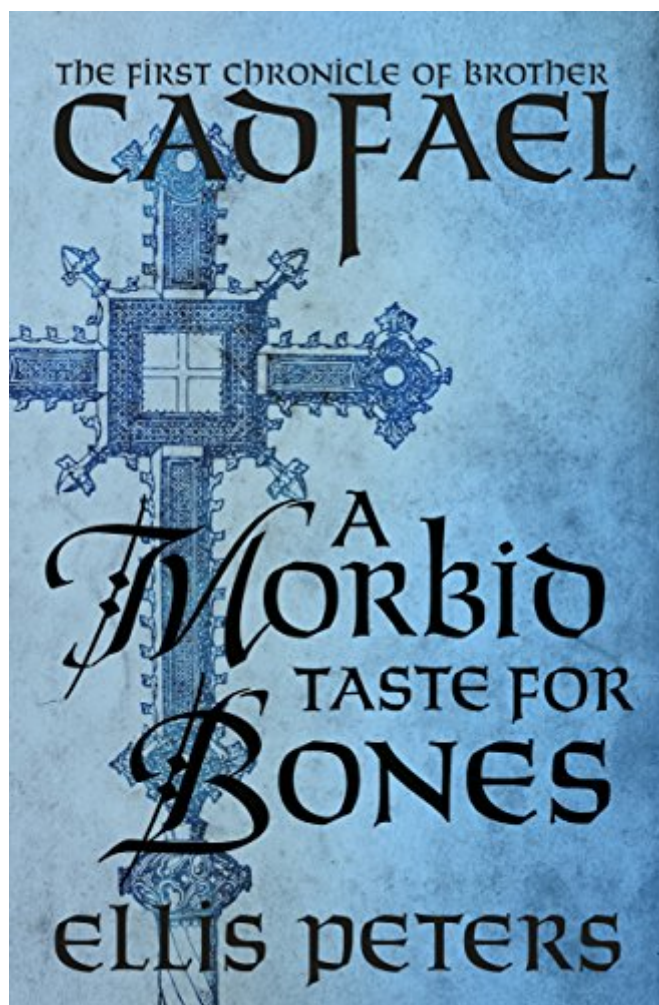


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A Morbid Taste For Bones (The Chronicles Of Brother Cadfael Book 1)



Synopsis

In the first installment of an iconic historical mystery series, a medieval monk seeks a saint's remains for Shrewsbury Abbey but finds a murderous sinner instead. A Welsh Benedictine monk living at Shrewsbury Abbey in western England, Brother Cadfael spends much of his time tending the herbs and vegetables in the garden but now there's a more pressing matter. Cadfael is to serve as translator for a group of monks heading to the town of Gwytherin in Wales. The team's goal is to collect the holy remains of Saint Winifred, which Prior Robert hopes will boost the abbey's reputation, as well as his own. But when the monks arrive in Gwytherin, the town is divided over the request. When the leading opponent to disturbing the grave is found shot dead with a mysterious arrow, some believe Saint Winifred herself delivered the deadly blow. Brother Cadfael knows an earthly hand did the deed, but his plan to root out a murderer may dig up more than he can handle. Before CSI and Law & Order, there was Brother Cadfael, a wily veteran of the Crusades • (Los Angeles Times). His knowledge of herbalism, picked up in the Holy Land, and his skillful observance of human nature are blessings in dire situations, and earned Ellis Peters a Crime Writers' Association Silver Dagger Award. A Morbid Taste for Bones kicks off a long-running and much-loved series that went on to be adapted for stage, radio, and television.

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Customer Reviews

I love the Cadfael PBS series. The book was better, richer and had more twists and turns. Of course, I could see Derek Jacobi in my mind's eye and hear his voice with every utterance of the medieval sleuth. That did not at all detract from this story and the mystery around the death of a Welsh lord. The interposition of the underhanded dirty tricks by the clergy was humorous and then not so much as they double dealing gets a bit out of hand. The villagers are interesting and so important to the telling of the story. The Welsh character is portrayed through the actions of so many of the village as is the general character of the English. That in itself provides some of the frisson that activates this story. The descriptions of the landscape is lush and the descriptions of the people are engaging. This was such a good book, I told my husband I want the entire series as a present. We'll see what happens....

