



The Rat Stone Serenade

Denzil Meyrick

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Rat Stone Serenade

Denzil Meyrick

The Rat Stone Serenade Denzil Meyrick

It's December, and the Shannon family are returning home to their clifftop mansion near Kinloch for their annual AGM. Shannon International is one of the world's biggest private companies, with tendrils reaching around the globe in computing, banking and mineral resourcing, and it has brought untold wealth and privilege to the family. However, a century ago Archibald Shannon stole the land upon which he built their home - and his descendants have been cursed ever since.

When heavy snow cuts off Kintyre, DCI Jim Daley and DS Brian Scott are assigned to protect their illustrious visitors. As an ancient society emerges from the blizzards, and its creation, the Rat Stone, reveals grisly secrets, ghosts of the past come to haunt the Shannons. As the curse decrees, death is coming - but for whom and from what?

The Rat Stone Serenade Details

Date : Published April 7th 2016 by Polygon

ISBN :

Author : Denzil Meyrick

Format : Kindle Edition 384 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Thriller

 [Download The Rat Stone Serenade ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Rat Stone Serenade ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Rat Stone Serenade Denzil Meyrick

From Reader Review *The Rat Stone Serenade* for online ebook

Leah says

Too much of a good thing...

A hundred years ago, blacksmith Nathaniel Stuart was driven off his property in Blaauw, a village on the southernmost tip of the remote Kintyre peninsula on the west coast of Scotland. Of tinker stock, Stuart cursed the landowner Archie Shannon, declaring that every fifty years calamity will befall his family and their descendants until the end of time. Fifty years later, young Archie Shannon hid from his mother in the woods behind their home for a lark – and was never seen again. Now, in the present day, the Shannon family is returning to their ancestral home in Blaauw for the annual general meeting of the hugely successful international company they now own. But things take a sinister turn when the bones of a young child are discovered on the Rat Stone, an ancient site surrounded by much superstition and fear...

There is so much to like about this book that I really wish I was recommending it more highly. It's very well written, and the recurring characters of DCI Daley and his small team are done well – each with a distinct personality, each flawed, but all likeable as individuals and working well together as a team. The remoteness of this part of the world is increased when an unusually severe snowstorm cuts off the roads to the mainland and causes power cuts throughout the area. Meyrick creates an excellent atmosphere of isolation and menace, with some nicely spine-tingling supernatural undertones. With no likelihood of reinforcements getting through any time soon, it's up to Daley and his colleagues not just to investigate the old bones but to try to stop the sudden crime wave that is sweeping through the village.

And therein lies the problem. Too much, too much! The body count is completely ridiculous! For a large proportion of the early part of the book, each chapter introduces us to someone who is then gruesomely killed. It seems like there's a million strands each resulting in gory death for someone and for a long time, too long, the connection between all these events is entirely unclear. And with so many deaths happening so quickly, these characters are no more than names, so that when they're referred to later in the book, I was having real difficulties remembering who they were or how and where they died.

The book is like an Irish stew – everything has been thrown in. One detective is an alcoholic trying to lay off the booze, while a couple of the others are having an affair with each other. There are dead businessmen, human sacrifices, dodgy business dealings, vicars with secrets, ex-nuns, tinkers' curses and about three people all having visions, either supernatural, caused by drink or due to brain damage. Corpses with their skin flayed, corpses on bonfires, corpses on sacrificial stones. Every now and again new people had to arrive by helicopter or boat just so there would be more people to bump off. One felt an investigation wasn't really necessary – leave it a couple of days and only the bad guy would be left alive!

One of the detectives is given what I think is supposed to be a Glasgow accent, though it feels more like an anglicised speaker's idea of what a generic Scottish dialect sounded like circa 1950 – a bit too Sunday Post (which will mean nothing to non-Scots – sorry! Twee, perhaps, is the closest comparison). However, kudos to the author for at least trying to keep the book feeling Scottish in tone, and I must say my 'ear' did get tuned in to the dialect after a while, and it began to sound more authentic.

