



## Rest Not in Peace

*Melvin R. Starr*

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## **Rest Not in Peace** Melvin R. Starr

Master Hugh is asked to provide a sleeping potion for Sir Henry Burley, a friend and guest of Lord Gilbert at Bampton Castle. Sir Henry, (with his wife, a daughter by a first wife, two knights, two squires, and assorted servants), has outstayed his welcome at Bampton Castle. The next morning after Master Hugh provides the potion, Sir Henry is found dead, eyes open, in his bed. Master Hugh, the target of the wife's wrath, is asked by Lord Gilbert to determine the cause of death ...

## **Rest Not in Peace Details**

Date : Published October 1st 2013 by Lion Fiction (first published August 1st 2013)

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Author : Melvin R. Starr

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## From Reader Review Rest Not in Peace for online ebook

### Vera Godley says

The historical setting of Rest Not in Peace is medieval England in the year 1368. I previously read and reviewed The Tainted Coin and found Mel Starr's writing style refreshing, development of the characters interesting, educational to behavior of characters of the historical period believable, and felt very comfortable that scenes, behavior, personalities, medical practices, etc. described in the book true to the period. I base this assumption on the educational background and teaching experience of the author as well as his studies of medieval medical practices. So often historical reads are romances and filled with the give and take of the male and female protagonists. However, in Mel Starr's The Tainted Coin and Rest Not in Peace, I discovered Master Hugh de Singleton, Surgeon and found him a character of many fine points that the author develops quite well and the books are absolutely clean reads.

The story is written first-person with the voice of Singleton. He is the bailiff for the Lord's estate as well as a surgeon. Author Mel Starr is a historian by education and trade and has thoroughly researched this period novel. Included in the front of the book are words and terms to help understand the terminology of the period such as foods, pieces of clothing, and names of objects. But you don't feel as though you are reading a history book.

In Rest Not In Peace, Hugh de Singleton is called to the castle as the bailiff to investigate the death of a guest of Lord Gilbert. I especially enjoy the sentence structure utilized by the author that captures the mode of speech indicative of the 1360s England. True it is not "old English," but it does set the tone for a period difference. In the process of discovery and investigation, station in life in medieval England again allows that the gentry are afforded more leeway than the common man. Social order and the privilege of rank that existed and played a role in meting out justice for those who broke the laws.

Singleton's contemplations are interesting and often take place on his way home as he crosses Shill Brook where he subtly draws analogies between the brook's water flow and the situation he is investigating. This is also a spot where he seems to calm his senses and "cleanse" himself mentally, emotionally, and perhaps even spiritually.

DISCLOSURE: I received a complimentary copy of Rest Not in Peace from Kregel Publications on behalf of Monarch Books and the author for the purpose of my honest review. I was under no obligation to provide favorable comments. Opinions expressed are solely my own.

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### English says

Rest Not in Peace was one of the better instalments in the Hugh de Singleton series. There were lots of twists and turns, suspects and motives, and the culprit was not immediately obvious. Sometimes I did get a little confused between the characters, and perhaps a tad lost, trying to remember who was who and what was what, but it was a generally believable and plausible mystery. The next book in the series, which I read after this one, contained what I thought to be a major flaw in the information given to the reader, but I did not spot any such thing here.

Admittedly, Hugh was never the sharpest knife the drawer, and could have followed the lead he did to solve

the mystery more quickly, but then there would be no story... Admittedly there were a few loose ends, but then I think all mystery and detective stories have these upon occasion. I found the religious content satisfying as well- although Hugh's some of Hugh's actions do not always sit well with his convictions, when there could be other ways of getting the information he needs.

The historical information was, as usual interesting, with the details about surgery- though most of it was focused on food in this one. I really should have made more use of the glossary, but with the PDF version it was not easy to keep flitting back and forth. Good for fans of Medieval and clean mysteries.

I received a PDF version of this book from the publisher, via Netgalley for review. I was not required to write a negative one and all opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Meagan Myhren-bennett says**

Rest Not in Peace  
The Chronicles of Hugh de Singleton, surgeon #6  
By Mel Starr

In Rest Not in Peace, Master Hugh is stymied when Sir Henry Burley is found dead. Was it the sleeping potion he prescribed? Or something more sinister at work?

Rest Not in Peace will keep you guessing until the very end as to the guilty party. Was it Sir Henry's dissatisfied second wife, his daughter, one of his knights, or the squires? Every clue Master Hugh finds just creates more questions - at least in his view.

