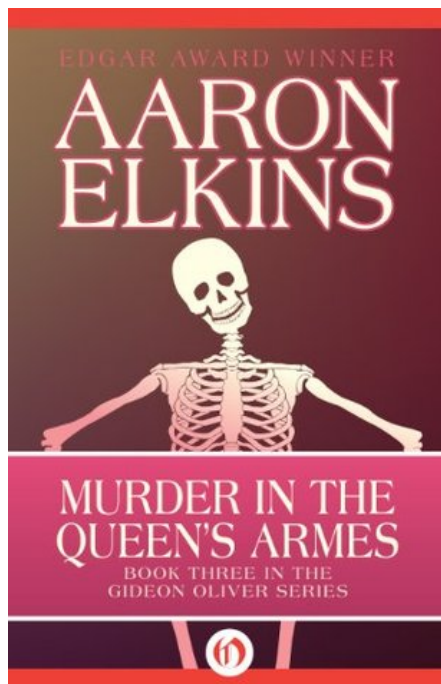




Murder in the Queen's Armes

Aaron Elkins

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The third novel in the Edgar Award-winning Gideon Oliver series--now with an eye-catching new package. No sooner do the anthropologist and his bride check into the Queen's Armes than a mystery gets underfoot at a nearby dig. A battered body is discovered instead of the anticipated Bronze Age relic. . . .

Murder in the Queen's Armes Details

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Author : Aaron Elkins

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From Reader Review Murder in the Queen's Armes for online ebook

Betty says

Even on his honeymoon murder and mayhem follows!

Benjamin says

Gideon Oliver is a physical anthropologist, specializing in the study of old bones, as in really old bones--all dried out and mostly forgotten until an archaeological dig comes along and unearths them. Oliver is on honeymoon in England and happens to visit a town where a former colleague is engaged in a dig. A member of the team is murdered, and it is up to Oliver to find out whodunit. Unfortunately, the bones are a lot fresher than he prefers. A nicely done whodunit, with likeable characters and an easy read. Elkins has won the Edgar Award.

John Leland says

In some ways, this is the kind of mystery I normally like very much. The detective is an agreeable academic, to be precise a professor of physical anthropology, who is normally "the smartest man in the room" (as a devoted Holmes fan, I am not fond of bumbling detectives or those who struggle through repeated false theories like Asimov's Elijah Bailey) . In this novel he is enjoying a delightful honeymoon (I am not fond of detectives with tortured private lives) in rural (or at least small-town) Britain (which I love from my experience), though he himself is from the US northwest. On the other hand, on page 13 it had a flagrant historical error, describing Judge Jeffreys and "the Bloody Assize of 1685 when seventy-four of Cromwell's royalist opponents had been executed " Considering that Cromwell died in 1658 and King Charles II's Restoration was in 1660, followed by his brother James II's reign starting in 1685, this is an extremely obvious error. In fact , the victims in the Bloody Assize were supporters of the duke of Monmouth's Protestant rebellion against the Catholic James II --ideologically, Monmouth's rebels were much closer to Cromwell than the royalist Jeffreys who condemned them. perhaps because I was sensitized by this error, I began to question more significant aspects of the story -- why would Oliver, who is an expert on prehistoric bones, notice obvious defensive injuries on a modern corpse sooner than a pathologist much more experienced with modern victims of violence, injuries that Oliver notes despite the shattered bones being covered with rotting flesh (to which the pathologist is accustomed and Oliver is not) ? (The explanation given, that pathologists neglect the long bones, seems unlikely). Why would an archaeologist noted for his meticulous excavation technique overlook obvious signs that a bone has been "planted" in his dig, signs that Oliver spots immediately? (The explanation, that the find confirms the archaeologist's pet theory, is possible, but goes counter to the plot-important stress on his insistence on meticulous technique elsewhere.) For that matter, why would that one bone still be in the ground weeks after it is discovered, when all the other finds are carefully removed and cataloged? No explanation is given, and this variation in practice is necessary for Oliver to spot the evidence of its being planted, though since he also recognizes it as a famous bone stolen from a museum, the evidence of planting is superfluous. . Why would a young man in about 1985 exhibit the psychological symptoms resulting from being forced to shift from left to right handedness, when this practice has been abandoned in western countries? I think this one is actually more debatable --by the time the book was republished in 2005, the practice of "correction" was outdated, but it might not have been in the 1960s

when a young man of 1985 would have been growing up. Overall, I thought the book was enjoyable light reading, but carelessly contrived. I like a genuinely superior detective, not on whose "evidence" is pre-cooked for him to discover.

