



Impure Blood

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In the heat of a French summer, Captain Paul Darac of the Nice Brigade Criminelle is called to a highly sensitive crime scene. A man has been found murdered in the midst of a Muslim prayer group, but no one saw how it was done. Then the organisers of the Nice leg of the Tour de France receive an unlikely terrorist threat. In what becomes a frantic race against time, Darac must try and unpick a complex knot in which racial hatred, sex and revenge are tightly intertwined.

Impure Blood Details

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Author : Peter Morfoot

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From Reader Review Impure Blood for online ebook

Tammy says

In the heat of a French summer, Captain Paul Darac of the Nice Brigade is called to a highly sensitive crime scene. A man has been found murdered in the midst of a Muslim prayer group. There were many witnesses but no one saw how it happened.

As the Tour de France heads towards Nice, the police receive a terrorist threat. But Darac is convinced the threat is a hoax and some how the murder is involved. What is the real goal? Darac must try and unravel a complex knot in which racial hatred, sex and revenge are tightly intertwined before anyone else dies.

Satria Kusuma says

So many names to remember but it was nice plot. Overall it was good, 3.5 of 5

Seregil of Rhiminee says

Originally published at Risingshadow.

Peter Morfoot's Impure Blood is the first novel in the Captain Darac series of mystery novels.

It's great that Titan Books has published this novel, because it will equally impress dedicated fans of mystery fiction and those who don't normally read this kind of fiction, because the author has come up with a story that is simultaneously modern and old-fashioned.

I've often found it difficult to root for mystery and thriller fiction, because most authors lack the necessary literary skills to captivate me with their stories. Fortunately - every once in a while - I've come across talented authors who are capable of writing good stories and succeed in creating well-developed characters. I'm especially fond of authors who write Victorian mystery fiction, but I also have respect for authors who write modern fiction with a touch of old-fashioned charm.

Peter Morfoot is - along with such modern authors as David Sutton, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar & Anna Waterhouse etc - one of the best mystery authors, because he writes well-balanced mystery fiction that is a pleasure to read. His fiction differs nicely from what has become the norm for modern mystery fiction, because he pays attention to atmosphere, happenings and complexity.

In my opinion, Impure Blood is proof of the fact that British authors are masters of the mystery genre. When they write mystery fiction and thriller stories, they concentrate on tiny details and atmosphere, and what's best, they never lose sight of what's important and are not afraid of surprising readers with plot twists. They also create interesting and humane characters who have not been cut out of the cookie cutter mold.

Here's a bit of information about the story:

- In the prologue, a boy is swinging a scythe in the field. He senses some kind of a creature approaching him, but can't see it...
- An anonymous female caller has informed the authorities that a man has been murdered at a Muslim prayer service. It's impossible for Captain Darac to identify and trace the caller, because the emergency number she'd dialled was a free call. He finds out that the victim, Emil Florian, is a teacher at Lycée Mossette in Riquier...

This is the beginning of an intriguing story that has subtle complexity, interesting characters and a location (Nice) that has seldom been used in mystery fiction.

The characterisation is good, because the author makes his characters come alive by writing vividly about their various deeds and traits. Readers get to read about who and what the characters are and how they deal with things. It was interesting for me to read about their differences and how they interacted with each other. The relationship between Captain Darac and the public prosecutor Jules Frènes is a good example of excellent character interaction.

Captain Darac is a well-created and fascinating protagonist. He has been living in Nice for ten years, and he plays jazz in his free time. Because he's a Frenchman, he offers excellent counterbalance for British and American detectives and police constables, which have been seen in many mystery novels.

I enjoyed reading about the investigations and police procedures, because Captain Darac and his team found out interesting things about the victim. As an example I can mention that traces of GHB sweetened with sugar was found on the victim. I won't go into more details about what the investigations reveal, but I can mention that many readers will enjoy finding out what happens.

It's nice that the events take place in France, because it brings freshness to the story. When you read this novel, you get a feeling that the author is genuinely fascinated by France and the French Riviera. He evokes a beautiful and evocative vision of Nice with his prose. His depictions of the city, its surroundings and its people vibrate with life and atmosphere.

I found it interesting that the author also wrote about Tour de France, because it added additional fascination to the story. I'm not an expert on mystery fiction, but I think that this is something that is not often seen on the pages of mystery novels.

It's great that Peter Morfoot has combined several different elements ranging from murder mystery to possible threat of terrorism into his debut novel, because it makes the story intriguing. This mystery novel has quite a lot of substance and subtle complexity, which sets it apart from other similar kind of novels.

