



For the Dignified Dead

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A woman's body is pulled from the frozen Danube in Bratislava. Police Commander Jana Matinova recognizes the killer's calling card. She had him in her grasp once before ...and he slipped away. But not this time. Determined to end the bloody killing spree, Matinova's investigation plunges her into the center of an international conspiracy involving hundreds of millions of dollars and turns the hunter into the hunted. Pursued by vicious assassins, Matinova charges across Europe in a relentless quest for the truth...and dignity for the dead.

For the Dignified Dead Details

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Author : Michael Genelin

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From Reader Review For the Dignified Dead for online ebook

Karen says

The 5th book in the Jana Matinova series (as best as can be gleaned from online lists which universally don't seem to include it), FOR THE DIGNIFIED DEAD was so good the first book leapt straight into Mt TBR. It also extremely readable if you are new to them as well.

Part of the strength of the book was undoubtedly the central character of Jana Matinova who is strong, smart and unwilling to take any crap from anyone - crims and colleagues alike. She's compassionate without being sappy and dedicated. She's also very driven in this book as she's well aware that the killer's signature is that of one who got away. She's not too proud to take assistance from unlikely quarters when it's offered, and she's definitely no super-hero.

The sense of place here is interesting, somehow there is a very Slovakian sensibility in the attitudes, the physical locations and, obviously, the impact of the weather. There's a rapid pace, but it's always supported by a sense of the places that Matinova encounters as she searches for a serial killer, a lot of money and some very unexpected connections.

Finally there's a good plot, with internal consistency, enough twists to keep you paying close attention, and enough depth and complication to make the path that Matinova must tread believable. There's also quite a bit of action and some tension and threat which works really well.

Thanks to Netgalley I happened upon this book and liked it so much that the it has become a series I'm making sure I catch up with from the start.

<http://www.austrimefiction.org/revie...>

Monica says

Jana Matinova, the Bratislava police commander, has a full plate. A local farmer has killed a man he claims was abusing his young daughter. The locals are calling him a hero and obstructing the police investigation. Matinova's lazy and inept aide is called out for a dead body, a woman apparently drowned. He decides it is probably suicide, until Matinova looks a bit further and discovers what looks like a wound from an ice pick at the base of the woman's skull.

There is an Albanian Ponzi scheme that results in the theft of over \$800,000,000. The money has completely disappeared somewhere between banks in the US and Switzerland. International police forces are involved, the US and Swiss folks being particularly suspicious and territorial with each other and everyone else.

It turns out the dead woman was involved with the banks in the Ponzi money disappearance. And the ice pick thing is the trade mark of Koba, a fugitive responsible for over 30 deaths in 10 countries. There is another ice pick death in Vienna, and one in Hungary. Koba turns up to surprise Matinova a few times – to explain that he is not the murderer of the current victim, to say he was not responsible for the ambush that killed her partner and to warn her that her life is still in danger. Someone tries to blow up her hotel room in Zurich. The dead woman's young son has disappeared and her naïve and impulsive best friend is determined to help Matinova find the boy.

The crimes, the crooks and the cops are on a whirlwind tour of eastern Europe – too many places, too many

players and too many twists to keep up with. It was more confusing than compelling.

Lauren says

Will definitely be reading more of these books. Such a great, strong female character. If I was a police commander in Eastern Europe, I'd want to be her

Greg Tymn says

I hadn't read anything by M Genelin prior to this novel and knew nothing about him. The impression I got initially was this author had a remarkable grasp of the English language for a person from Eastern Europe. Then I found out he was from the Bronx! So, considering most of the people I know raised in NYC, I still think Michael has a great grasp of the English as a second language.

I really enjoyed the novel. Take a noir police procedural, throw the setting into the many small countries of Eastern Europe, make the protagonist a strongly competent female and, if the plot is well defined, you might end up with a worthwhile novel. Genelin definitely succeeded. An adept reader may see all of the breadcrumbs and be able to arrive at the correct conclusions ahead of the author, but the rationale for getting there is well plotted and worth ensuring you are correct for the right reasons.

The dialogue is tight and flowing. The descriptions of the scenery in the area may cause you to jump to google just to see if Dubrovnik is as pretty as described and what the mosque in Tirana looks like. It's a geography sampler and a summary of the different police cultures in the region.