Cate says

Good suspense, good mystery, fun thriller. The book itself seems to have been dashed together--lots of editing errors and typos. But overall, a decent read.

Janice says

On his honeymoon with wife Julie in Charmouth, England, Dr. Gideon Oliver gets pulled into a dig that is causing controversy, and raising skeptical eyebrows among archaeology professionals. And when a murder occurs, Gideon finds himself working with a local detective on the investigation. A good story, and continued development of the characters, and their relationships.

Michele says

Had no idea about the full extent archaeological significance of England....but I do now! A whodunit with facts and history...what more do you need?

Anne says

Gideon and Julie are honeymooning in England and get mixed up in fraud and murder at a dig in Wessex. This was not nearly as good as *The Dark Place* ... Julie seems to have disappeared as an interesting character. Maybe things will improve if she returns to the Park Service.

Zezette says

Yes I enjoyed it. Nice light read.

Cristine Eastin says

I read "Murder in the Queen's Armes" on a recommendation to see how to handle writing the setting as an actual place. What I learned was, if you're going to write in an exact locale, make it EXACT, or else, fictionalize it. Someone will notice the inaccuracies and be distracted by same.

In this book, because I've spent some time in Charmouth, England, I know you cannot walk up the Stonebarrow Hill and have Lyme Regis at your back to the East, it's West. I also know the correct name of

the watering hole at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to be the Rathskeller. (Someone else had underlined that error in the library book before me.)

This isn't a bad book—a fluffy little mystery—worth reading.

June Ahern says

If you like Aaron J. Elkins' mysery series about physical anthropologist Gideon Oliver, mysteries, you won't be disappointed with the "Murder in the Queen's Armes" because it's one of the better stories of this series. Mr. Elkins books are quite easy reads, plus I have to say I truly enjoy learning about anthropology and history plus a good mystery novel. One of the problems I have with his stories is keeping a straight with the, often too many, characters involved in the whodunit. Nevertheless, I found several characters in this book, colorful and lively. This particular one is a real page turner. My only negative reaction in it was, As another reviewer said, the picture Elk Elkins painted of the sleuth's bride, Julie. Other than that, happy reading!The Skye in June

Charles says

Great mystery. Anthropology and forensics fun and right on. Decsription of the area were very well done-followed on Google map.

Nancy says

I am reading the Gideon Oliver books in sequence and, finishing this third volume I am getting more interested in Professor Oliver and his adventures. Aaron Elkins blends very detailed archaeological information into his stories and it has taken me a few books to get interested in that discipline.

What I have enjoyed is Oliver's friendship with his retired mentor and professor, Abe. Their relationship is warm and real and adds some texture to the book and relief from the drier technical aspects of Elkin's writing.

The mystery was complex and I look forward to the next volume in the series.

Lauren Albert says

Spoilers

A bit too much obvious foreshadowing. The vicious dog. The "oh, we're going out to the meadow at this exact time." I bet you can't imagine what happened.

Karen says

Professor Gideon Oliver is honeymooning in England and at the request of his mentor, takes a little time out to visit an old colleague. The colleague is sort of on the fringe in anthropology circles, claiming that "Wessex man" and their culture was a direct transfer from Mycenaean cultures in the Bronze Age instead of indirect transfer as the culture migrated across Europe. Despite his ideas, Gideon feels that Nate is still an excellent archaeologist and is interested to see what he's found on his new dig.

The dig is surrounded in tension as Nate claims he's found evidence to support his theory, and the others involved don't believe him while the two organizations that are supporting the dig are poised to investigate Nate's "unprofessional" behavior. When one of the dig workers is discovered murdered within hours of wanting to tell Gideon something important about Nate, Gideon finds himself becoming more involved than he wanted to. Nate's career and reputation are on the line. Other lives are on the line as well. Can Gideon figure out how everything connects before someone else is murdered?

This is the third book in the series and with each book, I'm finding more to love about Elkins' writing style and his characters. Gideon and his new bride, Julie are wonderful together. I enjoyed the mystery as much as the anthropology and sort of figured out whodunit early on, but was still fascinated with the ending.

Peggie Ross says

It was short and somewhat entertaining but most of the book involved descriptions of scenery and food and not much involved the actual mystery. Not sure I would choose to read another of the series although the central characters seemed to be interesting people.
