



# The Cana Mystery

*David Beckett*

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One of 2013's most unexpected successes, David Beckett's hit mystery-adventure, described by critics as "cool" (*Westlake Magazine*), "thrilling" (*Cambridge Day*), "inventive" (*Hills and Heights*), and "dazzling" (*Helotes Weekly*), bears some resemblance to Dan Brown's bestseller *The Da Vinci Code*. Yet Beckett's work has been lauded as stylistically superior, winning the selective IPBA's Silver Medal for "Suspense/Thriller" novels. A fusion of the popular treasure hunt, historical fiction, and techno-thriller genres, *The Cana Mystery* became Amazon's No. 1 kindle download just six weeks after its record-breaking U.S. bookstore debut. The book's plot tracks a brilliant American grad student, Ava Fischer, summoned from her studies in Boston to solve an ancient puzzle. Reunited with an old flame, Ava is chased from Yemen to Egypt to Malta and, finally, to Italy. The couple must rely on their wits as they struggle to stay alive and escape a mélange of murderous terrorists, evil drug lords, and other ruthless villains. The meticulously-researched plot involves Pope Benedict's resignation and Pope Francis' election, set against a backdrop that spans centuries. Real-world *dramatis personae*, plucked from the annals of history, play crucial roles. Jim Adair, PhD, professor of literature and executive editor of *Voices de la Luna*, praised the novel's "action-packed story, chock full of both history and modern technology!" Despite thrilling action sequences and chase scenes reviewers have likened to both *National Treasure* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, Beckett's tale omits gratuitous sex and gore. The book has, consequently, been embraced as a rare, family-friendly thriller. *Lake Travis Life* praised it as "an engrossing adventure tale that's garnered rave reviews and enjoyed immediate popularity." *San Antonio Express-News* Book Editor Steve Bennett enthusiastically recommended Beckett's work, hailing its "rapidly paced adventure" and "well-rounded protagonists." Dr. Jeff Mirus (Ph.D. Intellectual History, Princeton, 1973) recommended *The Cana Mystery*, calling it "quite good" and "thoroughly engaging" thanks to its "deft plot and strong characters."

Public support was even more effusive. Ebay ranked *The Cana Mystery* 4th on its list of "Top Ten Mystery Books" and, on the website Goodreads, members voted *The Cana Mystery* 2013's 5th best thriller, 8th best overall book with "strong women characters," and #1 recommended book for "intelligent teens." To date, 600 Goodreads members have reviewed Beckett's work, with 89% leaving positive feedback. Anna Dobritt wrote, "A very good book and cast of characters. The plot was very interesting and held my attention. This is a book I would read again," while "Serenity," one of 160 Amazon reviewers giving 5/5 stars, opined: "*The Cana Mystery* artfully weaves history, religion, philosophy, archaeology, mystery and adventure into an excellent novel. This book is one that is very hard to put down." Released by Tuscany Press of Massachusetts, USA.

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