



## Blood on a Saint

*Anne Emery*

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## **Blood on a Saint** Anne Emery

In the seventh book of the deftly written Collins-Burke Mystery series, Father Brennan Burke's patience is pushed to the limit when a young woman announces to the world that the Virgin Mary has appeared to her in the churchyard, and hordes of pilgrims, souvenir hawkers, and reporters converge on the scene. But, as unwelcome as these guests may be, they pale in comparison to yet another aggravation in Father Burke's life, a controversial talk show host who clashes with Burke upon arriving in town. Events take a darker turn when a body is found at the apparition site, and the talk show host is picked up for the murder. There is enough aggravation to go around, as Monty Collins learns when he takes on the loud-mouthed TV man as a client. Monty and Brennan both have a stake in uncovering the truth about the murder, and they both learn disturbing things about the accused man and other suspects in the case. Neither man can talk to the other about what he has learned, however, due to solicitor-client confidentiality on one side, the seal of the confessional on the other.

## **Blood on a Saint Details**

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Author : Anne Emery

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## From Reader Review Blood on a Saint for online ebook

### Jim Graham says

The accused is an obnoxious, blow-hard bully. On the other hand, one of the protagonists in this continuing series is a supercilious bully. And the reader is not presented with enough evidence as the case develops that when it is resolved you say "Oh, of course, I should have seen that." - It is a good read.

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### Lorraine says

Enjoyed the many twists in this plot.

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### Philip says

This is a really good read, possibly one of the best in the series, and much better than the previous book "Death at Christy Burkes". In all the best books in this series the major portion of the action all takes place in and around Halifax and involves Monty Collins as the main character with Brennan Burke having just about the same involvement. This book has all the elements of the best of the Collins-Burke series - Monty and Brennan's wild episodes, music, both church and jazz, Maura and Normie are involved, Dominic gets a major role as does Tommy Douglas, Maura and Monty appear to being reconciled which gives Brennan much satisfaction, there are plenty of clues and suspects scattered throughout the story including the required "Red Herrings" and a fascinating new character, Ignatius Boyle, is heavily involved. With all of that and an ending with a twist which should have been seen coming and didn't have all its clues buried somewhere out of the storyline and appropriate justice served except perhaps in the case of "Pike" I have to rate this a very good book.

I hope Anne Emery will write some more books in this series and keep the major action in and around Nova Scotia although I see from the advance blurb on "Ruined Abbey", to be published in 2015, that it's a prequel and set back in Ireland and England in 1959. I may read it but I won't put it high on my reading list or buy it for any substantial amount.

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### Rosemary Mutton says

A good Father Brennan Burke mystery

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### Dolly says

I won this on goodreads.

Intellectual, music loving, hard drinking Father Burke's life takes a turn for the worse when it is announced that the Virgin Mary has appeared in his churchyard. Then a young woman is murdered in said churchyard.

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Father Burke's friend and lawyer Monty Collins has to defend the most obvious suspect, an obnoxious TV talk show host, Pike Podgis, who is in town to cover the Virgin Mary sighting. I'm not going to give it away, but I never saw it coming. Great character. Great plot.

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## Gay says

Befanee Tate claims she's seen the Blessed Virgin Mary to Father Brennan Burke in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This on the heels of her wrongful termination action against him. Monty Collins is his attorney. The apparition, of course, causes a sensation and looky-loos abound. Then she's murdered. Pike Podgis, a talk show host was seen in the area about the time of her death.

The story alternates between the POV of Burke and Collins, the series heros. The Vatican sends an investigator to look into the apparition claim. Ignatius Boyle, a drunk, was found unconscious in the area about the time the body was found and is under suspicion. The priest and the attorney do not believe he did it—and they may be right. ECW Press 2013

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## Bonnie says

This series feels like reading about old friends to me. The characters are all so sweetly fallible, but entertaining, and the plots intriguing. I love the repartee that includes some serious thoughts about what makes life meaningful, often analyzing aspects of Catholicism.

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## Wendy says

"Blood on a Saint" which I won from Goodreads Giveaways is a thrilling murder mystery that begins in Halifax, Nova Scotia as pilgrims flock to the church of St. Bernadette after the Virgin Mary was reported to have appeared over the statue of the saint. As Father Brennan Burke and Monsignor Michael O'Flaherty are dealing with a crowd of the curious hoping to see a miracle, souvenir peddlers, reporters and a sharp-tongued, contentious talk show host, a young woman is suddenly found murdered by the statute. When obnoxious Pike Podgis, the notorious television personality is arrested after the victim's blood is found on his shoes. Monty Collins, a well-respected lawyer takes on the case. Bound by solicitor-client confidentiality Monty cannot reveal any details of a case that's becoming an overnight sensation and a thorn in the side of his friend Father Brennan, even though both men have a stake in exposing the killer.

The plot is intricately woven together with a complexity that keeps the reader riveted. It is obvious from the quality of detail that Anne Emery has a sound knowledge of the legal system even if the reader wasn't aware of her background. The characters are as colourful as their personalities are multi-dimensional which lends a unique fusion of emotional layers to the plot. Father Brennan Burke is a conundrum; a dedicated priest, heavy drinker, and tough-ass renegade. On one hand he's a kind, conscientious, unruffled, and dignified man of God, on the other a tough, no-nonsense, irascible Irishman; a distinct contrast with Monsignor O'Flaherty, a mild-mannered, gentle, sweet-faced priest. Monty Collins is the hard-headed, stubborn, determined lawyer who loves music and his family as much as the law. Among so many memorable characters is the rude, arrogant Pike Podgis who hides his vulnerability and need for approval behind a repugnant facade; the quiet, considerate Ignatius Boyle a righteous homeless man, and the cruel, deceptive murder-victim, Jordyn Snider. All the characters with their flawed traits lend an ambience to a story where the clash of wills is so strong that they may hinder the disclosure of the killer.

