

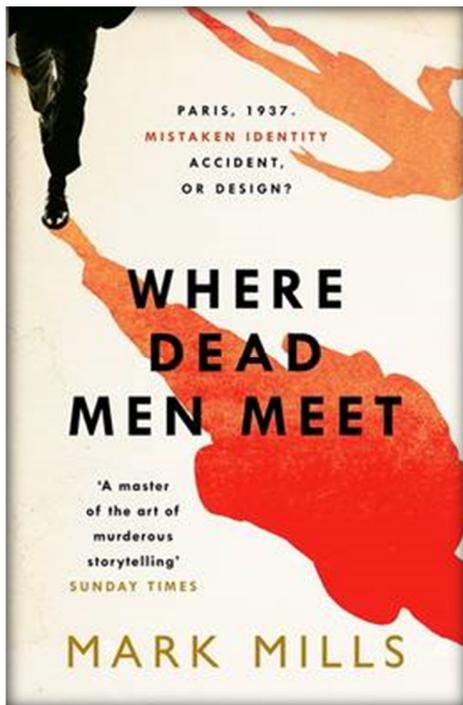


Helping you choose
your next book

headline

LoveReading Reader reviews of **Where Dead Men Meet** by Mark Mills

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Phyllippa Smithson

When Paris based British army intelligence officer, Luke Hamilton, survives an attempt on his life he initially believes it to be a case of mistaken identity. But when he survives a second attempt and then learns of the murder of the one and only person he can truly call family, Sister Agnes, who has influenced his life for over 20 years largely during his time in the orphanage where he grew up, things take a different turn.

It's 1937 and what unfolds as the threat of War looms, is a slow and steady revealing of the truth behind his past, prior to his arrival at the orphanage, which he never thought he would learn nor could he ever guessed at the

secrets hidden from him. How is it possible that he had no inkling that his very early life was spent in luxury with loving parents and a very close wider family on the Italian Venetian Riviera?

And not only does he learn who he really is, he gets to understand that rather than the attacks being a case of mistaken identity, he is the target and the secrets as his past rolls into the world of espionage and lies.

This is not a gritty thriller but I found it somewhat of a refreshing plot written in an interesting period of history just before World War 2.

*This one will never win literary awards for fiction of the year but it is **an engaging, face paced read. A perfect choice if you are looking for an easy yet entertaining thriller.***

Dana Captainino

This is a book of intrigue, secrets and murder which draws you in from the first evocative line. The story spans several countries across Europe beginning in 1937.

Luke Hamilton is a seemingly innocuous junior air intelligence officer at the British Embassy in Paris who is the target of a failed assassination attempt. He is innocent but in his quest to find out his real story and beginnings and to escape further danger he becomes more and more embroiled with murderous and violent intrigue becoming both the killer and the hunted as time progresses.

Luke had been abandoned as a baby at an English orphanage and soon he realises that the nightmare journey he finds himself on is intrinsically linked - but 'Why?' The whole story is set as Europe rumbles and bubbles beneath its surface. Espionage, intrigue and revenge are rife and are interlinked with the central story.

*Although this is not usually my type of book I enjoyed *Where Dead Men Meet* very much. I did feel it got a bit confused and contrived following the ultimate discovery towards the end of the book but overall this is a good and interesting read. Well worth a try.*

Angie Rhodes

*England 1912 a baby boy is left on the steps of an orphanage and here is cared for by Sister Agnes. Fast forward to 1937 and that baby is now Luke Hamilton, a junior air intelligence officer at the British Embassy and life is about to get rocky. Luke finds himself shot at and he thinks it is just a case of mistaken identity but soon realises that he is being hunted. Why? The answers are buried deep in a past that happened before he was abandoned but is clearly to do with him. **Full of secrets, lies, and espionage, this novel is ideal to curl up with for anyone who likes adventure.***

Jan Kirkcaldy

The brutal murder of a nun, Sister Agnes, was a gripping start to this story. Set in 1937 where spies lurked everywhere in the expectation of another war brewing, it was hard to see the relevance of her death at an orphanage in England. To Luke Hamilton, a 25 year old RAF Junior Intelligence Officer based in Paris, she had been everything in his early life as an abandoned baby left for the nuns to find. He knew nothing of his origins, loved his adoptive parents and

