Box of Bones by Peter Morfoot

4 stars

The sights and sounds of Nice brought to life

I started reading this book and found it quite difficult to work out all the different characters in my mind. The main character, Captain Paul Darac, came over very well as a hard-working and jazz-loving policeman who is still mourning the death of his mother. However, there were a lot of other characters both in his working environment and the outside world and I did become a little muddled as to who was who.

However, after a few chapters as the plot began to unfold, I really enjoyed the story. The action begins at the carnival in Nice and the atmosphere really came through in the writing. A man is killed almost in front of Darac's eyes, in what appears to be an accident, but then a shooting occurs when Darac and his family are at his mother's grave. This is not aimed at Darac but at another man who is standing at a nearby grave but Darac then realises that he also saw this same man at the carnival the day before.

Links are then formed to a robbery that took place many years before and when it turns out that the only person ever caught for this has just been released from jail. It appears that he is now pursuing the members of the original robbery and killing them one by one. Add into the mix a would-be mayor and his dysfunctional daughter and it becomes a very interesting story.

My main problem with this book is that I have not read the previous two Captain Darac stories and although this can be read as a stand-alone, as stated earlier I was confused by the multitude of characters. Had I read the earlier books I am sure it would have been much clearer to me.

I did however enjoy this book and hope that this becomes a continuing series as both the characters and the setting is different from most detective novels. If there is a 4th book I would like to read it and if time permits will try and read the first two.

Dexter

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review