



Patmos Deception

Davis Bunn

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An Ancient Island Holds an Ancient Secret . . .

Nick Hennessy, a young Texas journalist yearning for his big break, finds himself in Europe--his assignment, to investigate the alarming disappearance of invaluable Grecian antiquities. Nick has the credentials--and cover ID--to unearth the truth. And he knows just the researcher to help him...

Carey Mathers, fresh from her studies in forensic archeology, has accepted a job with the prestigious Athens Institute for Antiquities--a dream come true, really, particularly when the Greek isle of Patmos, where the Apostle John received his vision of the Apocalypse, was a particular focus of her research.

Dimitri Rubinos, for whom the Greek islands represent his life, holds on by his fingernails to the family charter boat business. But his country's economic chaos isn't the only thing that has turned his world on its head...

Patmos Deception Details

Date : Published November 4th 2014 by Bethany House Publishers (first published October 28th 2014)

ISBN : 9780764211393

Author : Davis Bunn

Format : Paperback 327 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Fiction, Christian, Mystery, Suspense, Thriller

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From Reader Review Patmos Deception for online ebook

Denise says

Full disclosure: I was chosen a First Reads winner, and received a paperback copy of The Patmos Deception from Bethany House in the mail. That in no way influenced the review that follows.

First, let me say that I am assuming another book will follow. Otherwise, I'd revise my rating down to three stars.

I was totally drawn into the plot from the start and really liked the way the author wove the separate story lines together. The Christian legends of Patmos that are incorporated into the plot, however, I found frustrating. They are featured enough that I felt like they needed to be fleshed out more, even if this is fiction, instead of being left rather shallow.

The best part of this book, for me, was its Greek setting and the characters who are native to the islands -- which includes one of the main characters and several secondary characters. I'd have loved to read more of these locals' involvement, and hope that they will also figure in a second book.

This novel is definitely character-based, but it leaves the reader with major unresolved questions when it ends -- one regarding the relationships and one regarding the artifacts. Since those two aspects were pretty much the entire thrust of the book, I was disappointed that neither was resolved. But it definitely paves the way for the story to continue.

Laura Pence says

Pretty good and quick read and I genuinely enjoyed it overall....but I am really frustrated with the character endings. That is all I will say, but really?? Who does that?? Just completely unrealistic in that regard. That is why this is only getting 3 rather than 4 stars.

Jesica Smithey says

Good book, the ending just kinda drops off though.

Nicole says

3.5 stars

A nice, quick, easy read, this was another great story from Davis Bunn. It wasn't as suspenseful as his previous works, but it still moved quickly and kept me turning pages. I loved the peek into the familial Greek culture, and the family in Athens had me smiling a lot!

My one complaint? The end. *WHAT?!?*
All I can say is this: There had better be a sequel. ;)

Dennae says

Okay, my mistake for not noticing that it was listed under "christian fiction" as one of its genres, but ugh this book has all sorts of moments based around God & faith that feel so over the top and unnecessary. I find it preachy to bring faith into a book so often that the characters keep mentioning it and the plot somehow relies on it. And the main character keeps crying because she feels so overwhelmed and transformed by God or something...honestly it was uncomfortable.

The plot is mangled and a bit boring, so I found myself skimming through parts to find out what happened, but not feeling fully engaged in the story. There isn't much conclusion to this big conspiracy plot they have going on and the connections between all of the missing artifacts are never explained, other than to make this last artifact seem like the most important one and the reason for the whole mission?

The main character is stuck between two guys but doesn't know which one to choose because neither of them are religious - what? Stupid ending to a mediocre plot and this book definitely should not be under the category of "romance" at all.

Summer says

I'm dead. Dead dead dead. That. Ending. WHAT IS THAT ENDING, BUNN?!?? WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?? It's fine, it's fine, it's fine, I'll just be in the corner with my feelings that I don't know what to do with... It's fine. Frick.

W. Lattimore says

Very much enjoyed the audio performance by Rich Orlow. Not only was the story rich with adventure and suspense, it was weaved with interesting historical details and descriptions of what sounded like amazing places to visit. Davis Bunn is a favorite author of mine, and this book did nothing to disappoint.

J. Else says

To sum it up: this book finds no closure. It also takes over 1/2 the book to get to the "ancient secret" hinted at on the back of the book. I was left feeling really disappointed.

Bunn spends a great deal of time developing Carey in the first half. She makes friends who disappear in the second half of the story, so I was left wondering why so much time was spent developing her friends since they were forgotten about later. I did enjoy the developing relationship with Dimitri. But I was not sure why there was also a developing romantic relationship with Nick. Why was a love triangle necessary to the plot line? And it ended up being another element that did not resolve. (view spoiler)

The historical elements brought in the excitement for me. I loved learning more about the history of John's exile to the island. Then when I learned about the "big secret" that lay hidden beneath the monastery, I got

SUPER excited! I thought to myself, "no way would the author create such an item and then NOT share it with the readers, right?" Nope, not right. In fact, you get the ultimate tease before the book ends. This upset me SO MUCH! There needs to be a payoff for the readers. If you're going to let the characters in on the secret, the readers deserve to be in the know as well.

