



Deadly Nightshade

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Henry Gamadge investigates the death of a state trooper and the poisoning of three children by nightshade, proving that the murders are all related and, in the process, unearthing a few scandals as well.

Deadly Nightshade Details

Date : Published December 31st 1993 by Thorndike Press (first published 1940)

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Author : Elizabeth Daly

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From Reader Review Deadly Nightshade for online ebook

Lisa Kucharski says

Real twisted and difficult mystery, I felt dizzy with all the driving about and finding bits of pieces of information here and there. Several children are poisoned with nightshade, one dies and the puzzle begins. This is the second Gamage mystery and we return to the location where Gamage had his first mystery...

Christine Cody says

Wow. It's easy to see why Elizabeth Daly was Agatha Christie's favorite mystery writer. Her creation, Henry Gamadge, is a low-key, rather unassuming rare book expert who solves crimes without ruffling anyone's feathers. Everyone seems to like him, which is high praise in a murder mystery. The story was intriguing from page 1 until the very end. And, despite knowing as much as everyone else in the story did, I had not clue who the murderer was. I expect that all readers would be similarly entertained and surprised.

Bayneeta says

I enjoyed this. Liked the characters and initially I thought this would be a four star book. However, while the mystery was solved and explained and wrapped up very neatly, it was confusing as all get out. And what I did follow of the wrap up just seemed so enormously unbelievable. Still there is an appeal, and I will try the next in the series.

Julie says

Very clever, fun read, but I honestly didn't have any idea what was going on half the time.

Bev says

Deadly Nightshade (1940) by Elizabeth Daly is the second in her Henry Gamadge series. Gamadge is a bibliophile and consultant on old books, autographs, and inks. He lives on the East Side of New York, but is willing to roam afield to investigate a suspicious signature....or an untimely death. This second adventure finds him returning to Maine (site of his first recorded case) at the behest of Detective Mitchell. Three children have been poisoned with nightshade berries with two recoveries and one fatality--and one more little girl is missing. The locals want to blame it on the gypsies camping in the woods. They're willing to accept that the berries may have been given out by mistake, but they want a scapegoat and are hankering to run the gypsies out of town.

Mitchell isn't sold on the idea, but he also can't find any other explanation. So, he calls upon Gamadge who has proven able in the past to see solutions that others miss. He soon discovers that a mysterious woman visited the homes of the children before they took ill. Was she a gypsy in disguise? Was she a harmless representative of a magazine as she claimed? Or did her disguise hide someone more closely associated with one or more of the families? A state trooper also died during that time period in what was determined to be an accident. But Gamadge wonders if that death is part of the same puzzle. Mitchell takes him around to meet the various families involved and slowly the bibliophile begins to see the pattern behind the poisonings.

This is a rather intricate story that was, at times, a little hard to follow. I ascribe part of that to the fact this particular edition is abridged--not my preference for reading (especially mysteries), but thus far this is the only edition I've been able to find in my used bookstore/booksale ramblings. Fortunately, Gamadge is as engaging as ever and the supporting characters are interesting as well. The plot is a bit convoluted, but with a hint of belief suspension it does make sense in the end. I'd be interested to know if I'd figure it out when reading the unabridged version. Good solid fare and an enjoyable read.

First posted on my blog My Reader's Block. Please request permission before reposting. Thanks.

dmayr says

A neat, well-plotted story, with well-drawn characters who kept me interested in finding out who the culprit was and why.

Mark Macatee says

I love these characters but absolutely hated this book. It was so bloody confusing that I couldn't even keep the characters straight. And it wasn't until the very very end when Gamadge explained how he had figured the solution out that I even understood what had happened. Just terribly terribly written. I don't know if I will try book three and I've already purchased it. So disappointing.

Kate says

For my full review click on the link below:
<https://crossexaminingcrime.wordpress...>

Susan says

Henry Gamadge is asked to visit Maine to find out, if he can, how several children were poisoned by deadly nightshade. The local gypsies are possible culprits, but neither Gamadge nor the police thinks the case is that simple.

Diane says

3 1/2 stars - review to follow.
