

Thoughts for Easter

Those Roman soldiers seized Him, and reviled Him. They nailed Him to the Cross. Through bleeding lips He murmured "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

Was ever mercy so divine?

The scion of man died, and the sky went dark. Black were the souls of His followers. He had gone.

All hope was gone.

Early the next morning, the whore, Mary Magdalene hurried to the tomb. Shunned by all who knew her, she was not an outcast to her Lord. He had loved her and taken her hand in His.

Now she could do Him this one last service. She would take His body and bury it with reverence.

But the tomb was empty.

"Tell me where they have laid Him?" she began, and then she knew! It was He, her Master who stood there. She fell to the ground and washed His feet with her tears.

A glorious light shone around, illuminating the earth. Evil was overcome by good.

Life had conquered Death!

The disciples gathered round their Lord. To be in His presence was abounding joy. They walked with Him to Emmaus. He explained to them gently, that now He had to leave them but that God the Father would be with them always.

They did not understand but trusted in His word. The glory of the day shone on.

Centuries have passed, and still the message of Easter sustains and blesses us.

Today we sing "Halleluia, Christ is Risen" and the rafters ring.

Jesus said "Pick up your cross and take my hand. Follow in the way that I shall go."

God give us grace, that this we may do – and all the bells of Heaven sing Alleluia!

Norah Anderson

Book Review

LATENT HAZARD.

By Piers Venmore-Rowland.

A novelist writes with two golden rules in mind. These are to grab the reader's attention and make the reader turn the pages

Piers starts his novel by having a Muslim's flat entered at night. The Muslim is arrested because he has been caught on a CCTV camera which shows him being hugged by another person who shortly after discharges a bomb in London that kills several policemen and dies himself in the explosion. Are you hooked? We were, and had to ration our reading time, or nothing would get done!

The book is written about a time very close to the present economic crisis. It seems that the U.K. is threatened by some very well-organised terrorists with ample money and the knowledge to plan a major attack.

If you don't find that plausible, turn to real life. On the day that John wrote the first draft for this article, *The Times* carried an account of eight suicide bombers who allegedly intended to destroy eight trans-Atlantic aeroplanes, simultaneously in mid-flight. The men are currently awaiting trial. Had they succeeded it is easy to see how the aviation industry would have been damaged on a world wide basis.

Before saying more about the book, it is logical to preface it with a little about the author. After education at Haileybury, Piers attended Reading University where he gained a B.Sc. in Estate Management and an M.A. in Contemporary European Studies. He worked in London as a Chartered Surveyor. Later he attended the City University and gained an M.Sc. in Finance. He worked as a financial analyst to several companies and travelled widely in the

course of his work. With a change in career, he returned to the City University as a Professor.

He writes with enormous authority, similar to Dick Francis' knowledge of horse-racing, but on a much wider basis. He artfully throws in little details that carry the reader along on a wave of belief.

He introduces us to a group of young people who realise that there actually is a plot and set about unravelling it. Luck does come into things but there is also the deep understanding of where knowledge is available. The group of young people grows to include experts in different fields.

It gradually becomes clear that if the plotters succeed, they will in addition make enormous sums on derivatives. As you may not know what derivatives are, Piers provides a glossary and you will be delighted to read and learn from it. (After all Piers is a Professor and used to teaching.)

The group think they know when the attack will come, and as zero hour approaches, the language between them changes- as it would as things get tense. This is subtle and effective writing.

Did we forget to mention that these are attractive young people who are aware of one another despite long hours of work and the desperate need to find a solution to the threat?

Later we meet the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The PM is a kindly man who is able to listen and work long hours very effectively. He displays a true leader's ability to think carefully when under great stress, and be decisive. We should also mention his secretary who is great on P.R which is easy for her as she is both efficient and attractive.

His Chancellor is more than a working colleague. He is a man who really tries, and jointly they are on easy terms with a wide range of Heads of Services. The Dutch help out with a group of helicopters. Every book comes to an end and at best there is an unexpected twist. The end of Latent Hazard is entirely logical and if you can guess what

it will be when you have still about thirty pages to read, you must be a master storyteller yourself .

We believe a second edition is due out in April.

John & Fiona Earle



More Church Magazine Bloomers

* The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

* Thursday at 5 pm there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become Little Mothers, please see the minister in his private study.

* Attention Parents. There will be a conference on how to help your teen avoid pre-marital sex. The featured speaker will be Molly Kelly, a nationally known speaker on abstinence and mother of eight.

* The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."