



The Endicott Evil

Gregory Harris

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In Victorian London, there exists no greater investigative team than master sleuth Colin Pendragon and his loyal partner, Ethan Pruitt. But it will take all their powers of deduction to determine if a fatal fall was a result of misery or murder . . .

Adelaide Endicott--elderly sister of Lord Thomas Endicott, a senior member of Parliament--has plummeted to her death from the third-floor window of her bedroom at Layton Manor. Did she take her own life--or was she pushed? Although Scotland Yard believes it is a clear case of suicide, Adelaide's sister Eugenia is convinced otherwise . . .

Intrigued by the spinster's suspicions, Pendragon and Pruitt look into the victim's troubled mental state while simultaneously exploring who might have had a motive to push Adelaide to her death. As they begin to uncover a family history involving scandalous secrets, abuse, and trauma, mounting evidence suggests that there is evil lurking behind the closed doors of Layton Manor, and that it is of utmost urgency to expose it before another tragedy occurs.

Praise for Gregory Harris and the Colin Pendragon Mysteries

-The novel is well-paced . . . the interplay between Pendragon and Pruitt is interesting and complex . . . a number of unusual twists and turns.- --*Mystery Scene* on *The Arnifour Affair*

-An incredibly pleasing mystery . . . the author nails it yet again.- --*Suspense Magazine* on *The Bellingham Bloodbath*

The Endicott Evil Details

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From Reader Review The Endicott Evil for online ebook

Debbie says

"The Endicott Evil" is a mystery set in London around 1895. It's the fifth book in a series. They're trying to wrap up the loose ends on the Connicle case (from book 3), so that case was thoroughly discussed. I probably would have enjoyed that part of the story more if I'd read the beginnings of the case. They're also investigating the Endicott case, which worked as a stand-alone mystery.

Pendragon and Pruitt seem intended to be a Holmes and Watson duo, only they're gay (as indicated by a few comments and actions; it's not a major aspect of the story). Pendragon is a brilliant detective that sees clues that others completely miss and solves mysteries that seemed unsolvable. Pruitt managed to spot a few critical clues without realizing what they were until Pendragon explained their significance. However, Pruitt's main role seemed to be to manage Pendragon, usually by smoothing over his socially incorrect or rude behavior with others.

The Endicott case was clue-based. I could see where it was going, but the critical clues to whodunit were not revealed by Pendragon until the big reveal at the end. The Connicle case mainly involved tracking a woman down. I was a bit baffled why the duo didn't anticipate what happened at the end since they knew she was dangerous.

There was no sex. There was a fair amount of bad language.

I received an ebook review copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley.

Laura says

I only got 20% through and I have had to abandon sadly.

Really well written and great character development HOWEVER this is the 4/5th in the series and sadly I hadn't got a blooming clue what was going on!

There was not enough background information given to a 'virgin' reader to the series and it was just too confusing to keep on going.

Real shame!

I will put the series on my to be read list though as I am convinced I would enjoy them!

Susan says

83 year old Adelaide Endicott does not survive a fall from her bedroom window at Layton Manor. Her sister Adelaide believes it is not suicide as Scotland Yard persist in stating. So Pendragon and Pruitt are employed to determine what happened and why.

I enjoyed the story and the introduction to the characters, and I suspect I would like to read more of this series - this was the first of the series that I have read.

But I am not sure that I can recommend it as a stand-alone read as unfortunately there was a story line continued from Book Three which at times was an annoyance as I didn't know the background to the story and it has to some extent spoiled the reading of Book Three.

(N.B In Britain baseboards are called skirting boards).

A NetGalley Book

April Rohrer says

This is the fifth book in the series and the stories keep getting better and better! This novel follows two separate cases that Colin and Ethan are determined to solve. Fast paced, interesting characters and kept me guessing. Loved it!

Elaine Tomasso says

I would like to thank Netgalley and Kensington Books for an advance copy of The Endicott, the fifth Victorian cozy to feature private detectives Colin Pendragon and Ethan Pruitt.

Adelaide Endicott has fallen to her death from her bedroom window. As she is known to be hysterical and believe she is haunted by the ghost of a young girl Scotland Yard have labelled her death suicide. Her sister Eugenia is convinced it is murder and that the perpetrator is Freddie Nettles, the manservant watching over Adelaide that night so she hires Colin Pendragon to prove it. He isn't so sure but his mind isn't totally on the job as the highly manipulative Mrs Hutton, whom he failed to put away on an earlier case, is back on the scene.