Adding to his investigation are the circumstances surrounding Sir Henry's visit to Lord Gilbert and Bampton Castle. Why had Sir Henry outstayed his welcome and was the murderer one of Bampton Castle's own?

If you like medieval historical fiction and a fan of murder mysteries you won't be disappointed in Rest Not in Peace. Take a trip to 1368 England and have a cup of tea as you settle in for an ingenious and perplexing English murder. Join Master Hugh as he calls upon his skills and knowledge as both a surgeon and a bailiff to solve a murder for which there is no apparent cause. Can a healthy man's death be attributed to a harmless sleeping potion? Hugh de Singleton is determined to discover the truth even as something more sinister returns to Bampton and to England.

I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher Lion Fiction and Kregel Blog Tours in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Wanda says**

Hugh de Singleton, surgeon and bailiff for Brampton Castle, must solve yet another murder. When Sir Henry Burley, a guest at Brampton Castle, was found dead in his bed, Master Hugh set about gathering clues. Sir Henry had enemies, more than he could count, but exactly who would resort to murder and why? When Sir John Peverel ends up dead as well, it only creates more questions and clues. A note slipped under Lord

Gilbert's door, a bodkin, a blood stained piece of linen, a carved piece of wood and a bloody kirtle--all clues leading to the culprit. With a lot of questioning and the mind of a detective, Master Hugh soon discovers a murderer at Brampton Castle.

This is my first book in this series and my first book by Mel Starr. Thankfully, each book can be read as a series or as a stand-alone novel. I have never read a murder mystery set in the medieval time period and I was a little concerned about the outcome. I have to say, though, that it worked very well. It was a delightful, clean murder mystery that kept me thoroughly entertained. It had some great plot twists and turns I wasn't expecting that kept me wondering just who the murderer was. Each time I thought I had it figured out I was, once again, running down rabbit trails. If you have read any of this series you will enjoy continuing with Rest Not in Peace. If this series is new to you and you like a light-hearted mystery you will enjoy this book also. I recommend it to any mystery lovers who don't like a lot of blood and gore in their mysteries.

Disclaimer: I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher for my honest review. The opinions stated are mine alone and are honest and forthright. If I recommend a book you can believe its a book I would read for myself. I received no monetary compensation for this review.

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### **Susanne says**

This sixth adventure/mystery of Hugh de Singleton, surgeon, involves a murder in Bampton Castle where Hugh also works as bailiff to Lord Gilbert. Sir Henry, a former soldier who fought alongside Lord Gilbert, dies taking one of Hugh's remedies for sleeplessness. Lady Margery immediately accuses Hugh of murder, but Hugh discovers a very sneaky way in which Sir Henry was killed while he was sleeping deeply because of Hugh's remedy. More suspects start to line up among Sir Henry's knights and staff. Lady Margery makes herself decidedly unwelcome at Bampton Castle, and Lord Gilbert tries to hurry Hugh in his sleuthing, as always aided by Hugh's lovely and very insightful wife, Kate.

This series is just so consistently amazing in its accurate portrayal of life in a medieval English village near Oxford in the late 1360s. The author has certainly done his homework into life in Bampton; there really was a Lord Gilbert Talbot with his wife Lady Petronilla who lived at Bampton Castle during this time period. In fact, there are a few ruins of the castle still visible about the town of Bampton (where many of the village scenes from *Downton Abbey* were filmed). The living by the church bells and saints' days is shown as well as the dangers of the time, the food served both at the castle and at Galen House where Hugh, Kate, and Baby Bessie live, plus the different medieval occupations and levels of society are well-researched. Even the turn of phrase throughout the books never allows readers to forget the time period in which these mysteries are set.

I am now placing my order with the library for Book #7 in the Hugh de Singleton, Surgeon Chronicles. Such a brilliant series!!

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### **Kevin Sorensen says**

I have grown very fond of Master Hugh de Singleton. He's a caring husband and a loving father (well, at least by volumes 4 & 5, and then onward from there). He's a surgeon (which he well should be, given Mel

Starr's fondness for medicine of the Middle Ages). And he's a bailiff – someone given authority to carry out his master's wishes and laws.

Oh, and before I forget, he's also a great solver of mysteries. He never seeks them out, but they seem to find him nevertheless, as they do in Starr's latest, *Rest Not In Peace*. I had this one figured out quite early...only to be proven wrong and subsequently confused with nearly every chapter! Starr seems quite adept at weaving his subtleties of characters, both flaws and strengths. From the wife of the victim to the knight who was Sir Henry's closest, from the serving staff to squires and so many others, Starr gives us a wonderful tapestry to behold.

