



## Legend in Green Velvet

*Elizabeth Peters*

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Scotland is Susan's passion and obsession—and the opportunity to join a Highland dig is a dream come true for the young archaeology student. But then a sinister stranger slips Susan a cryptic message and is later found viciously slain. A mysterious peril has emerged from the mists to haunt Susan, sending her running for her life in the company of handsome, unconventional laird Jamie Erskine. For she has an unseen enemy hiding in the shadows—someone who, for some unknown reason, is going to great lengths to frame her for murder . . . and to bury Susan, if necessary, in this land she loves.

## Legend in Green Velvet Details

Date : Published September 3rd 2002 by Avon (first published March 1st 1976)

ISBN : 9780380731183

Author : Elizabeth Peters

Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Romance, Cultural, Scotland, Romantic Suspense

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## **From Reader Review Legend in Green Velvet for online ebook**

### **Anna says**

"Oh, hell ... So you're one of those Americans."

Elizabeth Peters, Legend in Green Velvet

This is such a great romp!

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### **Tifa says**

I'm obviously biased toward Elizabeth Peters' books because she is one of my favorite authors, but I re-read her novels because they are fun, comforting and a wonderful palate cleanser after some of the new stuff I try to read. After seeing reviews on this site, I realize Peters isn't for everyone. But, I absolutely love all her books--from the series to the stand-alones like this one. She brings to life interesting characters, especially women who are real yet strong and independent. She includes fascinating places that she's obviously visited and describes them in detail that often isn't there anymore. I always learn something interesting whether it's a historical fact or more details on archaeological digs. Her dialogue is witty and always in-character, and while the plots can be far-fetched like most mysteries, she can turn a zany rescue into something joyful and fun. Overall, her books are just terrific, and she was a truly gifted writer and storyteller in every way.

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### **Teri-K says**

I'm not sure how to classify this. Is there a genre for very silly romantic suspense? If not, this book shows the need for one. Susan is an American archaeology student with a passion for all things Scotland - especially Bonnie Prince Charlie and Scottish poetry and lore, which are layered into this book with a garden spade. James is a young Scot who despises all that and scorns those who prefer to live in the past. Of course they are thrown together when Susan travels to Scotland and they manage to become wanted for murder.

This book is nothing like a typical romantic suspense novel, though it contains all those elements. The fact is it's just too silly to be taken seriously. At one point, when the Cavalry arrives, Susan actually cries, "Whoppee!" lol Since Peters, even in the early part of her career, was capable of writing the real thing I have to believe she was trying out her comic abilities here and meant this story to be silly. Also, James' father is over-the-top in the same way the Amelia Peabody and her Emerson will be later on.

So approach this book with your sense of the absurd intact and you'll probably be OK. :)

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### **Kristina says**

I've read this book actually several times over the years, probably the first time when I was a teenager. Elizabeth Peters/Barbara Michaels is one of my mother's favorite authors and her books crowded the bookshelves in the living room. I have my own copies of these books now and read this one again recently. It does

*not* hold up well to my memory of the book.

Young archaeology student Susan is in Edinburgh, Scotland for the first time in her life when she becomes embroiled in a criminal affair she doesn't understand. She is joined by Jamie Erskine as they flee two murderous men across the Central Highlands.

Okay, so, meh. The mystery is really, really dumb. I mean, seriously dumb. A simple phone call to the police could have avoided all the trouble and the reason Jamie and Susan don't call the police is really, really dumb. There's not even a mystery. Basically the romantic leads run around the countryside and fall in love with each other and the bad guys follow them. That's it. And at the end, they are magically in love with each other and of course will be getting married. After three days of knowing each other. Yup, that's how true love works. It's a silly book but what I found interesting about it is how timely it is. The plot involves the Scottish Nationalist Party, which apparently was considered a party of crackpots in the 1970s (when this book was published) but today managed to make the vote for independence a reality (even if they weren't successful). I'm going to Scotland soon so I enjoyed the historical details and the location of the events in the book. However, this is really one of her lesser novels. Read her Vicky Bliss series or Amelia Peabody books (written under the name of Elizabeth Peters). They are much better.

