



To Davy Jones Below

Carola Dunn

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In late 1923 the newly married Daisy Dalrymple and Detective Chief Inspector Alec Fletcher of Scotland Yard take an ocean voyage to America for their honeymoon. Accompanied by Daisy's childhood friend Phillip Petrie, his wife, Gloria, and Gloria's father, American millionaire industrialist Caleb P. Arbuckle, Daisy and Alec are looking forward to a pleasant, uneventful trip. But at the last minute they are joined by Arbuckle's new friend, Yorkshire millionaire Jethro Gotobed, and his new wife, Wanda, a showgirl whom all but Gotobed are convinced is a gold digger of the worst sort.

Then, having barely lifted anchor, the ocean liner is beset by a series of suspicious accidents and deaths. With harsh weather and rough seas putting many-including Alec-out of commission due to seasickness, it soon falls to Daisy to figure out what connection there might be between the seemingly unrelated incidents. Convinced that there's a murderer aboard ship, Daisy must unmask the culprit or culprits before anyone else-especially herself-falls victim.

To Davy Jones Below Details

Date : Published (first published July 3rd 2001)

ISBN :

Author : Carola Dunn

Format : Kindle Edition 261 pages

Genre : Mystery, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Historical Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Crime

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Aoife says

So I said halfway through this book that it might become one of my favourite Lady Daisy mysteries and now that I finished it I can definitely say: Yes it is one of Dunn's best books, I've read, so far. The side-characters were really well written this time, especially in the first books they often tended to be a bit black and white or rather either very very likeable or totally unlikeable. In this book you also get characters inbetween.

Thankfully it also seems that Dunn has finally stopped introducing basically all characters at once. I see that with these relatively short books you can't wait too long with the introductions but it got kind of ridiculous when Daisy always just sat somewhere and then people dropped in one after the other and told her their life-stories. It already got much better in the last few books and now it seems to be gone completely.

So all in all a very compelling mystery and Daisy and Alec continue to stay charming ;) Just two things bothered me a bit: I really didn't get why she felt the need to include the other ship in distress at the end.

Wasn't a homicidal maniac on board enough excitement for the voyage? Did the ship they were traveling on really need to assist another ship? It just felt like it was just included to add a few more pages.

The other thing was just a bit weird: Daisy meets a woman on the ship who knows much about herbs and herbal remedies and also calls herself a witch. That itself is not bad, as she's not in anyway portrayed bad or stereotypical. But almost always she's referred to in the book, she is not called by her name but 'the witch'. It's full of sentences like "When going upstairs Daisy met the witch." or "The witch was already sitting at the table." I just didn't get why. No matter as what you see a witch, as a job, a religion or as a hobby, you wouldn't always call another character 'The mechanic' or write 'The stamp-collector was already waiting for her.' I just didn't quite get why.

Liz says

I had high hopes for this one - a cruise ship mystery! What a great set piece to base a book around. But I figured out what was really going on three quarters of a book earlier than Daisy and Alec apparently did, so spent the rest of the book yelling at them in my head, and generally getting bored. It's a shame, because Carola Dunn's writing is nice and crisp...but it felt as if there was nothing behind the beautifully constructed sentences.

CatBookMom says

Newly-weds Daisy and Alec take a steamship to America, partly arranged and facilitated by the American millionaire Arbuckle, whose daughter Daisy helped to rescue in *Damsel in Distress*. An English millionaire comes along, with his new wife, an actress (just retired). Then men start falling overboard.

Karen Potts says

This adventure occurs on board a ship to America with Daisy & her crew getting involved in a crime & the resolution thereof. The British countryside or London make a better setting for my taste but the book's

entertainment value is still high.

Marina Sinelnikova says

Liked this one a lot less than other Daisy books - the mystery part felt random and unengaging, though the cruise descriptions were nice.

K. East says

Well, I think I liked this one enough to finally get off the 3.5 rating and move to 4. It was different enough -- a setting aboard ship in the Atlantic -- and there was certainly a fair amount going on what with the body count rising by the day. The only caveat is that I figured out the murder plot almost as soon as the first person was attacked. I just had to wait to see how all the elements played out. Of course, there was a reduced number of suspects -- at least when compared to other Dalrymple mysteries -- so it was pretty obvious early on.

I do like the fact that this series reintroduces characters from one book into another so if you have read earlier novels there is a history for them that doesn't require lengthy back story explanations in each book. Another interesting feature is the choice of vocabulary in Dunn's novels. I remarked in an early review about her use of British slang. I have no idea if it is period-specific to the 1920's in Britain or if it is generally used slang even now. However, I'm ever so grateful for the Oxford English Dictionary built into my Kindle or I'd miss half the British references.