Hugh de Singleton has become one of my favorite sleuths. And he believes, which is saying something in the days in which the Catholic church held dominion over all. There are moments when Hugh questions teachings from the church, suspecting they have strayed from the Word of God. And yet he wonders if one man could ever stand against the papacy and Rome. There is one point, in which Hugh and his darling wife, Kate (I wonder if Starr means to pre-figure another woman of strong character who will give great and tremendous encouragement to one who will indeed, stare down the Pope in Rome and see the Church restored and reformed) have a heart to heart conversation. The gospel is presented in this conversation in such a natural and powerful way, again, foreshadowing what is to come in just a few generations.

The reader will find, even though this is the sixth book in a series, the book stands on its own. Key characters reappear. Former plot lines are referenced, but only to enhance the existing account. So, read it and enjoy. I highly commend it.

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### **Lisa Johnson says**

Title: *Rest Not in Peace* (The Chronicles of Hugh de Singleton, surgeon #6)

Author: Mel Starr

Pages: 240

Year: 2013

Publisher: Lion Fiction

Mel Starr has written another winner in the medieval mystery genre! I have read all the books in this series and am so grateful for Mel's storytelling talent and ability to translate this talent to paper for readers' enjoyment and entertainment.

This story takes place mostly in Bampton Castle in 1368. Hugh de Singleton, surgeon and bailiff for Lord Gilbert is called to the castle to determine the cause of death of one of Lord Gilbert's guests, Sir Henry Burley. At first, it appears a natural death, but upon further investigation Hugh discovers Sir Henry is the victim of foul play. As the investigation proceeds, Hugh finds more suspects than he can rule out. Sir Henry's wife is known to want to be free of her husband to marry another. His daughter wants to marry a squire against her father's wishes. Could one of these women have killed Sir Henry? Maybe they worked together to end his life? Both of the knights in Sir Henry's employ desire Sir Henry's wife. Maybe they wanted to get Sir Henry out of the way?

All too soon another murder takes place under Lord Gilbert's roof, and he is not pleased. He charges Hugh to find the murderer quickly so he can be rid of the unpleasant Lady Margery, Sir Henry's widow. Hugh continues to question members of Sir Henry's retinue, but is unsatisfied with the direction his investigation takes him. The solution seems too pat, so he continues his search. He uncovers some unsavory information about Sir Henry and this opens up a new can of worms to weed through.

Eventually, Hugh discovers the truth and the journey to discovery is well worth the time spent upon the path. I really enjoyed reading about the food eaten and the language style of medieval times. The mystery will

keep readers engaged from beginning to end. There are different suspects at different points in the story that hold readers' minds, keeps them thinking and trying to figure out who the murderer is before the end of the novel. I am looking forward to Hugh's next adventure in The Abbot's Agreement, which will be released in late 2014. I highly recommend this very entertaining series for mystery-lovers everywhere.

My rating is 5 stars.

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book. The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot.com> . Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

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## **Gayle Pace says**

### **REVIEW**

Another slice of medieval skullduggery from the surgeon-turned-sleuth.

I have not read any of Mr. Starr's books until now. I definitely have missed out on some good reading. The genre, medieval mystery is quite interesting. The story takes place in 1368 in Bampton Castle. Hugh de Singleton was a surgeon and bailiff for Lord Gilbert. One of his guests, Sir Henry Burley has died. Singleton has been called to determine the cause of death. Is this a natural death or was foul play a part of his death. As time goes on, Hugh finds that he has more suspects that he can't find alibies for. Could Sir Henry's wife or his daughter have a part in this death? Both knights for Sir Henry may have wanted Sir Henry's demise. They both desired Sir Henry's wife. We then have another murder at Lord Gilbert's castle. He wants the murderer found quickly. He has had enough of Sir Henry's widow. Hugh feels the solution is too easy and won't quit searching. It appears Sir Henry's life was rather dark.' I enjoyed the way the author brought out the medieval period. The foods they ate and the way they talked. We as a society don't stop to think about the freedoms we have. This time period women were looked down upon but Hugh de Singleton didn't look down on his wife. Hugh listened and took stock in his wife's opinions. He thought of her as very intelligent and treated her as an equal and he definitely loved her. The author has quite an ability for telling stories and putting them in print. The moment you open the cover you will be hooked. You follow Hugh in his search for the murderers. You keep thinking you have it figured out and you turn the page. Turning that page changes everything. Mr. Starr has used his talent to keep the reader engaged in the plot and the characters. I totally enjoyed this book and I'm definitely going to read the first five of The Chronicles. If you love the medieval period and you love mysteries, you will love this book. I suggest that you grab yourself a copy and enter the medieval world of Hugh de Singleton and go with him as he investigates the murders.

