



The Whispers of Nemesis

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It is winter in the mountains of Greece and as the snow falls in the tiny village of Vrissi a coffin is unearthed and broken open, revealing some unexpected remains to the astonished mourners gathered at the graveside. In a village where gossip flows like ouzo, the discovery in the grave sets tongues wagging and heads shaking. But when a body is found buried beneath the fallen snow in the shadow of the shrine of St Fanourios (the patron saint of lost things), it seems the truth, behind both the body and the coffin may be far stranger than the villagers' wildest imaginings. Hermes Diaktoros, drawn to the mountains on an affair of the heart, finds himself embroiled in the mysteries of Vrissi, as well as the enigmatic last will and testament of Greece's most admired modern poet. The Whispers of Nemesis is a story of desperate measures and dark secrets, of murder and immortality, and of pride coming before the steepest of falls.

The Whispers of Nemesis Details

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Author : Anne Zouroudi

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From Reader Review The Whispers of Nemesis for online ebook

Caitlin says

2.5 stars

Read as a stand-alone, which went fine. I didn't feel like I missed anything important.

The story skips around in time, and refers to some characters very generally in an effort to conceal identity, so you have to pay close attention.

Despite some confusion in timeline, I found it pretty clear what had happened long before the reveal. The ending felt a little unsatisfactory, but justice of a sort is served. The characters seemed split between terrible, selfish people and their weak-willed victims, so I had difficulty connecting to them. I already have the next book from the library, so I'll try it, but I'm not sure I'll finish that one.

Almeta says

The Seven Deadly Sins Mystery series = Pride

Deborah says

Another summer vacay in Greece, another Anne Zouroudi book. I really enjoy them - especially reading them while I'm in their setting enjoying all that deliciously described Mediterranean food - and this one was just as good as all the others.

I look forward to next summer's selection, The Bull of Mithros.

Susan says

This is an absorbing series, but it's sometimes hard to write a brief synopsis about it. A well-dressed, overweight man introduces himself to a Greek village as Hermes Diaktoros of Athens, an investigator for a mysterious, powerful group. He talks to a number of people--in the northern village of Vrissi, he visits an old woman he knew long ago. Some mysterious things happen; some mysterious things are untangled; people who are kind may reap a small reward; people who are cruel will generally pay for it. It's clear to the reader that Hermes really is the ancient Greek god in modern guise, but who, in the story, would imagine that this is the case? Here Hermes deals with the strange story of a famous poet who dies, is buried, SPOILER and then dies again.

Jane says

Another enthralling mystery in Zouroudi's Seven Deadly sins Hermes Diaktoros mystery series; having read

it, I think the sin is of pride. In this rural Greek village where the story is set, it is customary after several years to exhume a dead body and rebury the bones. After the exhumation of a famous poet's body, pig bones are discovered in the coffin. This throws the poet's family into a tizzy. According to the poet's will, none of his family can receive any inheritance until the exhumation and reburial. Hermes is called in to investigate the situation. A subsequent dead body is found near a chapel of St. Fanourios [Greek Orthodox saint of lost things]; I see why Zouroudi used *that* particular name. With the poet's ID card found on the body, it is identified as his. It is assumed he's hidden himself away for several years for whatever reason and the family will have to wait all over again for their inheritance. From various clues, Hermes suspects murder and after tracking down the killer, dispenses his one-of-a-kind justice.

There were unusual such twists and turns that I couldn't guess the solution, although finishing the novel, I saw how everything fit together. The author's love for Greece and its people and landscape shines through every page. In this whole series, I like how Hermes goes about solving each mystery and meting out justice.

Very highly recommended.

Anna Marie says

A murder mystery with a cerebral detective, god-like in his knowledge. In the end, justice is served and the mystery is tied up with a bow. Will read the rest of the series and also try her new one. Read for book club, some people liked the books, others hated them .. complained about unlikable characters and beliefs .. try a book besides the first one to see if you'll like them. You can read them in whatever order you want, they're all set on different islands and locations.

Miriam says

One of the least suspenseful mysteries I have ever read. Nicely written but no spark.

george burns says

Uneven

This novel starts very slowly. The puzzle begins with the death of a famous poet. His will is an odd one which has the effect of preventing his needy heirs from receiving anything until his bones are exhumed in four years' time. But by that time another body has appeared. Who is the new corpse and what relationship does he have to the poet? The puzzle is investigated by a detective usually referred to as "the fat man" and whose precise official position is never made clear. We are only told he acts on behalf of the highest authority. The mystery is very interesting, but the road to the solution is difficult, by turns, interesting and boring.

