



The Deep Dark Sleep

Craig Russell

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Human remains are recovered from the bottom of the River Clyde. Not an unusual occurrence, but these have been sleeping the deep, dark sleep for eighteen years. Suddenly Glasgow's underworld is buzzing with the news that the dredged up bones belong to Gentleman Joe Strachan, Glasgow's most successful and ruthless armed robber.

When Isa and Violet, Strachan's daughters, hire Lennox to find out who has been sending them large sums of cash each year, on the anniversary of Strachan's most successful robbery, his instincts tell him that this job spells trouble and will take him back into the dark world of the Three Kings - the crime bosses who run the city.

He takes the job nevertheless. And soon learns that ignoring his instincts might just cost him his life.

This is the third fantastic thriller featuring shady investigator Lennox as he stalks Glasgow's tough streets. The Deep Dark Sleep is gritty, fast-paced, and totally absorbing.

The Deep Dark Sleep Details

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Author : Craig Russell

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From Reader Review The Deep Dark Sleep for online ebook

David Highton says

Another very dark story of mid-50s Glasgow, with the criminal underworld never far away from the surface - two cases for Lennox which start to have some overlap and end up in a very deep mystery. Lennox has a degree of self-loathing as he evaluates where his life is going

Rob Kitchin says

The Deep Dark Sleep is the third book in the Lennox series set in 1950s Glasgow. Lennox is still haunted by his time as a commando during the war and has wound up in Glasgow, working as a private investigator rather than return to his native Canada. Through guile and favours and he manages to navigate the criminal underworld of the 'three kings', while also maintaining friendships with policemen prepared to help him with his cases. As such, he's the logical choice of PI for those who need difficult cases solved involving some criminal element. In this outing, he's hired by the twin daughters of the most feared and successful criminal in the city before the war to discover whether a body dredged from the Clyde is their father, and by a solicitor acting on behalf of an American movie star who is being blackmailed over some explicit photographs. While the latter case seems relatively straightforward to resolve, the former soon turns deadly. Someone it seems is prepared to kill to keep the mystery of Gentleman Joe Strachan a mystery. Lennox is an engaging character, 1950s Glasgow is well portrayed, and Russell keeps the tale moving at pace. The twin threads, plus Lennox's slow romantic pursuit of his landlady, is compelling and entertaining. However, while each thread is interesting, their entwining as the story unfolded felt like a somewhat clunky plot device that didn't ring true. The result was an enjoyable tale that progressed to a seemingly inevitable and staged conclusion.

Subash says

Just when you think it can't get any better the third book comes along ... Here CR tones down the quips on Glaswegians (they haven't disappeared but there isn't the biting sarcasm as in the last two books) and a surprisingly tender love story takes shoot in here and it's all written up achingly well. The protagonists are the best yet in the series and while the 3 kings are not so much center and off as in the last two, they have their histories dredged up and it does make for some fascinating context given what we know about them from the last two books. Lennox really moves to the top of his game here though and becomes a fully realized character that makes for the Marlowe kind of cult classic. In the last two books he made surprisingly amateurish mistakes, but in this he shows a fully developed sense of who he is and while bodies do drop left and right and more than usual, this villain is one for the ages ... anyways can't say any more without giving it away. But the best part of the book was how Lennox is slowly reverting back to his true sense of honor and it's done so authentically you barely notice it ... like i said earlier it's all in the shading, how the quips are less bitter, how he becomes more aware of the damages to his psyche, and also more in how he's beginning to put some of the self loathing behind him and come to terms with the things he's done in the past and the real shading comes in how he treats the regulars in his life. Josh, Mrs. White, Archie and the surprising lengths he goes to save the life of a gutter rat who was blackmailing his client. All adds up to one of the more intriguing characters in Noir that I've run into in a while.

Now on to book 4 (hate to think this may have been the last in this series) (less)

CuteBadger says

In 1950s Glasgow, private detective Lennox is hired to look into a crime from 20 years earlier which involves some of the city's organised crime bosses. Another new case, that of a Hollywood star trying to track down some incriminating photos, means that Lennox is busier than ever and must keep looking over his shoulder.

I was lucky enough to win a copy of this book from a competition on the publisher's Facebook page, which explains why I've started with the third in the author's Lennox series. Having read this one I'd definitely be going back to the start to read the preceding two books and then move on to the fourth.

I liked most aspects of the book and particularly enjoyed the period setting in Glasgow. Lennox is an attractive but mysterious character with definite hidden depths - I found myself wanting to know more about him.

The plot works well and though there is the occasional cliché and some anachronistic attitudes, I felt the book as a whole was strong enough to survive some minor weaknesses. I read it quickly as I was enjoying it so much - always a good sign - and I look forward to reading the others in the series.