I would give this book 5 KEYS.

I was given a complimentary copy of the book, REST NOT IN PEACE by Mel Starr from Kregel Blog Tours for my review. I received no other compensation.

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## **Jeff LeMaster says**

When a knight visits your castle, you hope he will sleep in the guest chamber, not the church graveyard.

Bailiff and surgeon Hugh de Singleton at first believes that Sir Henry passed peacefully in his sleep, but a thorough examination discovers clues that suggest murder. When a second murder occurs, the Lord of the Manor begins to lose patience with the slow pace of the investigation. Hugh is in a race to discover the culprit before he or she is able to leave the castle and perhaps never be brought to justice.

Author Mel Starr cooked up a recipe that has made his books so engaging and pleasurable to read. The primary ingredient is Hugh, your everyman hero. He then mixes in a heaping helpings of baffling mystery and serves it up on a bed of medieval manor life. The sights, sounds and smells of 14th century Oxfordshire exude from the pages.

The food is delicious, even though the reader never actually gets to taste any of it. Starr treats us to mouthwatering depictions of medieval mealtime in a country castle, from the first remove all the way to the sweet subtlety.

The author precedes his story with a helpful map of the town of Bampton, as well as a brief lexicon of medieval English words, both of which help create a wholly immersive reading experience.

I highly recommend this book. I received a review copy from Kregel Publishers in return for an unbiased review.

Full review at <http://www.noendtobooks.com/book-reviews/rest-peace-review/>.

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### **Doug Hibbard says**

Hugh de Singleton returns! After solving, though not truly resolving, the case of The Tainted Coin, our heroic surgeon and bailiff of Bampton is back to face the death of Sir Henry Burley. Mel Starr's chronicles of Hugh de Singleton continue with Rest Not in Peace.

Rest Not in Peace is the sixth book in the series. Mel Starr, teacher of history, brings us back to the fourteenth century. We dwell in a land of knights and peasants, lords and serfs, ladies and maids...and diseases, superstitions, corruption in religion and government, and, of course, murder. (On a side note, the afterword of Rest Not in Peace points out that some village scenes in the popular Downton Abbey show are filmed near the location of Brampton.)

Now, I could go on sounding like ad copy for Rest Not in Peace, and indeed I wish to. While my first exposure to Mel Starr's writing was a bit of a challenge and change of pace, I have since found myself loving the medieval world, though not longing to live there!

In Rest Not in Peace, we move from the death-at-large motif of The Tainted Coin and examine the death of a knight. Throughout, Starr gives us insight into the cultural situation of knights and noble ladies, and contrasts those with the servants, the basic free people, and the peasants. It is, truly, like a history lesson hidden in a novel.

Rest Not in Peace does depend somewhat on prior knowledge of the characters, as many series novels will. The reader can infer enough about de Singleton, et al. without reading other novels, but you will be uncertain

on a few points if this is your first exposure to the setting. Further, the lay of the land is difficult to know precisely, but the imagination works pretty well. I will say that a little deeper knowledge of the history will help, but that's a two-way street. Read this, and get a little deeper knowledge as well.

From a religious perspective, Rest Not in Peace does well in representing the mixture of truth and superstition of the times. I also liked some of the specific concepts included, like the theology of criminal justice. The idea expressed was that punishment now for crime helped avoid punishment in eternity. While it does not line up perfectly with evangelical theology today, it was a good viewpoint to include.

Is Rest Not in Peace for you? Do you enjoy a murder mystery? Do you mind spending a rainy afternoon or two in England, 1368? I'd suggest you give it a try. The content is clean, the book straightforward.

And, as with The Tainted Coin, there's a helpful glossary to understand the words that are coming out of Hugh's mouth. Plus, you can use those same words on Facebook and blow people's minds!

I did receive a free copy of this book for review. No requirement was given that the review be favorable, but Mel Starr's writing requires it.

