



The Bloody Tower

Carola Dunn , Ian Carmichael (Narrator)

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In April of 1925, the Honourable Daisy Dalrymple Fletcher, now mother to two-year-old twins, has decided to resume her journalistic career, and for her first piece she's agreed to write about the Tower of London. - the royal fortress and compound of buildings that includes the infamous Bloody Tower. Daisy is not only given a tour of the Crown Jewels, she interviews and observes the Yeoman Warders, and meets the Raven Master, in charge of the Tower's legendary ravens. But most important she's been invited to observe the centuries-old Ceremony of the Keys ritual. Because the complex is locked and guarded during the ceremony, Daisy will have to spend the night - her first away from her babies - at the Tower.

Early the next morning, eager to get home, Daisy decides to slip out before her hosts awaken. But when walking down the stairs, she almost trips over the dead body a yeoman warder. That there's something amiss with his death is obvious to all - due to the halberd sticking out of his back. With her husband, Scotland Yard Detective Chief Inspector Alec Fletcher, assigned to resolve the death, Daisy once again finds herself enmeshed in a puzzling case of murder most foul.

The Bloody Tower Details

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Julie says

I didn't enjoy this one as much as the others in the series, but it may have been me rather than the book. I listened to the audiobook and had a hard time distinguishing the characters from one another. So many of the personalities seemed so similar. It took ages to get around to the murder. Also, I just didn't find the Tower setting very interesting. I've listened to other books in this series and really enjoyed them. This just didn't work for me.

Meaghan says

I think this is my last of this series. They're easy reads, but I have a couple problems with them overall, not counting the easily solved mysteries. Alec and Daisy's relationship is not my favorite. The stories are becoming more and more focused on him. Daisy doesn't do a lot of sleuthing. There are so many moments when he treats her like a child and fails to listen to her. To me, their marriage is not enough of a partnership for me to want to continue.

Tony Hisgett says

I have really enjoyed the Daisy Dalrymple novels so far, but I am beginning to worry that they are becoming the Alec Fletcher books and are just boring police/crime novels. Daisy is a peripheral character in this novel and without her, the books are very ordinary.

Claire says

A very evocative book.

Maggie Hesseling says

Daisy does it again!

Another fun read in the Daisy Dalrymple series. And though Daisy tries to stay away from the dead bodies, they just keep coming. This novel like all the others is another great read which allows you to sit back and enjoy the show- highly entertaining and wonderfully fun.

FangirlNation says

Daisy Fletcher, nee Dalrymple, stumbles over yet another body in Carola Dunn's 16th Daisy book, **The Bloody Tower**. Daisy gets commissioned by her American editor to write a series of articles on the Tower of London, her first article job following the birth of her 2-month-old twins. Spending a few days exploring the Tower, she is guided by several of the guards who work there. She gets to see the Crown Jewels and the tower where the young princes were killed by Richard III, according to Shakespeare (for a fascinating debunking of this myth, read Josephine Tey's mystery book *The Daughter of Time*). Having friends, the Tibbets, who live in the Tower as relatives of the governor of the Tower, Daisy gets invited to spend the night with them in order to observe the Ceremony of the Keys, a ritual performed since the 14th century in which the Chief Yeoman Warder and the Yeoman Warder Watchman secure the gates and give over the keys to the governor, meaning General Carradeen in this case. Early the next morning, Daisy, missing her twins badly, gets up and sneaks out to rush home to her babies. But instead of getting home, she stumbles over the body of the Chief Yeoman Warder, Crabtree, with a partisan, a type of medieval weapon carried by the warders, sticking out of his back. Curiously, though, what has killed Crabtree is a broken neck and not the pike.

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Rebecca says

The Honorable Daisy Dalrymple, new mother of twins, is starting on a series of articles about the Tower of London. Visiting there to learn about the tower, she meets many Yeoman Warders (Beefeaters) as well as Tower guards, and also connects with a friend who now lives in the King's House with her cousin, who is in charge of the tower (I think?). Staying overnight to see the ceremony of the Keys on a dark and foggy night, Daisy wakes early and sets off for home, but of course stumbles across a dead body--an inoffensive Yeoman Warder whom everyone liked. However, he looked very much like another Warder whom everyone hated. When her detective husband Alec arrives from Scotland Yard to take over, Daisy heads home, but is naturally called back by some of her new friends, so she can be at the center of the action--and solve the case.

I always enjoy this series; there's just enough of Daisy's own story mixed with the mystery, and Daisy is so far from the tortured detective that I quite enjoy her story. This mystery was rather confusing at first, with a massive cast of characters and an incredibly complex setting that I found hard to keep in my head, especially since I read it on a Kindle and couldn't enlarge the map. Clearly the author had done her homework about the Tower, and if I do go back, I'll know much more about it than I did before I read the book! I didn't quite guess the murderer but I suspected, and I think the culminating incident was sort of out of the blue. But generally, a good, light historical mystery.

Karen Potts says

A gripping tale set in the Tower of London where Daisy finds yet another body & witnesses the beginning of a 2nd killing to make this a story in which she is genuinely affected by the mayhem around her. Lots of interesting characters & not easy for me to pick out the real villains. A good final resolution.

