



Relics

Pip Vaughan-Hughes

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England, 1235, and Brother Petroc is living a simple life as a novice monk. Struggling to keep his soul fairly clean and worrying most about resisting the local girls, he inadvertently stumbles headlong into vicious trap. Framed by a sinister Templar Knight for a brutal murder of a church official and accused of the theft of a priceless relic, he is forced to run for his life. But when his best friend Will is killed by the chasing knight, Petroc's flight becomes a quest for restitution.

Trusting his fate to an enigmatic relic-hunter and scoundrel, he must dodge the long arm of the church and somehow get to the bottom of everything that has happened to him. He must find out how his fate is entwined with that of the sacred object and get revenge on the man who wrecked his life - all the while avoiding the pitfalls and perils of love for a beautiful Greek princess...

Relics Details

Date : Published March 22nd 2006 by Orion (first published January 1st 2006)

ISBN : 9780752868615

Author : Pip Vaughan-Hughes

Format : Hardcover 288 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Adventure, Mystery, Crime

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From Reader Review Relics for online ebook

Keith Currie says

This a rollocking adventure story featuring pirates, captive princesses, lapsed holy men, evil one-eyed Templar knights, murder, thievery, deception and lots of mayhem. Its Thirteenth Century setting is well imagined with visits to England, Greenland, France, Italy and an imaginary Greek island. The characters are varied with the heroes attractive and the villains suitably wicked. The impetus of the plot is sustained right to the end with a conclusion that is violent, shocking and very funny all at the same time – quite a feat for the first in a series of four books featuring the central characters. Well done! I intend to read the rest.

Richard Tod says

A book that was reasonably well written but had some annoying illogical parts in the plot and too much 'padding out' with unnecessary detail to fill up the pages

In saying all that I will read his other books as the story was enjoyable.

LJ says

RELICS (Suspense/Adventure/Historical-Brother Petroc-Europe-1235) – VG+
Vaughan-Hughes, Pip – 1st in series
Orion, 2006, UK Hardcover - ISBN: 0752868616

First Sentence: Every drunk is a magician.

Petroc is an 18-years old novice monk. He is waylaid by Sir Hugh de Kerveze and taken to the Cathedral where he is instructed to remove the relic of the hand of Saint Euphemia. Sir Hugh murders a priest, who comes across them in the Cathedral. He blames the murder on Petroc who runs to save his life. Thus also begins the adventure of his life.

Talk about a fascinating book. This one kept me reading straight through; one day, beginning to end. It's not really a mystery, but it is a wonderful coming-of-age, adventure in a hard way. Vaughan-Hughes excels at description places, emotions and people. The only reason I didn't give it an excellent is that the pacing is uneven. There is profanity and violence, but it is appropriate for the period and characters. You go from high suspense and excitement, to stretches of exposition. Even that, I found fascinating as it dealt with Petroc's travels, learning to sail, his emotions and falling in love. I always look for what I may have learned from a book and, in this case, it was a lot; certainly about life during that period, reliquary and a bit about the Cathars. I thoroughly enjoyed this and am really looking forward to the next in the series.

Noella Van Looy says

Ik vond dit boek meer een avonturenboek dan een thriller. Het verhaal was wel goed. Ik heb het in de nederlandse vertaling gelezen en die stond wel vol fouten.

Elaine says

An excellent introduction to this series. Petroc, a young trainee monk has to flee his home, after becoming embroiled in the machinations of a relic hunter and thug. He is sent to join another relic seeker by the librarian at his former monastery, who often has "respectable" dealings with the mysterious Jean de Sol, and his former pirate crew! The first novel follows his adaptation from trainee monk to sailor and bounty hunter- quite a career change!

The author excels in descriptive narrative-whether documenting his flight through the Devonian countryside, learning maritime or defensive arts-or simply describing the vast and intriguing array of characters, there is never a dull moment :the narrative brings all to life. It's more of an adventure tale rather than a murder/mystery, although both classifications would apply, as there are certainly quite a few murders, and more than a little mystery.

To date there are a further four novels in the series-and I'm hoping they will be as good as the first. There is huge potential for Petroc and co to have many more adventures along this line, so I will be very interested to see how the series shapes up overall. Highly recommended.

Annet says

Well, will this be the last book of this year for me? It was a good one. I like to read historic books and this is a good solid and entertaining historic read. Discovered there are sequels too and I'll certainly continue to read about Brother Petroc.

Thou shall not Steal...

England, 1235. Young brother Petroc is living a simple life as a novice, struggling to keep his soul fairly clean and worrying about resisting the local girls. Then one evening, he stumbles into a vicious trap and finds himself on the run, framed by a sinister Templar knight for murder and theft. When his best friend is killed by the knight, Petroc's flight becomes a quest for restitution. Trusting his fate to an enigmatic and sympathetic relic-hunter and captain of a sea-going ship, Petroc is determined to get revenge on the man who wrecked his life....

For those who like to read historic fiction, this is a good read!

Anna says

A very enjoyable first novel from this author and I look forward to reading the sequels. Tons of action and suspense, some colourful characters, a good villain or two and even a bit of love interest - plenty to keep you

interested. The author certainly has good knowledge of the medieval era and writes well.

I would recommend this to anyone who enjoys their medieval history seasoned with more than a dash of swordplay and a bit of blood-letting!

Cam says

Although I only gave this three stars I did actually really enjoy many things about this book, the text was easy to read, the characters were both believable, likable and not so likable. It has many of the classic elements of historical fiction thrown in, a Monk ,a Knight, a Bishop, some pirates a Holy Relic or two and even a Princess. Relic is the first book of a series (three books so far), a tale that begins in England 1235. Brother Petroc, both young and nieve is set up for the murder of a Deacon by a rouge ex Templar Knight. The tale is of his search for answers, first to the motivation for such violence and then the reason for his own involvement. It would probably be best discribed as action/adventure/historical/fiction/fluff. It was a goodread not a greatread, it was solid but not packed with what you would call history. I would and will read the next installment when I'm looking for something easy & fun!

Nicola says

very enjoyable, will look out for the others in the series.

Alon Hirsch says

Loved it!
Thrilling and very well crafted.
Couldn't put the book down.

Michael Arnold says

Like this a lot. Well written and entertaining.

Andrew says

So it took me a while to get into this book, but thanks to Goodreads I now know there are further more in a series. It was a pleasant read, religious historical action, and a crazy librarian - ships, relics and saints. A good aeroplane book, happy to recommend it!

Louise says

"Relics starts in England in 1235. Brother Petroc, who tells the story, is living a simple life as a novice, struggling to keep his soul fairly clean and worrying about resisting the local girls. Then one evening he stumbles into a vicious trap - and finds himself on the run, framed by Sir Hugh de Kerzeze, a sinister Knight Templar, and accused of murder and the theft of a precious relic (the hand of Saint Euphemia)."

A thoroughly enjoyable book if you haven't got anything more important to do. I did find the ending to be lengthy, but the outcome was satisfactory. There are another 3 books in this series and I will be trying to get my hands on them all.

Catsalive says

More adventure story than anything else, although there is murder and mystery involved. Petroc, or Patch, is setup by the Templar, Kerzezey, & must run for his life. He turns to an old friend who sends him in search of the trader Monsieur de Sol. Patch finds himself a member of a fierce band of "traders", sailing the world, & in de Sol he finds a man who is also an enemy of Kerzezey. Lots of fighting, adventure & camaraderie, and even a love interest for Patch.

Not the sort of thing I usually read, but I enjoyed it all the same.

Rated 7/10 at <http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/1...>

Feathzzz says

2.6