It picks up towards the end and, while the supernatural stuff is left hanging for the most part, the rest of it is explained, even if the credibility is stretched way past breaking point. Despite all the ridiculous stuff, it's still very readable because of the overall quality of the writing. Although I really feel this one goes so far over the

top it becomes farcical, I would be willing to read another in this series. I was reminded of the artist Agatha Troy, in Ngaio Marsh's books, who never knew when one of her pictures was finished and needed her lover Roderick Alleyn to tell her when to stop painting. I really hope Meyrick can find an editor who will perform the same function for him (the stopping bit, not the lover-ing bit!) and tell him when enough is enough. Loads of potential in this series – I hope in future books to see it fulfilled.

www.fictionfanblog.wordpress.com

Catherine says

Another cracking read. Books keep getting better and better. Would highly recommend

Elaine Tomasso says

The Rat Stone Serenade is the 4th instalment of Mr Meyrick's DCI Daley series, set in the fictional town of Kinloch on the west coast of Scotland. It has a slightly darker tone and the humour befittingly more subdued than its predecessors but it is a cracking read with layer upon layer of scheming, intrigue and double crossing. It is also fairly violent.

The novel opens with Jim Daley contemplating his early retirement but he is soon pulled from this and his holiday by the discovery of a child's skeleton on the eponymous rat stone, a large stone dating from ancient times which has links to the Druids and general bad things. The skeleton is assumed to be that of Archie Shannon, the heir to the vast private company Shannon Industries, who disappeared 50 years previously in line with the curse laid on the Shannon family 100 years ago. While the police are investigating the skeleton and trying to keep the annual gathering of the Shannon clan safe the mutilated body of a paparazzo is found and there is a spate of burglaries in the town. Jim Daley's cup runs over when the reporter working with the paparazzo is also found dead by blood eagle. I hope you are keeping up because this is only the start.

Through the whole novel the worst snow since 1963 wreaks havoc by cutting the town off, preventing free movement or the arrival of reinforcements. I should point out that snow is very rare in the coastal towns of Western Scotland and hardly ever lies for long.

I read this book in one sitting as it is utterly engrossing - I was desperate to know what was coming next and was unable to predict anything about the plot. It isn't very realistic or even plausible which normally I prefer in my police procedurals but it's a great yarn and tremendous fun.

The characters are becoming more familiar as the series goes on but Mr Meyrick isn't standing still and they are evolving in every novel. Jim Daley is having a bit of a mid life crisis, determined to leave the police and his feelings for Mary Dunn behind to concentrate on his marriage and new son. Brian Scott is suffering from the D.T.s now that he has given up the drink and has hallucinations. He still manages a few good one liners but, given his condition, it is a bit subdued. They have a new boss in the form of Superintendent Carrie Symington, a very welcome addition as she is smart, pleasant and not frightened to get her hands dirty (if only all bosses were like her).

Highly recommended.

Chris Nolan says

Absolutely brilliant! This is the fourth in the Kinloch-based series featuring DCI Jim Daley and it is the best

yet. The story is gripping from start to finish, throwing up surprises throughout, and the relationships which develop between the principals, including the new Superintendent, are equally interesting. I am already anticipating number 5!

Rebecca says

I'm a huge fan of Denzil Meyrick's D.C.I. Daley series and this was the best yet. They simply get better and better and we get to know the characters and learn more about their strengths and weaknesses. This is to be DCI Jim Daley's last case before he takes early retirement and he teams up again with DS Brian Scott. Daley is hoping to make a fresh start with his wife Liz and his baby son. Scott is having episodes where he sees visions and has been told it's the DTs so he has stopped drinking. There is a new Superintendent, Carrie Symington, who comes across as competent and likeable. The opening chapters foreshadow what is to become a complex and thrilling tale centred round the Shannon family. There is a tinker's curse, a missing child, druidic rituals and the sinister Rat Stone. Add to that mix international finance, dark secrets and harsh winter weather and it's a recipe for a superb and gripping murder mystery. The story is set on the west coast of Scotland in Blaauw near Kinloch on the remote Kintyre peninsula. It's an area steeped in history and certain areas are indeed tremendously atmospheric which adds to the sense of menace. Following the discovery of a child's skeleton on the Rat Stone the horribly mutilated body of a journalist is discovered. There are other disturbing events and brutal murders which push the police to their limits. By this time I couldn't put the book down as I wanted to see how all this would work out. There are a great many plot twists and it was impossible to predict what was going to happen next or who was involved in the various intrigues. It's a fast paced story with thefts and murders and financial shenanigans, and of course, revenge. Fortunately, the wonderfully realistic dialogue and flashes of black humour, with some brilliant one liners from Brian, occasionally lifts the tense atmosphere. The ending was so unexpected it made me gasp... oh! I can't wait for the next book in the series. It's 5 stars from me.

