

Booklovers' Café
April 29th 2017

Earthly Remains

By Donna Leon

In the beginning of the story he's exhausted with all the stuff he's been through in all the other books. Goes to this island where his in-laws have a villa. He goes out rowing with the caretaker- he takes Brunetti out into the marshes to where his beehives are. He's terribly distressed because his bees are dying. A few weeks later the caretaker goes out rowing and disappears. Brunetti finally finds the body, which looks like an accident, but that's not what happens. I love everything she's ever written. She's so articulate.

The Couple Next Door

By Shari Lapena

First novel- very well crafted. There's a young couple that lives in a city and they have a row house in an upscale area. They go next door to the couples house for dinner, but the woman says don't bring the baby (6 months old) they baby sitter cancels last minute. Husband says we'll just put the baby monitor on we're just on the other side of the wall. They check on her every half hour. Between 12:30 and 1:00 when they get home the baby is gone, and the front door is open. You begin to suspect everybody. As it unfolds you see more and more of the underside of the characters. The ending is disturbing.

A Treacherous Coast

By David Donachie

Number 13 in the series- set during the French revolution. It's about how the British navy and its members dealt with French shipping, how they took prizes, etc. There's a tremendous amount of historical fact that are interwoven without being overwhelming. There's a number of descriptions of how British ship crews would deal with on shore attacks. They'd set up ways to undermine and take out French forces- sometimes effectively, sometimes not. That meant sometimes taking cannons off the boat and setting them up on shore- a huge amount of physical effort. Some of these ships had 150 crew members on them. In this book the central character has formed a relationship with the captain's wife.

The Crusader

by Michael Eisner

Set in the 1200s. The main character went on crusade- his brother was killed before he got there so he's trying to save his brother's soul by going on crusade. It's a wonderful book that really profiles some of the extremes of the Catholic church in those days. The other main character is a monk who is trying to cure him. Very well profiles the kind of things that the church believed in those days. Well written.