



Preacher, Prophet, Beast

Harper Fox

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This is the seventh book in the Tyack & Frayne Mystery series.

Lee would gladly trade all his psychic gifts for a chance at ordinary life with his husband and his little girl. Three years into their marriage, they're settled in their new home – but the House of Joy can't shield them from an oncoming threat with the power to uproot their whole world.

Lee can't define it further, and even his beloved Gideon can't unmask a monster with no face at all. Gideon is mired in problems and secrets of his own as he struggles to adjust to his new rank and the complexities of plainclothes police work with CID, and for once the devoted Tyack-Frayne partnership is failing to communicate.

Turbulent times in the world at large reach deep into the Bodmin heartland, and the village of Dark is without its guardian constable. More than Lee and Gideon can possibly know has been depending upon their rapport, and as the summer rises towards the longest day, a new and unfathomable kind of Beast is afoot on the moors...

Preacher, Prophet, Beast Details

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From Reader Review Preacher, Prophet, Beast for online ebook

Kaje Harper says

Another very good entry in a favorite series. Both Lee and Gideon are firmly on my favorite characters list, and here we see them taking on a more modern evil, in a paranormally flavored way. Familiar secondary characters, from Gideon's brother and mother to the guys' little uniquely-talented daughter, make an appearance.

This book includes one plot device I'm not fond of, because it feels emotionally manipulative. But there are wonderful scenes, and the love between these two comes through the pages beautifully. This is a favorite series, and I will preorder any sequel that happens to appear. I could imagine this as the last book - it has a settled feel to the ending - but hopefully there will be more to come.

Chris says

What a great seriesthoroughly enjoyed this. The brilliant relationship between Gideon & Lee, the love of good friends and the deep spiritual side of old Cornwall. This was almost full circle for many of these characters... the impact of one soul onto another. I really enjoyed the historical side of this story - the old language and the Druid / Pagan beliefs, there's always more to this world than just the things we can see ❤?

K says

It's approaching midsummer in Dark and Gideon Frayne and his husband Lee Tayack are bringing up their now 2 year old gifted daughter Tamsyn surrounded by friends. But the beast is back and strange things are happening... including the uprising of a group calling for Cornish purity.

The author weaves a lot of pagan mysticism through the story, including references to the three witches, moon stones and the myths of the hare running Widdershins. Some of the story felt a little confused at times but overall very enjoyable.

I do wish they wouldn't call Tamsyn a 'witch' in a negative way though - but that's just a personal thing.

Anniika says

Audiobook review

2,5 stars

Hmm I don't know... This book was just too much but also not enough at the same time. And I kind of want to say: *"What a bloody mess"*

I love this series, and each and every book up to this one has been a great and wonderful read. So after finishing this one I'm a bit disappointed. I would say this was by far my least favourite instalment in this series to date. It felt lacking on so many levels. I missed the wonderful atmospheric feel that Fox created in her other books, and that creepy and haunted feeling to Dark and the people in the village was missing. It kind of felt like any old paranormal book, and that's not something we've come to expect from this series. It lacked the feelings that made it unique, and nothing can portray this more than the first line the first book and this;

Once Upon a Haunted Moor:

That sound – you feel it before you hear it, a kind of low vibration in your bones.

Preacher, Prophet, Beast:

My name is Lee Tyack-Frayne.

A bit of a difference, isn't it?

I also felt like that wonderful connection between Lee and Gideon was missing. In this book they felt just like any old married couple with a toddler, no muss no fuss. We are not used to that. Ok, so Tamsyn does have some rather unusual powers and ones that come into play in this book, but still it's just not enough. Lee and Gideon have been this...force of nature almost, their connection as real and tangible as anything you can see and touch. Part of a whole. But this time around it was lacking everything that made them special. I do appreciate that they had a bit of ups and downs and not always lovey-dovey, but I still didn't *feel* them like I used to.

These books have also been very intimate of a sort. They take place in Dark and some of the surrounding small towns and villages. The rest of the world just didn't matter, it wasn't all that important to the people here. So for all intents and purposes the rest of the world didn't exist. Yet suddenly Brexit and Trump and the instabilities in the world are being discussed more than once. And Ok, these things are important and the impact factors in the world are high. But nothing can touch Dark or Bodmin Moor, so this was just so unnecessary. It just doesn't have a place in this series.

Let's move on to the plot shall we. I have to admit I am so very confused about it. There was just sooo much going on. Both new and old threats, ones we've long thought were done with, come out to play, threatening the lives of Dark and the people we've come to love. Add in ominous visions by Lee, and the mysteries surrounding Tamsyn, the village of Dark might never be the same again. The plot went in a million different directions and not many of them made much sense or were easy to follow. So much so that if you didn't pay 100% attention to the story for every second you'd be confused. And if you'd ask me I probably won't be able to tell you much more than maybe just the general idea of the book, no details and not on my life will I be able to re-tell how everything was connected and what really happened. And I literally finished listening to this book not 10 minutes ago.