Paromjit says

I listened to this audio a little while ago, narrated by the ever reliable and wonderful David Monteath. This is a particularly blood soaked and gruesome addition to the series featuring DCI Jim Daley and DS Brian Scott, set in the enticing location of Kinloch. Jim is back with wife Liz and baby son, although his messy personal life refuses to settle down with his inability to repress his emotions for ex-lover, DC Mary Dunn. Brian's life long love affair with the drink takes a turn for the worse as he cannot stop the increasing number of hallucinations, and it takes him some time to acknowledge this is a problem that he is going to need help with, and he is going to have to come to terms that the drink is going to be off limits for him. The biggest private global company, Shannon International, is holding its annual AGM, and its being held at the Shannon family's cliff top mansion, close to Kinloch. The privileged and hugely wealthy family built its riches on land stolen from tinker blacksmith Nathaniel Stuart, who cursed the Shannons so that every 50 years a calamity will hit the family and its descendants.

50 years ago, the young child, Archie Shannon went missing, and now a child's skeleton has been found on the famous Rat Stone, assumed to be him. Amidst the worst snowfall and blizzards, the Shannon family and company executives face a nightmare that appears to be without end until the entire family is destroyed. With grisly murders, a deadly cult, and a cast of characters where no one appears to be what they seem,

Daley and Scott find themselves in desperate, isolated and dangerous waters, unable to call on outside help as the entire area is cut off by the driving snow. New boss, Carrie Symington, turns out to be an exceptionally able and brave woman, who quickly realises that she must not allow Jim to leave her police team, he is just too valuable. A highly intense, complex, gripping novel which I thoroughly enjoyed reading.sorry, I meant listening to! Highly recommended!

Lynsay Tervit says

Great read - I hardly put it down! Easily readable, lots of plot twists, and I thought the characters were all good. I haven't read the rest of the series (this is the fourth), but I'm definitely going to go back and read them!

Zogman says

Dire. That's the only word for this book. The previous three have been quite good, but this one plumbs new depths. I've lost count of the number of characters in the book and what they contribute to the plot, or plots. I've also lost count of the number of plots in this piece of nonsense. Thankfully it's the last book, at least the last book by Mr Meyrick that will cross my path. If you're looking for fantasy, here's your man. If you're looking for police procedural with a bit of supernatural, read James Oswald. This is just a waste of time. My only regret is that I wasted MY time finishing it. I was no wiser at the end - no explanation, no denouement, just a few bodies.

Breakaway Reviewers says

I thought I smelt a rat

This is the fourth DCI. Daley thriller, if you've read the previous three. But the first if, like me, you Deeply rooted within its Scottish location and customs the action takes part during the Hogmanay period where the area is in the grip of an unusually fierce weather system. Snow is as much a character in the novel as all the heroes, villains and victims we encounter in its path. The actual location is the Kintyre peninsula and I apologise if I appear to know what I am talking about, I don't, I've never been there. And I don't want to. Not because I don't believe that the natural beauty of the place would be breath-taking but because this book scared the bejesus out of me! And I can't tell you why because that would spoil it.

There's an ancient curse against a wealthy, privileged family and the police are required to do some protecting as some grisly events unfold that threaten just about everyone it seems.

