



## Goodnight Sweet Prince

*David Dickinson*

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The debut of aristocrat-investigator Lord Francis Powerscourt, who takes on investigations too delicate for the police.

Prince Eddy is a notorious wastrel. But when he is found in his bedroom at Sandringham with his throat cut, his father, King George V, decides that the crime must be concealed. The prince is said to have died of influenza. Lord Francis Powerscourt is secretly commissioned to find the killer, but there are so many who have reason to hate the debauched and vicious prince that the task is a hard one. It leads him across Europe, to Venice, where amidst scandal and suicide, Powerscourt finally unravels the mystery.

## Goodnight Sweet Prince Details

Date : Published January 25th 2007 (first published December 18th 2001)

ISBN : 9781845294984

Author : David Dickinson

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Mystery, Historical, Historical Fiction, Historical Mystery, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Goodnight Sweet Prince for online ebook

### Catherine says

This series is very well written, one of the best I've read in recent years. The characters are well drawn, the author has done his historic research and places all of the events in the context of the social, political, and cultural changes of the times. All of his books, at least the 8 I've read so far, are quite evocative of the period and highlights events that breath life into his characters. While the books do not have to be read in order, there are continuing themes and relationships across books.

Sadly there isn't much I can say about this book that doesn't immediately lead to spoilers. It DOES have a range of elements that include blackmail, the flu, a rather special club for men in London, and the British Royal Family. Enjoy!

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### ? Irena ? says

3.5

*Goodnight Sweet Prince* features a very likeable protagonist whose mind sometimes wanders to unexpected places, some of which not connected to whatever he is working on at that moment. All part of the charm of Lord Francis Powerscourt.

He gets entangled in a web of lies when he gets a task of finding a person blackmailing Prince of Wales. He doesn't expect to find them fast since even those blackmailed don't want to talk about it. To make things even worse, someone murdered Prince Eddy and his father wants it covered up. Lord Powerscourt's investigation opens old wounds, uncovers secrets kept hidden for years and reveals things more sinister than Lord Powerscourt expected.

At times the story drags a bit, but as a *début* it gets a pass. I liked it. There's humour too. This is one of those stories where you root for the protagonist to solve the mystery, and yet at the same time you feel sorry for the guilty party. Or, at least I did.

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### LJ says

GOODNIGHT SWEET PRINCE (Professional Investigator-UK-1892) – VG

Dickinson, David – 1st in series

Constable, 2002- UK Hardcover

Queen Victoria is on the throne when Irish investigator Lord Francis Powerscourt is informed by his friend, Lord Rosebery, that someone is sending blackmail letters to the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII. The case takes a much darker turn when Edward's son, Albert, who is second in line for the throne after his father, is found brutally murdered in his bed. While it is publicly released that the prince died from influenza, Powerscourt hunts for the killer.

\*\*\* Dickinson has created a wonderful, and quite believable, mystery imbued with humanity and sympathy. The sense of period, time and place are excellent; the characters and story are realistic and interesting. There

is a quiet humor to Powerscourt, along with his relationship with Lady Lucy, the provide balance to the story. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and am happy knowing I have the rest of the series ahead of me.

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### **Janine says**

This is an interesting storyline which involves royal protocols. It was an interesting book with a marriage at the end. Nice ending to the book. Will finish the series as it is interesting.

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### **Nancy Oakes says**

Queen Victoria is on the throne. The Prince of Wales is being blackmailed via threats sent to him in notes with letters cut from two different newspapers. Lord Francis Powerscourt, investigator extraordinaire, is called in to solve the case. He and his small circle decide that since the only thing the Prince of Wales has on him that could possibly be of use to a blackmailer is already widely known, the blackmailer is targeting the behavior of his son, Prince Eddy. So they set to work looking for something in Eddy's past that might be of interest to a blackmailer. Boy, do they ever find it. Just as they are investigating, Prince Eddy is murdered and the family is urged by the highest councillors in the land to put out a story that he had succumbed to pneumonia so that they might avoid scandal & at the same time do discreet investigations into the motivations for killing the prince.

Powerscourt finds himself involved in a scandal that if released, would rock the monarchy itself. Nothing to do with Jack the Ripper, but a very satisfying mystery indeed.

