



The Deepest Grave

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British detective Fiona Griffiths, one of the most engaging female protagonists in crime thrillers, is back with a new case to solve.

DC Fiona Griffiths is bored. It's been months since she had a good corpse, let alone a decent murder to deal with, and it's frankly driving her nuts. And then comes the news, and she has to literally stop herself from jumping with joy: not just a murder, but a decapitation, with an antique sword no less, and a murder scene that has been laid out like a particularly gruesome crossword clue.

Gaynor Charteris was an archaeologist leading a team excavating a nearby iron-age site. Genial, respected, well-liked, it was hard to see why anyone would want to kill her in such a brutal way. But as Fiona starts to dig beneath the surface, she finds evidence of a crime that leads back to King Arthur and his final battle - a crime so bizarre that getting her superiors to take it seriously is going to be her toughest job. Especially since the crime hasn't yet been committed.

The Deepest Grave Details

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From Reader Review The Deepest Grave for online ebook

Dolf Patijn says

I absolutely, totally love this series. This sixth book is at the same high standard as the others and the story is just as gripping. This time it is all about ancient artifacts and Arthurian legend. I don't want to give away too much of the story. Read it yourself. And if you haven't read any of them yet, go read the whole series. It's brilliant.

In the author's note, Harry Bingham explains a bit about why he writes the way he does and justifies his plots and storytelling. It is nice to get a little insight in how he sees his writing, but there is absolutely no need for justification. Yes, some of the stories are a little bit out there and I often call his books "police procedure with a twist", but it is that twist that makes him stand out. He says he is more Conan Doyle than Chandler. Still, Bingham's stories are not that far-fetched and are certainly always interesting and entertaining. For those of you who are into Scandinavian thrillers, they have an edge to them that is more Stieg Larsson (think Lisbeth Salander) than Henning Mankell. I enjoy both, but even though Fiona Griffiths would probably get on well with Lisbeth Salander, Bingham's stories are firmly set in Wales and have their own feel. Bingham is a great storyteller and I highly recommend the whole series, including this sixth book.

Mary says

Best Fiona book yet, and I have loved all of the previous ones.

Fiona is only truly happy when she is working a murder investigation, so it is with great relief when, after about a year and a half's dry spell (not a lot of complicated murder cases in Cardiff), she's assigned to work a murder inquiry under the supervision of her new boss, a by-the-rules powerpoint-driven control-freak one with a creepy beard. When she sees the body of the archaeologist, though, and its head, which has been removed from its shoulders by an antique repro sword and sits perched on a side table in the corner of the murder room, she feels like she has hit the jackpot (so to speak).

In the beginning, I was a little uncertain about the Arthurian aspects, but I should have trusted the author, and Fiona. Bingham wove it and the murder and the investigation together so deftly that, by midpoint, I couldn't remember what I had been concerned about. All his characters - including the countryside of Wales - were as usual compelling and fully dimensional. I especially liked the new characters of Katie and George and even DI Jones, he of the creepy beard. Like another reviewer, I was so happy to get a chance to see her dad in action, and to see DCI Dennis Jackson featured more. This book made me so happy, although I must admit that I cried in a couple of places, especially toward the end.

I also liked the Author's Notes at the end, which is highly unusual for me. I seldom ever read them much less enjoy them.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

Michael says

In the notes by Bingham at the end of the book he says he reads reviews. I'm not sure if that makes me nervous or not. I mean, after all, he's a long way away and can't easily come and punch me in the nose if he doesn't like something I say. And considering the violence he writes about (in this book there is an archeologist who has her head chopped off for god's sake!) there may be reason to worry.

But I'm a brave soul, or maybe stupid, so I'm going to write a review anyway. Ha! Harry Bingham, just ha!

So here is my courageous review.

Fiona Griffiths is so bored she's reduced to killing TRexes at work. (Read the book to find out how that goes.) She hasn't had a homicide to investigate in many, many days. And then it happens; the headless corpse mentioned above and Fi is off and running. And digging. (Read the book to find out what that means.)

