



Murder on the Orion Express

Nate Streeper

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Private Detective Alan Blades can't count on a regular paycheck, but he can always count on his gut. His gut just convinced him to accompany his ex-wife's sister on a cruiser to Orion—a good thing, considering there's a killer on board. Throw in a femme fatale, some space pirates, and an eccentric collection of suspects, and you have the makings of the first Alan Blades Adventure.

Murder on the Orion Express Details

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Author : Nate Streeper

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From Reader Review Murder on the Orion Express for online ebook

Marissa says

Goodreads Kindle Win

We meet Private Detective Alan Blades who finds himself accompany his ex-wife's sister on a spacecraft last minute as he had a feeling that something is not quite right. Good thing since they find themselves on board with a murder on the loose.

It is a space mystery with a less than ideal detective. Welcome to the series of this rather interesting detective.

KarnagesMistress says

I received this book for free through Goodreads Giveaways. It is a Kindle book.

Jenny says

Really fun book. Looking forward to reading more books by this author.

Elizabeth says

Looking forward to the next Alan Blades mystery

I enjoyed this new novel and I'm looking forward to reading more about Alan Blades. I enjoyed the accessible combination of the alien with the familiar which I thought gave the book a lived in feel and an easy entry rather than having to learn everything about a new world and new characters. In some ways Alan seemed like someone I could know and might like upon meeting. Interesting plot twists kept my attention through the end. I also enjoyed the sense of humor in the book. All in all an enjoyable read and I'd read the next one too.

Len Streeper says

A great debut novel. Strong mix of sci-fi and noir with strong distinct characters.

Yvette says

Murder on the Orion Express is a fun book full of humor and great action sequences, but I had enough trouble with some aspects of it that I didn't enjoy it as much as I wanted to. The story was sound, the laughs are outstanding, the writing brilliant at times...but inconsistent at others. I enjoyed the main character's arc and the ending.

I had a hard time following the "sleuthing" of private detective Alan Blades. Pacing was something of a problem for me, with elements of the story moving so "fast," without enough description, that I got lost and had to re-read.

This book is inspired by, and an homage to, the Agatha Christie book with a similar title, but Streeper fails at the one thing Christie has mastered: Every character, each suspect, is clearly portrayed and easy to keep track of. That was Orion's biggest failure in my mind: At some point, I had to work REALLY hard to just remember who the suspect characters were. They had names and front-stories; they had actual names and backstories, people I didn't care about were being killed off right and left, all in a very different world setting, with weapons, machines, and tech unlike our own.

It was hard to keep track of, and as a result, the book wasn't a smooth, easy read.

Full Disclosure: I know the author and he's a fantastic guy. I'm listed in the acknowledgments (but I didn't do a thing).

Stewart Tame says

Fair warning: I won a free Kindle copy of this book in a Goodreads giveaway ... four months ago. Due to a backlog of Goodreads Kindle wins, it's taken me a while to get to it. I suppose there are worse problems to have ...

Alan Blades is a private eye ... in space. What starts as an innocent agreement to let his ex-wife's sister stay with him for a few days leads to a last minute fight against a horde of space pirates. Just another day at the office ...

Actually, that summary makes this book sound cooler and funnier than it is. There are some interesting ideas here, but there's an unpolished quality to the whole business. It's just a bunch of genre tropes stitched together, but it never feels like a coherent, believable whole. It reminds me most of stuff I used to write myself back in my early days at college. Autobiography time ...

Several friends and I used to hang out in the school computer lab--We're talking late 80's mainframe era. PCs exist, but aren't powerful enough for most real computing. And no Web ... yet--and create text files lampooning Star Trek and ourselves and pretty much anything that we felt like. I used to write about a private eye, Sam Speed, with a science fiction angle because I was a fan of Douglas Adams' Dirk Gently books and because aping the classic hard boiled style is easy to do badly. It was all about flinging together stuff I'd read and heard about and anything else I could think of and seeing what happened. None of it was publishable. Trust me. I'm sure the backup tapes from the Vax/VMS mainframe we used are long since wiped, and the world is a better place for it. I did learn a bit about what my strengths (being funny, sort of)

and weaknesses (characters, descriptions) are as a writer, so there's that ...