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### **J.L. Rallios says**

Actually it's 4 1/2 stars because the ending was somewhat anti-climatic. Still it comes together pretty well. Being pursued through the countryside is my cup of tea. Loved it, along with the humor. I don't like the disrespect that a son shows his father. It is supposed to add a light touch, but I seldom think that's very funny. I see too much of it in real life. But all in all a fine adventure, light on the archaeology (unfortunately), a convoluted plot without it being too confusing, and not overdone in the romance department. For Elizabeth Peter's fans, a must -- and one of her best, I think (outside the Amelia Peabody series).

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### **Barbara says**

Was a big Elizabeth Peters fan many moons ago. Came across this book and did not remember reading it and it sounded interesting.

I think I did read this, but so long ago I didn't remember it. It was a fun read, easy read. Lot of Scottish history came up, which was interesting. This book hints that the Stone of Scone never actually left Scotland. That is part of the mystery here, but there is a bit more going on than meets the eye.

Enjoyable read.

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### **Marci says**

This is another of Elizabeth Peters's romantic comedy capers, dating to the late 1970s, featuring an American heroine up against mysterious antagonists in the British Isles and helped by a mysterious Brit--in this case a Scottish heir to a title and castle. The incredibly silly plot has them running for their lives all around Scotland to avoid a murder charge (they could have gone to the police, but then there wouldn't have been any plot)

and to solve the mystery. The silliness is helped immensely by the hero cutting his long hair and shaving his beard, revealing that he is a near-perfect ringer for a certain prince. They use the mistaken identity to escape a couple of sticky situations to great comedic effect. My favorite minor characters are the felines they meet, whose personalities rival the main characters for charm.

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### **Laura de Leon says**

I enjoy reading an Elizabeth Peters romantic adventure, and this one was no exception. I'm not sure how I managed to miss it until now!

Susan has a passion for Scottish history, (and so I learned a number of tidbits as the story advanced) and this leads to a case of mistaken identity, and gets her embroiled in a nasty affair, with bad guys trying to kill her. Luckily her wits and the resources of the guy that gets dragged into this with her are enough to keep them a step or two ahead.

Bonus points for a brief appearance by an inconvenient and adorable ginger kitten.

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### **Katie says**

I think somebody stole Elizabeth Peters name for this ridiculous attempt at a Scottish Highland, mystery solving co-ed romance/archaeology treasure hunt, a la Scooby Doo, but without the lovable dog. Our heroine, Susan, is a know it all ass, a la Velma. I did a lot of eye-rolling listening to this audiobook. At least it was better than the radio.

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### **Sheila says**

4 biased stars ("I really liked it.")

The good: Elizabeth Peters is the equivalent of comfort food; I read a lot of her books in high school/college and I'll always have a soft spot for them. This book isn't so much romantic suspense as romantic comedy with some suspense thrown in. It's lighthearted and silly; the best word to describe this whole book, I think, would be "caper." The historical elements are added with a light hand (as always--Peters is so good at that), characters are vivid, and dialogue is snarky. (Peters loves her rumbling, sarcastic male romantic leads.)

The bad: It's dated. There are some '70s sexist attitudes. The plot could have been avoided altogether with one call to the police. (Though I kind of like the over-the-topness, really. It adds to the farce.)

The hilarious: One plot point revolves around the male lead having a striking resemblance to (view spoiler). Utterly ridiculous and I love it.

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## **Leslie says**

Not great literature, but this is one of my favorite Elizabeth Peters books and definitely one of my happy places when I'm feeling stressed.

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## **Pat Beard says**

Lots of fun, this early work is a clear forerunner of the Emerson and Peabody books in its characters, humor, and plot twists. In reading the author's earlier books I have really enjoyed watching the development of her style. This is one of my favorites so far.