"Blood on a Saint" is an honest, gritty novel that is exciting and thought-provoking as it explores the darkness of men's minds even as justice triumphs. I enjoyed it and recommend it highly.

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### **Amyem says**

I registered a book at BookCrossing.com!  
<http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/12733475>

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### **Larraine says**

This is the 7th in the Monty-Brennan series that takes place in Halifax, Nova Scotia in Canada. Monty is a lawyer, Brennan is a priest. They are both musicians and good friends who also happen to play in a blues band at a local bar. Brennan is also a parish curate and lover of sacred music who leads the local choir. He is also very much part of the reason and scientific side of the Roman Catholic Church so he is dismayed when a young woman insists that she has seen the Blessed Mother at his church, St Bernadette's. Another, more attractive, young woman tries to get her own 15 minutes of fame at the same time. Then she is murdered. An obnoxious talk show host who was in town to "discuss" religion vs atheism is accused of the murder. Monty becomes his defense attorney. The book starts out well, but soon seems to become mired in the story as if the author really wasn't sure how to wrap things up. For me, anyway, the characters never seemed to emerge as real people. Perhaps it's the overemphasis on narration as opposed to allowing the characters to speak for themselves that's the problem. I would have liked to see a stronger sense of place as well. I've never been to Halifax at all. There was no sense of the geography or even the feel of the city, something that I enjoy in a book. On the other hand, a devout Roman Catholic might really enjoy this series more than I did.

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### **Carolyn says**

This is a suspenseful, thrilling mystery set in and around Halifax, Nova Scotia. The plot is original with some surprising twists. It is the 7th book in the Collins/Burke series.

The greatest strength of these books for me is the well developed characters. It is always a pleasure to revisit lawyer Monty Collins and Father Brennan Burke, two unlikely friends. They often collaborate in solving criminal cases. In this story each has separate and different information and clues they cannot share due to lawyer-client confidentiality and the seal of confession for the priest.

Father Burke is dismayed. A young woman claims she sees a vision of the Virgin Mary hovering over the statue of a saint on the church grounds. Soon crowds are drawn to the site along with souvenir sellers. Next a second young woman claims the same vision. To add to Burke's consternation he has been ordered to debate theology on a talk show hosted by a notorious, obnoxious, loud man. He insults the vulgar host by walking off the show, and Podgis, the TV host angrily confronts the priest outside the studio. Later Podgis is observed running through the grounds, and blood is found on his shoes. A young woman is found murdered near where Podgis was seen. Collins is chosen to defend Podgis whom he despises. Nearby an uneducated old man, a street person who frequented the area by the church is found beaten unconscious and in a coma. When he regains consciousness he speaks only French and religion in an educated manner. They bring a woman from Moncton, NB, where I live, to translate the man's French into English.

The sense of place is authentic, with the mention of actual Halifax streets, landmarks, bars and restaurants. I grew up in a town about 100 miles from Halifax and the priest interviews a woman on the next street to

where I lived.

The locations are very well described and the plot is both riveting and intriguing. But the best part of the book for me are the strong characters. Mystery series produce a lot of strong leading characters, all with devoted readers. I think Father Brennan Burke is the most enjoyable one since I first met Lisbeth Salander in books.4.5 stars

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### **Julie says**

Emery is one of those fine authors that gets better with each new book. This is an intriguing story. The plot is well thought out and the book is hard to put down. I truly enjoyed it and can't wait to read the next in this series.

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### **ME says**

Another good installment... back on track with a situational story, and more developments in the Collins family. Took me ten days to finish it, but no fault of the book itself.

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### **John says**

This book wasn't atrocious. It was just good enough to keep me going, but I kept having the feeling as I read that it was a chore I had saddled myself with rather than a pleasurable experience. The writing is clear but dull. The attempts at wit mostly fall flat. The two main characters are Monty Collins, a lawyer, and Brennan Burke, a priest. Monty is not an interesting character, nor is Brennan Burke. We are meant to love Burke for his Irish charm, his erudition, his love of boozing, and his forthrightness, but it all seemed a tad stereotypical and unconvincing to me. The idea that Monty Collins plays in a blues band is, I guess, cute, but also unconvincing, and the author spends too much time on this aspect of his life for my liking. Another character in the book is Pike Podgis, a talk show host. He is made out to be utterly obnoxious--so much so that his every appearance in the book is more annoying than entertaining. There is also a ridiculous incident involving a heroic act on the part of Monty Collins that strains credibility to the extreme, as well as a supposedly funny incident involving Burke and a member of the opposite sex that was, I think, forced and merely silly. I think the best part of the book may have been the details surrounding the murder itself, which were interesting. I'll also add that I picked up the book because I was about to visit Halifax--I like to read mysteries set in places that I plan to visit--but it doesn't give you any real sense of what Halifax is like. However, one neat development, at least for me: I wound up staying in the same hotel the novel's prime suspect stayed in. That was kind of cool. To sum up, "Blood on a Saint" is a solid if undistinguished mystery. It is readable, but I don't plan to read any more books in the series. It just didn't grab me.

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### **Susan says**

Priest Brennan Burke and lawyer Monty are both involved in the murder of a beautiful young woman outside Brennan's church, but they're on opposite sides. Brennan is convinced that a visiting talk show host is responsible, and certainly the police agree with him--but Monty is his lawyer. Monty tries to clear his obnoxious client, but Brennan is only trying to help a homeless man when he takes the first steps to a

horrifying solution.

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