



A Shrine of Murders: Being the First of the Canterbury Tales of Kathryn Swinbrooke, Leech, and Physician

By C. L. Grace

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When a series of murders paralyzes the town of Canterbury in the fifteenth century, physician and chemist Kathryn Swinbrooke, assisted by bumbling Irish soldier Colum Murtagh, searches for a killer with literary tastes and rather personal motives.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The unsettling, seemingly anachronistic figure of a serial killer haunts this otherwise convincing recreation of 15th-century Canterbury written under a pseudonym by P. C. Doherty (*The Masked Man and The Fate of Princes*). Kathryn Swinbrooke is an independent practitioner of medicine, discovering the benefits of an apple-rich diet for teeth, and prescribing herbs and vinegar for almost every known malady. Canterbury's tourist trade, already jeopardized by the War of the Roses, is further imperiled by a spate of poisoned pilgrims, each corpse accompanied by the appearance of a line or two of rough verse, in style remarkably similar to Geoffrey Chaucer's soon-to-be famous work. Suspecting the murderer is a doctor, the Archbishop asks for Kathryn's help. In a fascinating hunt that pits her against the august town physicians, Kathryn is aided only by her wits, her foul-mouthed, warmhearted servant Thomasina, and Colum Murtagh, a powerful Irish mercenary. While successfully demythologizing the period and people, the author offers thoughtful insights into such modern concerns as wife-beating and feminism.

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From School Library Journal

YA-Readers who know Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* will enjoy this medieval mystery in which a clever murderer's doggerel verse provides clues as to who his poison victims will be. In Canterbury, the town fathers, worried that fearful pilgrims will shun the city and its lucrative shrine and relic trade, seek the help of Katherine Swinbrooke, a physician and herbalist. She is joined by a soldier of fortune, Colum Murtagh, who backs up her knowledge with physical prowess and much-needed protection in these cutthroat times. Grace bases her strong female character on the fact that women played vital roles in English medieval medicine, only to be excluded from the profession in subsequent centuries. She writes with authority about the period, reflecting its bawdy and earthy qualities, and uses the literary twist of Chaucer's pilgrims and Becket's shrine to weave a tale of terrible deaths, tangled motives, and a terror-filled climax. Fans of serious historical mysteries should welcome this heroine as a new sleuth in an old tradition.

Mary T. Gerrity, Queen Anne School, Upper Marlboro, MD

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Cindy Searcy:

This *A Shrine of Murders: Being the First of the Canterbury Tales of Kathryn Swinbrooke, Leech, and Physician* book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is usually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This *A Shrine of Murders: Being the First of the Canterbury Tales of Kathryn Swinbrooke, Leech, and Physician* without we realize teach the one who reading it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't be worry *A Shrine of Murders: Being the First of the Canterbury Tales of Kathryn Swinbrooke, Leech, and Physician* can bring whenever you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even phone. This *A Shrine of Murders: Being the First of the Canterbury Tales of Kathryn Swinbrooke, Leech, and Physician* having great arrangement in word and layout, so you will not sense

uninterested in reading.

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Playing with family within a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love A Shrine of Murders: Being the First of the Canterbury Tales of Kathryn Swinbrooke, Leech, and Physician, you are able to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout men. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Lillian Robbins:

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Kari Hughes:

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