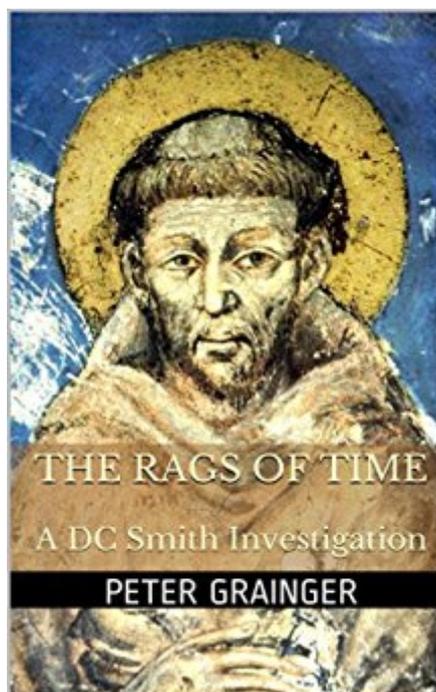


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The Rags Of Time: A DC Smith Investigation



Synopsis

Mark Randall lay dead in a field near Lowacre long before Smith had done what he had to do in Belfast. By the time he went back to work, the investigation was well underway. It's not my case • he says more than once, and he really doesn't need it to be; he has enough to think about as it is. But going around the Norfolk countryside dotting the hills and crossing the rivers, speaking to the local farmers and the Brothers of St Francis from Abbeyfields, Smith begins to suspect that the investigation might be heading in entirely the wrong direction. Arrests are made, charges are brought and Christopher Waters asks Smith if he has ever seen the wrong man convicted in a murder case. The answer is yes, and the next question is, what can be done to prevent it happening again?

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Customer Reviews

Peter Grainger has done it yet again - "The Rags of Time" is another absolutely amazing book! This book is the sixth book in Grainger's series about DC Smith, and is even better than the previous five! DC faces not only a new case, but also the prospect of retiring from a career that's spanned his lifetime. The writing is smooth, well-edited and insightful - all of which I've come to expect of

Grainger's books. Please do yourself a favor...buy all six books and be prepared for books you can really sink your teeth into. I know you'll come to love and admire DC Smith and his cohorts as they solve crimes and learn about life, one day and one crime at a time. And be sure to check out Grainger's other books, including those written under the name of Robert Partridge...I especially recommend "Afon" and "Asher." You'll be glad you did!

Peter Grainger has come up with another winner. The DC Smith series is an excellently crafted set of British procedurals. "The Rags of Time", as in the earlier works focuses on the character of Smith, at once brilliant, droll, lonely, and above all insightful. It is quite a feat by Mr. Grainger that he has incorporated friars, badgers, badger baiters, detectorists, and travellers into the mix and come up with a truly riveting detective novel. One can not help but be entertained by the clever and often humorous dialogue. We have in "Rags of Time" another excellent effort by Mr. Grainger.

Grainger's series featuring Sgt. D.C. Smith are highly enjoyable. The look into how the police actually work is informative and realistic (I suppose!) and includes the expected rivalries and competitions. I hope Grainger plans to continue with the series. There is a hint that Smith may be thinking of finally retiring, but, on the other hand there is a strong suggestion that an old case is about to be reopened. Smith is a complex, many sided human being. May he continue to untangle the crimes.

As with every DC Smith mystery the writing is streamlined and the story unfolds like a many layered flower. Peter Grainger is an auto buy for me and his latest, The Rags of Time, is simply excellent. DC Smith is back, assisting on a case that is not his. He is haunted by his time in Ireland and his discovery there. Jo Evison is also back providing, thank goodness, a chance for companionship for DC Smith. We feel now more than ever his pulling away from the police force (please don't leave yet!) and his need for meaning outside of work. As the case evolves, it is of course DC who spots the small discrepancies that make the case unravel. His humor, insight and cunning are a pleasure to watch. Sit back with a cup of tea and enjoy being in the hands of a master storyteller. You won't be disappointed. However, do read the books in order as each story builds upon the last....

All of the DC Smith books are so readable on every page that you hate to come to the last page. Grainger has a knack for drawing you into the characters and dialogue. Every line holds the reader's interest. His detective is smart....very smart. He is also calm, understated and lethally

competent at what he does. In this one Smith hints at retirement. Let's hope he never does so.

This novel is not one of those "beach book" mysteries that you can zip through in 2-3 days. Because the author allows us into DC Smith's innermost thoughts, which are sometimes expressed almost as stream of consciousness, we are purposely made to slow down our reading to a calmer, less hectic pace - much like DC Smith who meanders throughout the countryside observing and experiencing the sights, sounds, and creatures of nature. At times DC Smith's plodding and circuitous route to investigate the murders along with his cryptic comments cause his protege to scratch his head and grit his teeth in exasperation. But just like young Walters, you cannot rush the pace without digesting each piece or you'll miss so much - the internal arguments Smith has with himself, or the self deprecating humor, or even the rare romantic moments. This is the first novel I've read by this author so the references in this book to other characters and events occurring in the previous novels are rather confusing or even mystifying at times. That's not necessarily a bad thing because so much in this novel needs to be mulled over, slept on, and then chewed on a bit longer. That's not to say that I didn't know who the killer was several chapters short of the ending. At that point, it was more about how DC Smith would manage to arrest the right person before he loses his job and even gets his superior relieved of duty. A solid 4-star performance.

I so enjoyed this book. Here we have an aging detective still at the top of the game...solving the crime with brains, humor, and human understanding. DC is master detective, a man with many talents and interests outside the job too. All blends to make a hard to put down book!

Peter Grainger has a beautifully delicate touch with the language. Everything flows so smoothly that the picture forms like dawn slowly lighting up the sky. Smith is such an engaging character that you can't help loving him and the characters around him. Even the bad guys. Also he enjoys his tea. As a dedicated tea drinker (a rarity in the U.S.) I really appreciate that. Don't retire Smith. I look forward to his investigations.

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