Readers who enjoy reading Impure Blood will be pleased to know that two sequels (Babazouk Blues and Box of Bones) will soon be published by Titan Books. I look forward to reading them, because I thoroughly enjoyed this novel and its thrilling atmosphere. This novel effectively lays the foundation for the further novels.

I was genuinely impressed by Peter Morfoot's Impure Blood and its entertainment values. If you're in need of good and well written mystery fiction, please invest a bit of time into reading this novel, because the story is entertaining and the events take place in Nice.

My final words are:

This novel is intriguing mystery fiction for adult readers!

Tim Gray says

Very entertaining, excellent twists and turns.

Susan Springer says

A good editor could have cut this 536 page book in half! More of a beach read, Captain Darac of the Nice Brigade Criminelle has his hands full: French muslims, nazis, marital discord, revenge, a murder, a kidnapping, the Tour de France, gay men, sexual predators --- you name it, it's in there.

Mrs B Alexander says

Good story

This book has an unusual plot with many twists and turns. I found it hard to put down but just possibly a bit too long.

Sheena says

I received a free proof copy. Thoroughly enjoyed this one. Once I got my head around the French personal and place names I was immersed in this stylish crime novel that strayed towards being a thriller. Pegged around the excitement that is the Tour de France and with a glamorous gloss and seedy underbelly it felt refreshing. The police methods were sometimes less than politically correct which frees up the story-line. It has a driven, headstrong, handsome yet vulnerable lead in Captain Darac. Maybe a few too many characters but if this becomes a series the reader will start to feel very comfortable and knowledgeable about their back stories, strengths and weaknesses. I know I want to read more about these characters who were all given distinct personalities and I want to return to the evocative and steamy South of France. Oh and the dialogue was clever and witty making it a pleasure to read.

Grady McCallie says

Terrific ensemble police procedural set in Nice. The main character, Paul Darac, is a jazz-playing detective inspector with a great supervisor (think Judi Dench as 'M'?) and a fine bunch of colleagues in various roles around him. When a man kneels at outdoor prayer and then fails to rise, the detectives are called in to find the motive and murderer. Meanwhile, in the background, local and national law enforcement deal with bizarre threats of a terrorist attack apparently tied to the arrival of the Tour de France on a leg through the city. The ultimate solution to the mystery is far fetched, but the book gets there fairly, and the characters along the way are tremendously appealing. I'm looking forward to future volumes in this series.

Leslie says

3.5 stars - took a *long* time to get into but got better. The plot also seemed unnecessarily convoluted, and with the unfamiliar justice system as well as some characters having nicknames, I found things a little hard to keep track of. I felt that it was worth it in the end, however, and would try another book by this author.

Lesley says

After you get past the uniquely French names and locations, the book takes on a great adventure and plot. As with any new series, you are introduced to so many characters, but the author keeps us in the action most of the time. It was a great plot with a good twist, and am looking forward to reading more!

Syndi Siahaan says

It's hard at first to remember with the many unfamiliar names of people and places (this is my first time reading a novel took place in france). But once I get past that, the story itself is pretty interesting. At first, these 2 cases seem unconnected. But as the plot unrevealed, the tension is getting higher and higher until the end.

Mark Iliff says

Unusual setting - south of France during the Tour de France - and tight writing. A few too many characters too soon, perhaps, but I enjoyed it a lot

Cheryl says

This author is new to me. The story started out fine, yet I had trouble engaging myself in the story as it kept progressing. The murder itself was not interest. In fact, I kind of missed it the first time and had to re-read it

again. Which again that was the theme for me for most of the first third of the story. I found myself more re-reading or even reading for a third time sections again. Captain Darac was interesting and lent a nice voice to the story. After a while I could not stick with this book anymore. While I was not a fan of the story itself or found the characters engaging, I did like the location and the feel of the overall story. Therefore, I would give this author another try in the future.

Luisa says

i won a copy of this book in the goodreads giveaway

i really enjoyed it, it has a great range of likable characters, and a solid complex yet easy to follow story line, i love how many of the characters were not who they first appear to be to, giving the story lots of twists and turns, for me the strongest part was the characters and i look forward to reading other books in the series to find out more about each of them and their back stories,
the tour de france was also a nice element and it was interesting to read a book based around the french police rather than English or American,

Graham says

It was ok. Struggled with it a bit at times. Not sure how plausible the story line is though