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### **Spuddie says**

Another enjoyable entry in this series set in the 1360's, features Hugh de Singleton, surgeon and also Bailiff at Bampton Castle. It's odd, but I can nitpick a few things about the series that annoys me. First, there's a bit of God-bothering going on...the author often has the main character stop and ruminate God and churchly things, which normally might have me fling the book across the room. But he somehow manages to do it in an inoffensive and immersive way--after all, during that time period, anyone not a church-goer if not a downright believer would have been ostracized and certainly not held any important position. It doesn't come across as preachy, but I still tend to skim through those parts about being saved and the kingdom of heaven and all that malarkey. Second, it gets quite repetitive with the descriptions of the meals and the "common things" of that historical time period--the tugging of forelocks by the common folk when their "betters" pass by and such. After awhile I lost count of the number of times the terms "maslin loaf" and "forelock" were used.

And yet, I enjoy the books and so shall continue to read on in the series.

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### **Victor Gentile says**

Mel Starr in his new book, "Rest Not In Peace" Book Six in the Hugh de Singleton, Surgeon series published by Monarch Books returns us to Oxford in 1368 for another mystery involving the intrepid bailiff and surgeon.

From the back cover: "Is there any reason to suspect evil in this?" I asked. "None...but that the man was robust one day and a corpse the next."

Master Hugh, surgeon and bailiff, has been asked to provide a sleeping potion for Sir Henry Burley, a friend

and guest of Lord Gilbert at Bampton Castle, near Oxford.

Three days before St. John's Day, in the year of our Lord 1368, Sir Henry went to his bed hale and hearty after enjoying a long evening of music, conversation and dancing in Bampton Castle's hall. The next morn his valet found him cold and dead.

Master Hugh is asked by Lord Gilbert to determine the cause of death—despite shrill accusations from Sir Henry's grieving widow...

I have become a huge fan of Mel Starr and am fantastically pleased with his creation: Hugh de Singleton. These mysteries that he gets involved with are complicated and thoroughly enjoyable. I think Mel Starr is an extremely talented writer who really knows how to tell a story that will grab you and keep you flipping pages until you find out who did it.

Agatha Christie used to place her murders in a confined area with lots of suspects. Mr. Starr does the same. Here the confined area is Bampton Castle and the suspects are Sir Henry's current wife, a daughter by a first wife, two knights, two squires, and assorted servants. Sir Henry is a friend of Sir Gilbert but he has overstayed his welcome by almost a month and after a night of revelry he needs Hugh to give him a sleeping potion. When they try to wake him in the morning he is found dead. Now Hugh has to go through the possible suspects with all their motives to figure out which one of them did it. "Rest Not In Peace" is a very exciting book that will keep you engrossed in the characters as well as life in England in the 1300's. This is a wonderful series and I am glad I discovered Mel Starr and his wonderful hero. I am already looking forward to the next book.

You can find "Rest Not In Peace" at a discount at <http://www.deepershopping.com/item/me...>

If you would like to listen to interviews with other authors and professionals please go to [www.kingdomhighlights.org](http://www.kingdomhighlights.org) where they are available On Demand.

To listen to 24 hours non-stop, commercial free Christian music please visit our internet radio station [www.kingdomairwaves.org](http://www.kingdomairwaves.org)

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Monarch Books. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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### **Narita says**

This the second book of Mr. Starr's I have read. He has been added to my all-time favorite author's list! I plan to read all his books. The setting in the 1300's continues to fascinate me along with all the historical background of life in those times.

The star once again is Hugh de Singleton, bailiff and surgeon to Lord Gilbert of Bampton Castle. After almost a month, Lord Gilbert was tiring of playing host to Sir Henry Burley, his wife, daughter, 2 knights, 2 squires and the rest of his entourage. All hopes are dashed of them possibly departing when Sir Henry is found dead in his bed one morning. Upon first observation his death looks to be of natural causes, but Hugh is never one to take things as they appear. He quickly discovers that the guest has been murdered in a very

crafty way that would have gone undetected by most. This turns out to not be a simple case! His investigation opens the possibility of Sir Henry's wife, daughter, and knights! Before he can pin point anything specific another murder occurs and makes things even more complicated! Lord Gilbert has reached his limit with the unpleasant company and just wants Hugh to be done with it, and find a murderer so they will leave!

I was captivated by the plot. The more Hugh uncovers, the more unsure he is of who the murderer is. One minute I found myself thinking "Oh it has to be that one", and the next "Hmmm this person could be the guilty party too." It kept me on my toes guessing and wondering if the case could be solved. I loved Hugh's keen observations and brilliant ideas to attempt to flush out the criminal.

