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The December '24 Newsletter

A Remembrance of Death

Christmas was a busy time as my new novel was published on 1 December 2024. There were the inevitable hours spent marketing the novel on social media, doing author interviews, and checking editorial reviews. I even managed to remember to send Christmas e.cards!

Editorial Reviews

An editorial review is undertaken by a well-known or established figure or body in the publishing industry. There is a big question whether they serve any purpose for indie authors. It's great if you can get a review in *The Times* or *The Guardian* but this is just about impossible for an indie author (despite knowing this I still sent out copies of my novel to the top newspapers but none replied – *C'est la vie*). There is then the second-tier editorial reviews. Publishers Weekly (Booklife for indie novels) and Kirkus, but these are expensive for an indie author. There are then organisations such as The Historical Fiction Company, Literary Titan, The Outstanding Creator Awards, and The Historical Novel Society that review books. This month I have had ☆☆☆☆☆ reviews from Literary Titan and The Historical Fiction Company and a short review from Kirkus, saying that *A Remembrance of Death* was "...a grand, multiyear saga that, much like the era depicted, is full of twists and turns."

Literary Titan

Thanks to everyone at Literary Titan for a wonderful ☆☆☆☆☆ review. The review was better than I could have hoped for with the review stating:

"What I loved most about the book was Tweeddale's ability to bring the era vividly to life. From the description of Oxford's spartan college rooms to the detailed portrayal of cricket matches and dinners, the setting felt authentic and alive. In one memorable scene, Basil wrestles with his past and present as he sits beside the ruins of Godstow Abbey, reflecting on his family history. The descriptions are rich yet not overwhelming, making the historical elements immersive without overshadowing the characters.

"However, the book's strength also lies in its character dynamics... .

"A Remembrance of Death is a thoughtful and emotionally resonant novel that will appeal to fans of historical fiction and those interested in stories about personal and cultural reconciliation. Tweeddale's writing is evocative, and his characters are relatable in their flaws and virtues. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys exploring the intersection of history and human experience, especially through a lens of self-discovery and resilience."

Check out the full review @ [A Remembrance of Death | LITERARY TITAN](#) and also my author interview [tweeddale | Search Results | LITERARY TITAN](#)

The Historical Fiction Company



Thanks to Dee Marley and The Historical Fiction Company for their editorial review of my novel and the subsequent award, winning in the Steinbeck Award in the category of Literary Fiction. The full review can be found @ <https://www.thehistoricalfictioncompany.com/post/regret-and-loss-during-the-decline-of-the-british-empire-an-editorial-review-of-a-remembrance-of>



“A Remembrance of Death” by Andrew G Tweeddale is an intriguing book to read, with a complex plot and complex characters, set in a complex world. The suggestion of a disturbing family secret will provoke considerable anxiety in the reader and a silent hope that it remains buried (truth is sometimes overrated!). The characters are not straightforward but they are certainly relatable and the author’s depiction of Basil’s marriage (and personality) is painfully realistic. At several points through the narrative this reviewer experienced considerable angst at the choices made, and found herself shaking her head either in commiseration or frustration. It’s been a while since a novel has created such emotion...a thought provoking, poignant, five star read.”

Author Interviews

Several author interviews came out this month.

Thanks to the lovely Linda Hobden @ <https://bootsshoesandfashion.com>. Her author interview can be found @ <https://bootsshoesandfashion.com/book-review-a-remembrance-of-death>

Thanks also to Whispering Stories who wrote a great piece @ <https://www.whisperingstories.com/interview-with-author-andrew-tweeddale/>

Next Year

Next year will be about sales and writing my third novel in The Castle Drogo Series! I am already up to 73,000 words and hope to have a first draft completed in summer. Do sign up to my website if you want to be kept up to date with my new novel and short stories -

<https://www.ofallfaiths.com/contact-8>

I hope you have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Best wishes

Andrew