



Trouble Brewing

Dolores Gordon-Smith

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A missing man leads Jack Haldean straight into danger . . . - Mark Helston, the rising star of Hunt Coffee Limited, was successful and popular, with plenty of money and everything to live for. Yet at half past seven on the evening of the ninth of January, 1925, he walked out of his Albemarle Street flat and disappeared. Desperate to know what happened to Mark, his uncle, old Mr Hunt, appeals to Jack Haldean. Inspector Bill Rackham of Scotland Yard thinks it's a thankless task. Perhaps, says Jack, but why should Mark Helston vanish? And then Jack finds a body . . .

Trouble Brewing Details

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Author : Dolores Gordon-Smith

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From Reader Review Trouble Brewing for online ebook

Homerun2 says

3.5 stars

A dependable and entertaining series. This one was fun with quite a clever plot.

Anna says

This is the very first story that I read in the Jack Haldean series and I was immediately captivated. It seemed that Gordon-Smith was able to capture the sights and sounds of the period. She must have been reading a lot of Christie, Sayers, Allingham ...

I had to go back to the beginning of the series.

Susan says

Mark Helston disappeared one cold January night, and the police have not found him, nor explained to his family what might have happened to him. So his autocratic great-uncle asks Jack Haldean, author and amateur sleuth, to find the young man. Then Haldean discovers that another man is missing, too. The 1930's is a perfect time period for the twisty plot, which depends in part on uncertain identifications and slow communication systems.

Chris says

I may knock this rating down to three stars eventually, but right now I'm thinking about how much I enjoyed this corking good mystery.

It was the cover that attracted my attention in the library. Somewhat plain and yet also attention-grabbing. Still, the printing looked not unlike it had been done by a vanity press, and not a particularly good one at that. Still, it seemed worth a leap. And it totally paid off.

Our hero, Jack Haldean, was a British major in WWI and now makes a living both writing and solving mysteries. On the strength of his previous efforts, he is called to the home of an elderly coffee baron and asked to find the man's missing nephew. Jack isn't sure he can do any better than the police have already done, but he's willing to give it a go. His inquiries lead to all kinds of other story lines. Where was Mark Helston going the night he disappeared? What happened to the man he was supposed to meet? Who would benefit from his disappearance or death? That last question proves particularly sticky, especially when the first husband of Mark's sister shows up after being thought killed in the war. And then bodies start to pop up. Gordon-Smith keeps a lot of balls in the air. The reader will seem sure about who the real culprit is only to have reason to focus on someone else a few pages later. And it all works very well.

There is a nice sense of period here. I don't know how accurate it is with all the "old boys" and "poor chaps" and everyone popping in and out of their clubs, but I liked it. I liked it so much I am looking very forward to reading more of this series.

Kathy Moberg says

I think this may be the best Jack Haldean mystery yet!

Rae says

Another good mystery by Dolores Gordon-Smith --- part of her Jack Haldean series I am working through.

Barbara Bothwell says

I loved this book. London in the 1920s, Jack Haldean, Inspector Bill Rackham and, of course, bodies, what more could you want? Gordon-Smith has presented us with another puzzle more complicated than the Times crossword.

This is a great read - one you won't want to put down until the end.

A big mystery running through the story is where is Mark Helston?

The threads unravel and all is revealed in this tale involving my favourite brew - coffee.

Gina says

Well written mystery set in 1920s London in keeping with the classic British mysteries. An amateur sleuth is asked to look into the disappearance of a wealthy young businessman. To complicate things, the victim's sister is in a troubled marriage, there is potential fraud in the company, and another missing person is their business manager from the coffee plantation in Brazil.

Gwen says

Enjoyed the read as I wanted something that I didn't have to think about as I read. Plot a bit obvious but I liked the characters and will look for another Jack Haldean Mystery

Janet Hannel says

A vain attempt to recapture a 30's atmosphere. Very slow, then very complicated and contrived. Maybe I just didn't care about any of the characters. Christie did it better- and shorter!!

Walanski says

I figured it out at page 300 of 500. Skipped to the end.

Lorna Cox says

I really like the characters in this series of books which are set in the period between the wars. There were a couple of shocks along the way with this one, but the outcome is always quite satisfying.

Jane says

I really like this series but sometimes there's a little too much of the jargon of the time. Jack Haldean is asked by the elderly owner of Hunt Coffee Limited to find his nephew who has apparently disappeared off the face of the earth. Jack holds out little hope of finding the young man after 4 months. After checking with his policeman friend and finding the original investigation was definitely lacking in much substance it becomes a challenge. In my arrogance I thought I knew who the killer was before the end. Imagine my surprise...

Elizabeth says

Enjoyable from beginning to end.

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

This book began a bit slow for me, however, once it hit its stride then the tale took off. I enjoyed the police procedural process with Jack Haldean at its lead. Some of the search scenes were the best I've read. I'll look for more in this series.
