering

Pages: 329

Year: 2017

Publisher: Bethany House

My rating is 4 out of 5 stars.

While visiting a distant cousin who lives in Scotland, her husband falls off his horse during a ride and dies. Drew asks a few questions and is satisfied it is truly an accident. The victim's daughter, however, is not. Her father was an excellent horseman. She begs Drew to look more into the matter, and Drew soon discovers that the death was not an accident. Someone had tampered with the saddle, but who would want Lord Rainsby dead?

Drew delves deeper into the lives of the Rainsby family with the help of his best friend, Nick Dennison. Nick has more on his mind than murder, however. The woman he hopes to marry has arrived, but she is very troubled being around murder and the ensuing investigation. Nick is afraid she will return to America and stay away another three years or perhaps more. So, Drew is juggling a murder investigation, his best friend's romantic life, his cousin's grief, a daughter's suspicions and a chief inspector who wants no interference from amateur detectives. Then, another body is discovered and shortly thereafter a third body washes ashore from the sea. Are the murder's connected? If so, by what? Drew's detective skills will be put to the test as he tries to find a killer.

My only negative about this mystery was the role of Carrie in the story. She was a distraction and downer for most of the story. I liked Madeline's positive attitude and the prominent role faith had in her life. I also liked the playful interaction between Madeline and Drew. I was intrigued by the mystery of Drew's search for his birth mother. Will he continue to try to find her? Maybe he will finally track her down and have a chance to meet her, or maybe she will be involved in his next murder mystery. I'll anxiously await the next tale and let

you know!

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255. "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Paula Shreckhise says

Death at Thorburn Hall by Julianna Deering is the sixth book in the series starring Drew and Madeline Farthering.

Drew is suave, debonair and entirely a gentleman. Mysterious situations seem to follow Drew and Madeline around. But Drew just can't help himself from getting involved. This time he was asked by the victim to look into suspicious circumstances.

Drew, wife Madeline, her friend Carrie and Nick, Drew's valet, are going to the 1935 golf Open in Scotland. They are staying at Cousin Louisa's estate, expecting a nice relaxing getaway. Carrie has come from the States for a visit. Nick, Drew's right hand man, is hoping to convince Carrie to stay and marry him.

Mysteries abound but Drew forms suppositions that include possible spies. Not to mention someone from Drew's past surfaces who may play an important role. Drew and Madeline rely on God and prayer to sort it all out.

The comparison has been made to Nick and Nora Charles of Thin Man Fame, only with a Christian twist. It was a very fun time trying to figure out how the puzzle pieces fit. The witty banter is very cute.

I recommend this book and the whole series to those who enjoy a retro flair to their mysteries. Definitely give them a try.

I received this book from the author in a giveaway. All opinions are my own.

Iola says

Drew and Madeline Fathering are back. They are visiting Drew's distant relatives, Lord and Lady Rainsby of Thornburn Hall, and planning to watch the Open at Muirfield, Edinburgh. They are not the only guests—there is also a married couple, and a Russian artiste seeking his muse.

Death at Thorburn Hall is the sixth book in the Drew Fathering series. Each book is a standalone murder mystery, which means you don't have to read the earlier books first (although there are some plot threads that trail through the series). It follows the pattern established in the first book, Rules of Murder.

Drew arrives somewhere (Thornburn Hall, in this instance).

There is a death (sometimes there is more than one).

Drew investigates.

The local police force don't appreciate Drew's efforts.

Drew solves the crime with help from Nick and Madeline.

There is plenty of witty banter between Drew, a member of the British aristocracy, Madeline, his American wife, and Nick Dennison, Drew's best friend and the son of the Fathering Hall butler (a friendship that continues to raise eyebrows).

And Carrie is back: Madeline's American best friend, who Nick would like to persuade to stay forever ... However, Carrie is not stupid. She's realised the same thing the rest of us have realised: Drew Fathering attracts murder. Murder attracts risk and danger.

But that's the fun! Well, that's the fun for me, as a reader. Carrie doesn't see it quite the same way ...

The writing is excellent, as usual. There is a cast of characters ranging from mysterious to suspicious. Some things are not what they seem, and there are plenty of genuine clues scattered among the red herrings. The ending is satisfying on several levels (well, satisfying to the core characters. The murderer, as usual, is less than satisfied with being caught by Drew). All in all, an excellent romp.

