

## Death and the Joyful Woman (Eagle Large Print) *by* Ellis Peters



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## Reviews of the **Death and the Joyful Woman (Eagle Large Print)** *by* Ellis Peters

**Kagaramar**

As one would expect from an Edgar winning mystery, this book is pretty good. I do not find Felse as engaging as Brother Cadfael but if you have read all of Peters' Cadfael stories you may want to give Felse a try. One note of warning. Most of the action and activity in this book follow Felse's sixteen year old son. This is very close to being a mature young adults novel.

The novel makes a lot more sense if you begin with chapter one instead of chapter three which is where my Kindle opened the book. I need to start paying more attention to chapter headings.

**Gavikelv**

Delightful book. I started this because I'd exhausted the Caedfiel series. Ellis Peters is good! I highly recommend this new book and series.

**Heldor**

Readers of the Brother Cadfael series by Peters will find the Felse books very different, but equally satisfying in their complexity, and in the skill of the author. This story makes use of Felse's adolescent son as a young instrument of derring-do and youthful male charm.

**Nilabor**

Domminic is in love. She couldn't possibly be guilty of murder. Could she? Read this new tale and find out.

**RuTGamer**

Flows at a smooth pace. It is a bit wordy, but it's simple to skip around and still stay with the story. Recommend for light reading.

**allegro**

Death and the Joyful Woman by Ellis Peters.

The callous millionaire owner of the Jolly Barmaid, Alfred Armiger, is found with his head bashed in at the bottom of the stairs in the old barn (now redone) adjacent to the pub. This gruesome discovery brings Detective-Sergeant George Felse into the forefront of the investigation. The Inspector soon finds that the list of the victims enemies has no end.

Dominic Felse, The Detective's son, has met a fascinating and breathtakingly lovely young lady by the name of Kitty Norris. They chanced upon one another at a blood donation bank where young Felse was called out due to his adolescent age. Too young to give blood left him quite humiliated in front of his new acquaintance. But things were going to take a drastic and foreseen change and there was nothing either one of them could do to stop it.

This author and this series never fails to involve me in it's deduction into the crime with marvelous details. It was the last 3rd of the book that had me transfixed to each paragraph as the climax unraveled at breakneck speed.

**Dilkree**

When millionaire Alfred Armiger is murdered, suspicion begins with his disinherited and estranged son, Leslie; but the evidence soon points to Kitty Norris, heiress to an allied business empire who would have been the elder Arminger's choice as wife for his son. With Leslie written out of his will, Arminger has instead left everything to Kitty. She had opportunity at the right time, she cannot or will not account for her whereabouts just then, and there's blood on the dress she was wearing. But Dominic Felse, 16-year-old son of the police inspector charged with the investigation, doesn't believe Kitty - who happens to be his first love, a crush on a woman of 22 - can possibly be guilty. So, despite his father's firm instructions to stay out of the case, Dominic launches his own investigation...which ultimately proves so dangerous that he may well wind up as the killer's next victim.

Once again the best part of the book is the relationships among the three Felses: George, a police inspector now in his early 40s and beginning to perceive his son as a rival despite the depth of his love for the boy; Bunty, wife, mother, and the strongest of women in her own right; and Dominic himself, a boy just turning into a man. The mystery works well enough, and the other characters are fine, too; but the Felse family brings the story to life. Great fun to read.

--Reviewed by Nina M. Osier, author of 2005 science fiction EPPIE winner "Regs"

Is vulgarity grounds for murder? Alfred Armiger had antagonized many with his greed and crass acquisitiveness. So when the ruthless beer baron is discovered dead, his head beaten in by a magnum of champagne, there is no shortage of suspects. But all of Comerford is shocked with Detective George Felse arrests Kitty Norris, the daughter of a rival beer baron, the last person to see Armiger alive, and the main beneficiary of his will! But Kitty, charming and popular, has an unexpected advocate in Felse's young son, Dominic, who secretly adores her. Passionately convinced of Kitty's innocence, Dominic sets out to find the true culprit, a hazardous undertaking that might well cost him his life!

Best known for the Brother Cadfael mysteries, Ellis Peters actually wrote the Felse series first, but until recent years, these appealing books have been out of print in the United States. "Death and the Joyful Woman," which received an Edgar Award, deserves a warm welcome from American readers. Peters has told not only an engaging mystery but a sensitive coming-of-age story as well. Characters and relationships are sharply delineated--Dominic is a highly likable teen sleuth and his interactions with his parents, especially his father, are both amusing and touching. And a subplot concerning a struggling young couple and an unusual painting--the Joyful Woman of the title--proves just as involving as the main storyline. Readers of "Fallen into the Pit," Peters' first Felse mystery, may notice that the method Dominic uses to flush out the murderer is similar to the one he employs here, but this is a minor quibble in an otherwise excellent novel. Highly recommended.

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