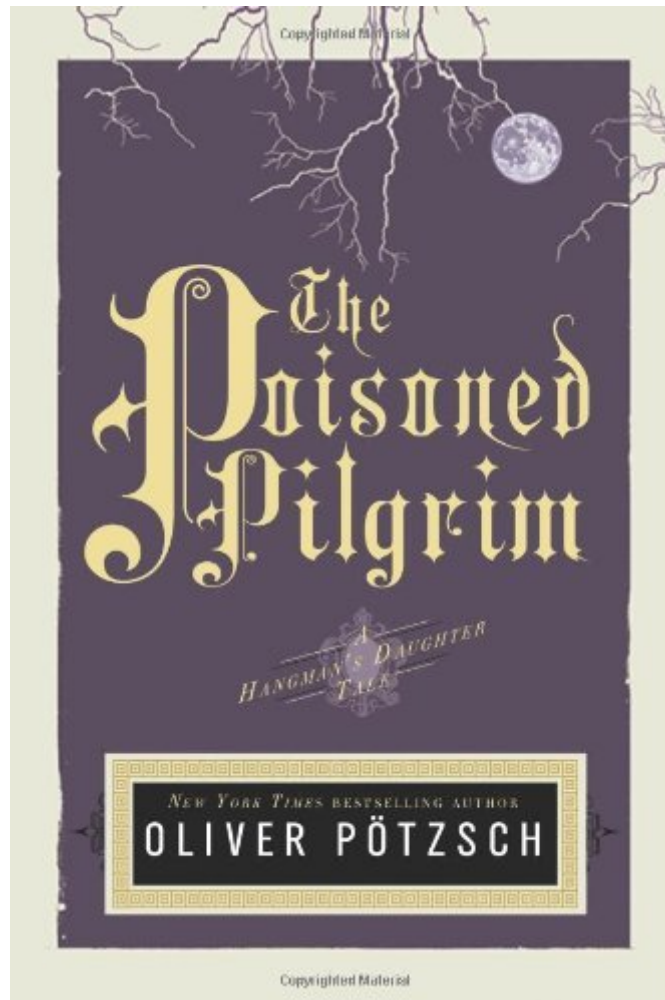


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The Poisoned Pilgrim (US Edition) (A Hangman's Daughter Tale Book 4)



Synopsis

The Poisoned Pilgrim is the fourth book in Hangman's Daughter, the million-copy bestselling series. The monastery at Andechs has long been a pilgrimage destination, but when the hangman's daughter, Magdalena, her doctor husband Simon, and their two small children arrive there, they learn that the monks have far larger concerns than saying Mass and receiving alms. It seems that once again, the hangman's family has fallen into a mysterious and dangerous adventure. Two monks at the monastery experiment with cutting-edge technology, including a method of deflecting the lightning that has previously set the monastery ablaze. When one of the monks disappears and his lab is destroyed, foul play is suspected. Who better to investigate than the famed hangman Jakob Kuisl? But as the hangman and his family attempt to solve the mystery of the missing monk, they must deal with both the eccentric denizens of the monastery and villagers who view the monks' inventions as witchcraft that must be destroyed at all costs.

Book Information

File Size: 2519 KB

Print Length: 512 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0544114604

Publisher: Crossing (July 16, 2013)

Publication Date: July 16, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00B7NY4U6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #4,085 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #7 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > German #7 in Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > European > German #15 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > German

Customer Reviews

Let me begin by saying that Oliver Potzsch has quickly become one of my very favorite authors. I

