

Foreword Review THRILLER

Deadly Depths

John F. Dobbyn Oceanview Publishing (Aug 1, 2023) Hardcover \$27.95 (320pp) 978-1-60809-548-3

A law professor dodges assassins, a bomb, and an ancient curse during a search for hidden treasure in John F. Dobbyn's novel *Deadly Depths*.

Following his mentor's strange death, Matthew vows to learn the truth. He discovers that the professor was part of a five-member secret society that stumbled upon the trail of a mysterious treasure. The origin of that treasure stretches back centuries, to the merciless days of colonial conquest, the Atlantic slave trade, and piracy on the high seas—and it is now costing the society members their lives. If Matthew is not careful, he may soon join them.

Though the police at first dismiss Professor Holmes's death as a suicide, Matt intuits the truth: someone wants him involved in the treasure hunt, and they used Holmes to get his attention. Cautious yet determined, Matt follows a series of enticing clues that lead him through challenges requiring diplomacy, courage, and quick thinking under pressure. Along the way, he relies on his instincts to decide who he can trust, knowing that a single misstep could spell certain doom—and the loss of a dream for a people who have already suffered too much.

Matt's quest takes him to beautiful and diverse locations, including New Orleans, Montreal, and Jamaica. In the last stop, a near-mythical object of great monetary and historical value awaits...if Matt can persuade the people living there to let him hunt for it in peace. As Professor Holmes and others learned the hard way, going where one is unwelcome can have fatal consequences.

Deadly Depths is an exciting mystery novel that asks who has the right to seek and exploit lost treasures.

EILEEN GONZALEZ (July / August 2023)

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