



Faked To Death

Dean A. James

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Sophisticated sleuth and vampire, Simon Kirby-Jones has been asked to speak at Lady Hermione Kinsale's writers'workshop. Much to Simon's surprise, author Dorinda Darlington is on the list of attendees. Simon is Dorinda! But then 'Dorinda' is found dead and Simon must take a bite out of crime.

Faked To Death Details

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Author : Dean A. James

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inbetween says

I WANT MY MONEY BACK.

cries

At first I was still hoping this second novel might be better than the first about this unnecessarily American and gay and vampiric "hero", since it was about a writer's weekend, but the unbearable egocentricity of the author (and his not-at-all endearing character) nearly make me throw up. Simon is pretentious and, like the book, boring, annoyingly stupid, and made all the worse so by the reader being expected to find Simon irresistible, charming and intelligent. Since that is never once given an ironic twist, and since the character can't display anything the author doesn't possess either - and doesn't actually ever try to show, instead relying on Simon to tell us again and again how wonderful he is - it does. Not. Work.

ETA: unlike eg. Joan Hess's novels. She's one of the many ratherbignames James cited as his group, yet she always manages to write wry, self-effacing humour, showing her heroines as interesting, flawed and intelligent beings.

I'm tempted to transcribe a whole chapter just to show how bad it is. Something like "I asked the butler who slept in which room" is spread over a whole chapter, with the butler always always always being referred to as "Lady Hermione's butler, Dingleby", with every sentence or so starting with "I did and then I did" and every tiny movement written out for no reason whatsoever (he opened the door and entered and closed the door etc. etc.). Furthermore, they always mention the others name in nearly every line of dialogue, as if the readers really were braindamaged which - ok - they have to be but I'm still annoyed by reviews and blurbs insisting this is delightful and endearing, "Yes, Simon." - "Ok, Giles." - "What shall we do next, Simon?" - "I think commit suicide, Giles?" - "Jolly well, Simon."

Camilla Harry says

good / funny

Todd says

Disappointing. I really enjoyed the first book in the series, but this one seemed to lose itself by the end. Some of Simon's actions, particularly as they related to his agent, were completely unbelievable. Not that I look for realism in a book like this (after all, there is always the nightly news for that). I was also disappointed to find the blackmail motive recycled here since it was basically the same basis for the murders in the first book in the series.

Still fun to read. Just a little less fun than the first one.

Nadia says

2nd foray into Snupperton Mumsley with mystery solver Simon Kirby-Jones. Dr. Kirby-Jones is a vampire, he is gay, he is the author of a mystery series and a romance series, and he solves murders in the little English village he now calls home. This time, Simon is at a week long mystery writers conference at a stately English home. As to be expected, a murder occurs and it is none other than the woman impersonating Simon's alter ego, Dorinda Darlington. Great names in these books.

I found this 2nd book much more enjoyable. Partly I think it is because Simon comes across as less pretentious than in the first book. Also, there is less set up and showing Simon getting used to the village and his new home (in book 1 he has just moved to England from the U.S.). The development of the relationship (between Giles and Simon is progressing along in this book, albeit slowly. Giles is more readable as well, maybe because he is out from under his mother's thumb this time as I just didn't find his mother an interesting character in the first book. The writing flows much better this time around too (thank you for putting fewer italicized words on each page!).

Natalie says

Another fun romp with the charming Simon Kirby-Jones!
Not a huge amount of substance, but it's jolly good fun all the same!

Hannah Givens says

Enjoyed a lot more than the first one. The supporting characters are more interesting (ad less annoying) and the plot had more oomph. The tone is still chatty and campy but tempered a bit, so I could enjoy it as unique without just laughing. I even liked the incessant flirting between Simon and Giles, even though I'm team Police Chief!

Windy says

Second of these amateur sleuth cosy crime stories. The sleuth is a gay vampire but apart from his brilliant sense of hearing, not much happens in this story that means he needs to be either gay or a vampire. Just a comedy gimmick I guess. Entertaining nonetheless.

Earl says

Posted to Death. Faked to Death. Decorated to Death. Baked to Death. Books by Dean James. I wanted a light mystery series and found this series of 4 books featuring a gay vampire detective- Simon Kirby Jones. "Gay vampire" was the ploy used to differentiate itself from other cozy mysteries but the character was taking anti-vampire pills which defeated the whole purpose. Also, there seemed to be an unbelievably high number of gay characters in each book. Certain characters, dialogue and situations were amusing at first but

overall the series was cliché, repetitive and redundant. It was only because I have a completist mindset that I read them all.

Shasta says

this is not a book i would usually look twice at...BUT, it was recommended to me by a customer...SO, i read it and LOVED it.

It's about a gay vampire author w/ a gay assistant, they get caught up in a murder at a gathering of some sort...it is a classic who-dunit story with lots of comical characters.