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## **Samantha says**

I'm addicted to Elizabeth Peters and couldn't pass up the chance to read a mystery set in Scotland. The mystery and setting were great as usual, but the main characters were not the best. Susan is a Scottish history buff who receives a message not intended for her and, as usual, it draws the bad guys' attention. This, of course, leads to chaos for our heroine. Susan isn't a bad heroine, she's just... average. Nothing stood out about her personality and a lot of the time it felt like her only main purpose was to give us crash courses on Scottish history. The hero, James, was average as well. Except his main purpose was to drag Susan along with him while he was playing super secret spy. At the beginning James really bothered me, because he was an asshole and did very little to prove otherwise.

The plot and supporting characters were good enough to carry my attention throughout the whole book. There were only one or two small parts where the story dragged a bit and it was easily picked back up by another plot twist or quirky side character being added to the scene. The plot involved some small group of baddies bent on getting their hands on something.

I wouldn't recommend anyone starting off with this book as their first Peters mystery. If you're going to start off with any of her books I'd start with Crocodile on the Sandbank. But if you're a fan her books, then there's no harm in reading this one. It's still a good read, just not one of her best.

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## **Hana says**

Three and a half stars rounded up because it was just what I was in the mood for. A light comic adventure-romance with enough Scottish history woven in to keep me interested. Not as good as Peters' Amelia Peabody novels but fine for a quick beach read.

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## **Susan says**

Interesting story which, unfortunately, showed its age. By this I mean the heroine was a pushover as far as men went and didn't think anything about it. At least at the beginning of the story. Toward the end she

developed a backbone.

The Scottish history bits were told in such a way that even if history isn't your forte, it would be interesting. At least it was for me but I enjoy this sort of stuff.

The adventures through the Scottish landscape was with peril, but fun to listen to. And I liked the various felines the couple met along the way.

Would recommend this one for a rainy day. I think it would be perfect. Warning, though, avoid the audio version. The reader on this one was just horrible.

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### **Mary says**

Just a fun read; good to listen to on audio so you can hear a brogue :)  
Archeology student gets into mystery in Scotland.

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### **Rita says**

Lovely story involving a lot of Scottish history in current times. Slightly similar to the Amelia Peabody series set in England and Egypt.

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### **Sharon says**

I've been an admirer of Elizabeth Peters' work for years, so I was delighted to find a book I hadn't yet read.

In this one, archaeology student Susan is on her way to a dig in the Central Highlands. She has a very romanticized idea of what Scotland is like, and is finding herself disappointed on numerous levels -- especially when she winds up being framed for a murder that pulls her into unwanted intrigue.

Along with her is Jamie Erskine, a young Scot who is heir to the ancestral title and wants nothing more to be a policeman. They don't like each other much, although Jamie is very attracted to Susan. She, on the other hand, finds his prickly beard and long hair off-putting.

Pretty soon, the two of them are on the run from a ruthless ring of smugglers. In order to disguise himself better, Jamie cuts his hair and shaves. The result of this (view spoiler) Anyway, the two of them use this to their advantage on several occasions.

What was fun about this book for me is that I have been to all of the places Peters writes about in the tale. Loch Ness, Edinburgh, Culloden, etc., are dear and familiar locations as a result of my travels.

What I didn't feel was the chemistry between Jamie and Susan. That cost a star.

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## **Alethea Bothwell says**

Ok - my edition is Tor but 1976, for what it's worth.  
This is a really fun romantic romp.

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## **Hannah says**

### **Rating Clarification: 3.5 Stars**

After coming off a major book slump of 3 library books that became "did-not-finish"-ers, I decided to go back and re-read an oldie from my Elizabeth Peters collection. Sure glad I did, since this offering was just the kind of light-hearted escapism I needed.

Peters knows how to craft an irreverent, campy romp of a novel, and this one is no exception. There's Scottish history aplenty, sarcastic young heroines, less-than-alpha heroes, villains to be avoided, and kittens/cats purring and clawing all over the place. Perhaps the funniest moment of the story, and the one that dates it the most as being written in the mid-1970's, is the striking resemblance our hero bares to (view spoiler) once his beard is shaved off. Too funny to imagine that Peters might once have cherished a slight crush on the (view spoiler), and also quite icky (to me) that she would do so! I'd like to hope that if this book was ever updated, she'd at least make the hero look like (view spoiler) instead :D

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