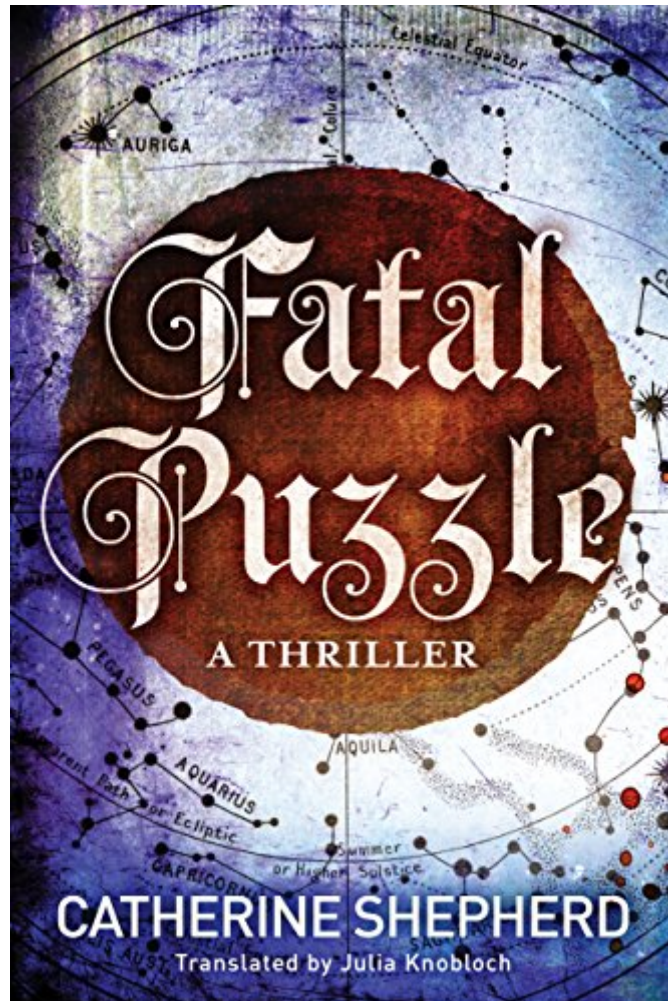




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Fatal Puzzle (Zons Crime Book 1)



Synopsis

1495: In the peaceful medieval city of Zons, on the banks of the Rhine, a young woman is found hanging from a parapet, assaulted and mutilated. A month later, another maiden falls prey. Bastian Mählberg, head of the City Guard, is determined to decipher the murderer's gruesome code, unaware that he and the woman he loves are in the killer's sights. With the help of an old psychic, a priest, and the stars above, Mählberg must solve the "fatal puzzle" before it's too late. Present day: Journalist Emily Richter is thrilled when she's assigned a series of articles about the historic Zons killings. However, right before her stories are to be published, a young woman's body is found hanging from a city tower "grossly maimed and wearing a linen gown, like her medieval predecessors. Detective Oliver Bergmann leads the investigation, tapping the knowledge of the attractive young journalist. Working together and using Mählberg's old notes they race to stay one step ahead of the copycat killer.

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed reading this book. The format was totally unique in that it tied together two

narratives from different centuries. Hope to read more books from this author.

I scored this book free through Kindle First, and read the book today. (I'm a pretty quick reader, and this is definitely a book that I couldn't put down!) As you can tell from the book summary, the basic plot is that this story switches back and forth in time. In 1495, there are a series of murders, which are connected by a puzzle. Måhlberg must solve them in order to save himself and his lover. Then, in the present day, Emily Richter (a journalist) begins writing a series of articles about those 1495 killings. Then, she finds a woman's body hanging -- much like had happened in the 1495 events. Emily then works with a Detective Bergmann to piece together the investigation, using notes left by Måhlberg. I won't give away any more of the plot line than what you get on the back cover and in the book's description on the page. This really is a story that you want to read and figure through for yourself. The book skips around, between different time periods, and from the perspectives of different characters. I enjoy that type of book, and I think that it worked well here to keep the story moving along and maintained a good level of momentum. OVERALL: It's not the best murder mystery I've ever read, but it's still very good. If you love a good solid mystery that keeps you guessing, you'll probably like this book. I found it completely engrossing and hard to put down. For Kindle First Readers: I don't think you'll be disappointed getting this book, especially if you want a mystery that isn't a straight up police procedural, or that has some genuinely good storytelling.

Outstanding and really fascinating book. Well written and translated. The plot is developed in both the present and the past simultaneously. This could be confusing to the reader, but the author handles it so well that it is completely understandable and a clever addition to a complex plot. The author developed the characters well and made them interesting. A number of twists and turns and a rather surprising conclusion, which I do not want to spoil for anyone, contribute to making this a very enjoyable book. I really hope that we will see more translated Zons Crime Books available soon.

I really enjoy historical fiction and thrillers, so this book was a natural fit for me. It goes back and forth between the 15th century and murders taking place there and current day. It was a fast read for me as I was so into the story and learning what would come next. I'm looking forward to the next book in the series! The only reason I give it four stars is because some of the language use seemed, for lack of a better word right now, simplistic. Given that the author originally wrote the book in

German I chalk that up to the fact that I read the English version (and I don't know German so I can't read the German version to compare!).

I like historical mysteries and I have had some success when it comes to picking up books translated from the German and enjoying them. This one was not particularly exciting though. I'm not sure it is the writer, the translator or the narrator who is the problem though. One of the features that attracted me to this book was the availability of free audible narration. The narrator's voices was not unpleasant but there was something about it that just made it not too exciting. It felt a bit bland and when I went back and read a few chapters without listening to the narration I thought it was a better book-- better but still not good. Set in the late 15th century in the city of Zons-- at least in part, the other part was set in recent contemporary Zons, it's sort of a police procedural, sort of a serial killer novel and all a bit dull. The two contemporary heroines are young attractive women, one working in a bank, the other just starting a journalism career by writing about killings that took place some six hundred years in the past. The banker had just had a relationship end when she found out that her long time boyfriend gay and wanted to marry her best male friend. That felt off kilter. In Zons of 1495 (more Renaissance I would have thought than Medieval) a detective, the son of a Mill owner, is trying to discover a murderer who had assaulted and killed a young girl. I saw some references to historical inaccuracies in the book, but some of the things cited as unlikely didn't really strike me as a problem. For instance, there was a fairly high rate of literacy among the German Burghers and printing presses were spreading across Europe at a good clip. Paper was relatively cheap (as compared to parchment) and pocket notebooks existed. Nope, it's not the history that bothers me so much as the Spoiler alert Big ole deus ex machina that leaps out and saves the day. So if you really want to read this book then you should read it and not listen to it and don't complain if at the end of the 15th century section your mouth falls open and you wonder what was that all about?

I have read other books that did the now and then story line, but they were confusing to say the least. The author has done a very good job of keeping the story enjoyable and keeping the readers attention till the end.

I really enjoyed this book. Typically I'm not a fan of books that jump around too much, but this one hooked me in and I really wanted to find out who the present day killer was, so I kept going till it was over! Good ending! It wasn't predictable, which is always nice when you discover a new author.

Definitely worth a read. I hope that someone translates her other books, either that or I need to brush up on my German.

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