



The Lost Constitution

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The Lost Constitution Details

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From Reader Review The Lost Constitution for online ebook

Joanne Moyer says

An interesting and exciting ride through history with rare book expert Peter Fallon as he searches for a lost annotated copy of the Constitution. I've read William Martin before and enjoy his back and forth progress through time storytelling.

Matt says

Martin has his wonderful duo, Peter Fallon and Evangeline Carrington, back for another treasure hunt through time. As the US Congress begins debate on repealing the Second Amendment of the Bill of Rights (that infamous right to bear arms), Fallon is made aware of an early draft of the US Constitution, annotated with the intentions of the New England delegation of Founding Fathers as it relates to a Bill of Rights. This draft was stolen and smuggled out of Philadelphia, making its way through various hands all over New England. As Fallon and Carrington seek to track the document down, scholars and prominent members of the rare document community begin turning up dead. Carrington soon falls into the hands of one invested party, keen on ensuring that Fallon finds the document before it's too late. As Fallon searches, Martin illustrates the historical movement of this draft and how its content could have altered some key constitutional events through to the present day. From the early days of the American political experience, through to the Civil War, the Prohibition Era, and even Clinton's impeachment allegations, Martin takes the reader through a multi-generational story, offering insights at every turn. Explosive to the final pages, Martin flexes his literary muscles to draw fans in for his most electrifying series novel to date.

A keen reader of constitutional books, fictional and factual alike, I was drawn to this book years ago. I tried reading it at that time, but struggled. Having made the effort to read the Fallon series from the beginning, I was better prepared for this book and the format it takes. Martin has made a name for himself as both a historical writer, but also choosing to take a much deeper approach, writing a modern-day story that juxtaposes its historically evolving sub-plot that mirrors Fallon's plot. The plot is highly political in its nature, but the novel deals more with the passing of the document from generation to generation with a historical backdrop than the political content of the annotated document. Fans of the series will catch some of the crumbs Martin offers from past novels and the nuances in the character development, which is always a lovely addition to the reading experience.

Kudos, Mr. Martin on another exciting addition to the Fallon series. I find myself more addicted with each passing novel.

Like/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

Debbi says

Loved this book once I got into it. I would describe it as a historical fiction mystery. Started off slow at first

as each chapter changed from current time to the time the Constitution was written. It was a great way to learn a little more about history and be entertained at the same time.

Sherry says

I've read all of Wm. Martin's books but one. I thoroughly enjoy his mixture of history and modern day. This book was very interesting. It told the story of an alleged first annotated draft of the constitution. The notes were written by the New England signers before the Constitution became law. Of main concern, thoughts of these signers about the ability to own guns and the separation of church and state. The story begins with the year that the New England Framers are about to sign the Constitution and the Bill of Rights through to today and the story that led for the search for the document.

I highly recommend Mr. Martin's books especially if you enjoy reading about our history. My favorite is still Harvard Yard, but all his others are close seconds.

Bob says

A good read for anyone who likes historical novels, mysteries and is or has been a northern New England resident. This is a two part novel, the first being a generational tale of a missing annotated copy of the Constitution and the second a current day search for said copy by a rare book dealer.

The story starts with two brothers whose father is sent to debtors prison when he can not come up with tax monies on his property. The older brother joins Shay's Rebellion (1786) with others protesting against the new laws and the younger brother who aspires to be a lawyer gains the position as a aide to Rufus King at the Constitutional Convention. He is entrusted with a copy that has been annotated by members of the New England delegation, but has it stolen and this begins a multi generational search for the copy as it travels from family to family. The current time search is fueled by several parties who desire it to back their various stands on the sections on church and state and more particularly on the second amendment which one senator is attempting to have abolished.

The plot travels back and forth across Ma,NH,Me and Vt both from the 1700s to the present and those familiar with the area will I am sure recognize the locals visited. I found it to be an absorbing read and thoroughly enjoyed it and recommend it.

Kathy Chartier says

History buffs are in for a treat with Martin's book. A fast, knowledgeable romp through the lives of the men who signed the Constitution and those close to them. What did happen to the first draft of the laws of our land?

Donna Dawson says

It has been several years since I've read a William Martin book, and I had forgotten just how good a storyteller he is. He is a true master of historical fiction. This book is set in Boston, with excursions to all five of the other New England states. The historical part goes back to 1787 when the US Constitution was

being written, although there are sections prior to that time. It then follows up with the Civil War (on a Virginia battlefield), and continues through the present time that the book was written (copyright 2007). The book is about a lost draft of the Constitution and the main characters' adventures in trying to locate the draft. The action centers around what the founding fathers might have been thinking as they drafted the document, including their thoughts about a potential Bill of Rights. Those discussions when the document was being written are still relevant today, especially with the current comments about the Constitution in today's political arena. As with all of this author's books, the writing is excellent, with just enough sarcasm and smoothness included to make the book interesting reading.

