



Deadly Pedigree: A Nick Herald Genealogical Mystery

Jimmy Fox

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Climbing Louisiana family trees can be murder! Nick Herald, a professional genealogist working in New Orleans, is hired to search for Louisiana relatives of an elderly man, a Holocaust survivor. After finding the old man murdered, Nick realizes that this is no ordinary case of innocent genealogical curiosity. He unravels a tangled tale of betrayal, bigotry, lust, shame, and love spanning two centuries of Louisiana's history, back to the Civil War and slavery days and beyond. Nick stumbles upon murderous mysteries with roots in Jewish and African American triumphs and tribulations. His investigation delves deeply into the unique history and complex ethnic gumbo of Louisiana. Ultimately, Nick makes courageous decisions to right old wrongs and expose the guilty while doing his best to save his own neck.

Deadly Pedigree: A Nick Herald Genealogical Mystery Details

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Author : Jimmy Fox

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From Reader Review Deadly Pedigree: A Nick Herald Genealogical Mystery for online ebook

Kirsten Lenius says

An interesting read, this book is a murder mystery which involves genealogy and history, both European and United States.

The genealogist was a former professor who was fired from his teaching position after accusations of plagiarism were made against him.

Two people hire him to research the same family line for different purposes. One wishes to document it; the other wishes the evidence of it to be destroyed. Each has their own reasons and matters grow both complicated and deadly.

I can't say I liked the 'hero' all that well. He was a little too amoral for my taste, but at least he was interesting. There were many other characters who all had their own little stories, as well, though I did not find that distracted from the story.

There were a couple of spots which could have used some tightening, but it kept my attention. I'd read this author again.

Eric says

Proving that genealogists can be hard-boiled detectives, "Deadly Pedigree" follows a discredited academic in a "milk them for as much as I can" genealogy business as he's hired to collect everything about an immigrant lineage for two reasons: one to let the truth come out, and one to remove all evidence at any cost. While the protagonist is sympathetic, his moments of guilt don't exactly stop him from acting immorally to get what he wants (so I couldn't always exactly root for him).

The locations are well described, if perhaps too much (an occasional full page of exposition between lines of dialogue), but often the dialogue seems to get the same treatment (who talks like that?). This and the "know it's wrong, but do it anyway" nature interrupted the flow for me, but it won't stop me from checking out the next two Nick Herald mysteries ("Lineages and Lies" and "Jackpot Blood", both being reissued in paperback and Kindle soon).

I received this Kindle edition during a free promotion period.

Mary Mathews says

As a mystery, it was good. Seriously, though, what "professional genealogist" does NOT know that family surnames have NOT been changed through history by bad spelling or English speaking census takers translating from someone who spoke another language originally?

Kathy says

This is the first genealogical mystery I have read. The story was well done, but it did drag a bit in several places, and the author spends a lot of time on descriptions and background, which could have been written more tightly and shorter. Nick Herald is a former professor who lost his job over some shady dealings (he proclaims his innocence) turned genealogical consultant, who is hired by two people to look into the same genealogy, one to get the records and story out the other to have the records and story destroyed. Nick travels throughout Louisiana from his home base in New Orleans searching for answers and clues to the genealogy in question, encountering some mystery and excitement along the way. Nick is a hardworking, earnest guy seeking answers. However, I am not sure I agree with or approve of his methods and actions all the time. Still, he does get the job done. I enjoyed the descriptions of Louisiana, but found them tedious at times. He could have written them more concisely. I also thought the ending of the story was rather weak, compared to other mysteries I have read. Nevertheless, this is a good book and has a lot of interesting information on Louisiana and genealogy research and worth reading. I received this book free on-line to read and review.

Marty says

I received this as a win from another site to my Kindle. I liked the story and found it compelling. I thought it was well written and well thought out. Nick is hired to look up old family for two very people who each have an agenda. One deadly. The book was a fast read and left lots of room open for a sequel. I thought the romance side of the story, such as it was fairly believable as was the book ending however fast it moved. I would read more from this author.

Kate says

Nick is a college professor turned genealogist following his ouster from a New Orleans college for alleged plagiarism. When an elderly Jewish man asks him to find a family member to say Kaddish for him when he dies Nick becomes imbroiled in a web of truth-burying that involves the love affair between a master and slave; inheritance and the cover-up of family secrets that extends to the present. At times the answers he finds leads to more questions or are just a bit too pat and easy. Still a worthwhile read if you just like a good mystery and more valuable if you like genealogy and finding pieces to a puzzle.

Denise says

Excellent

Great characters, great story line, and great plot. I wanted to rush through the book but at the same time I wanted to read slow so it wouldn't end. I already have Fox's next book downloaded. One downside, I had never encountered several of the words used throughout the book. I love to expand my vocabulary but wasn't online when I was reading.

Barbara L. Castells says

Very interesting use of a geological study.

I would recommend this book to any fan of geological study and murder mystery books. Characters are well defined and deserve to be seen in future volumes.

Barbara Castells.

Dawn says

Truly enjoyed this story once it got going, but I had some issues with the main character. Didn't appreciate some of his antics & cringed @ his ethics, but overall I liked him in the end & hope to read more of the series.

Karen Syed says

I am glad I read this book. Genealogy ranks right up there with reading for me, so to be able to read mysteries with this kind of premise is pure joy for me.

I will admit that there are some issues with editing, but the story is solid and more than a little interesting. Jimmy Fox has created a character that is uniquely flawed and fairly likeable.

With a doable number of twists and a solid mystery, "Deadly Pedigree" offers readers a unique approach to the genre as well as inserting a fair amount of history and intrigue.

Nick Herald is quite a character and I look forward to reading more of this series.

Ellen says

I enjoyed the book. As I am with all genealogy mysteries, I thought it was a little far fetched, but who would want to read a book based on the real day to day activities of a genealogist. I thought it was well written and I liked the main character. I will definitely read more.

Roberta says

I enjoyed the story -- all genealogists feel like detectives. But usually family secrets from the past have no repercussions in the present. And the dead bodies stay buried.

It was a little funny that the book started out with Nick Herald wondering if he had wasted money on the ad

that he had placed in the yellow pages. There were better places for him to advertise and, even back in the dark ages of 2001, genealogists advertised on the Internet. It is also rare for any genealogist to be dazzled by being offered a huge advance.

Charley J says

The book is an interesting mix of people, history, New Orleans and genealogy. It provides a real example to substantiate some of the stereotypes we have developed for the period. I also enjoyed the variety of methods employed to chase down the history of the family while living with the current and daily reality.

j. Diane Lee says

A serious page turner, with bits of humor. Enjoyed!!

I love genealogical mysteries. The author does not allow a lull. It is a joyful, fast paced mystery. Nick Herald is a lovable character.

Tina Mann says

Caught attention from page 1

My favorites: genealogy and mystery wrapped in one! This book caught me and kept my attention from page 1.

Mindblowing!
