



## The Armada Boy

*Kate Ellis*

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Norman Openheim is an American veteran of the D Day Landings on a sentimental journey with his old unit to their West Country base. His body is the last one archaeologist Neil Watson expects to find in the ruins of an old chantry chapel...

Neil naturally turns to his old friend from student days, Detective Sergeant Wesley Peterson, for help. Ironically, both men are looking at an invading force - Wes, the WWII Yanks, and Neil, a group of shipwrecked Spaniards reputed to have met a sticky end at the hands of outraged locals as they limped from the wreckage of the great Armada. Local memories are retentive, and Wes is soon caught up in old accusations, resentments, and romances from fifty years before. But the coolness of Openheim's wife Dorinda, and her reliance on a fellow veteran in the party, offer an all-too-familiar motive for murder.

As if that is not enough, a belligerent group of homeless youths are also under suspicion: then another veteran's wife disappears. Wes's case grows more perplexing, while Neil uncovers a tragic story from the distant past. Over four hundred years apart, two strangers in a strange land have died violently - could the same motives of hatred, jealousy, and revenge be at work? Wes is running out of time to find out...

## **The Armada Boy Details**

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Author : Kate Ellis

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## From Reader Review The Armada Boy for online ebook

### **Stacy says**

This was just okay, but I was bored and needed something to read in the car. A murder mystery set in coastal France has ties to World War II and even further back. The writing wasn't spectacular but it was entertaining enough. Warning: brief strong language.

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### **Mariella Deliyannis says**

I loved, loved, LOVED this book as I have loved all the books by Kate Ellis! Her hero, Wesley Peterson is real and very much flesh and blood and I like the fact that she has put him in an interracial marriage and has given him "real life" problems and situations. I also love the fact that there is a bit of what the Brits call archeology (for me as a greek, archeology has to do with artifacts and structures thousands of years old) and the lovely picturesque Devon towns and villages and the stories are naturally interwoven between past and present! a joy to read and they tend to stick in the mind what with the lovely pictures within every book's pages and the likeable and unlikeable characters and situations.

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### **Cora Tea Party Princess says**

A great second book to the Wesley Peterson series.

I didn't enjoy this one quite so much as the first, but it was still really really good. I think it's because I didn't feel as much interest for the historical side of it this time round - the Spanish Armada wasn't taught to me at school (we jumped from Henry VIII to Queen Victoria) and there was never the same threat up here.

That the WW2 events in this book were based on real events was shocking and more than a little heartbreak. Live ammo for an exercise? That more men could be lost in a single training exercise than in the whole of the D-Day happenings is just crazy.

I didn't feel that the American veterans were characterised as well as they could have been. But the rest of the characters were spot on.

I'd kind of guessed at the ending, the historical aspects of the book mirroring them made it pretty easy to work out. But I still enjoyed the story right to the end.

The best part of these books is the weaving of historical and contemporary crimes. Kate Ellis does this wonderfully and has a beautiful writing style that I just can't get enough of.

And yes, I've ordered the next one.

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## **Sarah Baines says**

Enjoyed the 1st in the series, but thought this was even better. I wasn't 100% sure after the 1st in the series "The Merchant's House" but now "The Armada Boy" has convinced me to read the rest of this 20+ book series!!

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## **Gail says**

It might look like I'm an easy grader where reading is concerned. If I really don't like something, I don't finish it. Life is too short to drink bad tea, imbibe bad wine, or read bad books. That's why libraries are so wonderful. They don't judge or cost you if a book is DNFF (did not F'ing finish!).

This is a terrific series. While it is called the Wesley Peterson mysteries, it really is an ensemble group that works together to solve mysteries. The Inspector, the woman constable, and Wesley Peterson, a black detective sargent transplant from London. You get tidbits of their lives. Intertwined in this series are excerpts from historical books or journals that end up having a bearing on the case.

A reunion of American soldiers in the gentle shores of Devon, celebrating their maneuvers in preparation for D-Day decades before. Still paying respects and mourning the loss of comrades, the former soldiers reawaken some secrets from the past. One of them is murdered in the ruins of an old Catholic church, the site of an archaeological dig headed by Wesley's friend, Neil, who discovers the body.

This old old village relives some of its resentments, loves, and remembrances of the past which comes back to haunt them in the present.

A very good mystery unraveled by the whole team. Enjoyed this one, the second in the series.

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## **Marisa says**

### **Fun read**

In between classes right now, reading a few books to keep the brain active. I quit reading two of the books, but I finished this one because it kept me engaged all the way to the end.

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## **Mel says**

One of the weaker entries in the Wesley Peterson series. Too much dialogue, the tie-in to the archaeological dig was almost non-existent and the police found convenient excuses not to investigate a number of things which might have led them to the killer sooner.

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## LJ says

First Sentence: Norman Openheim lit a forbidden cigarette and inhaled deeply.

