

Murder at Matins (Bevyn Jones Book 2) by Davyd Gosselin

Date Read – 20190412

Rating 3 Stars

Revised Review May 24 2020

Mr Gosselin has had this book re-edited and revised and has provided me with a copy of the new version. I have checked this version and I have found that all of the examples of problems that I had referenced in my original review have been corrected. I haven't completely re-read the book except for excerpts around where the errors were but I have concluded that this is almost a complete re-write and I have shelved it on Goodreads as a future re-read. I hope Mr Gosselin has taken the same steps with book 1 "The Boathouse Murderers" as it had similar problems. I don't think I'll revise my rating of this book at this time but I'll wait until I read book 3 of the series which Mr Gosselin has indicated is expected to be published sometime in June and of which I am anxiously awaiting.

Once again because of my 2019 Arthur Ellis awards reading project I broke my rules and bought a novel out of order in a series by a new to me Canadian author but once again I was really lucky and found a book I quite liked and I'll probably read more by Mr Gosselin. This book has many good things going for it such as some very good descriptive writing of the settings, weather, daily life, work and worship in the commune, the food and the large cast of likeable and unlikeable characters with all their secrets and warts. Perhaps there are a few too many mystery plot lines that don't all seem to be connected but just muddy up the investigations with again perhaps too many investigators, some undercover, but all seemingly with their own unrelated agendas but it all adds up to a good read and the big Hercule Poirot/Nero Wolfe type reveal meeting led to a satisfactory ending. This story should have been a 4 star read except for the apparent lack of any proof reading and editing. I don't usually downrate a book for these problems but this one is so bad I am forced to. I'm listing a few random quotes to illustrate what I'm saying but really you can find something like this on almost every page. Here's a few ---

- allow me get you something to eat

- If we haven't heard in the hour, I'm contact Andrews," Jennifer replied.

- mix of distain and

- He was quiet man.

- “Unmoved, Romero spoke matter-of-factly. “He was a good priest, and helped many, but he had other interests. As you know, we are not one-dimensional.”

And now for one of my favourites -

- She met Susan on the way to the refectory, who wore a long face.

Wow! That must really have been something to see the refectory with that long face!

I know this book was self published but I have read many self published books that don't have these problems so I can only suggest that Mr Gosselin hire a professional proof reader and if this book was read by one Mr Gosselin should fire her/him and find a new one. Anyway I'll most likely read more in this series.