Of course Fiona doesn't play by the rules and her new boss has a problem with that. Previous bosses have learned to give her her head and get out of the way. It may not be pretty but she gets the job done.

So what does our intrepid and lovely favorite Welsh female detective get up to in this novel? Oh, just a little headless corpse, another member of academia who is stabbed and left in a canal, a third hung and skewered with a sword from the dark ages. Add a kidnapping of a new friend of Fi's who is not long for this world and to add great injury to insult, Kay, Fi's sister as well.

Needless to say Fi is not happy nor is Tom, her father. Even the vicar is upset. (Read the damn book and you'll see what I mean!)

Adventure, fear, heartache and so much more. And one might question whether Arthur's sword is a realistic plot prop for this story. (You should know by now, read the book to find out what that means.) With the way that Mr. Bingham puts words to paper, yes, yes it is realistic.

I wonder if that's enough to keep my nose from encountering Harry's fist. I certainly hope so.

If you are not familiar with this series but you like police procedurals, suspense, adventure, you're bound to enjoy this.

Gary says

This is the 6th book in the Fiona Griffiths series by author Harry Bingham. I was given a short story a few months ago by the author as a taster for this series and was instantly drawn to the lead character Fiona Griffiths. My opinion was that this character would make great reading and I was looking forward to reading a full length novel. So when the opportunity came up to read one I was very excited to start it and I wasn't disappointed.

DS Fiona Griffiths is certainly not boring and as a lot of other great detective characters trouble appears to follow her. A gruesome murder is discovered where the victim has been decapitated with an antique sword and Fiona leads the way to uncover the truth.

The victim Gaynor Charteris was an archaeologist excavating a nearby iron-age site. A well liked and respected woman it is not obvious why anyone would want to kill her never mind in such a grotesque way. Fiona finds evidence of a crime that seems to have its origins in King Arthur's greatest battle and she struggles to get her superiors to take it seriously.

Fiona is a very complex character and has her own mental health issues that make her more interesting.

I really enjoyed this book and will certainly read more of this author and this series in particular.

I would like to thank Net Galley and Orion Publishing Group for supplying a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Hermien says

Fiona Griffiths is my favourite wacky police detective. The mystery is a bit of a stretch but I loved the humorous writing and learned a bit about the King Arthur legend.

Kathy says

Fiona bemoans the lack of corpses..."The figure is '453'...sheet beneath, there's similar figure, but in black biro, that says, '452'. And so on, all the way back to one that reads '19 December 2014, Rhwyn Lloyd RIP.' Four hundred and fifty-three days since my last proper corpse." But then she is called to a grisly scene of murder that involved a decapitation. "As usual, no one has bothered to bring a suit that is even remotely in my size, so I go flapping around like someone struggling free of a discarded parachute."

"Three ancient spears in a dead woman's chest. A savage beheading. An island deserted by its Roman protectors. And a case that feels - almost - like it's been worth the 452-day wait."

Fiona's sense of humor is in full force throughout this book. She takes us on a wonderful King Arthur adventure as we visit archaeological digs and possible sites of "possible" battles according to legend. We also learn the steps taken to forge antiquities and more. This book is great fun!

Kathleen (QueenKatieMae) says

After reading all the Fiona Griffith books I have to say this one is my favorite. It involves the myth behind King Arthur, Fiona has a great new adversary for a supervisor (she hates his beard and power point inside-the-box way of thinking) and we finally get to see her dad in action (been waiting for that for a long time now). In essence, The Deepest Grave is so much fun.

You gotta love a book that starts out with an archeologist beheaded by her own sword. The story takes off from there and I was totally surprised by where it went—dark net, fraud, dead bodies piling up, and an amazing feat of deception pulled off by Fiona herself.