Bunn switched between different points of views at odd times. There were too many moments where a character went off to think about something, and then the point of view switched, so as a reader you were never let in on thought processes of how the clues were fitting together. In fact, the views seemed to switch to create awkward moments in the love triangle. I was also extremely disappointed in not being let in on spiritual discussions. When Dimitri and Carey talk about faith, it just sort of happened. The moment seemed to change them both and deepen their relationship, but the reader was not privy to any portion of the conversation. Even when another character asked about it, nothing was revealed. So moments of character growth were never fleshed out in the story. Why bring up that things happened if you're not going to explore them?

When Carey went to the cave with Dimitri's grandmother, she had a profound spiritual moment. But the setting details were very sparse. I could not picture the environment well. I was hoping for some serious descriptive prose which would transport my imagination to this mystical and significant Biblical setting. But I felt the descriptions were extremely basic in both setting and emotional weight. I barely felt anything when Carey had her moment. In fact, Carey seems to experience a lot of profoundness, but these things happen when she's not the narrating point of view. Again, a strange literary choice.

I had very high standards for this book. But when I got to the epilogue, I never found out who the master mind was in the thefts, one of the main players in the thieving was not arrested, character relationships got more confusing, and I never got to experience WHY the secret document was so momentous. (view spoiler) I mean, come on. Give us some type of moment! The ending was unsatisfying on multiple levels.

Sarah TheAromaofBooks says

So I felt kind of mediocre about this book the whole time I was reading it, but a good ending could have rescued it... and that didn't happen. The ending was amazingly smooth - every single coincidental piece needed fell into place at just the right time - and somewhat inconclusive. And what's the point of an epilogue that doesn't actually tell the reader anything conclusive about the future lives of the characters? What even.

Robin Willson says

A Christian Fiction Novel by Davis Bunn, full of mystery, danger and romance, the outcomes of which are molded by Christian faith and values. Informative and in-depth, the story is set in Greece after the crash and tells of historical religious treasures that smugglers are after. Carey is a forensic archeological specialist, Nick is an investigative journalist, and Dimitri is the owner of a family boat used for fishing and now tourism. Young people with special talents, pulled into a crisis that hones their skills, faith and trust in others. As in other Davis Bunn novels, you learn more about the country and its history, and meet characters with much to teach. You come to know each of these individuals, their families and their lives, and end up feeling that you are a part of that special group. A skilled story teller, Davis Bunn has another hit!

I received an advanced copy from Netgalley and Betheny House in return for my honest review.

Lois Luyster says

Loved the book. Hated the ending...if you can call it an ending. Learned a lot of history about Greece and Patmos that was interesting.

Doreen says

Davis Bunn is quickly becoming a favorite author of mine. This book was full of historical information on the economic crisis in Greece, yet it never got overwhelming. It gave me a much better understanding of the impact it had on ordinary people. The effects were staggering.

More than that, I enjoyed the suspense and the mystery that Carey and Nick set out to solve. Someone is stealing precious Greek artifacts and potentially one such item from John the Baptist's time on Patmos. The stakes are high. Dimitri, a Greek ship owner, becomes embroiled in a dangerous game that could cost him his life and everything he holds dear.

The very day Carey arrives in Greece and finds her promised job to be non-existent, Carey meets a unique lady who will quickly adopt her into her family. This family reminds me of the Portokalos family in "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." When she goes to meet Nick at the airport, the whole family has to come along and check him out. They add some humor and lightness as well as the poignancy of a caring family.

Bunn is great at building and describing his characters. Carey "knew how to make a nickel complain over being pinched too hard and too long" (location 57). She is a beautiful woman who LOVES everything she is experiencing in Greece. She is the one you would want to travel with because she enjoys everything and finds delight in all around her. Her grandmother, however, sees the glass as not just half empty but "also laced with poison" (location 156). HA!

The relationships are wonderful. Carey has known Nick all her life and had a huge crush on him once upon a time. Dimitri is an intriguing Greek man with "moonshine eyes" that make all kinds of promises. Despite his past history with women, which he realizes was quite empty, I couldn't help liking him and rooting for him a bit. I hope all these characters and rich relationships will be fleshed out still more in a future book.

This book has everything I look for in a book....humor, rich characters, action, great writing, suspense, amazing growth in characters. It was a fascinating book. I would like to thank Bethany House for providing me with a free copy of this book for the purpose of this review.

Hallie Szott says

This review is also posted on Book by Book.

