

October 2018

Revolutionary

By Alex Myers

She'd attended the author talk at Camden and was hooked. Author is a descendant of Deborah Sampson, the subject of the novel, who dressed as a man to fight during the American Revolution. She said she was one of the best speakers she's ever heard.

A Dying Fall

by Elly Griffiths

Main character Ruth Galloway, an archaeologist, receives a letter from a friend not long after his death. The letter tells of bones that he suspects are related to King Arthur. Ruth gets a warning -- "If you know what's good for you, stay away from the bones!" But like all good main characters, she doesn't heed the warning...

Island of the Mad

by Laurie King

Sherlock Holmes may be getting on in years, but he's still doing his thing! After a woman involved in a dispute between minor English nobles disappears, Holmes and Mary Russell start tracking her down. Their adventure leads first to Bedlam (literally), and then on to Venice, where "all kinds of fascinating things" are going on. A fascinating look at the early 20th century.

Stay Hidden

by Paul Doiron.

He's read all of his books, and they've been getting better and better. Stay Hidden is excellent. The main character has been promoted to a Warden Investigator, and is called out to a Maine island when a visitor is killed during deer season. A mainland detective is on the case, too; if the incident turns out to be murder, then it's the detective's case. The environmental descriptions are spot on, and the atmosphere of the island, with its description of the conflicts between two leading families, is well done. Highly recommended.

The Party Is Over

by Mike Lofgren

"I had to keep going back and looking at the copyright date, 2012," because it's a lot of things that we're seeing in today's politics. The book is full of well researched and scary observations (for example, stock traders take 25% more risks than psychopaths do with the goal of hurting their competitors, rather than making money). However, it includes heartening ideas in the last chapter, including campaign finance reform and the idea that millennials are going to save us.

The Death of Mrs. Westaway

by Ruth Ware

When Harriet Westaway gets a mysterious letter telling her she has a large inheritance awaiting her from her grandmother, she knows there's been some mistake -- the woman named in the letter is not her grandmother. But Harriet's in a bit of a spot, as her loan from a loan shark has come due, and she's looking at some serious bodily harm. Maybe she can use her cold-read skills to help her claim it and get her out of this fix? Although I was prepared to dislike the character

because she cheats people for a living, I liked the book; it's really gothic literature, with its setting in a creepy old Cornwall estate. Really well done; a fun read.

Agincourt and Heretic

by Bernard Cornwell

The characters are well developed and believable, and the books include an author's note about the historic setting and time period and how the fictionalized characters fit in. The books are easy and comfortable reads, yet fascinating!