We are introduced to Katie, an intelligent archeology student who understands Fiona and her intuitive weirdness. The supervisor, who immediately butts heads with Fiona, is almost a sympathetic character

because all the readers know she butts heads with any authority. Reverend Bowen, man of the cloth, sheep farmer, and totes a rifle like a pro, is a good man to have around when people step over the line. And Tom Griffith-loved seeing that man in action.

It's a great mystery, lots of detail that requires you pay attention, maybe even know how to pronounce anything in Welsh, that resolves so cleanly and perfectly, even sweetly. And I love the acknowledgements at the end of the book—Bingham explains why and how Fiona is more like Sherlock Holmes than any of the modern post-Raymond Chandler novels out there and it makes total sense. Great addition to understanding Fiona.

Looking forward to the next Fiona Griffith's mystery.

Ingrid says

I looked forward so much to reading this latest Fiona Griffiths, and now I've finished it..

It was as wonderful as all the other ones. I loved the way the Arthurian legend was woven in. It reminded me of the intense discussions I had with my English teacher whether Arthur had really existed or not when I was about 15.

Debra Askanase says

My favorite Fiona Griffiths yet, with the first novel a close second. Hard to tell if I loved it so much for the Arthurian legend and references, which is always a soft spot for me, or for what a bad-a\$\$ she really shows herself to be in this installment. I wouldn't recommend starting with this book in the series, as the true power of this story is the rich history that Harry Bingham has created for each character, leading them to this point in their own evolution.

One SPOILER (though not a big one): it's about time that Fiona has a true friend. I would have liked to have learned more about her friend's back story, and hopefully that will come out in the next book.

Harry Bingham, I didn't think it could get this good!

Paromjit says

This is the latest installment in the DS Fiona Griffiths series, one of the most unusual and compelling protagonists in crime fiction. There are occasions in this novel where Fiona's actions and thoughts make me feel uncomfortable but I still think the world of her. Based in Cardiff, Fi is mooching around, pondering on the fact that it has been 462 days since her last corpse, until she arrives at the scene of a body that has been beheaded. The victim is archaeologist Dr Gaynor Charteris, and needless to say Fi is keen to spend time with the head and the body but only gets substantial time to do that at the morgue later on. The case is led by the ambitious DI Bleddyn Jones, a 'by the book' man who does not get Fiona, and is issuing warnings to her before long. This is a story that enters the territory of Welsh Arthurian legends and ancient antiquities.

Charteris has been working on a dig at Dinas Powys, and a number of items have been stolen from there. Fi gets close to Katie, a PhD student working the dig, who is full of useful archaeological knowledge, and as it turns out, is dying from Motor Neurone Disease. There are burglaries in churches in North Wales that involve items relating to the Dark Ages and Arthur. There is growing belief in the existence of Arthur and the discovery of artifacts from that period of history. The investigation leads to a number of academics, a secret group, and a more ruthless, criminal and murderous presence. With a rising body count and a hostage situation, Fiona finds that Katie and her family are endangered and there is nothing she is not prepared to do to ensure they are safe. DI Jones eventually turns out to pull all the stops to support Fiona, although this does not resolve their differences entirely.

Fiona has her own unique character and has mental health issues that look to be returning, they have been exacerbated with her spending time with the dying Katie with whom she is so close. She seems to be able to cope and seeing her friendship develop with Katie is a real joy. There are other terrific supporting characters such as Fi's dad and George Bowen. Her need to commune with the dead to the extent she does is unusual and odd. I still feel squeamish at times though, such as when she wishes she has Gaynor's bloody head with her in a plastic bag. However, it certainly drives her to find justice for her corpses. I loved the blend of ancient Arthurian legends and antiquities with a compelling present day police procedural. The author highlights the contemporary issue of the rising trade in fake and looted antiquities in the novel. Fantastic crime fiction which I highly recommend. Cannot wait for the next one in the series! Thanks to Orion for an ARC.