waited with anticipation for this fourth installment in The Hangman's Daughter series, and as with all previous books in this series, I was not disappointed. I am thrilled to say that The Poisoned Pilgrim was everything I had hoped for from Mr. Potzsch. This story takes place in the year 1666 at the monastery at Andechs. The monastery is a favorite pilgrimage site, and Jacob Kuisl, the hangman of Schongau, finds himself embroiled in a dark mystery involving an old friend who took refuge as a monk some years previous. This friend finds himself the suspect in a triple murder and he is suspected of being a warlock working with the dark arts. He knows that the only person who has a chance to save him is his old wartime friend, Jacob Kuisl. He puts all his faith and trust in the hangman, and as the story unfolds, it seems his faith is not misplaced. The sharp mind, keen senses and experience as a hangman all come to play to assist our reluctant hero in solving yet another puzzling mystery. Joining him in the sleuthing are his intrepid daughter, Magdalena and her husband, Simon Fronweiser. Together they search for clues and risk their lives to assist Jacob's friend who, while performing scientific experiments has placed himself under suspicion, due to fear and superstition. I doubt these times were easy, even under the best of circumstances with illnesses decimating whole villages and the rigid beliefs and prejudices making anyone a little out of the ordinary fodder for gossip and as we see in this tale, even at risk for far worse. The justice system (if it can be so called) was guilty until proven innocent and for the most part, once you were considered guilty, it was virtually impossible to stop the momentum that would bring you to your doom. I can't imagine there were many who would have extended themselves to assist, for fear of being accused themselves. It was a dark time, which makes it the perfect setting for a mystery. I'm a historical fiction fan, not usually one to read mysteries, but these books make it easy for me to enjoy both period fiction and a great page turning crime novel. Mr. Potzsch weaves a thrilling tale and leaves us following the breadcrumbs of clues to the final conclusion of this exciting edition in the Hangman's Daughter series

Entertaining! It's not a complex mystery, but it's interesting enough to keep me well entertained for 16-1/2 hours (the length of the audio version). The plot twists from one view to another, and even though I was pretty sure I'd picked out at least one or two of the troublemakers, I was never totally sure until the end. This is the only one of this series that I have read (listened to), but I wouldn't hesitate to pick another if it becomes available as a daily deal with an inexpensive audio version to go along with it. The primary characters were appealing to me ... nice, decent, ordinary people, people I might like to meet. Having traveled to many places in Germany, I could feel the atmosphere there. I would like to have visited the (presumably fictionalized) location of this story. On the other

hand, maybe I did and didn't know it! Germany is full of these wonderful, scenic sites. There are a few sad and scary scenes, but most of all, it's just a good mystery.

The author uses his own knowledge and serious investigation to work the bones of his story, but what makes this very good historical fiction. He presents the flavor of the 1600's in Bavaria without holding back the sounds, flavors and odors of a bygone age, that should makes us appreciate .ore gentle justice, hand washing and food inspection more than most do. His main character has much to overcome, her husband ends up so tired he just finally falls asleep. It is interesting to read the afterwords and realize that the celebration does continue to be celebrated into our days. The word choices, one in particular, are concise.. After describing the smells of the main community near the end of the story in a few unappetizing words the doctor sums it up with "the smell of people, which I love".

The fourth installment of the "Hangman's Daughter" series finds Magdalena and her husband Simon heading to the monastery at Andechs for a religious pilgrimage. But quickly things fall apart for the two when Magdalena as well as several pilgrims fall ill and Simon must work to treat them. All is not as it seems in Andechs with several gruesome murders, a kidnapping and a possible Golem preying on the monks. Summoned by his daughter to help an old friend, Jacob Kuisl, the Schongau hangman, must unravel the mysteries that are threatening his loved ones. I love this series and this installment was wonderful. The twists and turns kept me enthralled from beginning to end. The characters are so well written I feel as if I'm sitting around a warm fire listening to the fascinating tales of old friends. I look forward to diving into "The Werewolf of Bamberg" next!

Once again I was not left wanting by this latest book in the series. This fourth book is as well written and entertaining as it's predecessors. It kept me guessing until the end. And isn't that the sign of a good mystery? If you are a fan of the series, you won't be disappointed. If you haven't read the previous books, give them a try. They are well worth a read.

I enjoyed this book not quite as much as the last three books. It's sad to see familiar characters aging, changing and dying. But if stories progress, changes must happen. In some ways there were some similarities to other plots but not so much that it was completely predictable. It was well worth the read and I'm looking forward to the next one.

I've read all of the books in the Hangman's Daughter series up to this point and have not been disappointed. This was an enjoyable read with a good amount of action and historical details balanced with humorous and heartfelt moments. Although it's not necessary to have read the previous books to understand this one, I say it's worth to start from the beginning.

History is such fun for me that sometimes historical novels disappoint. This one did not. Add to that well developed characters, more than one mystery, some superstitions and love, all great ingredients for this book. Had to deduct a star since I figured out the mysteries before they were revealed.

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