Anyway, I get a similar vibe from Streeper's book. It seems like he's still working through his influences, searching for his own voice. I wish him all the best in finding it, but this particular novel doesn't seem as though he's found it yet. Not recommended.

Lisa says

Well I was definitely entertained. Sometimes the story was a bit hard to follow and I struggled to remember who the characters were during the first half. The second half was much better and I definitely got some good chuckles out of it.

Mary Cokenour says

I won the Kindle edition of this novel in a Goodreads Giveaway.

This is one kickass novel with Agatha Christie references, and other major players in the mystery game of writing. Add to that sci-fi like Star Wars where Alan Blades could be Hans Solo and Bliss (can't give away her true identity yet) is Princess Leia. This is a fun read, full of action, suspense and lots of guess work.

I'm hoping the author reads this as my husband is a digital graphic artist who has done book covers and created images for gaming cards: <https://www.deviantart.com/kaber13> or email him at: kaber0013@gmail.com Thanks!

...and thanks for a really awesome sci-fi/mystery novel!!!!

Daphne says

This is an excellent, promising, and super-fun debut novel!! Nate Streeper has set up some great pacing, action, world building, and I really love the characters--especially Listic. I can't wait for the next one to see what other shenanigans Alan Blades gets thrown into. Highly recommend.

Tracey says

Even though I know better, I tend to pick books "based in their covers" or in this case a clever title and premise. I mean, Agatha Christie in space? Yes please. But honestly I didn't have high hopes for this book. Self published books have this feel of "Oh, I see why you couldn't REALLY get published." But from the moment I started this book I was disappointed there wasn't more. The characters were well developed and I wanted to know more about them and what adventures they would get up to next and I was only a couple chapters in. Was it the next great America novel? No. But it was so much fun. It was witty, held my attention, and the fact that it was an ebook and I read the whole thing, for me that's actually saying a lot. And I find out it's supposed to be a series! Yay! Now I just have to wait.

Conny says

I was a First Read Winner of this book and I really enjoyed it. It was filled with action, humor and suspense and I realized I need my own little ORB ASAP. I liked the characters, movie references and the plot line and I hope that this will be the beginning of a new series. Very entertaining and a pretty quick read, since I had a hard time putting it down. Nate Streeper got a new fan in me.

Robin Winter says

Nate Streeper's science fiction thriller had a slow start, but as his hero's complications mounted, my sympathies followed, until we were launched into a rollicking farcical race full of innuendo covering a minefield of ethical and moral provocations.

I'd quarrel with the interruptions of back story, these sections took me out of the main story line,. But I went along for the ride and enjoyed the fun. Streeper's pacing of action scenes feels satisfying, and his humor enriches the tale.

I'll be curious to see how Streeper deals with the social issues of his creation in future novels.

Deena says

This wasn't bad, and I'm glad I had a chance to read it, thanks to FirstReads - but I'm not sure it was for me.

It was clearly supposed to be humorous; it's stuffed chock full of inside jokes and references, most of which I knew I wasn't getting. And that always irritates me, because it always feels like the author is trying to prove how clever and trendy they are (this is why I can't read Jasper Fforde). Of course, my reaction is entirely my problem, not the author's. So if you think cultural references like "Century Pigeon" are funny, you'll probably love this.

Jan says

I'm not usually good with sci-fi, wrong sort of imagination, but this one works for me and I loved it. Sure, there's all the techno stuff, cyborgs and all that, but there's the misdirection, red herrings, and twists that belong to the mysteries.

As a cop tossed from the force, he loses his self respect, wife, and lifestyle, so he becomes a PI on a rather seedy planet and can barely keep up with his rent. Then the ex needs him to house her younger sister overnight because of transportation issues. That's when the real craziness begins as he winds up getting himself aboard the same cargo transport for reasons that are really spoilers.

So your best bet is to get your nose stuck in this sci-fi mystery full of action and movie references so you can laugh yourself silly while you try to solve the murders!

I entered and won this book in a Goodreads Giveaway.

