

# The Hanging Tree: Brother Athelstan Mystery 21 - Unraveling the Enigma



The Hanging Tree

**The Hanging Tree (A Brother Athelstan Mystery Book  
21)** by Robert Burks



★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	4.6 out of 5
Language	: English
File size	: 1562 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 270 pages



In the year of our Lord 1349, England reels under the relentless grip of the Black Death. As the plague ravages the land, a chilling discovery casts a shadow over the tranquil village of Monk's Walk: a man hangs lifeless from the ancient oak tree at the edge of the forest.

Brother Athelstan, the enigmatic Franciscan friar known for his keen intellect and unwavering resolve, is summoned to investigate this gruesome murder. Joined by his loyal companion, Sir John Cranston, Athelstan embarks on a perilous quest to expose the truth behind this heinous crime.

As they delve into the heart of the mystery, they encounter a web of suspects, each with their own secrets and motives. The villagers, gripped by fear and superstition, whisper tales of ancient curses and supernatural forces at play.

With each step closer to the truth, Athelstan and Cranston uncover a tapestry of deceit and betrayal. The victim, a traveling merchant, becomes the catalyst for a chain of events that threatens to tear the community apart.

Time is of the essence as the plague continues to spread, its relentless march claiming lives with each passing hour. Athelstan must race against the clock, employing his skills of deduction and logic to unravel the complex puzzle before the killer strikes again.

In the depths of the forest, under the ominous shadow of the hanging tree, Athelstan confronts the murderer, a figure shrouded in mystery and driven by a twisted agenda. As the truth emerges, it sends shockwaves through the village, shattering the fragile bonds that once held them together.

With the mystery finally solved, justice prevails and the village of Monk's Walk can begin to heal. But the wounds inflicted by the horrors of the past will never fully fade, serving as a chilling reminder of the darkness that can lurk in the hearts of men.

## **The Intriguing World of Brother Athelstan**

The Brother Athelstan Mystery series transports readers to the gritty reality of 14th century England, a time of profound upheaval and social transformation. Athelstan, a Franciscan friar with a keen eye for detail and a deep understanding of human nature, is the central figure in these captivating tales.

As a man of God, Athelstan is driven by a profound sense of justice and compassion. Yet, his unwavering faith is tempered by a keen intellect and a pragmatic approach to solving mysteries. Alongside his loyal companion, Sir John Cranston, Athelstan navigates the treacherous landscape of medieval England, encountering a cast of vivid characters and confronting the harsh realities of the time.

The series explores the complex interplay between religion, politics, and social hierarchy in medieval society. Through Athelstan's investigations, we gain insights into the lives of ordinary people, their struggles, their beliefs, and their fears.

## **Unveiling the Secrets of Medieval England**

Beyond the intriguing mystery plots, the Brother Athelstan series offers a rich and immersive experience of medieval England. Author Paul Doherty meticulously recreates the historical context, bringing to life the sights, sounds, and smells of a bygone era.

From the bustling streets of London to the secluded monasteries scattered across the countryside, the series transports readers to a world of knights, peasants, and friars. Doherty's extensive research ensures historical authenticity, offering a glimpse into the daily lives, beliefs, and customs of the people who inhabited this fascinating period.

Through Athelstan's eyes, we witness the impact of the Black Death, a devastating pandemic that decimated Europe's population. We encounter the social unrest and religious tensions that characterized this tumultuous time.

## **A Legacy of Literary Excellence**

Paul Doherty is a prolific and acclaimed author, renowned for his historical mysteries set in medieval England. With over 100 novels to his credit, Doherty has established himself as a master of the genre.

The Brother Athelstan Mystery series has garnered widespread praise for its engaging plots, well-developed characters, and meticulous historical

research. Doherty's ability to weave intricate mysteries within the rich tapestry of medieval life has earned him a loyal following of readers worldwide.

Whether you are a seasoned fan of historical fiction or a newcomer to the genre, "The Hanging Tree" promises an enthralling and thought-provoking journey into the shadowy world of medieval England. Join Brother Athelstan as he unravels the enigmatic mystery of the hanging tree and uncovers the dark secrets that lie hidden beneath the surface.



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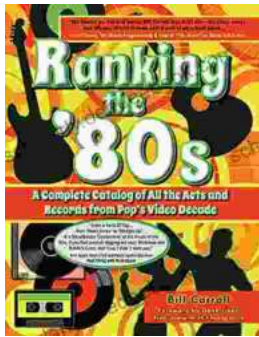
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