I have not read this series before so it was interesting to join it mid-stream. The Endicott plotline works well as a standalone and the Hutton one to a certain extent although I think I would have got more from it if I had already read the previous novels. The same goes for the narrator Ethan Pruitt who made certain mysterious references to his past but never expanded on them.

The Endicott Evil is a solid, well planned novel. There is nothing particularly new or amazing in it but it follows the standard construction well - brilliant detective follows the clues and puts together the solution which nobody else can see. I like that it references spiritualism, a very Victorian preoccupation, and it makes the novel relevant to its setting.

I'm unsure if the novel is meant to be a pastiche of Holmes and Watson with the twist of gay protagonists or if it is simply a construct that suits the setting with Pendragon as the moody smart one and Pruitt as the thicker one, there to provide a foil to Pendragon's brilliance. I tend towards the former but I don't know Holmes and Watson well enough to be definitive.

The novel is an easy way to pass a few hours.

Tam May says

I enjoyed this book overall. I liked the angle of the gay couple working in a Holmes-Watson type of way. I didn't read any of the previous books so I can't speak for some of the harsher comments on them (things like lack of research, unlikeable characters, poor writing) but I didn't find these things to be true in this book (or at least to a degree that they disrupted the enjoyment of the story for me). As a writer, I can only guess that the writer improved with later books like this one (which is commendable and a very good sign). There was quite a bit of reference to previous characters and previous cases that still played out in this book which, as someone who hadn't read the previous books, found a bit confusing. But the main mystery was entertaining and I found this a very readable book.

Beth says

More of 2 1/2 ** This story contains two plots, the mystery surrounding Abigail Endicott's suicide/murder after she fell to her death out her bedroom window. The male nurse attendant, Nettles, hires Pruitt and Pendragon to defend his honor and find how Ms. Endicott, an over 80 yr old spinster whom couldn't really walk on her own, threw herself out of the window. Ms. Endicott's younger sister claims Nettles did it.

The second plot comes from the 3rd book in the series. This is why it really cannot be a stand-alone, IMO. To distract by the chase of the "one that got away".

Good writing. Kinda hints of a Sherlock/Watson duo but with the Pruitt/Pendragon having a "relationship" as they take baths together.

I thank NetGalley and Kensington for my advanced copy. I just wish I felt like I could give it more stars.

Tony Patriarche says

A good Holmes-Watson pastiche with a twist - I really enjoyed the milieu, and the mystery was well done. Sometimes the diction in the dialogue didn't seem right for the period, lower class Londoners (traditionally) don't say "ya" for "you", they say "yer" (with a silent "r"), "ya" seems more New York. Perhaps I'm out of date and Estuary English is now "ya", but this is supposed to be a period piece. Would be 4 stars except for the dialogue.

Caryl V. says

This series about two men, partners and living in London during the late 1800s, work as private detectives and follow unusual cases. Love the atmosphere, the detail, and the relationship between the two. This story was especially surprising and fun.

BRT says

This was a serviceable mystery set in Victorian times, with obvious shades of Sherlock/Watson. While attempting to determine whether an elderly woman committed suicide or was murdered, Colin Pendragon and his partner Ethan Pruitt are brought back into a previous case when a missing suspect reappears. I realize that by reading the 5th book in the series first, I may have missed the buildup of character development & back history. I'm not sure that this mitigates my biggest awkward difficulty with the book. Colin & Ethan are living together as a couple, not just as detective partners. It isn't the living together that bothers me. It's the fact that they're doing it, openly, in Victorian London. The times being what they were, that seems as realistic to me as a Martian landing in London and publicly working with Scotland Yard to solve cases. Over the years, there has been rumblings about the "real" Holmes/Watson relationship and, perhaps, this series delves into that. I don't think that dynamic works as well in a romantic relationship as it does in a friendship/partnership. Pendragon is supposedly as much a genius as Holmes, although I saw little clear evidence of it. He is definitely as rude, arrogant & withholding as Holmes. Watson, as a congenial friend, can overlook the behavior, and sometimes distance himself from it yet still remain friends with Holmes. That type of behavior towards a romantic partner appears psychologically & emotionally abusive, especially when Pruitt just meekly takes whatever Pendragon dishes out. Having a pair of gay detectives in Victorian London might make for an interesting premise but their relationship needs to be more real and less abusive.

Alex says

I really like this series and this ones just as good as the others. I hope they never end!

nikkia neil says

Thanks Kensington Books and netgalley fro this ARC.

Gritty, real, and no hold bar mystery with all the pickings

Patricia Ann says

Easy to read with two ongoing plots. Not many twists and turns to story An usual Victorian ghost story and Victorian murderesses.