Stephen Clynes says

Follow Detective Sergeant Fiona Griffiths in her sixth novel working with the South Wales Police from Cardiff. This book can be read as a standalone, which was good as I have not read any of Harry's other books. The Deepest Grave is a murder investigation that is told as a first person narrative, so your focus is all about Fiona.

I am a fan of first person narrative novels and Harry gives you the personality of Fiona straight off the bat. I kept thinking of Nessa from Gavin and Stacey, although Fiona never asks "What's occurring?". I liked how Harry used the local character of Cardiff in his story even though no character had a curry and asked for "half and half".

I liked the setting of this novel as I have lived in Cardiff since 1991. It was a joy to read a novel set on my home turf and although Fiona travels around a lot, Harry makes sure all the locations are real. It annoys me when authors set their stories in fictitious locations. I feel that readers would also enjoy this novel even if they had never visited Cardiff. Harry uses Welsh place names and words in such a gentle way that English born readers, me included, will view the spellings as normal, for example Llanymawddwy and Caledfwlch.

The plot was good and every now and then, Harry would review the progress of the murder investigation to stop the reader forgetting any of the details and flow of the story. The Deepest Grave covers a lot of ground and issues. I found it a pleasant read to go through. The ending is fine and everything is wound up tidy. What I liked most was the author's note at the end when Harry explains the differences in crime thrillers.

I thought The Deepest Grave was an enjoyable, workaday, GOOD read. It gave me what I wanted, a story to

roll along with, like reading friends' updates on Facebook. The Deepest Grave gets 4 stars from me but Harry does explain in his author's note how different styles of crime thriller appeal to readers. This reasoning I appreciate and although I vote The Deepest Grave 4 stars, for many readers this could be a 5 star read.

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher Orion for giving me a copy of this book on the understanding that I provide an honest review.

CarolineFromConcord says

I love the offbeat Welsh detective Fiona Griffiths and her literate creator, who, if he quotes someone famous doesn't stop to say "Shakespeare" or "Wordsworth," but trusts readers to get it -- and doesn't care if they don't.

I admit I'm not getting as much of a kick out of the complicated technology in his plots as I used to, partly because so many authors use complicated technology. In this installment, the focus on Arthurian legend was more to my taste. And I was beyond thrilled about the arrest of one really bad guy who has long eluded justice.

Bingham is great at tying up loose ends as his stories conclude, but there are two mysterious things that keep getting carried over to the next novel, and that works fine, too.

The plot: an archaeologist is murdered in a very dramatic way involving ancient artifacts, and Fiona quickly figures out that the death has something to do with the woman's Dark Ages dig near Cardiff and is not the work of a "local nutter," as her temporary boss maintains. She works with the woman's assistant, Katie, a PhD student, to uncover the meaning of the arcane clues, wondering at times if the audience for these clues is actually intended to be the police. And what could that mean?

The characters go deeply into the intersection of the Great Britain's myth and history. We learn a lot from Bingham's research and, as ever, from his descriptions of Welsh weather and countryside. Fiona's gangster father gets to play a larger role in this adventure, and I enjoyed him.

I expected a certain unusual weapon to be used by a different character in a different way, but that part worked anyway.

Mystery lovers who appreciate not being treated as imbeciles are sure to like Harry Bingham. I don't think he has ever said, "She shivered -- and not because of the cold."

Brenda says

Where do I start with this book?!

Fiona Griffiths: I have loved this character from the first book. She's headstrong, quirky, self-aware, loyal. She's a detective with good instincts. She gets into dangerous situations with good intentions. She has had a serious mental condition in the past. To get her history, read this series from the beginning with Talking to the Dead.

The men: Fiona's boss, Dennis Jackson, regularly tells her she's a pain in the arse but he understands her. Bleddyn Jones must supervise Fiona while Jackson is on temporary leave, and he doesn't know how to handle her. Fiona's father, Tom Griffiths, has been involved in some nefarious activities. He will do anything to protect his daughters, Fi, Ant, and Kay.

