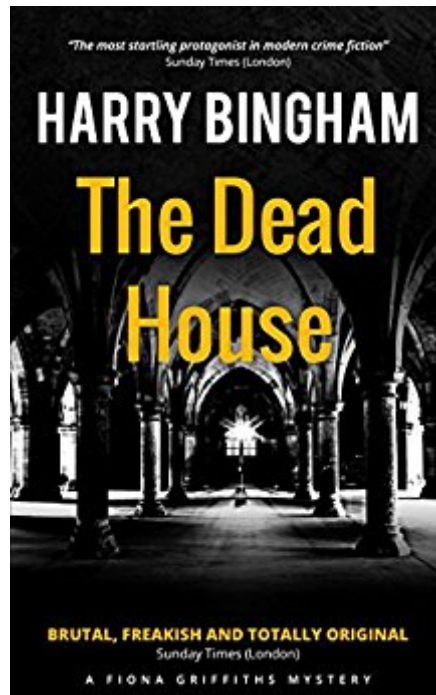




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The Dead House (Fiona Griffiths Crime Thriller Series Book 5)



Synopsis

Midnight in a country churchyard. A corpse lying at peace. The dead woman looks totally peaceful and there are no marks of violence. But why is she here, in this remote spot? Why does no one come forward to identify her? And why is she wearing a thin white dress on this howling October night? When young Welsh police sergeant Fiona Griffiths starts to investigate, her enquiries take her to a quiet monastery buried deep in the Welsh hills. And when she finds that a young teenager from the area went missing a few years earlier, her anxieties start to deepen. In a terrifying denouement - with echoes of Edgar Allan Poe - Fiona discovers the true horror of this crime . . . and she risks becoming its very next victim. The Fiona Griffiths crime thriller series has won countless admirers round the world. If you're looking for a gripping thriller led by a strong female protagonist, then look no further. THE DEAD HOUSE is your kind of book.

Book Information

File Size: 2323 KB

Print Length: 500 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Sheep Street Books (July 29, 2016)

Publication Date: July 29, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01GYJHBSY

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

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Customer Reviews

I have read all five books now in this remarkable series, and am delighted to report that the reading pleasure just keeps improving. Thank you Harry Bingham for giving us this character, detective

sergeant (now) Fiona Griffiths, and these superb novels. The Dead House is a reference to a medieval practice of providing a place for corpses prior to their internment for those whose own lodgings lack the space - or ventilation or peace or place for reverent reflection - that the recently departed deserve. In Wales, a body is found of a young woman in a former dead house and soon Fiona is off on another wild adventure. The pacing is deliberate with background and detail that may at first seem undirected but which soon builds in tempo and deepening mystery. The reader will be well served in taking time for reflection. Why won't this little pool of water drain properly? What secret is former suspect Roberts withholding? Why is Fiona intent on reviewing license plates? Along the way, Harry Bingham provides a variety of fascinating detail on rhinoplasty and spelunking, seed digestion and prayer, creating an intriguing tapestry of place, character, and plot. Our protagonist Fiona is constantly changing direction it seems until the reader comes to appreciate that the path she is following is straightforward. Peril follows insight, of course, and the resilience required to recover and bring justice makes one breathless. So many books get five stars from readers (I am guilty too), but this book, this character, this series makes me wish I had never given this rating to the many less deserving works so that my rating here would be uniquely high. My impulse on completing this compelling read was to run to author Bingham's next public appearance so that I might hug him in a display of pure gratitude. Please rush out and read this whole series from beginning to end. I know you will thank me.

This is one of my very favorite series, and one that I buy the new books as soon as they're available -- that's unusual for me. Fiona Griffiths is a fascinating protagonist -- a young Welsh detective with a complicated backstory. As this book opens Griffiths is called to a remote scene where she encounters a lovely corpse. But is it a murder? The detective has a profoundly unique narrative voice, and her approach to mysteries is a pleasure to read. Wales itself is almost a character -- so vividly drawn, so central to the characters and story. I'd give this book 4-1/2 stars. I thought Fiona's perspective, usually so skewed but also insightful, was less evident in the first third of the book, and I missed it. I also thought the mystery itself wasn't as interesting as those in previous books. The bad guys aren't as interesting or malevolent. But that said, I thoroughly enjoyed the time spent with one of my favorite detectives and appreciate the (admittedly meager) advancement of her backstory. An afterword promises an exciting sixth instalment. The books can be read as standalones but you will appreciate Fiona's unfolding story so much more if you read them in order. They are: Talking with the Dead; Love Story, With Murders; The Strange Death of Fiona Griffiths; This Thing of Darkness; The Dead House. I give the series my highest recommendation.

I can truly say that Fiona Griffiths is the most engaging character I have ever come across in a mystery novel. She is wondrous in her humanity and lack of humanness. She isn't quite right and yet she is more right than so many people who are seen to be right. In *The Death House* Fiona faces seemingly insurmountable obstacles and yet she perseveres. In other books she faced fire and ice. In the past she has had to conquer deadly heights. Here she must deal with confined spaces. There are a few mysteries to solve as well. Two young women: one with no body but a name, another with a body but no name. And the crimes perpetrated on them are separated by years. Are they connected in some way? Fiona thinks so. That was good enough for me. After all, she is seldom wrong when it comes to this kind of thing. The reader is also treated to a visit or two with characters from the other books. Friend, Bev makes an appearance. And sister, Kay comes into her own. I highly recommend this book, and the four previous books in the series.

I just finished Book 5 in this series and am now anxious for publication of Book 6. Such a well-developed character is Fiona Griffiths! It was interesting to observe her growth and efforts to focus on her responsibilities in a more adult manner throughout the series. In the first book the after effects of her mental health issues became a bit tedious, however. In retrospect, I believe those details help the reader appreciate her challenges and strengths as she matures. Unlike some other readers I had no issues connecting the bits between crimes. In fact, I found myself anticipating how Fiona would leverage the results of one investigation to solve another. My only complaints (hardly worth a mention) are that I could do with a little less self-medicating with cannabis and fewer F-bombs. I have adult sons, so neither of these are alien to me, but I found them detrimental to my image of heroine Fiona.

I now am accustomed to wondering where the heck Fiona is wandering off to now when this is simply a case of a corpse that died of natural causes. Yep, I keep reading and keep gawking at her incredible resourcefulness and stubbornness and courage in following her "instincts" with leads. From digging out a pond to caving to monks to kidnapping (phew!), I keep reading. Amazing characters and amazing plots interwoven by amazing writing by Harry Bingham. Each book in the series is spectacular with mystery and police procedures and Fiona's out-of-the-norm genius. Anyone who enjoys an intelligent and complex mystery will revel in this one.

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