



Treasure Hunt

Andrea Camilleri

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The sixteenth Sicilian mystery in the irresistible New York Times–bestselling Inspector Montalbano series

Interest in Andrea Camilleri’s taciturn but epicurean inspector is at an all time high. And with three of the last five novels in the series, including the award-winning *The Potter’s Field*, hitting the New York Times bestseller list, this latest installment is certain to take him to a new level of sales.

In *Treasure Hunt*, Montalbano is hailed as a hero after news cameras film him scaling a building—gun in hand—to capture a pair of unlikely snipers. Shortly after, the inspector begins to receive cryptic messages in verse from someone challenging him to go on a “treasure hunt.” Intrigued, he accepts, treating the messages as amusing riddles—until they take a dangerous turn.

Treasure Hunt Details

Date : Published September 24th 2013 by Penguin Books (first published 2010)

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Author : Andrea Camilleri

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Kua says

Che tristezza... chi l'avrebbe mai detto che avrei faticato a finire un Camilleri? Qui siamo proprio alla frutta, dal momento che l'autore si sta spremendo come un limone, pubblicando anche la carta straccia. Ho la tenue speranza che non sia lui ad aver scritto gli ultimi libri letti.

Ne ho ancora due del commissario sul comodino... mi sa che ci restano, almeno finchè non ho digerito questo. :(((

Raven says

If anyone was to ask what books would accompany me to a desert island, the entire Montalbano series to date would be a strong contender. There is something about the quality of Camilleri's writing that there is always some slight nuance or unexpected event that catches you off-guard, revealing to the reader another facet to the character of the remarkable Inspector Montalbano. Indeed, with each new book Camilleri admirably deceives us, as these tales combine in the reader a sense of the comfortably familiar, but equally he delights in intentionally unsettling us by the intervention of some strange, or more usually, hilarious moment that changes the direction of the narrative. So bring on The Treasure Hunt...

From the outset, The Treasure Hunt, combines the dark and light elements that Camilleri is renowned for. A couple of elderly religious extremists begin taking pot-shots from their apartment at innocent passers by, resulting in a sudden case of immolation and a need for Montalbano to go, in the words of sidekick Catarella, all 'Brussi Villesi' to gain access to said apartment. Confronted with a huge spread of religious icons and the startling inclusion of a bizarre blow-up-doll, Montalbano once again finds himself caught up in a bizarre investigation, further complicated by the arrival of another blow-up-doll (with the inevitable Italian version of 'Carry-On' that this produces) and the wilful inclusion of Montalbano in a strange treasure hunt, reflected by the book's title. Add to this Camilleri's trademark portrayal of the sights, sounds and culinary aspects of Montalbano's home turf, the never ending ups and downs of his relationships with both the luscious Livia and Scandinavian temptress Ingrid, Montalbano's melancholic musings, and the ease and comic touch with which Camilleri immerses us back into the colourful world of his regular troop of characters, and this is once again a book impossible to fault. Another example of the twisted brilliance of Mr Camilleri, and quite simply, una lettura perfetta...

Richard Newton says

I may not be the best judge of this book, as I am a very infrequent reader of crime or detective stories. I do however have a soft spot for the Italian films of Montalbano and Young Montalbano - so I thought I'd give this a go.

Unfortunately, I found it poorly written, and the plot was transparent. There is a character introduced early in the book who seemed to me to obviously going to be the baddie - and even his horrible crime, which was extremely unpleasant, was predictable. There are occasional moments of good writing, but too few.

I think in future, I'm going to stick with the films.

Erika says

Nice read. Not a very intricate mystery, but I have a feeling the crime plot is supposed to be secondary to the lives of the characters (though not as much so as with *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*). Haven't read any Camilleri or Montalbano before, but I might read more in the future - I liked this book and the protagonists a lot.

Tony says

TREASURE HUNT. (2010; Eng. Trans. 2013). Andrea Camilleri. ***.

Camilleri was not up to his usual performance with this novel. The plot was too manipulative on the reader, and the niggling suspicion of the killer was set early on. Aside from seeming to come up with his story as he was writing it, Camilleri also introduced a slew of tangents simply for the opportunity to introduce additional humor into the mix. The resultant humor wasn't worth the distraction. The story starts out with a conundrum: two elderly people – a brother and a sister – had locked themselves up in their apartment and began shooting at people down on the street. Why? It seems that they were attempting to hide something, but what was it? We soon learn that the two old people were in the final stages of dementia, and were doing all they could think of to protect what was left of their reputations. Enter Inspector Montalbano, who manages to subdue the two oldsters and prevent mass mayhem. It is what he finds in the apartment that sets the scene for the rest of the book. I have been a fan of Camilleri for a long time, and I have to admit that this is his weakest novel that I have read to date. Let's forgive him this one slip and look forward to his getting back on track with the antics of our favorite Inspector from Sicily.

Indrani Sen says

A sumptuous mystery. Highly recommend.

Monica says

I very much liked the first half of the book - the bit about the elderly siblings with their religious mania, their assault on their fellow townspeople, and the inflatable sex doll.