*lived a relatively peaceful life. The death of Agnes was a shock but worse followed when a meeting with a stranger warned him his life was in danger. Told only it could be linked to who he really was or perhaps mistaken identity, we are taken on dangerous trip around Europe involving killings and avoiding being killed before what happened all those years ago is revealed. Fast moving and exciting we move from one country to another encountering spies, criminals and the essential love interest Peppi. **A good tale which kept my interest throughout despite not being the sort of book I would normally choose. It had a realism to it that made it all seem possible including some very unpleasant characters!** I'm now looking out for other stories by Mark Mills.*

Humaira

*'Where Dead Men Meet' demanded me to not put it down so I complied. Hard to put down is an understatement. **I loved every word of it. It kept me on edge and guessing. Compelling and adventurous. Read this book!***

Evelyn Barrett

***Mark Mills is such a great storyteller** - engaging characters and heart-stopping action, this is a very enjoyable read. Luke Hamilton doesn't really know who he is. He was left on a convent doorstep in 1912 when he was a matter of months old. Sister Agnes found him and saw the tall dark man who was watching from a distance and who walked off when the baby was discovered. Growing up in the loving home of his adoptive English parents, Luke joined the services and when the story begins in 1937 he is working as an air intelligence officer in the British Embassy in Paris. What appears to be a chance meeting with a stranger at the Exposition Internationale leads Luke on an unimaginable chase through a Europe on the brink of another disastrous war. Where trust is the rarest of commodities, money buys allegiances. In the midst of this ever-changing backdrop, Luke is simply trying to survive.*

*Mark Mills is such a great storyteller that he can be forgiven the odd stretch of credibility. As each new chapter begins another thread is woven in until the full tapestry emerges. **Engaging characters, fluid style and heart-stopping action, this was a very enjoyable read.***

Judith Sharp

Fast moving story set just before the Second World War, which ranges across Europe as Luke Hamilton tries to find out why people want him dead. Highly recommended for both male & female readers. I really loved this story and found it easy and quick to read. The setting is not a time that is often found in books, being just before the Second World War. I wanted to read it as it reminded me of Garden of Beasts by Jeffrey Deaver which I also loved and would recommend to anyone who enjoys this book.

I found myself liking the characters and rooting for them to succeed. I could have read it in a couple of sessions if I had been able to, such was it's hold.

I don't want to give away too much of the plot other than that it is the journey by Luke Hamilton to find his true identity and to try and stay alive during the process as he is stalked by unknown assassins.

Glenda Worth

A fast paced gritty novel by Mark Mills, incorporating mistaken identity, espionage, murder, romance and abandonment as a child. Luke Hamilton is running for his life, this is his story. A great novel combining espionage, romance, murder and mystery. Luke Hamilton is a junior air intelligence officer at the British Embassy and is the target of an assassination attempt. At first Luke considers it a case of mistaken identity, but as time goes on it becomes apparent that all is not as it seems.

The saga continues with kidnapping, murder and running from the enemy whilst trying to stay alive and find out why he has been targeted.

His past may be catching up with him, his abandonment as a baby may be a link to the happenings, Luke struggles to maintain his composure while finding out about his past and that of his estranged Italian family.

The story is fast paced and gritty, descriptions of places are vivid and thought provoking, almost reads like a Bond film in places.

Mark Mills has used all his skills in writing this masterpiece and I for one will be buying more of his work.

Jocelyn F Garvey

A period adventure thriller by a master writer. Pre-World War 2 Europe

brought to life This book is a great read. It opens in Paris in 1937, when all Europe is beginning to boil and worry about war. Luke Hamilton is a Junior Air Intelligence Office in the British Embassy.

He decides to go to the world's Fair to visit the Spanish pavilion where, he has heard, there is a new painting by Picasso called Guernica. Whilst looking at this he starts talking to a stranger who seems to have information about him. He thinks nothing about it but next day the same man saves him from an assassin.

