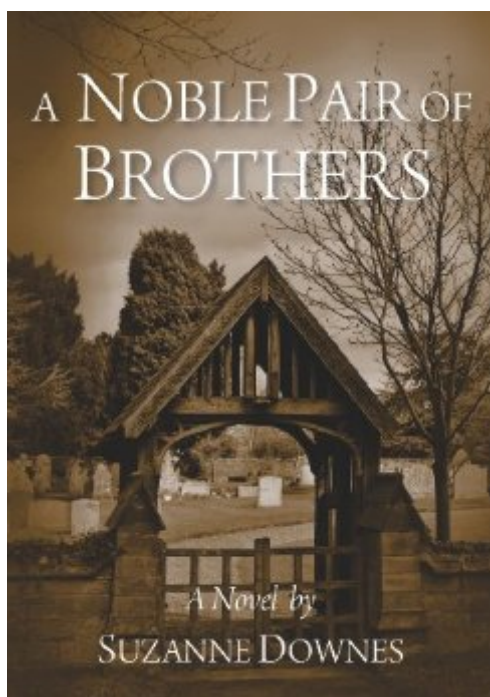


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A Noble Pair Of Brothers (The Underwood Mysteries Book 1)



Synopsis

An historical murder mystery set in the 1820's. When C. H. Underwood arrives in the village of Bracken Tor in the spring of 1820, he intends only to visit his brother, the vicar, and take a long rest from his work as a Classics tutor at Cambridge University. However, almost as soon as he arrives he finds himself intrigued by an unsolved murder, committed the year before. The headless corpse of a young woman was found in woods belonging to the local landowner and Magistrate, Sir Henry Wynter. Underwood finds the notion that the body lies in a grave marked "Unknown" to be abhorrent. He decides to use his free time to discover the identity of the victim and if possible bring her killer to justice. His brother begs him to proceed with caution, as the murder had roused feelings of a controversial nature amongst the villagers. Before long he has uncovered not only the girl's final movements before her death, but also the possibility of two other murders having taken place in Bracken Tor. His task is not made any less complicated by his developing relationship with Charlotte, one of Sir Henry's daughters, and by the myriad characters he comes across in his investigation. The theory that the girl had been killed as some sort of barbaric ritual is only one of his difficulties, and when a young man arrives in the midst of a cricket match, claiming to be the victim's husband, the whole village becomes privy to the fact that Underwood is attempting to solve the mystery. When the newcomer is shot through the heart whilst in Underwood's company, he finds himself not only universally reviled for his interference, but also accused of murder himself. It takes all his ingenuity to extricate himself from the chaos he has caused, but he always has Verity Chapell, governess to the Wynter girls, to help him in his quest to find the murderer.

Book Information

File Size: 1648 KB

Print Length: 302 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Suzanne Downes; 1 edition (January 15, 2014)

Publication Date: January 15, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00HWFEVRE

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #4,647 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #34 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Historical #43 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Traditional Detectives #44 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > British Detectives

Customer Reviews

Up to halfway through the book, I thought I would rate this book a 4. I genuinely liked the writing and I thought the characters were interesting. But as the book went on, several things began to really annoy me. There were way too many spelling errors and missing or wrong words. And the kindle formatting was just horrible. It was as if virtually no one had taken one minute to proofread or check the book once it was uploaded. Another irritation was that the author changes speakers in the middle of the same paragraph and often doesn't use dialogue tags, making it very difficult to figure out who's talking. And the Victorian sentence structure of long and protracted sentences just became boring and cumbersome. I often had to re-read sentences to figure out what had been said. The mystery, while interesting, was not the focus of the story, nor did the protagonist do much investigating. In fact, he figured things out in the end without telling us - the reader - and suddenly confronts the killer(s). And when he does finally explain how he knew, it didn't make much sense. The mystery also turned out to be quite convoluted, and yet wrapped up with the snap of a finger. The main thrust of the book is actually the romance between the main character and various women, which frankly just wasn't believable. The main character is initially presented as someone who is virtually afraid of even being in the general vicinity of the opposite sex. And yet, every female within spitting distance seems to fall in love with him. And he never seems to know it. He's just a complete nim-wit over and over again. Finally, he falls in love with a young girl half his age just because she's pretty. This match up never makes sense until you realize it's all a set up.

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