But then the story gets into a series of letters - riddles - to Montalbano which hint at an unpleasant discovery to come. I didn't much like the riddles, or the revelation of a pretty gruesome murder. The identity of the baddie was too obvious, too early, and the gratuitous violence was more like Stieg Larsson than Camilleri's usual fare.

I missed his usual acerbic social and political comments - and there wasn't even that much food to offset the other shortcomings.

Effie says

B.R.A.C.E. 2018 ?να βιβλ.?ο συγγραφ.?α που ?ταν 60+ ?ταν το ?γραψε

Another Pony says

???? Link do recenzji na YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/yghLWMtqfuw>

Laura says

'What's in there, Chief?' 'If it's what I think, it's something so horrific that it'll haunt your dreams for the rest of your life ...'

Another terrific book of this magnificent Inspector Montalbano series.

- 4* The Terra-Cotta Dog (Inspector Montalbano, #2)
- 3* Excursion to Tindari (Inspector Montalbano, #5)
- 3* Rounding the Mark (Inspector Montalbano, #7)
- 4* The Patience of the Spider (Inspector Montalbano, #8)
- 3* Acqua in bocca (Inspector Montalbano, #16.5)
- 4* Treasure Hunt (Inspector Montalbano, #16)
- TR The Shape of Water (Inspector Montalbano, #1)
- TR The Snack Thief (Inspector Montalbano, #3)
- TR Voice of the Violin (Inspector Montalbano, #4)
- TR Un mese con Montalbano (Inspector Montalbano, #4.5)
- TR Gli arancini di Montalbano (Inspector Montalbano, #4.7)
- TR The Smell of the Night (Inspector Montalbano, #6)
- TR La paura di Montalbano (Inspector Montalbano, #6.5)
- TR Storie di Montalbano (Inspector Montalbano, #6.7)
- TR La prima indagine di Montalbano (Inspector Montalbano, #8.5)
- TR The Paper Moon (Inspector Montalbano, #9)
- TR August Heat (Inspector Montalbano, #10)
- TR The Wings of the Sphinx (Inspector Montalbano, #11)
- TR The Track of Sand (Inspector Montalbano, #12)
- TR The Potter's Field (Inspector Montalbano, #13)
- TR The Age of Doubt (Inspector Montalbano, #14)
- TR Racconti di Montalbano (Inspector Montalbano, #14.5)
- TR The Dance of the Seagull (Inspector Montalbano, #15)
- TR Il sorriso di Angelica (Montalbano, #17)
- TR Il gioco degli specchi (Montalbano, #18)
- TR Una lama di luce (Montalbano, #19)
- TR Una voce di notte (Montalbano, #20)

TR Un covo di vipere (Montalbano, #21)

TR La piramide di fango (Montalbano, #22)

TR La giostra degli scambi (Montalbano, #23)

Dale says

There's nothing glaringly wrong with this novel (as there was with *The Dance of the Seagull*), but there's also not much to recommend it. It feels like the life has gone out of this series, as if Camilleri is phoning it in. The story starts out pretty well, with a pair of elderly religious fanatics who have completely lost their minds and begin shooting at passersby under their window. But from there the novel goes downhill pretty quickly. Montalbano begins receiving anonymous letters leading him on a 'treasure hunt', and at the same time he's introduced by his friend Ingrid to a young man who wants to study Montalbano's methods. Hmmm, that's odd. Then there's the usual scenes where Montalbano dodges a meeting with his boss, and some of the not so very friendly banter with the pathologist. And of course the expected misunderstanding with Livia owing to a female guest picking up his phone when it rings.

All that wouldn't be so bad if there were at least one new aspect of Montalbano's character revealed in this novel; because that, after all, is what this series has been about. But all we see is a somewhat dreary continuation of the earlier themes: he's getting old and not liking it; he's ambivalent about his relationship with Livia; he wonders why he keeps on, but knows that solving crimes is the thing that keeps him going.

Even the food in this book is not up to par - it's basically leftovers from previous episodes.

In all, a disappointment.

Melodie Campbell says

Oh dear. I love Andrea Camilleri - he's one of my favorite current authors. I've been reading him for over ten years, and have all 16 of his books. His brand of humour gave me the courage to write my own mob comedy series.

But...this one let me down. I loved the beginning. Wonderful wit. But half way through the book, I could see the ending coming, and I started to say, "No, Andrea, don't do it! You're better than this." I kept hoping I was wrong.

After a wonderfully witty first quarter, the book turned a corner. Not only did the ending seem obvious, but it was also more horrific than I like in a mystery.

I'm struggling with the 3 rating. I love his writing style and eccentric characters. I admit I am getting tired of his relationship with Livia. (Some have said the same about Janet Evanovich and her character Stephanie's constant ambivalence between Morelli and Ranger.) I think by 16 books, you should probably resolve the love interest.

I can't bring myself to rate this less than 3, because it is Camilleri. But...

