



A Pig of Cold Poison

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Gil Cunningham is the Archbishop's questioner—his investigator. Nanty and Danny were rivals for the affection of Agnes, the apothecary's daughter. Danny dies, apparently of poisoning, after drinking from his friend's flask. But what was the poison? Is Nanty guilty? Then more murders ensue, and Gil's wife, Alys, joins the investigation.

A Pig of Cold Poison Details

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From Reader Review A Pig of Cold Poison for online ebook

Anita says

I enjoy this series, but this isn't my favorite book. The combination of three different languages, English, Scot and Gaelic makes for an interesting read, but it can be a bit confusing. Luckily, the author translates the Gaelic, but refers the reader to a Scot language online dictionary to help with the rest. I found the dictionary too cumbersome to use and Scot isn't that hard to pick up when mixed in with English. So really, the language isn't my main complaint, I just found the plot too slow and the cast of characters too many to keep straight.

But still I'll read the next in the series when it comes available. :)

One last note here ... the author blew it. Ipecac, made from the root of the Ipecacuanha plant, is native to Brazil and wasn't introduced in to Europe until the mid 1600 or so. The date of the story is during the reign of James III of Scotland, which is two hundred years earlier.

Bryn (Plus Others) says

One of my favourites in the series, both for the apothecary details, and for taking the reader inside a household with all of its tensions and confusions and miseries and kindnesses.

Ronda says

I like this series. This was not my favorite of them so far largely because it seemed to be incomplete-almost as though the ending was rushed through. I have come to expect more resolution to the plot, and while I didn't have a problem with the sense of justice as Alys described it, I did want some resolution of some sort with the characters who were not actively involved in the final action. Perhaps the next story will pick up the tale....

Mary MacKintosh says

As always, this was a satisfying read. The main character of the novel were all "potyngars" —pharmacists in today's world. The mystery is not only who poisoned a young man, but what was used to poison him. The work Gil Cunningham must do to solve this issue is complex enough that two more people die of poison before the solution is puzzled out.

Spuddie says

I am very sorry to have to give up on this series, but I'm pulling my hair out with the (what I consider) gross

overuse of 15th century Scottish vernacular. I had complained some about each of the other books in series--this is the seventh--but this one was way over the top and totally distracting from the story. I feel bad because I do like the characters and the stories tend to be interesting...but I got halfway through and realized how long it had taken to get that far, and that i kept losing the thread of the story because i was repeatedly puzzling out what was being said.

Kate says

Another good entry in the Gil Cunningham series. This time, a mummer is killed in view of the audience at Gil's sister Kate's house. Gil is sure (as is half of Glasgow) that the arrested man is not responsible, and sets to investigating a very unhappy family of potyngers (apothecaries - thus this is REALLY cool history this time). Lots of historical detail, as usual, and some focus on Alys & Gil's relationship, particularly Alys's fear of childbirth. A bit of Ysonde and Wynliane lightens things up occasionally but overall this is a darker book, even with the reappearance of young John the harper's son.

I wish this series was more even - the ending of the fifth book dragged on and on, but this one wrapped up so quickly I'm a little confused about the solution, some of which seems to have been supplied by the coroner's court. Still a series worth reading for the history and the likeability of the main characters. For the next book I hope we get to see Alys's father Pierre taking a more active role again.

Tomi says

Still enjoying this series, but the language has me all tapsalteerie. Yes, I know I could look up the words; but that would take longer than reading the book.

Lynn says

I like this series, although this one wasn't her best. I like the texture of the novels, and I feel as if I'm in medieval Scotland, except for the dirt. The language and attitudes are consistent with the period and give a good insight into people's lives at the time.

This one, though, had a very unsatisfying resolution, which is underlined by Alys's father at the end. He complains that justice was not done, but more than that, there's some doubt on the fate of Agnes and who actually did the killing.

I hope for better next time.

Lynne Tull says

I thought the suspense was drawn out and out and out. Gil doesn't seem to figure things out too quickly. He and Alys figured it out at the same time, but Alys decides to do something stupid. It makes for an exciting ending. However, it doesn't make sense for that period for a wife would betray her husband even if she

considers herself an independent woman. In fact, the ending left a lot of questions unanswered. It was like Ms. McIntosh was up against her deadline so she put a period on her sentence and sent it to her publisher. Still reading the series. Hoping for a better story in the next book.

Barb in Maryland says

Another strong entry on this series. The mystery is especially twisted, with more than one villain--I can say no more for fear of spoilers. But as you can tell from the title, poison is involved in all three deaths. Gil and his charming wife Alys hit a bit of a rough patch in their marriage, much to both of their dismays. Don't fret, dear readers, I can tell you that it turns out well in the end.

Deb says

Had quite an orgy with reading 5 of the books (2 - 6) during Thanksgiving weekend...you can read a lot when a lovely SIL does all the work...

Jeffrey says

Better than the previous one in the series, but the action doesn't move along as much as it might in the first half of the story. In the end, a satisfying read, a whodunit you can figure out if you follow the clues, and an excellent dramatic ending.

Karen says

What a disappointment. Bought this because it was set in 15th century Glasgow, but apart from a few geographical references it could have been set anywhere in Scotland (or even UK). It totally lacked a sense of place. The plot was uninspiring and I certainly won't be reading another one.

Drayton Bird says

If you like a good plot and lots of insight into the way people lived in 15th century Glasgow you'll love this. It's all about apothecaries and, of course, poison. Nice touches like the large dog, Socrates.

I don't understand why such a good writer is given cover designs which are so badly drawn, with no relationship to the Scots theme. They look like bits of bad Italian paintings.

It seems Scotland is producing an endless stream of good writers of historical fiction. Must be the Sir Walter Scott effect.

I enjoyed this just as much as all the others of hers - I think I've read most - especially because the writer

makes no concessions to the Auld Enemy: lots of Scots expressions you have to work out for yourself. Some fascinating, to me, anyhow. Like the expression for tomorrow morning - "the morn's morn" - which reminds me of the Spanish "Manana por la manana". Which in turn reminds me of a great Irish joke:

Visitor: Do you have any expression in Ireland equivalent to the Spanish "Manana".

Local: Nothing that expresses quite the same sense of urgency.

Donald says

Quite a good puzzling plot, although you might work out 'whodunnit', but it does keep you guessing, until yes, it was who you thought all along.