Rosa says

This one was amazing! I discovered some of the surprises but even so I enjoyed it a lot. I'm waiting for the next one to be translated. I'm liking a lot how the main character is growing, and his sometimes questionable sense of honour. I'm waiting for the moment he becomes the man he wants to be despite I think it's a war too late for that.

Cliff says

Excellent thriller with the requisite amount of violence but which is not overdone. I liked the chief character, Lennox, a Canadian who has washed up in Glasgow after war service about which we are told little, but hints given that it was particularly bloody. The book is set in 1955 and the ambience of Glasgow then is well caught, with thick smogs out of which trams loom endangering careless pedestrians, police who are in some ways, no better than those whom they seek to catch and the shipyards are still busy. Well written with some nice turns of humour - Gorbals tenements occupied by shipyard workers where the interior looks like the dining room of a liner and all is painted battleship grey.

Raven says

The third in Craig Russell's excellent 'Lennox' series and I would say one of the darkest so far. Our silver-tongued, justice seeking private eye encounters more than one or two physical scrapes through business and pleasure when he takes on two cases that will test him to the hilt. Is it really criminal mastermind Gentleman Joe Strachan that languishes below the grey choppy waters of the Clyde who appears to be sending messages

and issuing death warrants from beyond the grave, or are there other forces at work? And what links an American movie star with an aristocrat's son in a positively salacious incident of blackmail? And how the jiggins is Lennox going to sort it all out whilst still in pursuit of his delectable landlady Fiona, fighting off commando window cleaners and juggling the demands of the Three Kings who rule Glasgow with their iron fists? It's no walk in the park as our battered and bruised hero grapples with his toughest cases yet with a wonderfully violent denouement that sees Lennox dispensing justice in his own inimitable style but with what consequence? This series just gets better and better in my eyes- accomplished plotting, great characterisation melded with a perfect balance of grim violence and wise-cracking dialogue.

Dokusha says

Die Geschichte spielt im Glasgow in der Nachkriegszeit, wodurch sich ein besonderes Flair ergibt. Eine Art historisch Patina, die dem Ganzen einen zusätzlichen Reiz verleiht.

Und auch der Schreibstil ist schön, mit einigen trockenen Kommentaren und teilweise recht flapsig geschrieben.

Ansonsten ein schön geschriebener Krimi, der sich gut liest, aber nichts wirklich außergewöhnliches.

Karen says

Another good Lennox story and brilliantly read again by Sean Barrett.

Nick Davies says

I've never read any Raymond Chandler, but this 'tartan noir' was very much as I imagine Chandler's 'LA noir' (and similar) to be like. I was immediately drawn in by the wise-cracking narration in the opening chapters, even though it was a little hard to get used to in places - I was expecting a straight crime thriller rather than one from the POV of a private detective in the 1950s.

But yes, overall it was very good - somewhat violent and gritty in places (which put me in mind of Stuart MacBride, who I like very much) and a complex and convoluted storyline built around a central character who many men would like and want to be like. I did get a little confused in all the twists and turns on occasion - but this was more to do with the fragmented way in which I read the book than the book itself - but it came together and showed all the character of a well written, very readable, and very funny Scottish crime novel with a different slant to many others of the genre. I will read others of Russell's.

Alistair Cuthbert says

Gripping

Loved this from start to finish- great story, characters and lots of the cracking witticisms we've come to expect from Lennox

Sandra says

For reasons I couldn't quite fathom this didn't delight as much as the previous two Lennox novels. Maybe because of comparison to other books recently read, I'm not sure, but it did feel a little heavy handed, the jokes and the fifties references, but the plotting was as convoluted as ever. Possibly Lennox himself was shallower? Don't know, but three stars is the accurate rating for this one.

Jennifer Thomson says

This is the 3rd book in the Lennox series of books set in Glasgow. A famous robber's body has been found swimming in the Clyde. The man's daughters want Lennox to find out whether it is their dad or not. Seems like an easy job, but as ever in Glasgow's murky underworld dark secrets abound.

Craig Russell writes so well his book could be a movie and the Glasgow he writes about is a place he knows very well.

If you like fellow Scot Stuart MacBride or Michael Robotham, you'll love Craig Russell.

Ralf Demuth says

Enjoyed this book more than I expected so instead of switching to Ender's game I'll follow through to the next installment of this series. I'm also considering giving the books of this author a try that play in Hamburg.

Dave says

Another great story from Craig Russell. Lennox is on top form with a story line which involves enough intrigue, mystery & twists and turns to keep you wondering what's going to happen next.
On to Dead men & broken hearts now!
