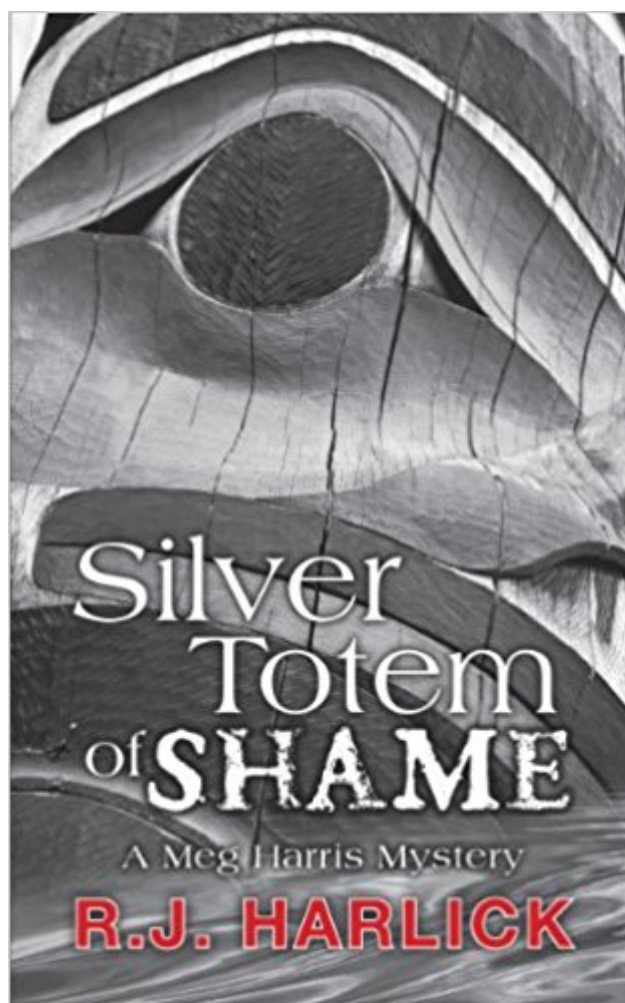


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Silver Totem Of Shame: A Meg Harris Mystery



Synopsis

On Haida Gwaii, Meg unravels a story of betrayal that reaches back more than a century. While visiting Vancouver, Meg Harris encounters the crime scene of a murdered Haida carver. She and her husband Eric are forced to confront Eric's painful past when the young victim's identity is discovered. The repercussions send them up the coast to the islands of Haida Gwaii, land of the Haida, in search of the murdered boy's family and his killer. As the search progresses, a totem pole carver sets out to depict the ancient tale of a long-ago chief's treasure and how it incited deception and shame. This tragedy reaches its nasty tentacles into the present where Meg and Eric find themselves embroiled in a modern-day story of betrayal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Amateur sleuth Meg Harris and her new husband, Eric, are on a working vacation in Vancouver, B.C., where Eric is attending an assembly of the Grand Council of First Nations. A museum tour is cut short when the guide learns that her boyfriend has been murdered. In the kind of coincidence that a lot of writers might not get away with, it turns out that the victim's mother is Eric's long-estranged stepsister. Meg wants to reach out to the grieving woman, but Eric wants no part of it. Meg insists, and soon she and Eric have determined to find out what happened to the dead man. In this sixth in the series, Harlick again uses a contemporary mystery to launch an exploration of Canada's aboriginal peoples and their history and customs. Meg is a good

series lead, a likable woman with some flaws—her alcoholism and her reticence when it comes to forming personal relationships—that give her emotional depth. Fans of the earlier books in the series will give this one an enthusiastic thumbs-up, and it will work fine as a jumping-off point for new readers. --David Pitt

