



Nightshade

Paul Doherty

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An unscrupulous manor lord has reneged on his promise to hand over a priceless ornate cross stolen from the Templars during the Crusades. Furthermore, he has massacred as heretics fourteen members of a religious order. The King sends Hugh Corbett, devoted emissary of King Edward I to Mistleham in his stead...

Nightshade Details

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Author : Paul Doherty

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From Reader Review Nightshade for online ebook

Jack says

I love this guy's books. This one stars Master Corbett, the main investigator/troubleshooter for Edward I of England (the 16th book of this series). This series is actually my 2nd favorite behind the Brother Athelstan series. These books provide great background information on 14th Century England. Just great reads.

Tracey Allen at Carpe Librum says

I can't believe this is the 16th in the Hugh Corbett Medieval Mysteries series, and I have them all!!! Not only that, I'm now up to date, with the next in the series due to be published in paperback on 1 November 2010.

I've enjoyed the character development throughout the series. Sir Hugh Corbett wants to spend quality time with his wife, and is anguished each time the King sends him away on a new piece of business. Meanwhile Ranulf is power hungry and keen to advance, eagerly accepting secret instructions from the King. Ranulf's investigative skills and powers of observation continue to grow and he is beginning to emerge as a force to be reckoned with.

In Nightshade, we're transported back to 1304 as Sir Hugh Corbett, Ranulf and Chanson are dispatched by the King to Mistelham. They are to retrieve items stolen from the Templars during the Crusades as well as get to the bottom of the hideous slaughter of 14 seemingly innocent members of a religious order, their corpses left to hang in a deserted area of the forest. Tales from the Crusades, hidden clues, tightly held secrets and a deadly bowman stand in the way of Sir Hugh restoring order and finding the culprit/s.

Doherty conjures the sights, sounds and smells of the period extremely well, which is the main reason I continue to follow and enjoy his series. His descriptions of the biting cold and the fog make me appreciate the luxuries of the present day all whilst snuggling down deeper into my doona. Doherty follows the familiar plot construction of the series, which makes for a predictable style but pleasurable read.

Craig says

If'n you like/love historical fiction from the 12 century P.C. Doherty is the author for you. Start with his first book in the Hugh Corbett series and read about his exploits and missions from King Edward I. Nightshade is later in the series and a very excellent work. Not giving spoilers. Oh and his retainers are good too. Give these books a read.

Maeghan says

Admittedly, I am not objective about this series: I have read them all up to this one (there are more) and love the characters and detail. When you spend more than two decades with people, even fictional people, you get quite attached. If you are a medieval history buff as well as a mystery lover, Doherty is among the greats.

Kalendra Dee says

Sir Hugh Corbett is sent by King Edward I to recover an ornate Templar cross that fell into the hands of Lord Oliver Scrope. Scrope acquired the cross after a Templar stronghold in the Holy Land fell to the Saracens, and he helped himself to some of the treasure stored within the Templar walls. Scrope is also in trouble with Edward in that he exceeded his authority and massacred a traveling religious troupe whom he had labeled as heretics. Corbett finds the village is being terrorized by an assassin known as Sagittarius, an expert archer who has already claimed many seemingly random victims. When another murder is committed in a locked room, Corbett knows that time is running out.

APPEAL: Booklist says, "Whodunits don't get much better than this outstanding historical." This says it all; an outstanding historical mystery and a first rate addition to the genre.

Cece says

I do like the chance to revisit the time of Edward I with Hugh Corbett. This series, now at book 16, remains strong, mostly because of the character development. Hugh has grown gray-haired in the service of the King, Ranulf has changed from street urchin to King's clerk in his own right, and they have fully developed back stories and supporting characters.

Ben Babcock says

I like historical fiction, and I like mysteries, but above all I like historical mysteries. While more familiar with Paul Doherty's work set in ancient Egypt, I still enjoyed this mystery set in early 14th century England. Thanks to Doherty's enchanting descriptions and vivid characterization, *Nightshade* drew me into the year 1304.

I probably have read other Hugh Corbett novels, but I can't remember them. Going off this novel alone, it's hard to get a sense of his character. We spend very little time in Corbett's head; most of the book consists of dialogue and action that doesn't involve Corbett. Still, this isn't necessarily a bad thing. However, it did leave me with this curious feeling that very little of the story was actually influenced by Corbett's actions. So much of it seemed plot driven.

The mystery itself was rather unsatisfactory. Firstly, I couldn't sympathize with the victim, so when we learn the identity of the murderer and the motive, I found myself almost thinking the murder justified. Secondly, the story felt flat for the majority of the book, with very little variation to it. The resolution, in which Corbett lectures the murderer at length as to how the murderer accomplished this crime, goes on for several pages.

As I mentioned in my first paragraph, I really enjoyed the setting and Doherty's writing. I just couldn't fall in love with the plot--it was too flat and, frankly, boring. For fans of the series, this book isn't *terrible*--I suspect it probably won't be one of the better ones, however. For people who are new to the Hugh Corbett series (or

can't remember if they're new, like me!), start with the first book and work your way toward this one.

Doris says

[more by confession than deduction (hide spoiler)]

Deborah Bogen says

Time travel of the best sort

Time travel of the best sort

A great mystery that let's you get a sense for how things have changed...and how they've stayed the same. Corbett is a likable believable character and Doherty is careful to get the details right. Enjoy England when the snipers used a longbow.

Andrew Doohan says

Another wonderful historically set mystery from the pen of Paul Doherty sees our hero, Sir Hugh Corbett, Keeper of the Secret Seal for King Edward of England, sent to a small Essex town to unravel the mysterious deaths and mayhem that had been visited upon that town. Accompanied by his usual companions, Corbett descends on the town bringing suspicion and resentment in his wake, but also his powerful intellect and resolute determination to the challenges and dangers he faces. As we have come to expect in the previous volumes of this continuing series, Corbett unravels the mystery - a solution that took this reader completely by surprise - and brings with it justice and restoration of the King's peace.

Doherty continues to impress me with his skill of combining a wonderful narrative with the historical background that is a feature of this series. More than ever I have come to appreciate his Author's Notes at the conclusion of the novel that outlines the broader historical context of the novel. The mastery of these competing disciplines is one of the reasons I keep coming back to the series.

Highly recommended read.

Lili Kyurkchiyska says

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ELizabeth Livingstone says

Great

Cannot fault any part

The 'cast' never fail to keep me absorbed, twists and turns kept me fascinated by the author's very clever devious plots. Brilliant.

Doug says

King Edward I sends Sir Hugh Corbett to Mistleham to recover stolen treasures, to determine why a group of fourteen members of a heretic religious order were massacred, and find the mysterious bowman who is killing seemingly innocent peoples. When all is solved all of the events are related.

A good medieval mystery. The story take place in the 3arly 1300's and after reading I am glad I did not live then. An interesting part of the book is the effect Christianity had on the characters lives compared to how it effects our lives in this century.

Samuel P. says

This was a good read.

Linda Murray says

I was re-reading this book which is part of Paul Doherty's Hugh Corbett series. As in Doherty's other books,he creates a detailed and atmospheric sense of place,time and menace. This novel is set in an isolated manor house,during an icy,dark winter. There are a series of murders including one in a locked room, which is a trade mark of Paul Doherty. The novel also deals with Templars attempting to retrieve a missing relic,a religious cult,shifty monks and a very unpleasant manor lord and his family. This is a very engaging mystery,well worth a second read. Definately a goodread!