Once again I thoroughly enjoyed all the personal information about the daily life during in medieval times. This book also included a glossary of words that were used in that era we are not familiar with. They added even more to the historical detail and gave a vivid picture how people lived, from the wealthy to the poor. The ending is a surprise, not only who murdered Sir Henry, but another very expected turn of events. Hugh Singleton is the Sherlock Holmes of the middle ages! Mr. Starr's is not only a very talented writer, but I appreciate the wholesomeness and good taste in which his books are written. You would be hard pressed to find a murder mystery in this day and time that is not filled with blood, gore, and foul language. This book would be a wonderful read for a young person who likes mysteries. I cannot emphasize enough how entertaining this book is. You definitely will want to read it! Hats off to Mr. Starr once again!

I received this book free from Kregel Publishers. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own.

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### **Sarah Bailey says**

This is the sixth installment of the Hugh de Singleton chronicles, surgeon and bailiff to Lord Gilbert and as in the other three that I've read I enjoyed this one as much, if not more. At first I must admit I was a bit put off since there is some talk of rumors of how King Edward II was killed upon his death – the which I have never heard but in fact are based on historical rumors, whether they are true or not still remains a mystery. As a history buff, this intrigued as much as it horrified me, so I looked up more information regarding this and while some refute it there are some who do believe the rumors to be correct – but I digress as that isn't the intent of this book. Hugh is called upon to hurry to the castle of Lord Gilbert to look after the death of Sir Henry, a knight who was in financial trouble and not at all liked by his family or his villeins or commons.

In true Hugh fashion, he tires of Church rhetoric, I especially agreed with him on his views of purgatory on page 59, "If Sir Henry had not lived a life worthy of heaven I doubt that my prayers, or any man's, would send him there. But I keep such heretical views to myself." He also tires of the futility of trying to figure out the human condition of such evil that allows one man to kill another – but he knows that with a wife and child he needs the work so he keeps his views and thoughts to himself. While everyone around is rushing him to find the killer so that Lord Gilbert's guests can leave, Hugh does not want to send an innocent man to the gallows so he perseveres and sees the case through to certainty.

I was glad again of all the detail that Mel Starr provides his readers – it adds so much to the story and makes one feel they are reading a book from the old English countryside instead of a book written now. Some may

find the descriptions of the meals, the holidays and even the caste system boring but not I, I enjoyed this one immensely and I do recommend these books, even with as graphic as the rumor of King Edward was I eventually saw how it played into the whole story and since it seems to be historical fact and/or rumor I was able to look at it through the eyes of a history buff.

\*\*I was given a copy of this book from Kregel Publications in exchange for my honest opinion, no other compensation was given.

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### **Deborah says**

Master Hugh, surgeon and bailiff, is asked to provide a sleeping potion for Sir Henry Burley, a friend and guest of Lord Gilbert at Bampton Castle. Sir Henry—with his current wife, a daughter by a first wife, two knights, two squires, and assorted servants—has outstayed his welcome at Bampton.

The next morning, Sir Henry is found dead, eyes open, in his bed. Master Hugh, despite shrill accusations from the grieving widow, is asked by Lord Gilbert to determine the cause of death . . . which had nothing to do with the potion.

The sixth tale following Hugh de Singleton, Rest Not in Peace is sure to find its place among fans of detective and medieval historical fiction.

My Review:

I absolutely love murder mysteries. Especially those set in creepy castles in far away lands that I will never see with my own eyes. But when you throw Starr into the mix, you've got a mystery to die for. (Slight pun intended.) Starr's knowledge of medicine, vocabulary, and medieval history make this novel ring true with authentic turn of phrases and characters that feel realistic to the setting. Even though I have not read the first five novels in this series, I am absolutely going to backtrack and catch up.

So now comes the part where we talk about Hugh. Hugh is a surgeon with a quick, careful hand, and he knows how to take care of his patients. But when it comes to solving the death of Sir Henry, Hugh is ever-cautious about where the clues will take him. He doesn't over-examine the reason why one man would kill another, but tries to find the truth out before it's too late.

The details Starr adds to this drama truly adds to the narrative of the tale. I feel that even the most reticent reader will enjoy this novel thoroughly, and will find themselves just a little wiser for it.

This book was provided by the publisher for free in exchange for an honest review.

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