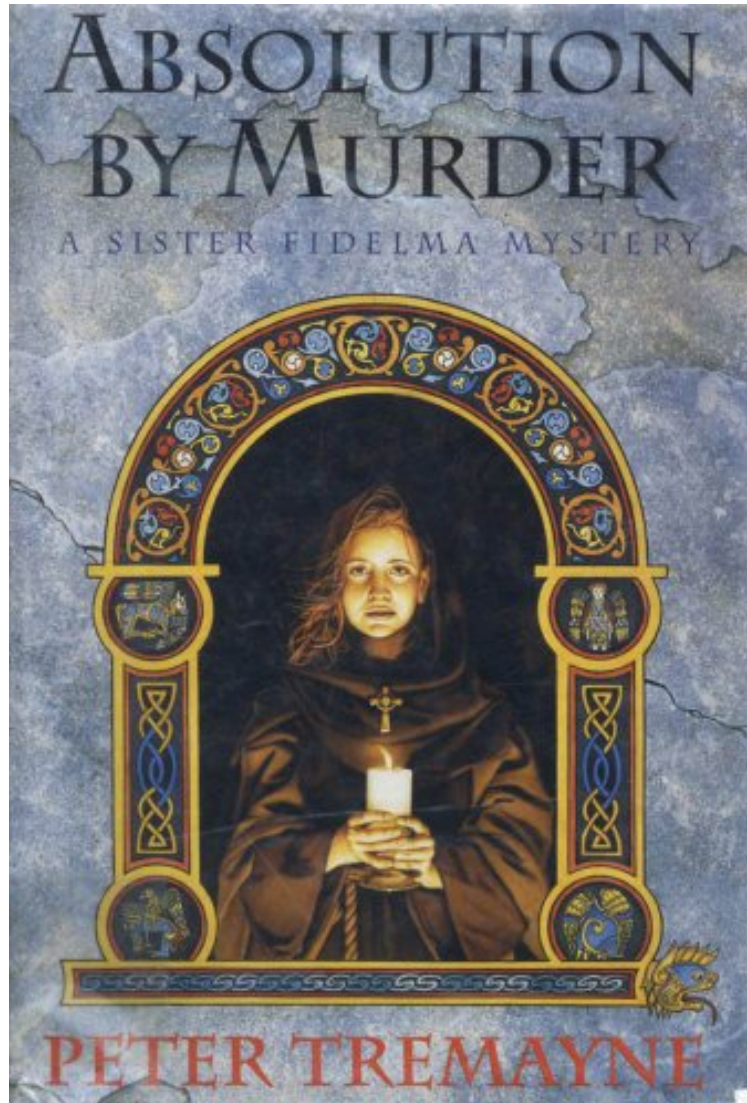


(Free) Absolution By Murder: A Sister Fidelma Mystery

Absolution By Murder: A Sister Fidelma Mystery

Von Peter Tremayne

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Von Peter Tremayne : Absolution By Murder: A Sister Fidelma Mystery before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Absolution By Murder: A Sister Fidelma Mystery:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. more historical than whodunitVon Ein KundeAbsolution by Murder is the (nonsensical) title of the first Sister Fidelma historical mystery by Peter Tremayne, the pseudonym of an academic expert on early medieval Britain, but a pretty capable writer nonetheless. Set in the early post-Roman (or "Arthurian") era of the "Dark Ages," Sister Fidelma is a member of the Irish-Celtic "Columba" Christian sect, and a trained, perceptive, and objective judge-advocate (an