Fans of the earlier books in the series will give this one an enthusiastic thumbs-up, and it will work fine as a jumping-off point for new readers. (Booklist) This is the best Harlick yet. (Globe and Mail) It wasn't long ago that I paid a visit to British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver. There on display, are the Totems of Shame, long ago removed from their original villages. It was with a shudder of recognition that I joined [characters] Meg and Eric for a much-remembered tour of the red cedar carvings of the coast. (Sun Times) Harlick's prose and characterization is as competent as ever and the slow reveal of the reasons why Allistair was murdered is skillfully handled. (Publishers Weekly) By showing both sides of the Indian-versus-European cultural dispute, [Harlick] wisely avoids the trap of painting one side's history as pure evil, the other's as sinless. This even-handedness brings complexity and depth to what could have been a mere diatribe. Instead, we get a superb novel that lends itself to reread after reread. (Mystery Scene Magazine)

I love Meg Harris as she is direct, complicated and flawed but dealing with her issues and now she has found happiness. The mysteries always grab me and won't let me stop at the end of a chapter. I have to keep reading! R.J. Harlick's books are totally engaging and I learn a lot about native Canadian life and first nations history.

Fabulous read! A "must" for any reader with an interest in the history of North American Native People.

love her books...have read them all...will read more if she writes more

Really enjoyed the read!

well written

Silver Totem of Shame is initially set in Vancouver, which is where I live, so of course my interest

was immediately grabbed. Then R.J. Harlick's wonderful writing style and story kept me glued to the book. This is the sixth in the series but the first I have read. The books in the series are all priced very low for the Kindle on right now so I bought more already. It is not necessary to read the earlier volumes to be able to follow Silver Totem of Shame; it could easily stand alone. Meg Harris and her husband, Eric Odjik, are visiting Vancouver for a First Nations meeting. A young Haida carver is murdered. Events start to get really interesting once it is discovered that the murder victim is Eric's adopted sister's adopted son. Both Eric and Alistair the murder victim are of First Nations heritage. The action soon moves from Vancouver to the isolated and rugged Queen Charlotte Islands which are known today by their Haida name: Haida Gwaii. Things heat up once everyone is in Haida Gwaii. The new chief is holding a totem raising and potlatch which is expected of a new chief. Not everyone is happy with the person is the new chief. Old hurts, old shames fester beneath the surface and erupt as the story progresses. This is an outstanding mystery that fittingly portrays the current realities of First Nations people in British Columbia. R.J. Harlick has brought Vancouver, the Haida people, and Haida Gwaii to life. The islands are beautiful but desolate and the cold there is such a wet cold that deeply penetrates your bones. I could feel for Meg as the waves were crashing over the boat. I really enjoyed the Silver Totem of Shame. R.J. Harlick is a wonderful storyteller and able to provide the reader with an authentic sense of place. Be sure to pick up a copy when it is released in April.

Alistair, a promising young Haida carver is murdered in Vancouver and the totem pole he was working on has been stolen. Meg Harris and Eric Odjik, her new husband and Ojibway Chief from Ontario, are in town for a meeting of First Nations when they hear about the death. Through an unexpected encounter, they learn that the young man was the adopted son of Cloe, Eric's adoptive sister. This encounter forces Eric to confront his past and eventually sends Meg, Eric, and Cloe to the isolated islands of Haida Gwaii where a totem pole raising ceremony is taking place to commemorate the naming of the new Chief. Silver Totem of Shame by author RJ Harlick gives a fascinating look at the culture of the Haida peoples on Canada's west coast while providing a very entertaining mystery. There's plenty of excitement and action and lots of twists and turns to keep the reader's attention. One warning though: if you suffer at all from seasickness, you might want to skip over the journey across to the islands.

Having read the first five Meg Harris mysteries, I was anxious to delve into Silver Totem of Shame, the 5th in the series. I was not disappointed. Setting is as important as character in

Harlick's writing, and this time Meg and her husband travel to Canada's west coast where they are soon involved in the murder of a young Haida carver. This is a story rich in contrasts, between cultures that are still struggling to live in harmony while respecting each other's differences. The reason for the murder is not simple, and neither is the solution, but the story is entirely satisfying to the mystery lover. I look forward to Meg's next adventure.

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