The plot is complicated and I'm not sure I ever really grasped all the ins and outs of it. There is a laudable Agatha Christie type attempt to unravel and disseminate towards the conclusion. I might have been persuaded to offer five stars if the implausibility of parts of the novel had been more defined and convincing. There is nothing wrong with implausibility if it can be rendered believable. at times it fell a little short of that for me.

Jim Daley seemed to have less of a presence than some of the other police characters which, if intentional, is

very clever. There's a touch of the Jimmy Perez about him but I fear that may be my succumbing to Scottish fictional detective stereotyping. My bad. But I warmed more to some of the other personnel.

And of the other characters? No one is quite who they seem. So it becomes unnerving when you think you have things sorted in your head and then it all get turned upside down. But isn't that part of the pleasure of a good crime novel?

A palpable atmosphere is created throughout and the impenetrability of the weather makes you feel cold. A great read for a summer heatwave.

Whizz

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.

Sue Gale says

An established series that has developed and grown in stature as it has progressed. We meet up with established characters and meet several new ones again playing a large part is the coastal area of Western Scotland and its environs. This Author is maturing like a fine wine with each book he produces and I hope there will be many more to come an enticing and very rewarding read

Amanda says

This is the first book I have read by this author and I can honestly say that it won't be the last. I LOVED this book and the author definitely deserves to be up there with the greats.

The characters in this book were realistic and believable. I particularly loves the characters of DCI Daley and DS Scott. DCI Daley reminded me of John McClane (from the Die Hard films) in that no matter what gets thrown at him, he fights against it and emerges at the other side. He fiercely defends those he cares about and he never shirks his duties. DCI Daley is a damaged man, with secrets from the past and torn loyalties. He is married with a child so he feels he must be a part of a family unit with his child and his wife but as the story goes on it becomes apparent that Daley's heart lies elsewhere. Daley has to deal with his personal problems at the same time as turmoil unfolds at the Shannon family mansion. DS Scott is a reformed alcoholic who suffers DTs and hallucinations. Daley and Scott enjoy a close working relationship and friendship.

'The Rat Stone Serenade' is very well written. The author is very good at being able to convey a real sense of atmospheric authenticity. For example: All the descriptions of the snow made me feel very cold. The action scenes were very tense and at times I had to hold my breath as I genuinely feared what was coming next. Reading this book was a bit like being on a rollercoaster in that there were lots of twists, turns and stomach churning moments. Daley uncovers a whole host of secrets, lies and betrayals.

In short I LOVED this book. Reading 'The Rat Stone Serenade' became seriously addictive in that I had to read 'just one more chapter' with the result that I ended up reading several more chapters as I just didn't want to put the book down. It was certainly a CPID (Can't put it down) book. I can't wait to read more from

this very talented author and I certainly can't wait to read the next book in this series.

Russ McLean says

Excellent. Thank you. Author Denzil Meyrick goes from strength to strength with this latest in the DCI Daley series. Rat Stone Serenade is exquisitely written. The beat is fast, the detail forensic - well it would be given the writer's police background. The action continues apace. An absolute delight to read. The only bad thing is turning the final page and getting that unique feeling that only occurs when you have finished, and are parting company with a first rate book. Thank you Denzil for putting together such a brilliant piece of literary entertainment. By the way, if the author reads this, please stop and get back to the typewriter - keep bashing those wordprocessor keys so that the next book comes out before the year end :-) Much appreciated.

Gareth Evans says

If Dennis Wheatley wrote police procedurals they would turn out a bit like this. A mad concoction of the supernatural and the mundane with little space to draw breath. It reminds me of some of Christopher Brookmyre's work. Not for the Scottish setting but for the connection of an improbable storyline told at a very fast pace. However, whereas Brookmyre seems to present the odd knowing wink to the reader, Meyrick plays it dead straight. It's certainly great fun to read, but it doesn't warrant a lot of plot analysis. If you go with the flow, you will have a riot.

Fiona says

A bit far fetched, otherwise it would have been 5Star

Rachel Simpson says

The 4th book from Denzil Meyrick, again I read this in 3 days! It's a fast paced thriller that I couldn't put down! Can't wait for the 5th book!
