



Bad Tidings (A Henry Christie Mystery Book 19)

By Nick Oldham

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The possibility of catching a serial killer is the bait used by Detective Superintendent Henry Christie's chief constable to lure him away from his planned Christmas festivities. Henry could have said no – but if there's one thing he can't refuse, it's the chance to bring a murderer to book.

In his thirty years with the Lancashire constabulary, Henry Christie has never known a case like this. What he couldn't anticipate was that he would be stretched to the limit both personally and professionally. Unexpectedly stepping into a blood-soaked turf war raging between two local crime families, Henry soon finds himself slap-bang in the middle of a violent situation where his own life is also on the line.

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Bad Tidings (A Henry Christie Mystery Book 19) By Nick Oldham Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1975849 in eBooks
- Published on: 2013-07-01
- Released on: 2013-07-01
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

What should have been a relaxing Christmas break for Henry Christie proves anything but in Oldham's tight 19th novel featuring the Lancashire detective superintendent (after 2012's *Fighting for the Dead*). On New Year's Day, Henry inherits the case of two murders (dubbed the Twixtmas Killings by the press) from a disgraced colleague, and his mother suffers a near-fatal heart attack. That his mother has a do not resuscitate order in place complicates matters, while a potential next victim of the Twixtmas killer turns out to be Freddy Cromer, the violently deranged scion of a local crime family. Freddy is brought to Royal Blackburn Hospital, where he quickly takes a nurse hostage, and, in a separate incident, unknown individuals begin a shootout in the corridors. The thrill of the chase spurs Henry on, but he is still a team player who does things by the book. Oldham shows just how exciting a proper police investigation can be in this top-notch procedural. (Sept.)

From [Booklist](#)

Detective Superintendent Henry Christie finally has his private life sorted out, after the tragic death of his wife several years earlier. His daughters are grown and settled, and he even has a new lady friend. But his professional life is another story. Henry has been assigned to the puzzling Twixtmas murders, so-called because they've occurred for the past three years between Christmas and New Year's. The bodies of the victims were found brutalized, their mouths stuffed with chicken feathers and a bullet through their heads. The police haven't been able to crack the case, so it's landed on Henry's desk. As he tries to unravel the murders, he is caught in a deadly turf war between two of the city's most violent drug lords. It's Henry's computer-genius sidekick, Jerry Tope, who uncovers the first real clue that sets Henry on the confusing, terrifying path to finding the killer. As usual, Oldham offers a cracking police procedural with plenty of heart-pounding action, a smattering of dark humor, and a likable renegade as the hero. --Emily Melton

Review

"A pretty neat procedural" (*Kirkus Reviews*)

"Oldham offers a cracking police procedural with plenty of heart-pounding action, a smattering of dark humor, and a likable renegade as the hero." (*Booklist*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shawna Vaughn:

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Patrick Reyes:

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Anthony Carter:

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