Grey853 says

Daisy wants to write a series of articles about the Tower of London. She becomes involved in murder and blackmail.

I found this one hard to read. There was far too much history and the plot really didn't hold together. I got bored and didn't really care about the new characters at all.

Gerry says

Now the mother of two-month old twins, Daisy Dalrymple Fletcher, decides to resume her journalistic career and her first assignment is to write a piece about the Tower of London.

She visits the Tower and is given a guided tour of the premises and is also invited to stay overnight to watch the Ceremony of the Keys. This she does but, wanting to get away early the following morning to get back to her family, she decides to leave a note for her hosts and depart before they arise. However, on her way down the many sets of stairs around the Tower she encounters a dead body, one of the Yeoman Warders who has a halberd stuck through his back.

Naturally she has to raise the alarm and before she knows it her husband, Detective Chief Inspector Alec Fletcher, is assigned from Scotland Yard to investigate the case. He cannot believe that his wife has once more stumbled over a dead body and is on the scene again when he has to investigate; he makes his view quite clear by telling her to keep out of the investigation - but Daisy is never one to do such a thing.

The intrigue in the Tower is no different than it had been over the centuries and there are plenty of suspects for the murder even though there does not seem to be a motive. However, diligent work by Fletcher, and his wife, gradually uncovers the complex tale that underlies the murder.

While the ambience is excellent, the storyline moves rather too slowly at times and some of the secondary characters are sometimes rather dull and uninspiring but overall it is a reasonable tale of mystery that keeps the reader interested.

Penka says

I really enjoyed this book, because it was very well researched and I could picture it as a movie. It also prompted me to do some research on my own. Now, I have to go to London!

Madelyn says

The setting is April of 1925 and the Honorable Daisy Dalrymple Fletcher has decided to resume her career as a journalist. She has agreed to write a piece about the Tower of London. Because the tower is locked down, she must spend the night. Early the next morning, trying to get home, she stumbles over the dead body of a

yeoman soldier.

Sharon says

I loved the characters in this mystery! Although it is a somewhat formulaic novel; the Chief Inspector's wife "meddles" in his cases and is always stumbling over dead bodies, the charm and verve of Daisy and her compatriots makes this book an amusingly enjoyable read.

George says

#16 in the Honorable Daisy Dalrymple (and her husband Scotland Yard Detective chief Inspector Alec Fletcher), magazine writer and heiress (no inheritance due to British entailed system) mystery series. It is near the end of April 1925 and Daisy (now the mother 2 month old twins) is doing research on the Tower of London for her New York Magazine. As she leaves the Tower, she discovers the body (of course!!) of a Yeoman Warder. There's the possibility of blackmail, tensions between warders and soliders garrisoning the Tower, 2 flightly young sisters and an outspoken woman to round the story out.

Deb F says

AAARGH! I listened to the audiobook version read by Lucy Ratner, who SOUNDS reasonably English, but clearly isn't. One of the characters is called Devereaux, which she pronounced Dev-rocks. (As opposed to Dev-er-oh). She has form in this area, and seems unable to correctly pronounce the name of any English village, even when the author explains IN THE TEXT how it sounds - and it takes me out of the story EVERY time she does it. PLEASE ensure future books are read by someone else!!

CatBookMom says

2018 - Interesting story, though for me, mostly because of the setting - the Tower of London. While the murder investigation drags on slowly, the ending wraps things up very quickly.

There are great photos online (wikipedia has a good long view) and assorted diagrams, too. Apparently there was a large guards' building on the site back in the 1920s, one which isn't standing now; it was between the White Tower and the Bloody Tower/Wakefield Tower.

Kate Atkinson says

Audio-book to wind down with at the end of a busy day :)

Ruth Feathers says

I seem to be on a binge here, with #16 in the series. But they read like a BBC Mystery episode.

Helen says

I read this after three Dorothy Martin stories and Daisy unfortunately suffers by comparison. We're dealing with Daisy's return to journalism after the birth of her twins. She's been asked to write about the Tower of London for that American journal and she has agreed since it doesn't involve leaving London. She's arranged through contacts to witness the Ceremony of the Keys so she has to stay overnight in the Tower since no one goes in or out after the keys have been brought to the Governor. She is toured through the complex during the day, meets the various officials and watches the ceremony. After "King George's Keys" have been delivered Daisy settles for the night but can't wait to get back to her two month old babies and slips out first thing in the morning.

If it weren't for that she wouldn't have found the yeoman warden dead at the foot of the stairs with a partisan stuck in his back. Poor Daisy.

The story is interesting and I found out some things about changes to the arrangements in the Tower. The Jewel House where the crown jewels are kept appears to have been placed in what was the Tower's hospital if I read the map correctly and I don't think there is a regiment quartered there any more. The story appears correct to the period.

It was good, complex, and interesting just not quite as attractive as the Dorothy Martin stories. I wonder if I'm more drawn to Dorothy because of her age. Don't know.

Caroline says

Daisy Dalrymple books are always great! I love this book and hope for a lot more in this series. This one involves the Tower of London and made me want to visit London and see the place for myself, learn more about the history. Good work, Carola Dunn!