So would I recommend this book?

I honestly don't know. In part I think that depends a bit on where the next book starts off, how much it will

build on what happened in this one. And judging by the previous books, you are probably going to need to read it for reference if nothing else. But I would say, if you are like me and often have other things on the go while listening to audiobooks, you should read this book and not listen to it. Not that the audio is bad, Tim Gilbert is still a great narrator for this series. There's just so much going on that I think you'll benefit from reading instead of listening. Where you can just take a second and think about everything that happens, or go back to re-read a section before moving on. Hopefully you won't be as confused as I'm feeling right now – feeling like you need to go back to the beginning just to find out what was really going on.

A copy of this book was generously provided by the author in exchange for an honest review

Alisa says

I was super excited about this but it just didn't work for me the way the last few books have. I had a couple of issues.

A big part of the story had to do with a political rally and there were all kinds of comments about the world as a whole backsliding and in particular our messed up politics in the US. I'm not disagreeing with what the author was saying....all of it true....but I read books to get away from the nightmare that is the US political scene right now and I do not want to read about it in my books.

The paranormal part of it was a bit confusing for me. I realize that might just me, but I had to re-read scenes more than once in a few places and I had to read really slowly just to figure out what was going on.

I hated the development with Gideon. HATED IT!

Also, very little in the way of feelz and emotions between Lee and Gideon. At the end of the day I'm mostly there for the romance and the love. I missed it in this book.

WMD says

A refreshing visit with our Cornish duo: mystic powers and modern fears

This is another addition to the Tyack and Frayne mystery series. I highly recommend that you read them in order, starting with 'Once Upon a Haunted Moor.' Too many characters and history criss-crossing through them for you to read them out of order.

We have Gideon, newly promoted Detective Sergeant, and Lee stay-at-home dad with by appointment psychic hours. Each man is a force of good, and their bond is strong and sweet. This slice of Cornish village mystery is rife with mysticism, myths, and modern crimes of hate and destruction. A power is raised that knocks even Gideon and Lee off their foundation, and it takes the Lord of Misrule, the Crone, the Wife and the Maiden, the Prophet, the Guardian, and the Beast to rebuild.

This one (as with the last few volumes in the series) is more about the mythical piece than mystery, but

several themes are moved along: how is Tamsyn's mother dealing with the adoption, how are Tamsyn's powers working out, how is Zeke's unwed fatherhood sitting with his congregation, how is Gideon feeling about his new work now that he is promoted, how is Gideon's mom's campaign for all things gay going, how is the village doing without Gideon?

Highly recommend, as a satisfying piece of the Tyack and Frayne menu. Well written, some slight mayhem in the plot with perhaps one too many bad guys. Smooth dialogue, sufficiently edited.

Things I rate mm books on

Sexy scale 1-5=3

Explicit mm scenes, indeed, always confirming the love. Some of my favorite minutes with these two are when they are just admiring each other, and counting on each other for care and support.

Angst scale 1-5=3

I was shocked that Lee's and Gideon's connection was so rocked...Both were in some emotional pain. See bottom of review for possible trigger/spoiler.

Humor scale 1-5=2

Less of the dog's goofiness in this one, the baby taking up some of the slack.

Likable MCs scale 1-5=3

These guys are really great together. But they start this one out of sync and it just gets worse for awhile... Harper had to pull some extreme Superman type action to get them back strong, but they got there.
(view spoiler)

If you like psych in your mystery, I recommend

Psycop Series by Jordan Castillo Price and

Plumber's Mate Series by J.L. Merrow

A Reason to Believe by Diana Copland

Possible trigger/spoilers (view spoiler)

Lisa The Novel Approach says

~ 4.5 Stars ~

God, this series. I'm running out of words to express my love for these characters and my appreciation of author Harper Fox's gift of them to her readers. Beginning with book one, she's crafted a homey feeling of family, friends, and townspeople who have faults and strengths, as we all do—some are just downright awful, as some humans are—but then she's created this gorgeous romance between Lee Tyack and Gideon Frayne amongst it all, and then imbued the scenery with Cornish folklore, druidic ritual and a touch of the supernatural. Preacher, Prophet, Beast reads like a fever dream at times, often making me question what was real and what wasn't—maybe it was both, and that unknowing is the sum of its best parts. The winds of change have blown over the Cornwall landscape, and there is a bit of prophesying at play now. What it means remains to be seen.