Nancy Oakes says

If at some point you saw a 3-star rating here, ignore it. I've been thinking about this book all day, and I've decided that it really merits 4 stars, despite the fact that the actual crime plotting is kind of lazy on the part of the author. I'll post what for me is a short review right here, but if you want to get into the chatty discussion, feel free to click on through. Let me just say that while that the crime's solution may be nothing to write home about, as I'm so fond of saying, the crime solving and the actual police work is not really why I love and continue to read these novels -- it's all about the people, the places, and the writing, and above all, Inspector Montalbano, who manages to find himself in the strangest situations.

synopsis, absolutely NO spoilers:

One day in the midst of a calm season for crime, criminals, and the cops, there's something new in Vigàta for all and sundry to see -- a banner hanging off of an apartment balcony belonging to Gregorio and Caterina Pamisano, "a couple of senile old dotards who happen to be religious fanatics," telling sinners to repent. A week later, another banner appears warning sinners that these "dotards" will punish them. As the third week rolls around, the cops take notice, or at least Montalbano, when a third banner warns

"WE WILL MAKE YOU PAY FOR YOUR SINS WITH YOUR LIFE!!!"

Salvo takes it seriously enough to order a municipal policeman to remove the banners. Not a good idea -- the residents, indeed two elderly siblings who are extremely religious -- start shooting at the cop. Down below, people are getting out of the way, as the shooters start to rain gunfire on the crowd. The arrival of a fire truck equipped with a long ladder allows Salvo to gain entry, and soon the situation is under control. The siblings are taken into custody, the elderly sister looking "as if she'd just stepped out of a horror novel," but there are more disturbing things found in the apartment, among them a "decrepit" inflatable doll laying in the brother's bed. It had lost some hair, "was missing an eye, had one deflated tit and little circles and rectangles of gray rubber scattered all over its body." As the author notes, "For a horror film, it wasn't a bad beginning." After everything's taken care of there, things slide back into crimeless tedium until later the police receive a call about a body in a dumpster which turns out to be another inflatable doll, identical to the one found earlier in the shooters' creepy apartment, down to the the little patches all over its body. While Salvo's busy trying to figure out what's going on, he remembers a letter he'd received and stuffed in a pocket, marked "Treasure Hunt" on the outside of the envelope. At first, it seems like a good diversion from the sheer ennui of waiting for something to happen, but soon things begin to go from "curious" to deadly serious, leading Salvo to realize that the treasure hunt may not be such a big joke after all.

Treasure Hunt is just one more book in an already excellent series of sixteen (there are more, but they haven't yet been translated); if you're reading this book for the crime plot it may feel a bit disappointing, but true fans will still find a lot to love here. As usual, my advice is to not start with book sixteen -- each book builds on the other so go back and start at the beginning.

Valetta says

Montalbano sta invecchiando.

Vi era sfuggito? Allora vuol dire che vi siete persi almeno gli ultimi due o tre libri dedicati al polemico commissario. Perché il progressivo avvicinamento di Montalbano alla vecchiaia è diventato un po' un *leit motiv* negli ultimi libri di Camilleri.

Il terrore della vecchiaia, la paura di aver perso la grinta di un tempo, i primi segni del declino fisico tormentano Montalbano e il lettore, il quale riesce a conservare comunque un certo interesse per la vicenda narrata soprattutto grazie alla vivacità degli scambi verbali fra i protagonisti e ai siparietti comici dell'immane Catarella.

Camilleri infatti non perde mai il dono di una prosa fresca, veloce e scorrevole che porta il lettore a divorare il suo romanzo in poco tempo nonostante la trama gialla non sia un enigma particolarmente complesso e nessuna riflessione nuova accompagni questo racconto. Il lettore la caccia la tesoro se la risolve da solo entro la prima metà del libro grazie ad un paio di indizi grandi come elefanti e alla presenza di un colpevole che manca poco che porga la mano dicendo "buongiorno, io sono l'assassino". Durante la lettura capita a volte di chiedersi quando ci vorrà al protagonista per venire a capo di un enigma già risolto.

Forse è vero: Montalbano sta invecchiando.

Ladiibbug says

#16 Inspector Montalbano series -Police Procedural

I love this police procedural series, set in Italy. Inspector Salvo Montalbano and his detectives work cases that are always interesting and draw the reader in. Each book is so much more than just the cases -- the smaller things, that give the series a uniqueness and strength.

It may be the Italian foods and wines the Inspector enjoys with such relish. The interpersonal dynamics between the characters at this police office, including the incredibly funny Catarella, who mans the front desk and answers the telephones. Catarella's always-bizarre pronunciations of the callers' names and reasons for calling leave Salvo bewildered, confused, angry, and often totally in the dark as to what Catarella is trying to tell him -- while the reader cackles delightedly.

The previous 15 books I've thoroughly enjoyed. This #16 took the series to a new level of writing and plot excellence that makes it a solid 5 star read.

No Spoilers An elderly brother and sister open fire on a plaza to punish the people for their sins. In an exciting capture, Montalbano apprehends the pair, and discovers a large collection of religious objects, plus one highly unusual and hilarious item of evidence. This seemingly unrelated object provides many belly laughs.

An unknown person begins to tempt Montalbano with a series of notes -- a treasure hunt.

All the above take this Montalbano book to a higher level, including the stunning conclusion.
