



A Second Daniel

Neal Roberts

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London 1558. An orphan from a far-off land is renamed “Noah Ames,” and given every advantage the English Crown can bestow.

London 1592. Now an experienced barrister, Noah witnesses what appears to be a botched robbery outside the Rose Theater, a crime he soon suspects to be part of a plot against Queen Elizabeth herself. Steadfast in his loyalty to the Queen, Noah must use every bit of his knowledge and skill to lure her most disloyal subject onto the only battlefield where Noah has the advantage ... a court of law – though in doing so he risks public exposure of his darkest secret, a secret so shocking that its revelation could cost him everything: the love of the only woman who can offer him happiness, his livelihood ... even his life.

A Second Daniel Details

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From Reader Review A Second Daniel for online ebook

Ariel C says

High calibre Tudor historical fiction from debut author Neal Roberts.

Vividly rich descriptions of Elizabethan London and the legal environment of the era.

A relaxed pace read that make use of the present tense.

Rose Collins says

A spectacular historical page turner!

A Second Daniel is a stunning example of historical fiction based in the era of Elizabeth I.

Probably the best title set in this era that I have read yet.

A strong plot accompanied by humorous, intriguing writing with a meticulous degree of attention to detail.

The book is very well researched and filled with notable personalities of the Elizabethan era.

A narrative brimming with detail vividly breathes life into a world which has been long gone for almost four centuries - with each page reconstituting the key players at the royal court of the final Tudor monarch, complete with a skilful reenactment of its legal processes and even the typical speech patterns, social mannerisms & customs of the age.

Neal Roberts is a writer of the highest calibre and an amazingly skilled author of historical fiction.

This title is the first fiction book I've ever read written in the present tense.

A superbly descriptive narrative, good dialogue and vividly rich three dimensional characterization .

Pacing is perfectly adjusted throughout the book, fast paced for the action scenes and slowed down in other scenes to the savoring of the historical aspects of the work, such as the settings, processes and speech patterns typical of culture long past living remembrance.

A Second Daniel defies all the usual genre classifications.

Its a masterpiece that encompasses so many different genres: fiction, mystery, suspense, crime and historical.

A fabulous read!

Bethany Swafford says

When he witnesses a murder, Noah Ames embarks on an investigation into what he suspects is a plot against the Queen. He uses the skills he's learned as a barrister to find the truth, risking everything to do so.

What I really liked about this was that the hero was not young. He's had years of experience and uses it to his advantage. The interactions he has between his friends and younger barristers are witty. While there are MANY characters, the opening list was helpful in keeping them straight, and most of them are memorable in their own way, bringing something of importance to the story.

The level of historical detail was impressive and is something I always look for when reading a historical

piece. The end note that explains exactly what was fiction and what was true was interesting and I'm glad it's there.

There were only two points which I disliked. The first is that it's written in the present tense, but I will admit that once I began reading and became caught up in the story I didn't notice it as much. Secondly, the use of italicized words for emphasis and inflection is overused just a bit, in places where the words could have been allowed to stress the point without italicization.

Overall, this was a fantastic intrigue and one I would recommend to those who enjoy mystery, intrigue, and history.

I was provided with a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Deborah says

This is the story of Noah Ames (a Jew) and the Duke of Essex. Although Essex is intent on killing Ames as he has been the unwitting witness to a murder which Essex supposedly saw although he couldn't possibly have seen it happen, when Ames has the chance of seeing Essex's hand cut off he fights in the legal way - the only way he knows - and sees that Essex retains his hand at least for the time being.

I enjoyed this story and would like the chance to read the second book. Although the story is long there was no event that didn't have a bearing on the story and I chose it for its historic values. I was glad to see these explained at the end of the novel as it made clear to me what was real and what really was fiction.

ARC from NetGalley.

Alexandra says

I thought this book was quite entertaining, especially the first half. It's a crime mystery meets historical fiction in the land of the Tudors, so it's a combination of various genres that I typically enjoy. It did get quite slow in the end and I felt like it ended rather abruptly. I understand that the author didn't want to wrap up the whole Essex affair to leave room for a sequel, but he could have better developed the resolution to the plot. I didn't like the title, I felt like calling Noah a "second Daniel" for escaping "the lion's den" was rather pushed. I also thought that Marie's character would have been far more interesting if she had been in league with Essex like I originally thought. Additionally, "Jessica" was not a popular name in 16th century England; the first written account of the name was in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, which was published after the events in the novel take place. I might read the sequel, but I'm certainly in no hurry to do so.

