



A Drink of Deadly Wine

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In the tradition of Martha Grimes and Elizabeth George comes a dazzling first novel about an Anglican priest who finds his brilliant future evaporating and his prestigious church position threatened when a blackmailer comes to call. When a friend of the priest's agrees to investigate, he uncovers more skeletons than he knows what to do with.

A Drink of Deadly Wine Details

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Author : Kate Charles

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From Reader Review A Drink of Deadly Wine for online ebook

Andrew Hixson says

Never read anything quite like this. A character driven mystery with believable situations and people. Now being a regular church goer, I recognised some of the behind the scenes politics. Loved it.

Julie Golding Page says

This mystery was not only in my favourite genre (ecclesiastical mystery) but it also featured life in the Anglican Church, with which I identify strongly because I myself am an Anglican priest. If that shared world weren't enough, the book also had compelling characters who were revealed or developed in significant ways throughout the story. And the mystery itself was interesting. Even more than that, this book had an intriguing development: this is the first book I've ever read which "starred" two homosexual characters who had either chosen, or were considering choosing, a heterosexual relationship by the end of the book. I have not read the subsequent books in the series yet, but whatever happens next, this story twist is a counter-cultural and fascinating one. I'm looking forward to reading more from the author, Kate Charles.

Susan K. says

This book was not an easy read. It is however very thought provoking. The insights into the minister's world made me think about his role in the church, his role as a husband, his friendships and the limitations imposed on him by being gay at a time when it was not accepted in the church, nor by his parishioners. My heart went out to his wife.

Karin Jenkins says

An easy to read mystery set in a high Anglican Church in London. The author does come across as a bit of a snob but nevertheless an enjoyable story.

Sara Eames says

I had never come across the author before but I am glad I decided to read one of her books. I will, almost certainly, bread more of Kate Charles's books. This is a cosy mystery which is very well written. The characters are believable and the plot moves at a steady pace. I did not guess whodunit but the solution was credible. I had a lot of sympathy for Gabriel, David and Emily. Some of the minor characters veered very close to being caricatures but that does not spoil a good story. There was enough detail in the story to keep you engrossed and it was an easy read.

Helen says

Enjoyed this, although it might not appeal to you if you haven't encountered the spiky end of the Church of England at close quarters. (I have, in London, and at the time in which the book is set, so felt quite at home). Also it is pretty slow to begin with, and although I recognise the situation of the Vicar whose gay past comes back to haunt him I found it quite hard to believe that he would be so keen on having his former gay lover to come and stay in the parish when he is being blackmailed about his past (he hasn't been in touch with him since his marriage), and also had some doubts about Gabriel not having been open about the said past with his wife. The book was moving so gently that I was quite surprised when the first death took place! This series was originally published in the 1990s, and in the new preface for this reprint the author points out some things which have changed since then (not as much as one might think when it comes to attitudes). Good to see some lost titles coming back into print recently courtesy of Marylebone House: the print is a bit small, but then my eyesight isn't what it was in the early 1990s perhaps!

Linda says

Lawyer David Middleton-Brown is summoned to St. Anne's church in London by its pastor, Gabriel Neville, ostensibly to advise on the restoration of one of the church's chapels. He is also there at the behest of Gabriel because of the blackmail letters Gabriel has been receiving about his homosexual past, part of which included David. A woman found hanged in the sacristy adds to the mystery which is solved perhaps a little too neatly, but still in a satisfying manner.

Ms Kathryn Pizar says

A different kind of mystery

Although it's not a crime story as such, it is different to the kind of books I usually read. Churches and religion not being my thing, I did enjoy it though. The plot was different, intriguing, and some of the characters were quite odd, well very odd in fact

Clara Baker Baldwin says

Quite a story with many interesting characters. Didn't see #2 at first glance, but hope there is one.

KA says

Surprisingly complex, plot-wise. Not at all, language-wise. But I loved the Psalm quotes at the beginning of each chapter - it really illustrates how all-purpose the Psalms are.

A fun vacation book.

Aubrey says

An incredible debut entry in the Book of Psalms series. Complex and nuanced characters, plot full of twists and turns. Final resolution of the mystery was weak but the rest of it was so good, the mystery almost didn't matter.

Josephine (Jo) says

I really enjoyed this book. The location of Kensington Gardens in London would give the impression that it was a very 'city' based story. This could not be more wrong. The parish of St. Anne's, although in the heart of the city is very tight knit and you could easily be mistaken in thinking that it is a village parish. All of the congregation gather for not only services but events like 'village' fetes, tea in the vicar's garden etc. The Vicar Gabriel Neville is loved by all around him; he has a lovely devoted wife and twins one boy one girl. Everything is idyllic, or so it seems. When Gabriel has a letter that causes him concern he has only one person to whom he can turn, his friend David Middleton-Brown. Gabriel has not seen David for ten years and their reunion is somewhat awkward but David agrees to try and help Gabriel sort out the contents of the letter. As David digs into the lives of the parishioners he unearths quite a few secrets and there are more than one or two people on the list of suspects for the crime that is committed.

I would describe this as a mystery in the style of Joanna Trollope, with the quiet Church of England atmosphere on the surface and an awful lot going on underneath. I look forward to reading many more books by Kate Charles.

George says

An enjoyable mystery set in London with well developed intercharacter relationships. As the blackmailing and death mysteries are being investigated, the past and developing relationships between the central characters in both the mystery play an increasingly important role in the story line. Serving as the story background is a parish church, its congregation, and minister.

Elderberrywine says

A young up-and-coming Anglican priest is desperate to halt rumors of his homosexual past, and who better to call on for assistance than his former lover, jilted but still carrying a torch? Well-drawn characters, but flawed by a no-way! conclusion.

Julie says

Started off slow with an introduction of too many characters but then it completely absorbed my interest. The

mystery plays second fiddle to the characters and their relationships. A good lesson in how there are many loves and no love is bad, as long as it is true.