idealized "feminist," in fact). I was most fascinated by the historical background skillfully woven into the slow story. One realizes the diversity, richness, and rationales of early Christian religious groups (later dubbed "heresies") that was lost to the totalitarian impulses of the Roman sect vying with Columba and Eastern Orthodox faiths, and gaining ascendancy in the seventh century A.D. of this story. Most surprising is learning that the extraordinary Western repression of women only began at this time, as can also be seen in other recent historical novels on this early medieval period (like the gritty, ongoing Arthur Saga by Jack Whyte). Part and parcel, one observes here early conflicts over suppression of married clergy by the Roman sect, celibacy deriving from pagan Rome and Paul rather than the Biblical Peter. These historical concerns sharpen the conflict between heroine and her straight man (the Roman Brother with the infelicitous name Eadulf), and fuel numerous regal and ritual sub-plots (although a chance was missed to present a coherent account of the issues discussed at the Whitby Synod central to the plot). I was disappointed to figure out the true suspects and prosaic motivations before the actual murder announced in the title even took place (fault of a neophyte author? but it was fun to watch how an author worked to obscure the trail). The world of Sister Fidelma is less claustrophobic than the late Ellis Peters' Brother Cadfael's, although neither is given to the potential obscurantism of the truly alien ways of speech and magical thought that would be historically more accurate, least of all Sister Fidelma's "modern" clear-headedness. We seem to have lost a thousand years of religious toleration and progress when her Columba faith, with equal rights for women, was suppressed.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sister Fidelma beats them all! Von Ein Kunde I stumbled across the first "Sister Fidelma-mystery" quite by accident; and I have never before had a more lucky discovery! Sister Fidelma is Hercule Poirot, Miss Marple and Father Brown all rolled into one as well as being the female equivalent to the role played by Sean Connery in "name of the rose". Tremayne writes in a style, which can only be compared to that of Agatha Christie, - with one MAJOR difference though: Where Agatha Christie often let her victims die a horrifying death by poisoning; Tremayne displays a taste for variation: The first victim in this particular book thus meets her untimely death by throatcutting, another one is drowned in wine, and a third is hanged. I very much like the way Tremayne entertains as well as teaches at the same time. While I read this book, I learned more about the Irish legal system in 7th century Ireland, than I ever did at university... I have now read all but one "Sister Fidelma-mystery", and I hope that I will not be reading the last but merely the latest!

5 von 6 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great History; Mediocre Plot; Poor Prose Style Von MAdams1492@aol.com I hate to give this book such a low grade, but I feel I must be honest. First the good points: I loved learning about the history of this period, and the insight it gave me into the religion of my youth, Roman Catholicism. Therefore, I am recommending this book to two study groups, one a Methodist lectionary group, the other, a Catholic College honor society. But I cannot suggest it as a monthly reading selection to a secular mystery reading circle. A mystery, it isn't, at least not to seasoned mystery readers! I guessed who the killer was before the first murder was formally announced, and the "why" behind the murders. As a literary work? The prose style was definitely on the level of junior high writing. The characters are cardboardesque. But believe it or not, I am planning to read the next one in the series, hoping that the author's writing style and plotting will improve with time, that is, AFTER I finish reading How the Irish Saved Civilization by Thomas Cahill. I can heartily recommend Cahill's nonfiction work for the history, cultural insights, AND its wonderful prose style!

Kurzbeschreibung In A.D. 664, King Oswy of Northumbria has convened a synod at Whitby to hear debate between the Roman and Celtic Christian churches and decide which shall be granted primacy in his kingdom. At stake is much more than a few disputed points of ritual; Oswy's decision could affect the survival of either church in the Saxon kingdoms. When the Abbess Etain, a leading speaker for the Celtic church, is found murdered, suspicion falls upon the Roman faction. In order to diffuse the tensions that threaten to erupt into civil war, Oswy turns to Sister Fidelma of the Celtic Church (Irish and an advocate for the Brehon Court) and Brother Eadulf of the Roman church (from east Anglia and of a family of hereditary magistrates) to find the killer. But as further murders occur and a treasonous plot against Oswy matures, Fidelma and Eadulf soon find themselves running out of time.

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Synopsis When a leading speaker for the Celtic church is found murdered at the Synod of Whitby in 664 AD, Sister Fidelma is called upon to investigate. However, more deaths follow and the friction amongst the clerics could end in civil war. From the author of SHROUD FOR THE

ARCHBISHOP and SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN.