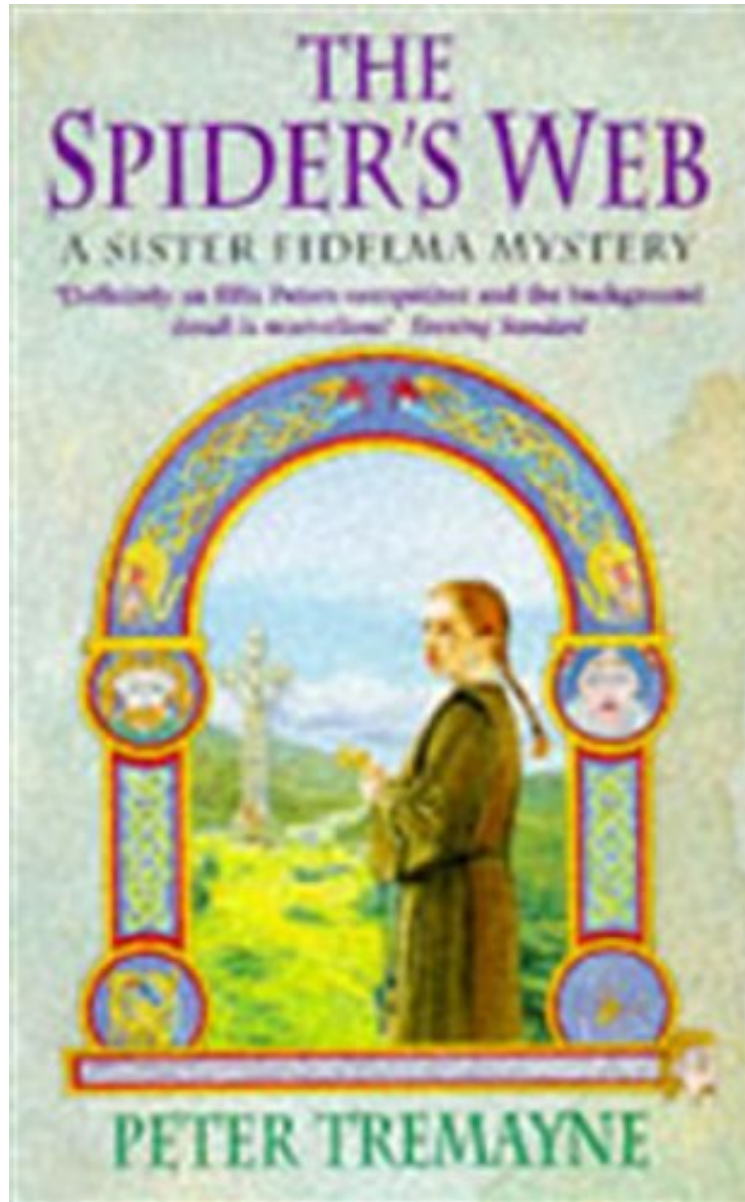


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The Spider's Web (Sister Fidelma Mysteries)

Von Peter Tremayne

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Von Peter Tremayne : The Spider's Web (Sister Fidelma Mysteries) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Spider's Web (Sister Fidelma Mysteries):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great premise, marred by pedestrian writing styleVon Ein KundeI find this book and the other Sister Fidelma mysteries

terribly frustrating because they have all the ingredients of a terrific series, yet do not come alive as they could because of Tremayne's shortcomings as a fiction writer. The Spider's Web has a wonderful setting--Ireland in the 7th century--and two potentially beguiling protagonists. Sister Fidelma is an advocate of the law courts, as well as a nun. As a woman lawyer myself, I can only envy Fidelma's endless aplomb and incisive mind as she investigates the murder of Eber, a chieftain whom, it turns out, virtually every other character has a reason to hate. Moen, a deaf, mute and blind young man who was adopted by Eber's sister, is found at the bedside of the murdered man with a bloody knife in his hand. Fidelma, however, is convinced that Moen is innocent. A kind of Dark Ages Helen Keller, Moen turns out to be highly intelligent and sensitive, and able to communicate via letters traced on his hand. The plot is complex--perhaps a bit too much so--and involves a hidden gold mine, incest, innocent young love, social snobbery, cattle raiding, and more. In her investigations, Fidelma is assisted by her friend Brother Eadulf, a Saxon brother of a serious turn of mind, frequently baited and teased by Fidelma. As the author informs us in his historical introduction, celibacy was by no means the rule in either the Celtic or Roman churches at this time, although the Roman church encouraged it. Eadulf and Fidelma obviously have feelings that are more than platonic for each other, which adds a little spice to the plot. And therein lies the problem. Tremayne has serious shortcomings as a fiction stylist. His editors must be asleep at the switch, for he makes repeated grammatical errors. Further, his style is monotonous and repetitive. He has an unaccountable fondness for the verb "grimace", which he uses indiscriminately when his characters express any negative emotion. In the case of Eadulf and Fidelma's relationship, he seems incapable of showing us their feelings through words and actions; rather, he tells us how Fidelma feels in a paragraph late in the novel, as Eadulf lies ill after a poisoning attempt. This clumsiness with character development, and overall wooden style, keep this series from realizing its full potential.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An entertaining Celtic historical mystery

Von Ein Kunde

In the middle of seventh century Ireland, King Colgu sends his sibling, Sister Fidelma, to Araglin to investigate the murder of the local chieftain Eber. A witness saw Moen, a deaf mute, holding the murder weapon, a knife, near the corpse. Also killed is Eber's sister Teafa. Fidelma accompanied by Brother Eadulf travel to the crime scene. They quickly learn that the villagers believe Moen killed the two victims in a fit of rage. Fidelma has problems with that theory because the two deceased showed kindness towards the prime suspect. Teafa raised Moen as if he was her child. The two sleuths begin to wonder who had motives and would most benefit by the deaths of Eber and Teafa. However, no one seems to want to cooperate. Disruptions, sometimes nearly fatal, appears to be the prime intent of the townsfolk. Still, Fidelma and Eadulf continue to search for the killer.

SPIDER'S WEB, the fifth Sister Fidelma novel, is an engaging Celtic mystery. The story line is very intriguing when tidbits of seventh century Irish culture are presented and fully woven into the plot. Fidelma is a fully developed character, whose motives center on her religion and her belief in justice as expected of an advocate of the law courts. The villagers seem a bit thin, but fans of historical mysteries will receive enjoyment from Peter Tremayne's entire series.

Harriet Klausner

Kurzbeschreibung

Ebert is not a man to make enemies. He is a chieftain with a reputation for kindness and generosity. Yet, one night, his household is aroused by a scream from his chamber. The servants burst in to find Men, a young man to whom Eber had extended his protection, crouched over the bloody body of the chieftain. Men's clothes are drenched in Eber's blood and he is clutching a bloodstained knife in his hand. There seems no doubt of culpability, but why did Men kill the gentle and courteous Eber? The problem is exacerbated by the fact that Men himself cannot tell them - for he is deaf, dumb and blind...

Sister Fidelma, advocate of the ancient Irish law courts, is compelled to begin an investigation of the killing in order to present an argument on Men's behalf before he is condemned. Assisted by Brother Eadulf, Fidelma finds that the path to truth twists and turns with the sinister forces of primitive passions and subtle ambitions - and leads inexorably to a final, stunning denouement.

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"In the simultaneously sharp-tongued and full womanly figure of Sister Fidelma, Tremayne has created a heroine whom many readers will willingly follow. Even Brother Cadfael might have tolerated her." -- Kirkus s on Absolution by Murder

"A treat for history buffs who devoured How the Irish Saved Civilization and historical mystery fans who appreciate strong, highly intelligent female protagonists." --Booklist on The Subtle Serpent