



Disappearance at Mount Sinai

Jim Musgrave

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It's 1866 in New York City. Civil War Vet and Detective Pat O'Malley's biggest case returns him to the deep, dark South to search for the kidnapped wealthiest inventor and entrepreneur in America. But the widening gyre of anti-Semitism and racism pulls him down into the pit of hell itself. Disguised as an Oxford England Professor, O'Malley infiltrates the anti-Semites' group and travels with his partners, Becky Charming and his father, Robert, down to a Collierville, Tennessee mansion.

At the crux of this case are a Jewish father and his eight-year-old son, Seth. They have developed a unique bond that relies on Jewish folklore and a belief that they are Mazikeen, half-angel and half-human, born from the loins of Adam's strange female cohorts during the 130 years he was banished from the Garden. Will O'Malley find Dr. Mergenthaler before it's too late? What does this world-wide eugenics group have planned for the mongrel races? Read Jim Musgrave's Disappearance at Mount Sinai, the second mystery in the series of Pat O'Malley Mini-Mysteries.

Disappearance at Mount Sinai Details

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Author : Jim Musgrave

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From Reader Review Disappearance at Mount Sinai for online ebook

Ashley says

In 1866 Detective, and Civil War veteran, Pat O'Malley's returns to the Five Points neighborhood of New York City to investigate the biggest case of his career. O'Malley is hired to search for Dr. Arthur Mergenthaler, a wealthy Jewish inventor and entrepreneur, after he goes missing from a protected wing of Mount Sinai hospital but after a hidden passage is discovered and another body turns up O'Malley begins to understand this case runs far deeper than he had imagined. Surrounded by a culture of anti-Semitism and racism, O'Malley disguises himself as an Oxford England Professor to infiltrate the anti-Semite's group and return to the deep South to solve the case and locate the missing doctor.

Disappearance at Mount Sinai is the second Pat O'Malley mystery by Jim Musgrave but it is easily read as a stand-alone book. Set in post-Civil War America during a time of rampant racism and anti-Semitism the Irish Detective O'Malley from the Five Points neighborhood is hired to investigate the disappearance of a wealthy Jewish doctor. Musgrave captures the intense conflict of faith, race and prejudice from this era in American history almost immediately and it never lets go. The underlying current of prejudice and hate is what makes this story so intoxicating.

There is little to criticize about Disappearance at Mount Sinai and Musgrave's talent shined with this mystery novel. The characters were delightful despite being flawed and hateful. I especially enjoyed the conflict between Pat O'Malley and his father. Detective Pat O'Malley is everything his father is not. He is sober and tolerant of various races and cultures whereas his father owns and operates bar in a rough Irish neighborhood in Five Points all the while hating anyone who is different than his own Irish folks. Their strained and yet deeply involved relationship was one of my favorite character highlights of the book. When you add Rebecca Charming, Shannon O'Hare, the Mergenthaler family and the anti-Semite group the cast becomes colorful and beyond fascinating. Disappearance at Mount Sinai does occasionally reference previous character interaction from Musgrave's first O'Malley mystery but it only serves to provide a glimpse at history, there are never any gaps in story because this is the second in a series.

With every turn of the page this mystery became more complex and more intense. As would be expected, O'Malley originally questions the hospital staff and the immediate family about the disappearance of Dr. Mergenthaler. A few interviews and a couple of visits later O'Malley understands that this mystery goes well beyond this simple family. This case will prove to require all of O'Malley's detective skills as he goes undercover to pursue an investigation against the military and top-ranking politicians and officials. Every page is thrilling and curious as the complexity of the case grows and threatens to spin out of control.

Jim Musgrave is an award-winning author and it's easy to see why. The characters are well-developed and feel authentic, he captures the essence of America's reconstructive era perfectly and the pace of the story is steady. The mystery is complex and dramatic without being far-fetched or cliché. Musgrave even nailed the dialogue and interactions between such strongly divided cultures. The conclusion, just like the rest of the book, does not disappoint. Disappearance at Mount Sinai is absolutely a mystery worth reading.

Review by Ashley LaMar

Rob Slaven says

As usual, I didn't pay for this book but it came to me through the grace and generosity of the author. Despite this kind consideration, I share my candid feelings on the book below.

Our protagonist is a Civil War vet turned private detective and he navigates a world filled with deep intrigue and diverse characters. Potential readers are warned that the language in this book could be offensive to some as the book deals very honestly with matters of race and Eugenics in the post-war American South. Personally I find this unsanitized rendering of the time and place to be refreshing but the easily offended should make note before purchasing.

To the positive side of the ledger, Musgrave delves honestly and in detail into the oft-forgotten episode of American history in which it was considered a good idea by many to sanitize the human race of anyone who wasn't white. Those who point with disgust at 1930s Germany are herein reminded that those Germans didn't invent anti-semitism and Eugenics. Musgrave displays to us through his work that hatred has much deeper roots. In addition to his larger history lesson, the author provides us with hoards of other amusing historical tidbits and isn't afraid to sprinkle them liberally throughout the narrative and even takes time to explain them in most cases.

To the negative side, the aforementioned tidbits of history, while informative, can at times seem non sequiturs and can go on for several sentences interrupting the narrative flow. Language too is sometimes a problem as characters of various dialects repeat the same characteristic words or phrases over and over in an exaggerated verbal stereotype of a particular demographic. This can get a bit grating, me boy-o! Lastly, the dialog is at times melodramatic with characters proclaiming that they'll do "something" if it's "the last thing they'll ever do!" or phrase of similar hyperbole. One is reminded rather more of Adam West as Batman than a 19th century private investigator. Luckily these occurrences are fairly rare but when they do occur they do tend to stick out. Holy verbal protuberances, oh faithful readers!

In summary, Sinai is an improvement over Musgrave's previous work. Like its predecessor, it is firmly rooted in real events and expounds upon them in a logical and believable manner. Musgrave's work is exceptionally well conceived but simply lacks a bit of editorial spit and polish. The occurrence of typographical problems in this book is also less than its predecessor and I have higher hopes still for the third volume in the series.

Marjo says

In 'Disappearance at Mount Sinai, Detective Pat O'Malley is challenged to solve one of the biggest cases in his career. O'Malley is faced with solving the mystery of the kidnapping of a wealthy inventor and entrepreneur. The year is 1866 in New York City. The innovator, Dr. Mergenthaler, mysteriously disappears from the Mount Sinai Hospital. In his investigations, Pat O'Malley uncovers a sinister plot that may have worldwide repercussions. There is a conspiracy so complex and far reaching, involving politicians, high ranking military, and the President of the United States. Disguised as an English Professor from Oxford, the detective follows clues to Tennessee, the Deep South of America. O'Malley has to face racist and anti-Semitic groups in his inquiries and search for Dr. Mergenthaler.

The author, Jim Musgrave, has cleverly used historical fact, imaginative fiction, and suspense in the story. Jim enlightens the reader on the post-civil war era and the bigotry of the period through Detective Pat O'Malley's eyes. O'Malley is a character Jim introduced in his first book of the O'Malley mini-series and continues in future books...

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