One of my favorite European characters is Jo Nesbo's Harry Hole. Frankly, I think I like Jana Matinova just a bit more.....

Donna Davis says

There's a murderer on the loose, one that has killed across international boundaries. The weapon of choice? An ice pick. Happily, the case is assigned to total bad-ass Commander Jana Matinova, the best new female detective I've seen in emerge in crime fiction in decades. Thank you to Net Galley and Brash Books for the ARC. This title will be available for purchase November 3.

Part of what initially attracted me to this novel was the setting. Though Matinova finds herself crossing into various parts of central Europe, she is based in Slovakia, a country not even on my personal radar. By way of apology, I will point out that for most of my life, a giant swath of Europe and Asia was designated as USSR, and the satellite states lined up like faithful guardians around its perimeter included Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, both of which have been carved into different nations since the Stalinist realm crumbled. So I thought I'd learn a little bit about the contemporary contours of central Europe in the most enjoyable way possible—through fiction.

Genelin doesn't disappoint. Along with Matinova, we have a collection of other cops, some of whom garnered truly fetching descriptions, such as this one: "With his thinning hair and lopsided smile he looked

like a harmless, slightly unkempt beagle without its long ears.”

In addition we have the sinister Koba, a master criminal that Matinova considers akin, perhaps, to Holmes’s Moriarty. Koba’s role in Genelin’s story is complex and fascinating.

But most of all, I appreciated the development of Jana Matinova, both for her silver-bullet speed and cleverness, and also for that which is not included. We never hear about her hair, makeup, or her figure; we don’t need to know anything about her love life, and if she experiences any ambivalence about her lack of a domestic life, we don’t hear about it. In fact, Genelin treats his protagonist just as he would a male protagonist.

Now isn’t that a breath of fresh air?

The fifth star, which I would have loved to be able to add to this engaging story, is denied because of problematic passages that popped up often enough to warrant ten different notations in my kindle: “Too wordy! Tighten it up!” It seemed either as if there were two writers, one more capable than the other, co-writing the novel, or as if someone whose mother tongue is not English was struggling to say what needed saying. I noticed this was most frequent during passages of narrative, and less likely to occur during dialogue. Whatever it is, it could benefit greatly from either some rewritten passages or strong editing. But every time I found my eyes jerking through one of these verbose areas in the text, sooner or later we would come out slick as a whistle, and everything would commence to flow again. I don’t think a published text has ever confused me so much in this regard.

That being said, I would cheerfully read other books in this series given the opportunity. Because when push comes to shove, Commander Jana Matinova is a champ!

Susan says

This was a very interesting book. Coming in in the middle as I did (this is #5 in the series, and I haven't read the others) didn't seem to make a difference. There were reference to previous cases, but not knowing them didn't make a lot of difference. I'm not familiar with eastern Europe, so I had a little trouble keeping up with the travels between countries. Jana Matinova is a police commander in Bratislava. When a woman's body is pulled from the Danube, she recognizes the murder method from previous cases. In the process of identifying the woman and looking into her background, Jana finds herself in the middle of a conspiracy involving millions of dollars. A young woman who is the godmother of the murdered woman's son who is missing, is determined to find the boy. She tags after Jana or asks Jana to accompany her at various points in her search. But someone is out to get Jana - there are several attempts on her life. But she refuses to give up, and with some unexpected help, manages to elude most of the assassination attempts. A very interesting character, and a very interesting book - I would like to read more in this series.

Pia says

Thanks to NetGalley, the author and the publisher for giving me an ARC in exchange for my honest review of this book.

I have to start this review by saying that this is one of the best thrillers I have read in years. It had me completely absorbed in it from the moment I opened the book.

I believe this is book #5 in the Commander Jana Matinova series, but it works as a stand alone perfectly, as the characters are so well depicted that you don't miss any information about them. However, it still makes you want to read ALL of the books in the series.

The book starts with a murder, as a woman's body is found in the freezing waters of the Danube. From there, it all escalates and travels through Slovakia, Austria, Albania, and half the countries in Eastern Europe, leaving behind a wide trail of death, fraud and deceit.