Thus starts a tale of flight, being chased and all the time there is the mystery of who wants him dead and why

A great tale of dangerous days. Reminiscent of the old Neville Shute spy novels.

Full of details of pre-war Europe, old boundaries, espionage and loyalties.

This is really well written, just enough information to keep you turning the pages.

I have since found his other books and am reading them.

Victoria Emerson

*Another solid read from Mark Mills. 'Where Dead Men Meet' is **a thoroughly enjoyable thriller involving a chase across Europe and set during World War II.***

A real page turner.

Rebecca Cockeram

A fast paced tale of espionage and adventure, really evoking the feel of pre-war Europe. Absolute page turner.

From the first page I knew that I would like this book. It starts with a shocking murder which gripped me straight off.

This story is about Luke and how after hearing about he death of much loved Sister Agnes, his life takes a crazy turn. This story is set just before the Second World War and the feeling of mistrust and fear is brilliantly set out.

Full of espionage and adventure, this was a real page turner. Luke is a really likeable character and you really do cheer him on. Loved it.

Gerri Tennant

Great potential which doesn't seem to materialise. I love the colour of this cover - Very eye catching. It opens well and looks as if it will be very exciting but I found that it went into too much detail about minor things in the plot and the characters weren't fleshed out enough, consequently it wasn't very gripping. The end is fairly predictable and I didn't feel like I was losing a good friend when I finished it.

Edel Waugh

The story begins in Paris in 1937 with a man called Luke Hamilton being the victim of an assassination attempt. Luke works for the air intelligence section of the British embassy. We quickly learn not everything is quite what it seems with Luke, and an epic adventure is about to take place. Crossing many countries during a turbulent time in history Luke has to manage to stay alive while he has any number of men following him eager to snuff him out. Luke's back story is a dark one and one that would not stay hidden!

This was a great story set during one of my favourite times and places in history. **It had everything, from people on the run, spies, and the uncertainty of war, a good back story and very satisfying conclusion. What more could you want! Go read this!**

Alfred Nobile

This was a very entertaining book. It is the story of Luke, a foundling, who is left at the doors of an English convent when he was supposed to die. Fast forward 25 years, his mentor Sister Agnes is murdered and an attempt is made on Luke's life and he is saved by the man who is meant to kill him. This plunges Luke into an adventure which rages across Europe. As Luke struggles to find out who wants him dead, about his past and his future, if he has any. **This is worthwhile read, the writing is excellent and it keeps the reader turning the pages.** Thanks to lovereadings.co.uk, author and publishers for the ARC

Emily Curnow

A fast paced novel of mistaken identity, mystery, murder and passion, played out in a back drop of pre-war Europe. You will keep

reading until the very last page to reveal the final secrets.

The mystery makes the novel hard to put down. It gives the reader a real sense of what France, Germany and Italy were like as Europe headed into war. The characters are very believable and well rounded. You can imagine this novel becoming a fast paced film with plenty of action and twists. Readers who love Dan Brown will also love this novel. I'm looking forward to reading more by this author.

Mrs D. Forbes-Ritte

*This is a thriller set in pre-war Europe in 1937 and is in the vein of the classic 39 steps. The hero suddenly finds himself running for his life with no idea of who wants him dead or why, this takes him across Europe at a time when tensions are high. The book is an excellent introduction to the thriller genre for adults and older teens too, each bit of further explanation is offered in a timely fashion so that the plot is easy to follow. The author also introduces the reader to the understanding that historically the British have not always been the 'good guy' in conflict which offers balance to the story. He avoids the cheap thrill of gory and lurid detail to concentrate on plot and character development. **I found this a really enjoyable read with an engaging historical backdrop and would highly recommend you give it a go.***

Sue Mooney

A really good read. Pleasantly surprised and wanted more!

From the Orphanage came the man who years later is being hunted by someone who wants him dead!

Towards a Europe poised for war Luke Hamilton has to delve back in time to find out who is trying to assassinate him and why?

A really enjoyable page turner you won't want to put down.

Espionage in fine form.

You can follow Sue on Twitter: @truckermercedes