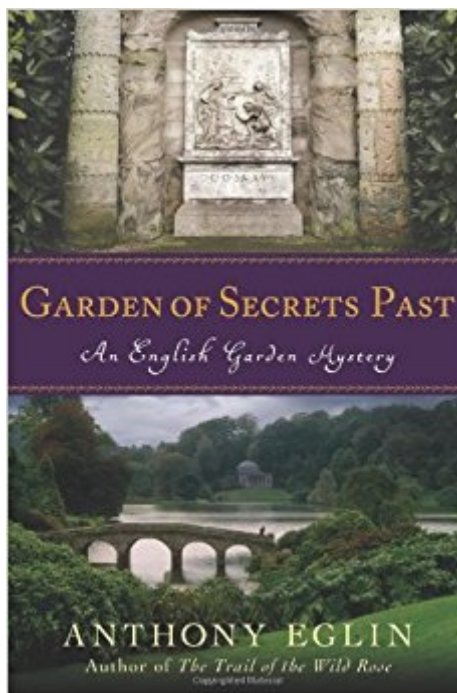




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Garden Of Secrets Past: An English Garden Mystery (English Garden Mysteries)



Synopsis

Can Lawrence Kingston unearth the key to a deadly secret hidden by a mysterious ancient garden inscription in the newest English Garden Mystery? Codebreakers have tried for centuries to decipher the enigmatic inscription on a strange monument in the garden at Sturminster Hall, but no one has ever succeeded. When a murder occurs on the garden grounds, the intellectual puzzle becomes all too real, and Dr. Lawrence Kingston--retired professor of botany and reluctant sleuth--is called in to investigate. Other than a scrap of paper bearing a random sequence of letters found on the victim, the police have no meaningful clues. Convinced that the crime must be linked to the seemingly unbreakable centuries-old code, Kingston begins hunting for clues that will help him unmask the murderer's identity as well as the arcane mystery of the monument. But he quickly finds himself swept along in the dangerous undertow of a centuries' old family conflict and a second murder, by poisoning. What could be so valuable, so important to justify such extreme measures and complex codes to keep sacrosanct for over two centuries? To unlock the garden's dark secret, Kingston must delve into the brilliant minds of three famous men to fathom what part each may have played in masterminding the riddle: an Admiral hailed as father of Britain's navy, the author of England's most celebrated poem, and Great Britain's first Prime Minister. But as Kingston's investigation into an England's past leads him closer to a killer in the very dangerous present, his own prospects for survival start to look less and less assured.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Engaging – an intricate plot, colorful characters, and vivid descriptions of locales from London to small villages add up to an entertaining read. (Publishers Weekly) Lawrence Kingston [is] a bit of a garden-digging Hercule Poirot.... In *Garden of Secrets Past*, Eglin steps up the mystery several notches with the inclusion of even more shady characters, a secret code and a bit of a love interest for, no longer young, Kingston.... the mystery is top-notch. (welchwrite.com) The master of botanical mysteries. (NewMysteryReader.com) The fifth English Garden Mystery (see *The Water Lily Cross* and *The Trial of the Wild Rose*) is an entertaining whodunit as the past and the present converge during Kingston's amateur sleuthing. The cast is solid in support of the protagonist who is at his best working the enigmatic murder case. The story line is fast-paced with a fascinating brief afterward explaining the code in further depth. *Gardens of Secret Past* is wonderful mystery as events two centuries old still remain relevant. (followtheclue.wordpress.com) A charming English mystery that is well-written and entertaining. RECOMMENDED. (www.iloveamysterynewsletter.com) The combination of gardening with mystery thrown in is a nice change of scenery and will appeal even to those who don't have a green thumb. (British Weekly) His is a talent in full bloom. (Richmond Times-Dispatch on *The Lost Gardens*) Lawrence Kingston once again mixes horticulture with crime solving in Eglin's agreeable second cozy to feature the retired botany professor...it's the plethora of gardening detail that makes this a memorable read. (Publishers Weekly on *The Lost Gardens*) The primary appeal of the Kingston series is its detailed treatment of a subject dear to the hearts of many cozy fans: English gardens. (Booklist on *The Lost Gardens*) The *Blue Rose* is one of those amiable mysteries that seek to mildly educate as well as to entertain: Here readers learn something about the history of roses while watching the hero and heroine dodge bullets and pruning shears. (The Washington Post on *The Blue Rose*) In his excellent debut, Eglin combines just the right amount of horticultural detail with well-drawn characters and absorbing plot. (Publishers Weekly (starred review) on *The Blue Rose*)

English-born ANTHONY EGLIN spent many years in advertising before defecting to indulge in his passion for gardening. In 1995 he started The Larkspur Company, co-producing a series of bestselling garden videotapes. The same year, he won *Garden Design* magazine's Gold Trowel Award for Best Rose Garden. Author of the internationally popular English Garden Mysteries, including *The Blue Rose*, which won France's prestigious Prix Arsène Lupin for mystery novel of the year, Eglin is a member of the American Rose Society. Anthony lives with his wife Suzie and tabby cat, Pyewacket, in Sonoma, California.

I have been working my way through 's collection of English cozy mysteries and came across the English Garden Mysteries. I will give you one warning, if you are not a fan of gardens I don't know that you will enjoy these books. Each book in the series involves a garden, plants, and garden tours. Plus the hero of the book was a botany professor and tends to get very pedantic and go on and on about gardens and/or plants at times which is why this got a 4 instead of a 5. On the other hand the mysteries are well written. I love the look at historic homes and gardens that you get in each book, and it is generally a very good way to spend a few hours.

Retired Botanist, Lawrence Kingston, does it again. After plumbing the depths of history and Sturminster Gardens our sleigh cracks the codes and riddles of centuries past to reveal the murderer. But in the end it goes way beyond simple murder. Eglin sets up the story in a beautiful way. I was captivated page after page. Eglin is remarkable as a mystery writer. His style and technique make the reader keep coming back for more.

One of the things that stops me reading a mystery series is that the puts himself or anyone else in harm's way unnecessarily. Therefore I was disappointed that this was the case in this book. He surely could have figured out another option if he'd been more patient.

Anthony Eglin has done it again with his latest book. This story kept me intrigued and I didn't want this "garden mystery" to end. The garden descriptions and the English scenes are vividly portrayed. The characters are memorable especially my favorite, the "professor". And his romantic interest in this story gives another twist to the plot. I've read all the others, but I think this might be my favorite - until the next book!

I really like mystery and suspense novels. This one was just okay. Not my favorite, that's for sure.

Anthony Eglin has created another garden mystery that is as mysterious and well written as the previous English Garden Mysteries. This tale surrounds a few deaths (of course) and a trail to break the code that holds the secret to past scandals. Not only does the reader get a great mystery, but we also get the details of how codes are created and code breaking techniques which adds the icing to the cake.

My husband loves mysteries from Europe...especially before DNA and the high tech age we live in now. He thoroughly enjoyed and read it until he finished it.

Wonderful series of mysteries all featuring old gardens.

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