Deborah Coonts says

Bill Martin weaves wonderful dual-timeline stories, giving the historical context of a document in the original time, while his continuing characters search for it in the present. Love the rich history. Love the adventure. Love the romance. Well done and very much worth reading.

Lori Espino says

Amazing book that details through the story the history of Ma, NH, VT and Maine from the writing of the constitution through present day in the search for a lost early version of the constitution. Great read but incredible amount of material to read through. As usual, William Martin doesn't disappoint with a fast Paced search and historical detail that speaks much louder through this novel than any history class I've ever been in.

Susan Stater says

This is the first book I've read by this author. I liked it but I didn't love it. It was a selection for a book club I belong to and once it was selected I had hoped that perhaps this could be a new series featuring treasure hunters Peter Fallon and his girlfriend, Evangeline, that I would enjoy. The main problem I had with the book was that I felt it was too long. Don't get me wrong, I love a big fat involved read as long as I'm entertained and engrossed in the story. That wasn't the case with *The Lost Constitution*. I finished it but the last couple of hundred pages were losing my interest. I thought the description of New England's various landscapes, towns, and villages were charming and actually made me want to travel there. The historical story of the framing of the constitution was also fascinating. I guess I could have done with less people and less side stories. Still I think I will probably give this author another try.

Benjamin Thomas says

I always enjoy reading William Martin's novels. They have well-developed characters, interesting plots, and a writing style that makes them fun to dive into. His Peter Fallon series is a perfect blend of a couple of my favorite genres: historical fiction and modern day thrillers.

For those that have yet to experience one of the Peter Fallon books, let me summarize the approach. Peter is

a rare-book and manuscript expert and businessman, specializing in collectables of historical significance. In these novels, he is a treasure hunter, following clues from many sources until, hopefully, he reaches a successful end to his journey. But what makes these books unique is that we readers get to follow along in history, joining the historical figures (both real and fictional) and their adventures with that very same treasure that Peter is hunting in the present day. It is really cool to jump back and forth and see how the events laid out in history transform into clues for Peter to follow.

This time, the treasure is nothing less than an original near-final draft of the US Constitution, with margin notes scribbled by the founding fathers. This novel was published in 2007 but is even more relevant today as Peter's present day world is engaged in a nation-wide debate on the the right to bear arms. Gun violence has reached such a level that they are even considering a repeal of the 2nd amendment. ("A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."). What would happen if some of those margin notes provided further insight on what the framers of the US Constitution might have been concerned with? Of course both sides of the issue have their thoughts and extremists in this novel are even willing to kill to either find the lost constitution or see it destroyed.

This makes for a fascinating tale and the book rises to the occasion. The historical chapters follow Will Pike and his descendants as the lost constitution is smuggled out of Philadelphia, sold, purloined, auctioned, and hidden for over two centuries. There are a lot of action sequences as the document's value grows over time and people fight over its location or ownership as well as a lot of family intrigue. I did feel some of the middle sections grew too long and other parts could have stood some pruning as well but overall it was a fully engaging story. It was also nice to see progress with Peter's personal life as well.

I certainly recommend this series, particularly for those interested in historical America. The first two books in the series (Back Bay and Harvard Yard) were almost entirely set in the Boston area but this one found its way to all of the New England states. These books are a treat for me so I only read one per year or so. I always want at least one to look forward to.

Angie and the Daily Book Dose says

Another fantastic historical thriller from William Martin! Tracing the possibility that an annotated copy of the first draft of the Constitution exists our hero, an antiquarian bookseller sets off to find it. Along the way we are transported back and forth through time with the holders of the document.

I love this guys stuff! A light easy read.

Richard McMahon says

Another historic mystery by a talented author. What if the US Constitution we have today is not what the

founding fathers intended? As usual, William Martin has written another fine mystery woven into American History.

Sandra says

Similar to DaVinci Code. Lookingt for a lost historical document - part of the US Constitution. Author vascillates between the past and the present through a multitude of characters. I felt I needed a genealogy chart to keep up with all the characters. Some of the present day scenes weren't realistic. Read for book club - most people were luke warm to the book. The reference to the history was well done

Lynda says

Living in New England and reading this book was exciting. This was my introduction to William Martin books and I have enjoyed reading his books. To relive some history during the present is always enjoyed by our family. This book encouraged me to GO and visit and dream of what was once here in America. I enjoyed the search for the lost Constitution and the pace kept me reading page after page.

My favorite part of the book... "This is America. In America we get up in the morning, go to work and we solve our problems."

I would highly recommended this book and any book by William Martin, especially with Peter Fallon!