Commander Matinova is fast becoming my favorite type of main character: a woman who is strong, intelligent, doesn't doubt herself and at the same time is very likable.

And now, if you will excuse me, I have to go find all the books by this author

Jennifer says

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I have to admit that I struggled to get through this book. The storyline itself was intriguing, but I found all of the characters to be extremely unlikable, especially the main character Jana. I really didn't like her. Her character lacked depth. She came off as emotionless and way too reckless.

Thomas M. Ferran says

Spellbinding story. Holds your interest on every page

Who is the killer. Who is the good guy. I'll never tell. Read the book. You won't regret it. The end is a thriller

Larry says

The fifth Jana Matinova novel, about a homicide commander (the equivalent of a DCI) in the Slovak police builds on past books in the series in its focus on Koba, the very dangerous international assassin that Jana has sparred with in the past, but it also pursues a new and complicated story line about corruption, money laundering, theft and murder in at least five countries. As before, Jana is dogged, brave, and honest. As before, she is protected by her whimsical Colonel Trojan (the equivalent of a superintendent of police, who is also honest). And as before, she fights for her life while settling a complicated case. The end is very satisfying on several counts. The series, set in Bratislava, but extending to Austria, Croatia, Albania, and Hungary, is consistently interesting.

Geoff Lynn says

An excellent mystery. I thought as I was reading that it was written by a European but it was well researched and written by an American. Reading the author's bio reveals that he may have had some expertise in the area of which he writes. An enjoyable read.

Richard says

I am delighted that netgalley exists and affords readers an opportunity to read and review books. During the past 11 months I have been introduced to new publishers and authors and pushed my usual genre choices. In reading *For the Dignified Dead* by Michael Genelin I initially thought it was a debut novel. It fascinated and stimulated my interest as it was set in Slovakia and would therefore throw new light upon a police procedural especially due to the legacy of the Communist era.

Police Commander Jana Matinova is the star of these novels and the good news is when I researched the author this is the fifth in that series. I have now sought out the first 4 books to read in the new year.

The writing is cumbersome at times in terms of words used, but the story is told with passion and intrigue. Jana Matinova is a force of nature, respectful towards the dead and driven to find answers and justice for the victims of crime. A thinking detective who is relentless in her enquiries even when her life is threatened. She also is very human, she bleeds and her body aches, indeed even she admits to fear. Her relationship with her boss is another highlight of this book.

This book is realistic and provides a fresh perspective on the crime thriller. I was fully caught up in the story; the plot was beautifully executed at a pace that makes it a difficult story to put down or forget about.

Thomas says

I received this ebook free from the publisher, Brash Books, through NetGalley.com

This book starts out with a murder in Slovakia. Jana Matinova is the commander of the homicide unit in Bratislava. She digs deeper into what her lazy subordinate has dismissed as a drowning/suicide. As Matinova connects this murder to others and realizes that a serial killer could be behind them, she finds that she is in danger. People try to kill her.

There are several twists and turns in the plot, which moves along very well. Matinova is a strong determined woman and does unravel who is killing who in this complicated mystery.

I give it a solid 4 out of 5 stars.

JoeK says

A pretty good book that had a lot of diverse mystery elements without being overly cinematic or unrealistic. Not really a police procedural, this was almost a hard-boiled detective tale, heavy on suspense.

I was disappointed that Koba was not captured, but rather expected that he wouldn't be. Although it isn't explicitly stated in the story, it was obvious that Koba was the one who rescued the boy at the beginning of the book, and when Zuzu explains her complicity at the end, everything made sense.

I was disappointed with the typos in the book There were a few instances where 'attach' was used where the word should have obviously been 'attack' and even Zuzu was spelt Zazu on one occasion.

Lee Fielding says

Full of intrigue

Genelin created a suspense story that keeps the reader involved in the tale he is weaving. The characters are well developed, allowing the reader to like or dislike them by making up their own mind. Jana is portrayed such that you are not sure if you like her or not. There are enough plots within plots to keep the novel moving without overwhelming the reader. Revelations displayed lead the to think that part of the story is now complete only to see yet another connection further on. Hopefully we will be treated to more tale
