



BOOK REVIEW

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| Book Title | Lies Sleeping |
| Author | Ben Aaronovitch |
| Date | May 2019 |
| Stars |  |

This is the ninth in the Peter Grant series (including the novella *The Furthest Station*) and it's where Peter faces his greatest challenges to date. If you read the reviews of this novel, there are quite a few that believe the series is winding down, it's lost some of its originality.

I think the opposite is true. '*Lies Sleeping*' is not only filled with excitement from the very start, with rarely a moment to catch breath, it is clever in the way it advances its wide collection of characters. There are lots of fascinating people in these books and they all get chance to develop as the narrative progresses.

I have been mildly critical of one or two of the latest novels but this is definitely Aaronovitch back on form. The police procedural detail once again makes this story so very credible, as does the numerous historic references to places in London that feature in this story. I remember the first book made me want to visit these locations, to see for myself, some of these features and the histories they stand for. Well, that is true again here. The Square Mile around St Paul's sounds like an archaeologist's playground and the next time I'm in London, I'm going to check the place out.

Another criticism that's been levelled at the book is its lack of humour. I do not know why. This is such a funny piece of work. From the descriptions of the cars they use, to Pete's relationships with his family, to the nature of police red tape, you are never short of a laugh. Wonderfully sarcastic, wry quite often, certainly witty in the description. It is wonderfully written.

Like I said earlier, the challenges Peter faces are relentless, violent and unforgiving. Yet, it's Peter reacts to it as you imagine so many officers of the Met do on a daily basis, they face these dangers with stoic disregard for their own safety and try their best to protect others. Not in any heroic way either. There's none of that. This is a story about police officers doing their duty against magical wizards, gods and goddesses, and raving lunatics.

Something I've begun to appreciate is the level of planning in these novels. How references in one book are picked up in others and expanded, developed. Likewise, the planning of the details as they become apparent to Peter and his team, is so well done it appears to happen entirely as a result of good police work – thanks to a much larger investigative team than was available in the first books.

I really rate this book, probably one of the very best. Definitely 5 stars. Well worth buying.