Patricia says

Neal Roberts writes that historical fiction provides a "what if" and "fill in the blank" look at history and is meant to amuse, entertain, and enlighten the reader. This first book in the series does all three in a delightful mix of well-known men during the reign of Elizabeth I [Earl of Essex, Lord Burghley and his son Robert Cecil, Francis Bacon, Roderigo Lopez] and the fictional Jewish barrister, Noah Ames. Good historical fiction has always inspired me to go back to the history books to refresh my memory but this story was so interesting that I hated to take a moment to google some of the details [the murder of the playwright

Christopher Marlowe and the execution of the physician Roderigo Lopez] so I took a few notes and checked later.

The book is well researched and the author's notes are helpful. He also recommends the C. J. Sansom series about another lawyer in Tudor England, Matthew Shardlake. I recommend them too.

No graphic sex or violence

Susan says

It's 1558 and a orphan acquires the patronage of Elizabeth I. Over thirty years later 'Noah Ames' is a barrister. He becomes embroiled in a murder and unfortunately comes to the attention of the Earl of Essex. What is the Earl plotting and can Ames uncover it.

Although an interesting tale, I did not like that the story was written in the present tense.

Eileen Hall says

Set in Elizabethan London, this is a riveting story about a barrister, Noah Ames, a loyal subject of Elizabeth, who discovers a plot to kill the Queen.

Noah must bring this person to justice, but in turn his past may come back to bring him down also.

Great read!

I was given a digital copy of this book by the publisher Booktrope via Netgalley in return for an honest unbiased review.

Heather says

I enjoyed the first half, but by the last half I was very much looking forward to the end. Sadly, I won't be continuing on with this series. The story had a lot of potential, but pace seriously lagged by the end and I just stopped caring.

Throughout the book I had some problems with the writing, but the story made up for it for a while. But once the story started developing issue, the writing became more and more a distraction for me. As some others have mentioned, the use of present tense was sometimes jarring. Also, there was a serious overuse of italics. It was rare to find a page without italics. I don't mean italics when reading a characters inner thoughts, which of course is a common use. Rather, italics were often used to emphasize words within quotes. I actually counted 11 in-quote italics on one page. It was a bit much.

Lastly, there were a lot of very simple historical inaccuracies that bothered me. As an avid reader of historical fiction, I'm not a stickler for accuracy. It is called "fiction" for a reason. But, in combination with the writing issues I had, these just got to me. Especially cause they were so simple and unnecessary. Drinking coffee in 1500s England? No. The use of boiling to make potable water? That would mean an understanding of bacteria and disease. No. That's just two examples. These are petty things to be bothered by, but as I said, in conjunction with the writing issues, they seriously nagged at me.

I received this copy via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Ralph Deatherage says

An Excellent Book.

This is a tightly scripted, fast moving story that captivates the imagination. Even with the disclaimers to the contrary, it is difficult to believe this story did not happen. A very good job, Neal Roberts.

Gillian says

Couldn't finish the book. Tried and tried but the writing style and frequent use of anachronisms was too much to bear and so I gave up. Very disappointed as Tudor England is one of my favourite literary settings. Present tense is too distracting in a novel like this and adding in modern day US courtroom terminology to describe proceedings in an English Tudor courtroom was frankly ridiculous.

Gayle says

A young Jewish boy helping his uncle deliver goods to the castle finds himself in the presence of royalty. Queen Elizabeth places this young boy under Her protection, renaming him Noah Ames. He is given all rights and privileges, eventually becoming a lawyer. Years later, he finds himself at the scene of a murder and befriends the victim's widow. This death is soon followed by the murder of Christopher Marlowe, playwright. With all the intrigue and shifting loyalties of Elizabethan England, this novel follows Noah as he attempts to keep his faith concealed from those who would harm him while still working to defend others accused of wrong-doing.

I found this novel quite entertaining. It is just a convoluted as things were at that time in history. I would recommend this book to others and I anxiously await the next novel in this series.

Sharon says

A very interesting political mystery/thriller that takes place in London during the time of William Shakespear, Christopher Marlow and Francis Bacon. Great characters and drama in a historical context with of details that add a lot to the pleasure of reading.

Kristine (A Cozy Booknook) says

This is a good, solid story from debut author, Neal Roberts. I enjoyed the characters, as well as the setting. I thought the story interesting and engaging. If you're a fan of historical fiction, you'll enjoy this book.

I received an advanced reader's copy from PageCurl Publishing and Promotion in exchange for an honest review.

Bonnie says

This was a really entertaining book and I will read more in this series. I liked the author's notes at the end that explained what characters and events area real and which fictional. I was glad that he explained his trial scene as I knew that at it was anachronistic since people on trial at that time had no access to counsel.
