

Gryphon Precinct

Keith R.A. DeCandido

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"Dungeons and Dragnet... As a take-off of the standard crime drama, Dragon Precinct succeeds nicely. Dressed in sword-and-sorcery trappings, the clichés of the genre are given a fresh twist."

—The Journal of the Lincoln Heights Literary Society Authors and Editors

Humans and elves, dwarves and gnomes, wizards and warriors all live and do business in the thriving, overcrowded port city of Cliff's End, to say nothing of the tourists and travelers who arrive by land and sea, passing through the metropolis on matters of business or pleasure—or on quests. The hard-working, under-appreciated officers of the Cliff's End Castle Guard work day and night to maintain law and order as best they can.

Cliff's End is rocked by the death of Lord Albin. As soon as the funeral ends, Albin's son Blayk takes over and starts instituting wholesale changes in how the Cliff's End Castle Guard is run: enforced retirements of older guards (including Captain Osric), surprise promotions (including Grovis to replace Osric as Captain of the Guard), sword requalifications for all guards, and much more.

Worse, Blayk has split up Lieutenants Torin ban Wyvald and Danthres Tresyllione and given them new partners. Lieutenant Dru, still devastated by the loss of Lieutenant Hawk, also has a new partner. All three detectives catch separate cases, but the more they investigate, the more they realize that all three are related—and connected to a conspiracy that targets the King and Queen themselves!

An all-new adventure of the Cliff's End Castle Guard!

"Unicorn Precinct is a fantastical, funny twist on the traditional murder mystery, with many likable characters and enough twists and turns to keep things interesting."

—Sci-Fi Bulletin

Gryphon Precinct Details


Date : Published January 2nd 2014 by Dark Quest, LLC (first published December 31st 2013)

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Author : Keith R.A. DeCandido

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From Reader Review Gryphon Precinct for online ebook

Andrew says

The latest installment of Keith RA DeCandido's fantasy world police procedural series picks up from the cliffhanger in the previous volume. Actually, it picks up shortly before the cliffhanger, so it isn't necessary to have read that book (although it is a good idea). This book sees major change coming to the Castle Guard of Cliff's End, with some characters departing, and new characters joining.

As always, what helps make these books great is, while the investigative process is straight out of a regular procedural story, the fantasy elements are necessary components. This isn't just an 87th Precinct mystery with guns changed to swords, and half the characters being described as elves or dwarves. The magic is an integral element to the story.

This volume also gets more into the background of some of the characters, particularly half-human/half-elf Danthres. For me, this is the sort of thing that keeps me coming back to ongoing procedural series: come for the mystery, stay for the ongoing character development from book to book. DeCandido's writing style continues to be light, breezy and fun, but he communicates a great deal of depth and emotion as well. He has created a workplace community of interesting, likable characters and placed them in a setting that allows for some fantastical, fascinating twists on the standard police stories. Dragon Precinct continues to be one of my favorite series, and while I know we should eventually get at least one more novel in the series, I hope it continues for years to come. Especially if it continues to twist and surprise me like this volume did.

David says

This series, originally published by Ace when originally released, is an excellent example of a police procedural in a fantasy setting - sort of like Ed McBain 87th Precinct novels, but with swords and magic.

Also, I built a fan site for it!

<http://medinnus.com/flingaria/index.html>

Joe says

great work

Mike Crate says

Gryphon represents the Castle and heart of Cliff's End and this latest novel we look into the death of Lord Albin himself. To complicate matters the funeral of the Lord is attended by King Marcus and Queen Marta and there is an assassination attempt against them. A suspicious or cynical person may consider a connection between these events and indeed the detectives are ready to jump into the fray but Blayk the new Lord is

making many changes in the structure and personnel of the Guard which hampers the investigation but Lord Albin's wife Lady Meerka puts her faith in Lt. Tresyllione to continue to dig into the circumstances that surrounds her husband's death.

Gryphon Precinct is very much the novel where politics becomes a central aspect of the story, this is not unusual for a crime procedural where the investigators are maneuvered with threats, bribes and "for the good of everyone" not to dig too deeply into events. Of course we'll always have the one officer or in this case detective who places the truth above all and in this case that is Danthres even when the city seems to be preparing for war and her superiors are putting more and more pressure on her to abandon her efforts. In many ways this novel brings a fundamental change to the series as characters come and go, only time will tell if the changes will continue the tradition of the crime procedural in that the story is more important than the players.

Abe says

After reading this I wanted more from this world. From the first book to this one was a fun ride. I still have questions, What happens next?

Catherine says

I really have enjoyed this whole series of books, which are basically murder mysteries set in a fantastical land. Great characters, and interesting mysteries. This is book 5, and I'm really hoping there will be more.
