

Dolly and the singing bird

Penguin - Dorothy Dunnett's Dolly and the Johnson Books



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- Dolly and the singing bird
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Dolly and the Singing Bird

These mysteries are extremely intelligent psychological mysteries that are also heavy on geographic escapism. Dorothy Dunnett's series of comedy-thrillers featuring Johnson Johnson and his yacht Dolly. Nothing is going to stop Tina from reaching him.

Dolly and the Singing Bird by Dorothy Dunnett

My fault, I suppose, for expecting a whodunnit--but the question of responsibility for the initial corpse is dealt with mid-way through without any particular excitement.

Dorothy Dunnett

The way Dunnett balances sophisticated comedy with mystery and with several edge-of-the-seat set pieces, in particular an Atlantic storm in a disabled small boat, reminds me pleasantly of the talent displayed in her historical pieces, while keeping the overall tone lighter and avoiding the eclectic, encyclopaedic references that tend to slow down said novels. When she goes for a secret meeting with Kenneth, she finds a dead body instead of her lover.

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That being said, this story, for what it is, is really well written and has one of the most memorable female character I've read in ages. Ruth is living with Charles Digham, a fashion photographer and writer of obituary verses. I would undoubtedly have enjoyed it more if I had the slightest interest in sailing.

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