The setting: Wales is surely a magical place. No way could I correctly pronounce the place names, but Llanbrynmair, Caersws, Llanymawddwy, and Dinas Powys sound magical in my head.

Story and History: Murder, of course, and uncovering a plot to defraud. Archaeological artifacts, forgeries, King Arthur, Gwenhwyfar, Mordred. I loved the developing friendship between Fiona the Celtic-British and Katie the Anglo-Saxon. Slave! Barbarian! The quest to find Caledfwich (Excalibur).

I will end with the first chapter. It is one of the funniest first chapters I've ever come across. I read it out loud to my husband and had tears in my eyes. If you've ever been bored at work, you'll be able to relate. I'll give you the link to the book at amazon. Use the Look Inside feature to read it. I checked; it's all there. Let me know what you think!

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07...>

Heidi says

I am so happy that I discovered the Fiona Griffiths series back in 2012, because I have been totally addicted to it ever since and it never disappoints! Everyone who has read Bingham's books will know that Fiona is a very different character. Having suffered from a mental illness in her teens, she still struggles to fit into society, or "Planet Normal" as Fiona calls it, and in times of stress her illness recurs in feelings of dissociation from her own body and a strange connection to her dead victims, which makes her all the more determined to fight for justice for them. With the impulsiveness and sometimes lack of common sense that has characterised her since Book 1 in the series (Talking to the Dead), Fiona usually goes against police protocol to solve her murder cases, which often gets her into trouble with authority as well as putting her own life in danger. However, her intelligence and ability to connect with her victims in ways no other detective can usually brings results, and over the last five books, she has earned herself a grudging respect amongst her colleagues.

I was very excited when The Deepest Grave was finally released, and found it to be a worthy continuation of a series I love. True to form, Bingham delivers a most unusual murder case for his protagonist, who has been impatiently counting the days (462) since her last murder case. Set in Wales like its predecessors, the book offers a fair amount of armchair travel to this mystical place, which makes the series even more irresistible for me (I will never forget the tense and terrifying caving scene in The Dead House, Book 5 in the series). Bingham always manages to incorporate a special interest theme into each story, which saw me learning a lot about archaeology, medieval artefacts and the King Arthur legend in this latest instalment. With a brutally beheaded corpse setting the scene, the peppermint-tea-drinking and weed-smoking Fiona has her work cut out for her to solve this murder case before more people are killed, and she does so in the unconventional, thinking-outside-the-square way that has endeared her to followers of the series.

In his blog, author Harry Bingham stated that he wanted his first book to revolve as much around the mystery of Fiona's character as it does around the crime she's investigating, and he is staying true to this original idea by revealing little snippets of Fiona's past in each book in the series. Fans will be pleased to

hear that the great cast of supporting characters from Fiona's work and private life are all back in The Deepest Grave, and that we get to know a few more interesting characters who may feature in future novels (I would love to see Katie back and see how she fares).

Siriol Jenkins' narration was perfect for Fiona's voice, and I was very happy that she continued narrating the series!

The Fiona Griffiths series is one of my all-time-favourite police procedural series, and will appeal to anyone who likes unusual murder cases with an oddball detective who doesn't fit any mould. Bingham's style to revolve his cases around different, interesting subject matters and incorporating details about the case that broaden the reader's knowledge base on the subject whilst thrilling and entertaining, have made this series stand out from the fray. Whilst The Deepest Grave can be read as a stand-alone, I highly recommend starting the series at Book 1, which will give all the necessary background into Fiona's life that makes her character so special. Highly recommended, and I am already looking forward to the next book in the series.

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Sandy says

Tons of reviews already so I'll just add that while this is not my favourite in the series, it's always good to spend time with Fiona. Definitely one of the most original & compelling characters in crime fiction. I really enjoyed the historical angle & loved the twist/surprise info dropped at the end. Bring on #7!