Jan says

Another enjoyable easy read in the Greek Detective series.

Really you know what you are getting with these books, but here again it is delivered with enough twists to keep you interested till the final reveal.

The food which features here is described deliciously too!

Shari says

I have now read all of Zouroudi's "Seven Deadly Sins" mysteries and I am sorry there are no more. Hermes Diaktoros is always a good friend and a fair and honest judge of character. His humor and his mystique are always enjoyable. I liked this particular outing especially well and I think it was because I knew I was on the final one in my collection.

Hubris -- the ultimate Greek sin, and where it takes the overly inflated ego; to what depths of depravity, insensitivity to the simplest rights of others, carelessness of others feelings, and so many other negative versions of a hubristic personality; all these were on display here. And Hermes Messenger is there to recognize, intuit, and chastise every one. There is no escaping his supreme authority, even if he ends up imprisoning one on their own island. Then the knowledge of the incarceration in one's own backyard becomes punishment you cannot escape.

Characterization is a strong talent of Zouroudi and in this mystery she has done exceptionally well. Her representation of the everyday lives of ordinary Greeks on a myriad of small islands is always interesting and revealing.

This series has been a joy to read and a comfortable reading experience.

Jane says

Wonderful.

Jennifer says

I found this the most satisfying novel in the Greek Detective series so far, underpinned by its predecessors. In the Whispers of Nemesis, Hermes Diaktoros really seems to come into the self which has been hinted at... the combination of earthly and divine. The story is slow building and complex, set in several different locations... for those of us who have never been to Greece, bodies found in snowdrifts is quite a difficult thing to envisage. The descriptions of food, ways of life, land and town scapes are the most secure so far. There are too, a number of very touching relationships... and some not so touching. In a book explicitly about the sin of Pride, Anne Zouroudi has created something of which she can be very proud.

Sean Harding says

I find this series a real hit and miss, some of them have been quite engaging, but this one was a big letdown, it was very similar in style to the other books, almost a carbon copy in some respects, you could almost tell what as she calls him "the fat man" was going to do at certain parts of the book. This was in the end slightly diverting but mostly dull and the weakest entry in the series so far.

Drayton Bird says

This is the third book I have read by this lady. I have enjoyed them all immensely. I think she is an extremely good writer, not just of crime stories, but by any measure.

It falls into a category we all recognise: the one where you stumble across a writer and character and feel you have found friends you can't wait to meet again.

If you like figures like Camilleri's Montalbano, I think you will love this. Not because the hero is anything like the good Commissario - he could hardly be more unlike in many ways - but because the writing and plotting is just as good, and some of the detail is not dissimilar.

The setting, Greece - but not the crowds of Athens; more the out of the way villages and little towns where old traditions still. Lots of details of food, as with Camilleri, but very often food that isn't very well cooked. Many interesting characters but no sexy women so far - more the disappointed in love, the black-clad widows, those whose life has given them little to cheer about.

It is funny, touching, intriguing - and you really get a sense of the real Greece. I really give it full marks. Can't wait to find another!

Rob Kitchin says

The strength of The Whispers of Nemesis is the evocation of place and community. Zouroudi places the reader firmly in Northern Greece, its culture, social relations and culinary delights. There is an interesting range of characters, but it tends to be the side characters who appear fuller and more engaging, for example, Hassan the taxi driver. The main character, the Hermes Diaktoros, is left somewhat anaemic, defined more by his clothes and appearance than his personality and backstory. In fact, we get no backstory and throughout he's somewhat illusive. The prose is engaging and well expressed, though I rapidly tired of Hermes always being referred to as 'the fat man.' Why not use his name? The only time it appears is when he introduces himself to people. Reading 'the fat man' two or three times a page was wearing. He's fat. I got that the first, the second and the hundredth time it was stated. In terms of plot, this was a book of two halves. I was really hooked by the first half, but the story kind of petered out in the second and the resolution was limp having been signposted from a long way out. Overall, an enjoyable read but didn't quite fulfil the promise of the first few chapters.