This is the first in a series about Powerscourt; the writing is good but a bit tedious -- I think the author could have come to the core(s) of the mystery a lot sooner than he did. I did like how he made the characters very real to the reader; I liked how he set up the suspense aspect, but I think he is overly wordy and that is not a good point in a novel of mystery & suspense.

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### **Grace says**

2.5 stars

I didn't know what to make of this book in all honesty. I felt that the pace of the story kept changing dramatically. The lead character seemed to zip around Europe with ease which was impossible to believe as travel during Victorian times would have been slow and laborious. There were parts of the book I thought were ok and at other times the story dragged.

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### **Christopher Taylor says**

A mystery set in upper crust society of late Victorian England, involving some of the less pleasant aspects of

the Royal Family? Frankly I wasn't that interested, since snooty powerful Brits twitting around doesn't usually attract me. But I gave it a shot and was pleasantly surprised.

Well-written and interesting, this book is more than just a mystery, as it examines ideas of the soul, meaning, and human nature along side romance, boating, and the history of English royalty.

Prince Edward dies, murdered horribly and the coverup begins. But at the same time, Lord Powerscourt (a name a bit too on-the-nose) has to find out who killed the heir presumptive without actually letting anyone know what he's doing.

What he uncovers is an unsavory, unflinching look at royal debauchery and sleaze that the Duke of Clarence was involved in, with an unwaveringly accurate period attitude among the characters. A well done book, if a bit tough to read at parts due to the content.

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### **Helen says**

Growing up my Mother and I read several "royal" books about members of the House of Windsor (as it became) and she certainly fostered the idea that Prince Albert Victor "Eddie" was not a strong personality, that there were suggestions of lack of intellect and emotional instability, that it was perhaps not the worst tragedy from a public perspective that he died so young, but that since he did die none of it mattered.

This book is total fiction with just enough truth to carry the plot along. Princes Albert Victor and George certainly sailed on the Britannia but there is absolutely no suggestion that anything untoward happened aboard. They also were abroad on board HMS Bacchante and I agree that is an odd name for a naval ship, but then so is pansy and primrose, both of which existed. The author could just as easily created a plot involving the prince with music hall dancers so that's as broad as it is long. When you start mucking around with the personal life and death of public figures you have to take a firm stance, as if there is no doubt at all as to the events, and Mr. Davidson does that. He moves his characters firmly and describes events clearly and in a way that drives the person with a little knowledge straight to research. It was a very good read and certainly an inspiration to read the others in the series.

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### **Jay Cardam says**

Interesting take on the death of Prince Eddy, Victoria's Grandson, based on the rumors that have surrounded his death and life. Interesting main character who wanders here and there a bit taking tangents that are often amusing or interesting in themselves. I would definitely read another.

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### **Denise Mullins says**

In 1892 Victorian England, the queen's grandson is horribly murdered, leaving the government the formidable task of not only solving the crime, but providing a plausible cover up. And while the premise of David Dickinson's mystery is beautifully developed, he misses the opportunity to explore suspects and their histories more fully as he wastes time on pointless encounters with insignificant characters. However, the end does have a very clever and all too realistic twist that reveals to what extent government spin doctors will go to conceal the truth.

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### **Sheila says**

Engaging and well written.

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### **Rachel says**

#### **Wonderful historical mystery**

I found the beginning of the novel to be a bit slow at first, with main and secondary characters who seemed as though they must have appeared in a previous novel (even though I knew this was the first in the series). It was a bit hard keeping the names straight, especially as many of them had official titles as well as their given name along with nicknames.

However, I very much enjoyed the plot, as well as the believable motives of the characters. Powerscourt's mental flights of fancy were amusing, especially when thinking of his three sisters. (He referred to them as the three witches in Macbeth).

All in all a fun read, and I am looking forward to reading the next book in the series.

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### **Susan says**

Lord Francis Powerscourt is called in by the household of the Prince of Wales when in 1891 Prince Eddy his eldest son is found murdered.

At times there was a bit too much description which for me slowed the pace of the story but still an enjoyable mystery.

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### **Carrie says**

Good story, but sometimes is droned on and on. The author uses too many long rabbit trails. It makes the main character seem like he is daydreaming all the time.

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### **Sara G says**

DNF @ 9%. This book is all over the place and I don't understand why it's plotted so strangely. It keeps going back and forth with different events without any transition and it's confusing to follow. Moving on.

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