But the vocabulary Dunn uses to write her novels warrants its own comment. When was the last time you read an American novel -- or any novel, for that matter -- that included all of the following words: flummoxed / erstwhile / jovially / autumnal / miscegenation / impinged / emanated / discommoded / tisane / commensurately / bellicose / skulduggery / noncommittal / enumerate / penitently / inveigled / efficacy / reciprocated / illuminated / incapacitated / succumbed / guileless / abeyance / self-aggrandizement / dissimulation / fraternize / matrimony / apparatus / perfunctory / broaching / rapprochement / fulmination / peroration / imbroglia / draught / encomium / deference / thwarted.

This is not to say that the text requires a college degree or a dictionary to appreciate. It is to say that as an English major and teacher for many years, it was unusual to encounter so many multi-syllabic words that I hadn't seen since college days. I'll be curious to see if Dunn continues this complex word choice throughout the entire 20+ year history of this series.

Victoria Ellis says

I have a weakness for cozy murder mysteries, and when someone offered to lend me a couple of these books I just couldn't say no. We follow Daisy as a newlywed, embarking on a ship to America, in the 1920s. In the same vein as the Aurora Teagarden mysteries you don't necessarily have to read these in order, and this is the first one I've read. There were a couple of moments where I was unsure about the characters, as a lot of them have quite a few different names, depending on whom is addressing them, but for the most part it was a

sweet little book, and I look forward to getting to the next two that I have.

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Lisa Friel says

A light and frothy holiday sleuthing read - very enjoyable!

Lynda says

Didn't like this book and felt it was too apparent throughout. Mysteries should lead you astray and this one fairly shouted from the beginning whodunnit. Daisy as a married woman also seems less believable. Alec seems to have some doubts about her sleuthing skills, her dancing ability (this is important?), and her ability to maintain boundaries. His own detective skills seem rather weak in this novel.

Impoeia says

A relaxing, fun, nostalgic read. I enjoyed every book of the series. Daisy Dalrymple is as charming as she is lively - and the mysteries will keep you on your toes. :)

Karen ?* says

This is my favourite Daisy book so far. I think because her and Alec are FINALLY married, but also I love cruise ships and having a mystery set on a cruise ship in the 1920s has so much old fashioned romantacism about it.

I also feel like now she is married to Alec it will keep future storylines a little more "believable" as to why she keeps finding murder victims ;)

Mary Overgaard says

This series is a lot of fun. And this installment is one of the best. This is not high art or deep intellect. But Dunn does a great job of capturing the styles, manners and class rigidity of the time. Her descriptions are vivid and often fun, taking us to a time when things were so easy for some and so dreary for others. The time period is the start of great change for Great Britain and the world and it's fun to have a light hearted but accurate take.

This installment had a particularly fun plot and was very engaging.

Melisa Lawrence says

Story was okay, BUT the narrator needs to bring it down a few pitches. Her voice is so high, I can't hardly listen to her! She's really taking away from the story!!!

Judy says

I enjoyed this book as I have the other Daisy Dalrymple mysteries. This book takes place on board a ship headed for America. Daisy is now Mrs. Alec Fletcher. This boat trip is partly honeymoon and partly a way to get Alex to America to share Scotland Yard knowledge with the Yanks.

The book takes place in 1923. Detective Fletcher is none too keen on heading to America to help the Yanks. But Scotland Yard is footing the bill. Daisy and Alex can use this time also to have a honeymoon. One regret is that his daughter must stay behind. They will be gone several months, however, back by Christmas.

They are on board ship with Gloria, Phillip and Arbuckle(Gloria's father). We met them in book 5 "Damsel on Distress". Gloria's father is a millionaire Yank, the actual person who convinced Scotland Yard to allow Alec to go to America. One of Arbuckle's friends Gotobed another millionaire joins the group with his new wife Wanda. She is a former dance hall girl. Arbuckle fears that his friend is being duped by this woman.

As the voyage proceeds many on board are sea sick including Detective Alec Fletcher. Daisy is upset for Alec. She must get him on his feet because someone has gone overboard. It may have been attempted murder. The victim is rescued, however, he swallowed so much sea water he may not survive. This is just the beginning of man over board. Alec must get up.

Being an avid reader of mysteries I knew pretty much from the beginning what was happening. However, it took Daisy and Alec a lot of twists and turns (and the help of Scotland Yard) to come up with a reasonable explanation at the end.

I love Daisy Dalrymple Fletcher mysteries and will continue to read the rest in the best order that I am able. On to America I am sure for the next adventure.

Liz says

Whilst not my favourite Daisy Dalrymple, it was still a lot of fun to read. I guessed the ending about halfway through though. Bk9 in the series sees Daisy & Alec married finally. Phillip Petries father-in-law, Mr Arbuckle, organises for Alec to do some consulting with the FBI so Daisy & her new husband find themselves on a boat, sailing to New York with Phillip, his wife Gloria, Mr Arbuckle & one of Arbuckles friends, Mr Gotobed (I know!) & his new wife, Wanda. Everyone's having a great time, until one night a man is thrown overboard, and the usual Daisy chaos ensues.