The Americans have come back to Devon in tribute to the time spent there preparing for the Normandy Invasion. The reunion does not go without incident when Neil, an archeologist and friend of DS Wesley Peterson, find the body of a murdered veteran at the chantry chapel ruins, the site where sailors of the Spanish Armada are said to be buried and where, in more recent times, couples went for a bit of privacy.

The only thing better than discovering a new author I like, is when they have a backlist for me to read. Kate Ellis is such an author.

It is nice that this book is set in the fictional town of Tradmouth in Devon. From the author's website, I learned that she used Dartmouth as her guide. But it is nice to be outside a major city. Providing a stronger sense of place would have been appreciated, particularly as I am completely unfamiliar with this area. Thank heaven for the internet.

I cannot, however, fault her for character creation. Although this is billed as "A Wesley Peterson Crime Novel," it read more as an ensemble cast, and a good one. Again, quoting the website, "Each story combines an intriguing contemporary murder mystery with a parallel historical case." Wesley received his degree in archeology prior to joining the police force and, therefore, provides the bridge through his archeologist friend, Neil. Where he is polished and university educated, his superior, DI Heffernan, with whom I am delighted to say he gets on well.

To this pair, add a bright, ambitious police woman, a young detective who'd really like the action of London, Wesley's archeologist friend and an unseen psychic who calls telling them to look for the Armada Boy. What I particularly appreciated was that the background all the characters is provided in bits throughout the story.

The story's plot is so well constructed. It is intricate and filled with red herrings and twists but never feel contrived or manipulative. The clues are revealed to the reader as they are to the characters. The past is a critical element of the story as it relates to both location and motives. Ellis skillfully blended the historical information, particularly as this is a region with which I am unfamiliar, into the plot even enabling a particularly poignant thread to the story.

Ellis is an intelligent writer excellent at the blending the past and the present, her use of allegories and understanding the impact of the sins of the father. She has definitely joined my "must read" list.

THE ARMADA BOY (Pol Proc-DS Wesley Peterson-Devon, UK-Cont) – VG+

Ellis, Kate – 2nd in series

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### **Pgchuis says**

So I see that Neil is (sadly) going to be a recurring character in these novels, despite having no real personality. Pam continues to have far too much (unpleasant) personality, and there is a little stereotyping of American here - apparently they all wear gaudy clothes...

Wesley and Co are investigating the death of an American veteran on the site of a chantry. Neil is excavating the chantry where the bodies of Spanish sailors from an Armada ship were buried. Since the two strands must once again be found to run in parallel, the plot is somewhat convoluted. However this novel was worth it for the retelling of Exercise Tiger, of which I had never heard, despite having grown up in Devon. It was fascinating - I had no idea.

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### **Doreen Richards says**

Some interesting history. One of the many difficult times with the threat of invasion from the sea. And the friendly invasion of allies during the second war and the terrible deaths because of rehearsal with live ammunition.

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### **Mary Johnson says**

The second in the series and the second I've read - without too much pleasure. Yet another convoluted plot this time mixing events on three different murders: now; the recent past and ancient history. There is little depth to the 'cast' (including the lead characters) and I find my mind drifting. I must presume that the series gets better because there is a long list.... And others commend the author. Taking a break and will try again at some point.

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### **Margaret Holmes says**

Another cracking good read from Kate Ellis. I enjoyed it as much as the first one. The twists and turns of the dual plots kept me reading and neglecting mundane tasks that I should have been doing. I shall definitely read more of them.

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### **Ann says**

Very readable mystery with the addition of a historic element.

An American veteran is murdered while attending a reunion and the grave of a boy from the Spanish Armada is uncovered. Archaeology and detection together made this an intriguing read.

The mirroring of motives between both murders felt a little too contrived, though.

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### **Icewineanne says**

I really enjoy Kate Ellis's DS Wesley Peterson series. She weaves together mystery with history that makes for an entertaining read. The light history really adds to the story. I learned a few things about both the Normandy & Spanish Armada invasions. That elevated this book from a 3 star to a 4 star rating.

A group of US vets and their spouses, return to the Devon area, for the 50th anniversary of the Normandy invasion. Of course one of the vets gets murdered at a historical site and it's up to the detectives and Wesley's friend, Neil Watson, an archaeologist who's excavating the site, to figure out who, why, and what connection the present murder has to the past.

While investigating, they dig up of the remains of a young Spanish boy from the time of the Spanish Armada invasion, who was secretly buried inside the village church 400 yrs earlier, and it appears that he was also murdered. This book was lots of fun, I'm looking forward to Wesley & Neil's next adventure.

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### **charlotte says**

**Rep:** black mc

you know those books you enjoyed when you were young so you go back to the author later thinking that you will enjoy it just as much, but actually you now find the writing crap and the story boring? this is one of those... (dnf, 23%)

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