Thanks to Bethany House and NetGalley for providing a free ebook for review.

Sydney Young says

Great new series for me! And a giveaway of the ENTIRE set -- <https://sydsavvy.blogspot.com/2017/12...>

Occasionally, I'll pick up a book to review, and I'll find that I'm all in. So all in, in fact, that I want to read the first book in the series right away. This was one of those books.

I have always loved mysteries, but my first love in the mystery genre was the cozy mystery (more about the solve and the detective, in a somewhat contained setting, and glossing over the gore). So for me, finding a great new cozy mystery series is like finding gold, especially a book set in England (or Scotland) post WW I and pre WWII.

Death at Thorburn Hall reads, smells, and tastes like the mysteries written by the great dames of the genre. And yet, the amateur detectives, Drew Farthering and crew, so come to life with their own stories, loves, and losses, that this mystery series stands completely on its own in a very satisfying way. Also, for those of us still pining for Downton Abbey, this book fills a need with its upper crust and downstairs characters. Even better, the danger abounds, as murders and would be suspects and red herrings pile up.

I can't say more without giving anything away, so here is my suggestion: sign up for the giveaway and put the book on your list. Then, while you are waiting to see if you won, go read that first Drew Farthering Mystery (better yet, listen to it with the dreamy, extremely talented Simon Vance). You'll be ever so glad you did.

Kudos, Julianna Deering. Thank you for a review copy in exchange for an honest book review.

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

RATING: 4 STARS

?(I received an ARC from the NETGALLEY?)?

(Review Not on Blog)

Carrie has come to visit Madeline, Drew and especially Nick. They decide to take up Drew's Aunt's invitation to stay with them and attend the Open. What was meant to be a vacation for the two couples, turns into another murder mystery. Nick was planning to ask Carrie to stay and marry him, but their involvement in solving murders scares her away. Drew feels obligated to help his aunt and cousin when his Uncle dies and find the killer. When more bodies turn up, Carrie is ready to return to America. I love these cozy mysteries. It reminds me of classic mystery stories from the 30s and 40s which I enjoy. I really hope there are more to come.

Rissi says

Death at Thorburn Hall by Julianna Deering – Fan Favorite (Sleuth-er!) Fathering and Co. Return

Happily settled into their life as marrieds, Drew Farthering and American wife, Madeline, are enjoying a vacation. An invitation issued to the couple by Drew's distant cousin, Lady Louisa. Along with rest and relaxation, they are also in Scotland for the British Open. But time on the links is not exactly what they find...

Instead, as he is wont to do, Drew is drawn into another mystery following an unexpected death when their host falls victim to an apparent riding accident. As more suspicious happenings occur, Drew – along with his pal Nick, begins to piece together the puzzling clues.

As is always the case with any book that has this author's name on its retro cover, Death at Thorburn Hall is full of good things, people, places and simply put, good fun. I will admit I'm a little fuzzy over the opening, and early pages of the book, which in no way reflects on the storytelling or the plot. Instead, this is attributed to the "distracted reader" syndrome. (Something I 100% know I was while reading this.) Because of this, I feel as if this will be a novel that deserves a re-read, but given the fact that I sincerely enjoyed the book so very much, waiting to share about it simply wasn't an option.

Like each book (this one makes the sixth in total) before it, 'Thorburn Hall' is wonderful. From the characters to the settings (the experience takes us to Scotland for this go-round!), everything is perfection. With each book, I've come to love Drew and Madeline as a couple a little bit more. These books are quick reads, fun and reminiscent of so many story mediums I adore most. Reading this reminded me all the more acutely of the fact that I've yet to read *Murder on the Moor* (book five), and I relish the chance to have another adventure with these characters – even if it will be going backward!

The usual shenanigans are gotten up to which pairs with the usual list of suspects that stack up. There are some nice resolutions that those of us who've been with the series since book one will appreciate. Then there is the sweet flirty banter between Drew and Madeleine.

Pulling from wonderful TV series like *Grantchester* or *Miss Fischer's Murder Mysteries*, this 1930s historical series is smart and enormously entertaining. The "voice" is perfection and the characters are 100% comfortable in this world. In short, it's a series historical aficionados won't want to miss.

Sincere thanks to the publisher for providing a copy of this book (sincere apologies to the publisher and

author for the review publication delay); all opinions are my own.
