



Food For The Gallows

Suzanne Downes

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An historical murder mystery set in the 1820's.

The second Underwood mystery finds the self-appointed detective back in the Pennines, now a married man. His brother Gil has been made vicar of a Spa town called Hanbury and it is here where Underwood and his wife Verity arrive for a visit.

Within days they are embroiled in another murder mystery when Josephine Dunstable dies in the Spa Pump-rooms, apparently poisoned by a cup of the supposedly healing waters. Since she is seventy and her new husband just barely twenty-seven, immediate suspicion falls upon the groom, and only Underwood believes the young man's protestations of innocence.

Hanbury is full of interesting characters and during the course of his investigations, Underwood finds himself befriendng Toby Hambleton, a black ex-pugilist, Major Jeremy James Thornycroft, a Waterloo veteran without legs, Lady Hartley-Wells, a redoubtable widow and her foppish nephew Vivian Pepper.

Will Underwood find the true killer of Josephine Dunstable or will her young husband Oliver become 'food for the gallows'?

Food For The Gallows Details

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From Reader Review Food For The Gallows for online ebook

Marie Shirley Griffin says

A little slower than I like

While this is written in the 1700's and behavior, even between a man and wife is slow, not necessarily honest, even when it comes to pregnancy, it becomes obnoxious.

Underwood and Verity started their marriage off with idiotic game playing, which, I blame, wholly on Verity.

The mystery was great though. That said, I am off to the next book in this series.

K.B. Hallman says

Again, the free Kindle version has lots of errors. I enjoyed the mystery. I found the too-stubborn-to-communicate Verity-Cadmus storyline to be tedious.

Norma J. Ray says

Good mystery plot, idiotic characters

From the beginning you know who murders the old lady, but I enjoyed the problems proving it. The romance part was hard to get through. How can you have such seemingly intelligent characters act like blighting idiots towards each other? I would love to have seen them unite as a team to thwart the bad guys and girls.

Sarah Schattman says

I love Verity Underwood

She is a marvelous heroine. Happy to be married, she adores her husband and is not a doormat. The mystery is well written, too, but let's face it, if you don't like the detectives, you won't like the story.

Shelby says

Very enjoyable

I love the character development from book to book. Her characters are complex and all too human. If you have not read the series I would encourage the reader to take a chance, I think you will be pleased.

John Hennessy says

Having set a high standard in *A Noble Pair of Brothers*, book two in the Underwood series was going to have a tough time topping it. Fortunately, *Food for the Gallows* doesn't try to outdo its predecessor, however it does bring back our favourite characters from book one. Underwood is less stiff in this one, and I like the charm of the scenes between him and wife Verity.

Verity's a more realistic woman compared to waif-like Charlotte (who I also like but Verity just seems like a better fit for Underwood).

The plot this time centres on the death of Mrs Dunstable, a woman in her 70s. Now for the time period, living into your 70s would be like living into your 100s today, so at first her death is not treated with suspicion. But she has a young husband...and she left a considerable estate. More than enough reason to do her in.

So the book's set piece is off and running. Underwood does do some running around the truth, before the eventual culprit (in a very intense and surprising scene) is revealed. Being taken to the gallows back then would be the most horrendous method of execution in my view, but the setting, just as with book one is beautifully created.

This is one of the most enjoyable murder mysteries I have read in a while. I like the Latin introductions to each chapter, and the interplay between Underwood and his brother, still the Reverend Gil, are entertaining and believable.

Without graphic violence or gratuitous sex scenes, the author has created another solid mystery for readers to enjoy. 4.5 stars from me.

Deborah Whipp says

A fun addition to the series. I enjoy reading series where the characters and their relationships grow and develop over time, and *Food for The Gallows* doesn't disappoint in that respect.

Rose Lambert says

Great light reading book.

Loved this book. Again urge author takes us behind the scenes living in old England. Women didn't stand a chance somrtimes.

Kimberly says

The Underwoods

Triumphant! I cannot wait to download the next installment & do nothing with my day other than to immerse myself into the world of Verity, Cadmus & Gil! I really don't know why it took me so long to decide to read this series!

Michael T. Arguello says

Another mystery by this author.

I like this detective mystery plot set in a small resort in 18th century England. The characters are interesting and everything turns out well.