Furio says

As far as mysteries are concerned I expect genre-loving readers to still find this second episode at fault. The very classical rules of very classical detective stories require that the readers be given all necessary hints to solve it for themselves.

It does not happen here and the identity of the murderer is entirely unexpected.

As for the rest I was happier than with the first book: this series is apparently not meant to be more than just entertaining and -just- entertaining it is.

The writing is quick, light hearted; there are repetitions and redundant statements but fewer than in the first episode not to mention that Simon is much more likeable here than it was there.

It is an easy read for a lazy afternoon.

Stephanie says

Cozy mystery with a great premise- the main character (and amateur detective) is a vampire. Sadly, nothing at all is made of that little quirk. Due to pills that he takes, he doesn't have to drink blood, but he also can't hypnotize people with his eyes, or turn into a bat or a mist or anything cool. So what is the point? How much more interesting he would be if he had to deal with -and take advantage of- some of the traditional side effects of vampirism. Oh, and he's gay. Gay, gay, gay, gay, gay. I felt like I was being hit over the head with it, since it was mentioned repeatedly, but again, it had absolutely no bearing on the plot or the story, so what was the point? I just felt like this would have been such a richer story if those two characteristics had been more important to the narrative.

Lainy says

Blurb from Amazon

It's Simon's esteemed reputation as an auteur that brings him to the attention of Lady Hermione Kinsale. She needs another speaker for her week-long writers' workshop. But much to Simon's surprise-and chagrin - best

selling mystery author Dorinda Darlington appears on the list of attendees. Simon knows first-hand how the reclusive author values her privacy...because Simon is Dorinda. The blatant impersonation has raised his hackles - and Simon's fit to kill. But someone beats him to the punch. "Dorinda" is found dead, flattened by a stone urn pushed from the terrace. Now, cloistered with a killer, Simon tunes his heightened senses to the movements of his fellow authors. And as the workshop develops into a tension convention, Simon grows more determined to take a bite out of crime - before bloody murder claims another victim.

My review

Simon is back and as usual surrounded by the small towns dramas, this time he is invited to a writers workshop at Lady Hermiones abode. Simon finds himself riled as he spots on the guest list none other than Dorinda Darlington (one of his secret author identities) as someone is posing as her. Ignoring his agents advice Simon confronts her and before long her body is found. Will Simon be the prime suspect as this isn't his first dead body? Why was she pretending to be the author of Simons books?

I loved this almost as much as the first one. Simon is his usual funny and witty self and caught up in more small town scandal on a bigger scale this time. What I also liked is Giles is a much better character this time round having grown since our first meeting in *Posted To Death*.

Wether you have read the first book or not isn't particularly relevant, you could pick this one up as a stand alone however if you can I would read the first book purely because it is a good story, 4/5 for me and I will be pursuing the next book in this series.

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

This series is so easy to sit back and enjoy. The main sleuth happens to be gay and a vampire, but, that is really somewhat immaterial in this well-written murder mystery.

A house party or writer's convention is held at Lady Kinsale's manor. True to the British style of cozy, the party is all but cozy. Seething emotions and oddness prevails as our Simon and his Assistant, Sir Giles, join in as new speakers. To Simon's dismay, he finds a charlatan pretending to be one of his aliases.

This book is written with humor and satire of the classic British mystery that many of us appreciate. The ending is a twist that you do not expect.

Great read.

Diane Heath says

This is the second book in this series. Simon lives in a cottage in a small English village. He is a vampire. He is gay. He is like Mrs. Fletcher or Miss Marple. He is attending a writers workshop when he discovers that a fellow participant is claiming to be one of his pen names. When she turns up dead, he is one of several suspects.

Ellen says

Faked To Death: A Simon Kirby-Jones Mystery (James, Dean, Simon Kirby-Jones Mystery.) (Simon Kirby-Jones Mysteries)

by Dean James

Edition: Hardcover

Bravo Author!, August 10, 2011

This review is from: Faked To Death: A Simon Kirby-Jones Mystery (James, Dean, Simon Kirby-Jones Mystery.) (Simon Kirby-Jones Mysteries) (Hardcover)

Thank-you Dean James for another wonderful Simon Kirby-Jones mystery. The continuity of the stories, the development of the characters, and the creativity of new situations keep me coming back for another in this series.

I enjoyed the way Simon needed to increase his pills to keep his vampirism under control. A bit of a change and kept me wondering how is his condition going to affect his future dealings with people.

I enjoy the murder of victims we'd love to see "out of the way" so to speak. Keeping in tune to a real cozy. Thank-you again for that Dean James.

I highly recommend this series to anyone who enjoys British cozies or a vampire cozy. I never could enjoy any vampire mysteries until Simon Kirby-Jones.

May there be many, many more in this series.