There is a holiday novella, Third Solstice, that precedes this installment in the series, and while it's not imperative, in the strictest sense of the word, to read it before digging into this full-length novel, it will prepare you for what Lee and Gideon's baby girl, Tamsyn, is fated for. Granny Ragwen, the Dark witch, also

plays a part in what's evolving, and the story is fantastic, too, so there's that. Read it if for nothing more than it's more time spent with this fascinating cast of characters.

Lee and Gid went through hell and back in *Guardians of the Haunted Moor* over their daughter, whose mother happens to be Lee's sister, Elowen, and while their relationship with her isn't yet repaired, Elowen plays a small but significant part in the story, too, as does Gid's preacher brother, Zeke, who is slowly but surely proving he's human—in the person sense, not the paranormal—which is a welcome evolution. In my review of the second novella in the series, *Tinsel Fish*, I said that I had high hopes for Zeke, and those hopes have come to fruition. I love him and all his stilted love and conflicted acceptance of his family: Lee and Gid in particular. I think he's finally learning the difference between religion and faith, and I couldn't be happier for this growing, albeit grudging, awareness. There's not a single character in this series, in fact, who reads as mere set decoration or as a clunky and convenient device to further the story. Everyone contributes, and that's entirely owed to Fox's ability to layer Lee and Gid's story and then enfold these people into it and make them important.

Plotty romance is the hallmark of the Tyack & Frayne series. We talk a lot about the happily-ever-after when we speak of books in the genre, without much tangible evidence that the HEA is solid, only what we wish for. That's not to say I've never been convinced of any other couples' growing old together, loving each other for as long as they both shall live, but perhaps not in the same way I believe in Lee and Gid's come hell or high water, forever brand of love. Theirs is easily one of the truest and purest love stories I've ever read, and despite external conflict causing some internal friction in the storyline, there was never a question they wouldn't come out stronger on the other side.

One of the undercurrents that took shape in this story, and the author capitalized on to good effect, is the current socio-political climate that is the breeding ground of hatred and chaos in the story. The pervading sense of evil is steeped in legend and is also human-borne. There is a sense of monstrous people behaving monstrously, and the realism of it lent a sad sort of helplessness to the storyline which is then offset by the hopefulness that love will always overcome hate.

There's no way to synopsize this book and not give up spoilers. Not to mention that, at this point, there are far too many threads finessed into the whole of what it is on its surface: a gorgeous romance. And Gideon's becoming... There is a richness to the depth of development of this series, and while it may seem intimidating to think about starting a series that has to be read in order and is already this many books into it, I can't recommend this one highly enough.

Reviewed by Lisa for The Novel Approach

Caz says

I've given this an A for narration and a B for content at AudioGals

Note: There are spoilers for earlier books in the Tyack & Frayne series in this review.

Since reviewing *Once Upon A Haunted Moor* and *Tinsel Fish*, books one and two in Harper Fox's series of romantic paranormal mysteries featuring Cornish bobby Gideon Frayne and TV psychic Lee Tyack, I've been gradually making my way through the rest of the series. Seven of the nine titles are available in audio (at time of writing), and having now reached book seven – **Preacher, Prophet, Beast** – I thought it was time

to catch you all up on what's been going on in that particularly mystical corner of Cornwall. Lee and Gideon have been together for three years, married for over two of them and are the parents of a little girl – Lee's niece – whom they adopted more than a year earlier. They've continued to encounter threats both spiritual and mundane; it's become clear that Lee's gifts carry a heavy price and more recently, that the strong bond he and Gideon share, their psychic link, if you will, is not just one-sided. Gideon is sceptical, but it seems the Tyacks aren't the only family to have been blessed with psychic abilities. And speaking of family, it's been clear since her birth that little Tamsyn has inherited the Tyack family trait – although her gifts seem to be manifesting themselves in a different way.

You can read the rest of this review at [AudioGals](#) .

Susan says

This was more confusing than intriguing. I wasn't quite getting it most of the time.

The first half was a bit boring and yet confusing and the second half was better, but I still couldn't quite figure out what was what.

Gideon is now with the CID, but not that happy about it. He's one of the people looking out for disturbances during the pride parade. But he can't shake the feeling something awful will happen at the parade.

He's also suddenly running a fever, and isn't quite sure what is real and what not....

This was confusing. I got that Gideon wasn't sure what was real and what not, but I wasn't either anymore. I couldn't quite follow along and that left me a bit unsatisfied with the story.

Lot of unanswered questions in this one..
(Like what was with Tamsyn and the flowers??)

Lyn says

Audio surprisingly only 4 stars because at times (not often) the narrator wasn't consistent with Lee's voice, at times Lee sounded like Gideon.

Story shockingly only 3.5 stars the feels weren't as much and I'm missing the creepiness. This installment felt a bit sedate compared to the others.

At the end of the story, I'm left me scratching my head. I'm a little confused about what happened or didn't happen. I'm sure more will be revealed in the next books, but I need a break.