Taking place in an Abby attached to a town called Shrewsbury, this warrior turned monk who uses his past knowledge and his observations to solve crimes. It is written in an old style with unusual phrasing so you have to read it carefully. There are observations that when you read them carefully, suggest what occurred and how the events unfolded that help the monk solve the crimes.

"A Morbid Taste for Bones" by Ellis Peters (actually Edith Mary Pargeter) is the first in the series The Chronicles of Brother Cadfael. Years ago, I enjoyed the PBS series (with Derek Jacobi as Cadfael); years later, it is now time to read some of the novels. Brother Cadfael is revealed as a middle-aged monk (a former veteran soldier) who works with plants and so is well-versed in herbs. He is a member of the Benedictine order in Shrewsbury, England. As we learn about him, it becomes increasingly apparent that there is more to this good brother than simply his skills as a herbalist! Initially, I did have a slow time getting into the book; however, after the first third of the story, it picked up. I enjoy historical mysteries, so if you do too, you want to add this book to your reading list. The story is set in 1137. The ambitious Prior Robert convinces the Abbot of Shrewsbury Abbey to acquire the remains of the Welsh Saint Winifred for the glory of his Benedictine order. Brother Cadfael and a small group of brothers depart with Prior Robert to claim the remains of the Welsh virgin saint. Later when the most vocal opponent of removing the saint's remains from the small Welsh village turns up the victim of a murder, Cadfael finds he must solve this mystery to clear the

innocent. So now, the story really begins! As with many series, my guess is that you will enjoy the series more if you read the books in order, beginning with this one. Normally, this is especially true regarding the development of the main character - here Cadfael - and other characters who will continue to appear in the series. Peters has a good sense of time and place, as well as the religious order. The plot was nicely planned with some twists which kept the reader guessing; although I did sense who the killer was near the end, the overall ending was still a surprise. I would recommend "A Morbid Taste for Bones" to anyone who is a mystery reader, but especially an historical mystery reader.

Normally I read a book a week but this one took me two months. About a quarter of the way through the book the plot picked up and it was well played out. I just have a hard time with the middle English dialect and vocabulary. I cannot say that I would read another because of the slow pace.

This was my first ever Brother Cadfael book, and I enjoyed it tremendously. I will be purchasing the entire series and every book will be re-read often. Ellis Peters has created a very strong, intelligent and quite interesting personality in Brother Cadfael. He displays a wonderful, irrepressible sense of humor, sees and appreciates the many ironies in life and is irreverent enough to be one of the most charming and appealing characters I ever had the pleasure of meeting. Ms. Peters has given him the perfect attitude for his chosen place in life-- and the medieval period is one of my favorite in English history. She is true and accurate with historical details, specifically geographical details which is something many authors don't bother with, but is very important to me. The pace is steady, strong and keeps you reading. The mysteries themselves are very well crafted, suspenseful, often dramatic, and always believable. The other characters are also well-developed, interesting, and I enjoy never being sure who the true villain is until the end of the story. All in all, its great reading and I know I'll not be disappointed with the rest of the series.

I so enjoyed this book! It was fun to learn a bit of historical fact along with the fiction. The characters were well rounded and the voice of Cadfael was very clear. Easy to read and still exciting. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and will read the others as well. I do recommend it for all mystery lovers.

A Morbid Taste for Bones is the first of Ellis Peters' books about Brother Cadfael the former crusader who has retired to a monastery to spend his declining years peaceably as a gardener..

Lovers of this series will know that he finds more problems to solve than the quiet he hopes for. In this book, monastery leaders have become convinced that their revenues will be greatly enhanced if they can appropriate a long dead and buried saint from nearby Wales and have set out on an expedition to exhume and transport the saint's bones to their own church. While the negotiations are going on, a foul murder happens, and Brother Cadfael is required not only to solve the mystery but to unite two sets of lovers. What happens to the bones of the little saint will leave the reader chuckling with glee. Highly recommended to literate readers.

Have read the entire series years ago. PBS also produced it with Derek Jacobi as Cadfael. Enjoyed both as to the time period, characters and the use of herbs and nature in solving the crime. My favorite is The Virgin in the Ice because it tells more of Cadfael's youth.

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