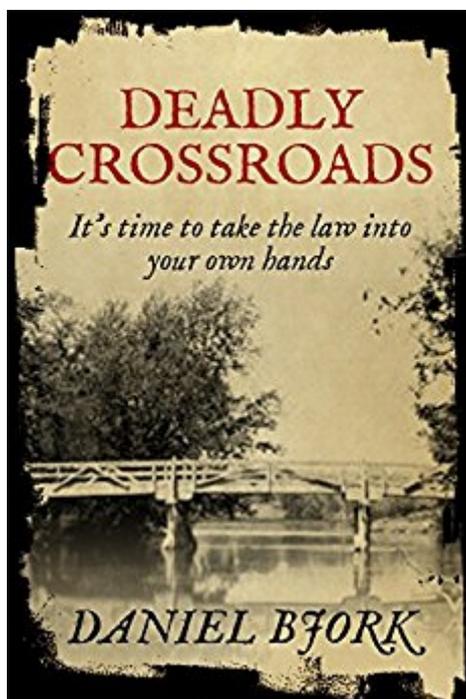


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Deadly Crossroads



Synopsis

19th century America Doctor Josiah Bartlett has grown fat tending to the mundane needs of the people in Concord, Massachusetts. But the bucolic bliss is rudely shattered by the tragic death of Mary Chase, a vivacious young woman who teaches in the local school and a close friend of Louisa May Alcott, the soon-to-be author. Mary is believed to have drowned herself after she is fished out of the Concord River. But when Doctor Bartlett examines the bloated and rigid corpse, he finds her head caved in. Could the suicide be murder? Lack of hard evidence leads the local sheriff to dismiss Doctor Bartlett when he tried to persuade him to open a murder investigation. He warns Bartlett to leave the law to him. But the old doctor relishes his new self-appointed role and calls on the town's intellectuals to help him interpret Mary's diary. It soon reveals an unnamed lover who lives amid the bright lights of Boston. It's not long before a very different picture of Mary begins to emerge – one of a hot-blooded young female whose true nature and vitality has had a dramatic, sometimes awful, impact on the lives of the men she has been involved with. Before they know it, another brutal killing rocks the town. Is it linked to Mary's death? Or is it just a terrifying coincidence? Doctor Bartlett must race to the heart of the matter, before his own life reaches a Deadly Crossroads |

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Customer Reviews

I received a free electronic copy of this novel on August 8th from Netgalley, Daniel Bjork, and Endeavour Press in exchange for an honest review. Thank you, for sharing your work with me. And this is an exciting historical novel, set in Concord, Massachusetts, with a population of about 2,000, in October, 1864. And this is a novel set around people we are familiar with at that place and time in history - Nathaniel Hawthorne, the Thoreau brothers at Walden Pond, Louisa May Alcott, who is rumored to be best friends with our victim, Mary Chase, Waldo Emerson. The tale is told in first person from the viewpoint of the town physician, Josiah Bartlett, who at first accepts the general consensus that the death of Mary as a suicide, but on further thought and with the evidence of her diary, is fairly certain this is murder. And the further he delves into the life of Mary Chase, the more certain he is that she was a victim of murder. Very interesting book. I would recommend to those who enjoy historical fiction and mysteries. My favorite quote from this book: "Gossip- true, half true, half false, false- was an indispensable part of our daily life, our village character."

Concord, Massachusetts was a shining beacon of cultural life in early America. Its leading lights included the transcendental luminaries Emerson and Thoreau, the Alcotts, and Nathaniel Hawthorne. But Concord had its darker side as well. This is the shadowy world that Daniel Bjork vividly recreates in *Deadly Crossroads* - a side of village life more macabre than one should wish to imagine. Will old Doctor Bartlett get to the bottom of the mystery surrounding the death of one of the town's liveliest young ladies? Did she commit suicide? Or did someone do her in? And if so, why? The answer surprised me, but I dare not give it away here. You'll have to follow that dark and winding trail for yourself.

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