Thanks, Barbara! I know we didn't go into this buddy reading but you made this series more enjoyable!

Barbara? says

Well shit...

This one was a mind fuck of epic proportions....seriously. Good, but I'm still trying to wrap my head around it all.

Never fear..Gideon and Lee are still an amazing couple but boy was this one a test. I'm sure I'll be pondering it for some time.

On to the next..

Bev says

I think someone's been at the Harry Potter Time Turner....and there should be no recriminations at the outcome either. This was a very complicated story, and at times it appeared that there too many threads to bring everything to a satisfactory conclusion, but as long as everyone is OK at the House of the Wolves, all is right with the world.

Is this the end? Who knows, but I'll keep hoping that the Tyack-Frayne household make further appearances in the future. 4 stars.

Ulysses Dietz says

Preacher, Prophet, Beast
(Tyack and Frayne, Book 7)
Harper Fox
Foxtales Publications, 2017

It is hard for me to write an unbiased review of a Harper Fox novel. I suppose I might try by noting that each volume of the Tyack & Frayne series is inevitably “lesser” than Fox’s other books, if only because, as separate units of a larger whole, no one of the books can be as complete as a stand-alone work of art. Each book in the series necessarily depends on the others to make any sense at all.

Right?

But would that really be true? I suppose that if one were to read “Preacher, Prophet, Beast” entirely without foreknowledge of the rest of the series, it would leave the reader confused, having no context for any of the things that happen in the course of this seventh installment of the small-town saga of psychic Lee Tyack and his constable husband Gideon Frayne. There’s their adorable toddler, Tamsyn, with her whimsical Cornish name and startling supernatural powers. And of course there’s Elowen, Lee’s chimerical sister, who keeps appearing and has already tried once to take back the infant she turned over to her brother to raise. Then we have Rufus, Gideon’s erstwhile police partner, and his curious devotion to Lee, whom he insists on calling

Locrynn, his proper Cornish name that nobody else uses. How would one explain the idea of the Bodmin Beast, lurking nightmarishly in Gideon's mind as something not real, and yet something not quite dismissable as mere fantasy? Or, indeed, the whole aura of vaguely Druidic Cornish magic that seems to haunt the moors around the town of Dark and everyone who is part of its history? How would an uninitiated reader assimilate all that back-story only through this latest (but seemingly not last) chapter in Lee and Gideon's weirdly unremarkable life?

Fascinatingly, the entire essential backstory of the series is included, subtly and sometimes offhandedly, within the beautiful prose of this book. Surely the plot is puzzling, particularly at one key, vision-like moment that seems terribly surreal. But then again, I have read (and loved) all six of the previous books, and I was left confused and disoriented by "Preacher, Prophet, Beast." I doubt a new reader would be much more thrown off by anything in this book than I was, even with my more complete familiarity with the whole story.

This is not to say that I'm recommending that one read these books out of order, or to jump in on chapter seven. I'm just saying that Fox's writing is so good, the sense of place is so rich, and the characters are so compelling and varied and interesting, that "Preacher, Prophet, Beast" would be a good read even if one was totally ignorant of the context in which it was written. In a way, this entire book is an echo of all that went before, with a quietly bizarre finale that left me frankly slack-jawed with surprise.

I can't say that this was my favorite book in the series; and yet I felt oddly bereft when it was done. It was as if some great secret had been revealed, but only just out of my sight.

The hard part will be waiting for episode 8.

Adam says

Through the past six books, I fell in love with Lee and Gideon, their family, and the life they'd built. So I was expecting this latest addition to be an automatic 4 stars. Unfortunately, book #7 fell short.

There's not much to add to Gideon and Lee's relationship. They're a done deal at this point. The two have their daughter, Tamsie, and a beautiful home. They've got it all.

So I didn't mind that the relationship aspect of the book was low-key. I don't expect anything new at this point. I was just happy to see how the two held each other up, and how in-tune they are with one another.

If this was a cutesy short story giving readers an update on Lee and Gideon's life, I'd have given this book 3 stars. But most of this book revolves around a mystery plot.

Ordinarily, I'm a fan of Harper Fox's mysteries. But in this case, there was just too much happening. Too many angles, too many strings from previous books that were supposedly put to rest.

I couldn't help but feel more annoyed with each new turn in the story that brought back to life something from one of the previous books. The plot ended up coming across as stale, rather than creative.

It looks like there may be more of Gideon and Lee in the future. I'm hoping the author gets back to the

imaginative plots and sweet romance that make this series so fun to read.

Karen Wellsbury says

I have loved everything to date in this series, the location, symbolism, the lovely relationship between Gideon and Lee. It's really highly emotional, and at times a little overblown but always very pure. However this was a little less than for me, although I will still read book 9 !