The Patmos Deception by Davis Bunn was a nice change of pace from the romance I have been reading

recently. With a mystery to solve, a crime to stop, an investigation to complete, this novel had me intrigued from start to finish. Each of the main characters fits nicely into the novel's premise with unique passions and pursuits and I enjoyed seeing them crossing paths and interacting to figure out what was really happening. Additionally, the peeks into Greece's past and present, rich in detail and culture, fascinated me and I learned quite a bit. Overall, *The Patmos Deception* is a fantastic read and I would recommend it.

Thanks to Bethany House and NetGalley, I received a copy of *The Patmos Deception* and the opportunity to provide an honest review. I was not required to write a positive review, and all the opinions I have expressed are my own.

Janet Sketchley says

Priceless antiquities are disappearing, with no official acknowledgement of the crimes... because people in positions of power are involved in the scheme. At least that's what journalist Nick Hennessy's UN contact believes. Nick teams up with forensic archaeologist Carey Mathers to find the truth.

On the other side of the law, Patmos tour-boat operator Dimitri Rubinos finds himself forced to do as his ancestors have done in previous times of economic disaster: work for smugglers.

This is one of the most satisfying adventure novels I've read in a while, complete with intrigue, chases and danger. It's also much more. The characters are richly layered, facing their individual struggles as well as the external one. Carey idolized Nick in her youth, but past experience has left her unwilling to risk loving this new, more mature, Nick.

For his part, Nick can't let himself fall in love when he has to focus on the investigation. And Dimitri? He's a heart-breaker who's tired of "the life" and knows something's missing inside. His grandmother says Carey will change his world. Does that mean she's the one for him? Or will Carey's vibrant faith help Dimitri find his answers?

The Patmos Deception evokes a strong sense of the Greek culture and mindset. I've never been to Greece, so I can't prove it's authentic, but it feels that way. As well as Dimitri, his father and grandmother, we meet Elini and her extended family, who "adopt" Carey at the beginning of the novel. They're caring, protective and fierce people, culturally accustomed to hardship and resilient enough to not break. We also meet Greek villains and bullies, like we'd find in any ethnic group, but Elini's and Dimitri's people are a delight.

Carey's a delight, too. Where Nick's journalism has taught him to view everything as an observer, mentally framing how he'd write it, Carey lives with her eyes wide open, experiencing the moment.

And Dimitri? He's a man of courage who'll do whatever it takes. His "moonshine eyes" and charm make him a danger to women's hearts, but maybe he can change – or be changed.

Favourite lines:

Nana Pat possessed a whole dictionary of sighs. She could express anger or frustration or displeasure without speaking a word. She sighed now, and Carey realized the conversation was over. Nana Pat had run out of steam. [p. 27]

In Dimitri's view, morning was the most beautiful time of day. The sunrise cast fresh promise in the golden light... Down below, the harbour remained cast in shadow and in the mystical wonder of hours not yet spent. [p. 38]

With each loss she seemed to shrink further, until she was reduced to the very essence of who she once had been. But she remained a woman of good cheer and unshakable faith. [p. 39, about Dimitri's grandmother, Chara.]

This is one of those stories I kept wanting to go back to once it ended. On the bright side, the ending sets up a potential sequel...

The Patmos Deception is the latest novel from prolific and award-winning author Davis Bunn. For more about the author and his books, visit davisbunn.com, and if you're curious which character in *The Patmos Deception* he identifies with most strongly, see this post on his blog. Note, the giveaway is over, but it's an interesting insight into an author's thoughts.

[Book has been provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc. Available at your favourite bookseller from Bethany House, a division of Baker Publishing Group.]

Donna says

The Isle of Patmos is rich in history and tradition. In this new book, three people come together to discover who is stealing Greek antiquities and what is happening to them. Come join Nick, Carey, and Dimitri as they strive to find the answers.

Nick Hennessey is a journalist trying to make a name for himself, when he is assigned a story in Europe dealing with stolen art and treasures. Carey Mathers is a new forensic anthropologist at the Athens Institute of Antiquities, something she has always thought to be her perfect job. Having met up with her old, dear friend, Elena, Carey finds spiritual help and guidance. Dimitri Rubinos runs his family's business of charter boats, but he is struggling. The financial crisis in Greece is wrecking havoc for not only Dimitri, but for all the Greek people. So, who is stealing the art? Does he really sell out his countrymen by transporting stolen goods? How far does the economic crisis push Nick, Carey, or Dimitri? Come follow these three as they travel to places like Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Patmos, and the Cave of Revelation.

I enjoyed this book and got into the mystery quickly. The places mentioned are some of the ones I want to travel to. The characters were well structured and the settings well done and breathtaking at times. The love triangle really didn't matter to the story much and could have been left out. All in all, a book I recommend if you enjoy historical Christian fiction. I received my review copy from Bethany House in exchange for an honest review.
