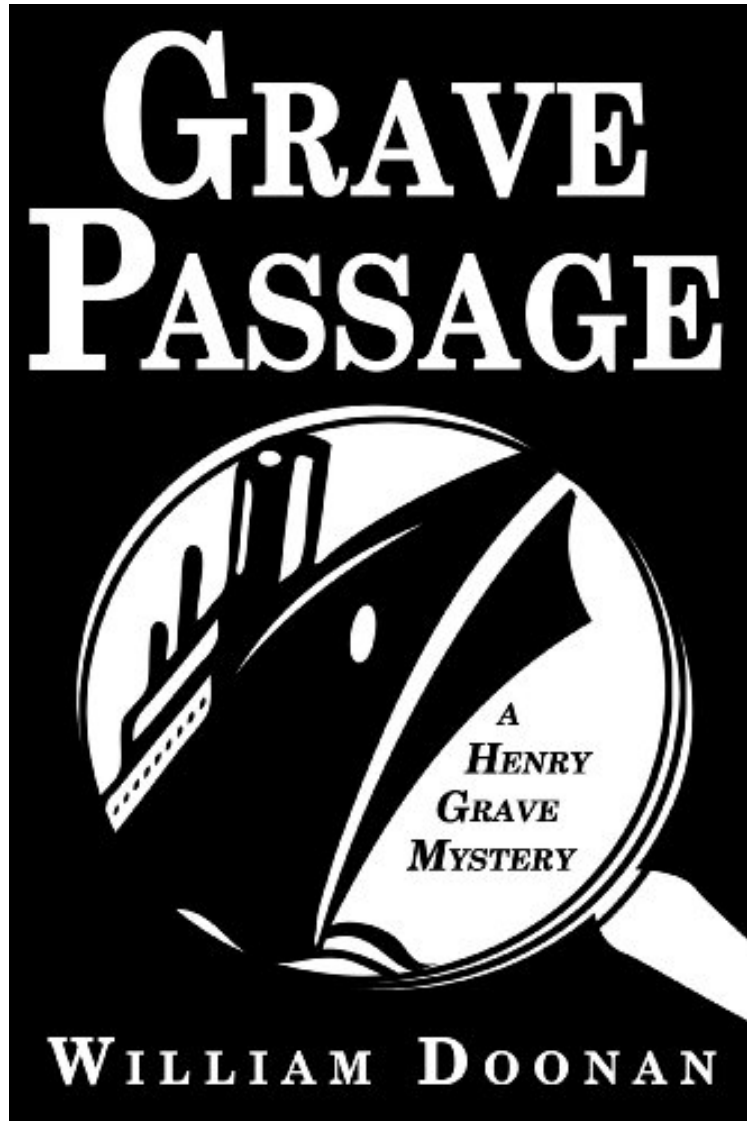


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Grave Passage

William Doonan

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William Doonan : Grave Passage before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Grave Passage:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another fine thriller from William DoonanBy M. Barry SlaterI have enjoyed reading the Henry Grave Mysteries, these stories about murder on cruise ships are very well written. I appreciate the humorous banter very much, as it is the best part of the story. A very well written series with a very clever investigator.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. What a Great Find!By BobI was doing an search for nautical fiction when I came across this gem. It's not really nautical fiction in the classic sense but it is a winner

regardless. Why it's not a best seller is beyond me. Mark my words, author William Doonan, and his detective Henry Graves, are destined for greatness, provided, of course, future Doonan efforts are as superbly crafted as *Grave Passage*. So, clearly, I loved this book, enough so that I read it in one night. Trust me, if you like mysteries and detective stories, and you like a flawed protagonist who is whiz at his job, who has a wry wit and a great sense of humor, who doesn't take any crap, and who also has a substantial and fascinating backstory, you'll love Henry Graves, Doonan's 84 year old private detective. The story doesn't waste any time getting you off to the races. By page four, if you're not hooked and/or you haven't laughed out loud, or at the very least smiled to yourself, you probably have nothing but Rachel Ray cookbooks in your library. (Nothing against Rachel. She's cute as a button and can cook for me anytime.) The setting is a cruise ship. The mystery is the murder of a former FBI profiler. There are about 1,600 passengers, of which approximately 90 have been identified by Graves as persons of interest, if not actual suspects. To complicate matters, the murder needs to be solved in less than four days, before the ship is turned over to the FBI in Miami. Two additional complications are: (1) Henry Graves is indeed an 84 year old man who fully appreciates the distractions of a Caribbean cruise, namely the food, women and wine; (2) He's not completely immune to the need for an occasional nap. There was a point at which I got a few of the character/suspect names confused, but this in no way detracted from my pure reading enjoyment. I was too engrossed in the page turning to backup and hit the brain refresh button. However, the story unfolds in such a way as to be self-correcting or self-explanatory. What I mean is, you can turn back the pages and freshen-up on character names, or you can wait for Doonan to do it for you. Maybe if I hadn't been so thoroughly following Henry Graves I would have paid better attention to the characters and their names. This might be a good tip for readers: Pay attention to the names and don't get too ahead of yourself. Anyway, don't worry, be happy. The story wraps up in a nice, neat little package, and any character confusion will be nullified at the end of the novel. seabg0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Actor Clint Eastwood would make a great Henry Grave character in the movie. By Easy Writer If I could cast Henry Grave in a movie I would certainly use Clint Eastwood. He is the right age and the dialogue would fit him perfectly. The action scenes would be realistic. The old man humor would be hilarious. The attitude would be a perfect fit, including Henry's refusal to be intimidated by authority or bullies. Well, that opinion expressed, here's the deal: this book is great. What more can I say? The author is brilliant. I'd love to be on the same cruise with him sometime and sit at his table.

With only days until their final port, the passengers of the *Contessa Voyager* learn that their guest lecturer, an ex-F.B.I. profiler, has been found hanging from the ship's rock-climbing wall. Suddenly their balmy, carefree idyll on the Caribbean is fraught with danger and anxiety. Will someone else be next? What can the shipping line do to ease the passengers' fears? Clearly, this is a job for Henry Grave, a professional maritime detective. Join him as he helicopters aboard to solve the crime. His methods and style are unusual, and guaranteed to keep you laughing as you follow him from one hidden clue to the next.

An offbeat romp of a murder mystery, provides a terrific bit of escapism. Doonan has a unique voice that combines cozy and travelogue, all told from the perspective of an absent-minded old man (think Peter Falk's Detective Columbo solving cases in retirement). Hero Henry Grave is helicoptered onto a cruise ship in mid-trip after one of the entertainers a former FBI agent is found strangled. With his checkered history and bumbling approach, Grave is an unlikely hero who nevertheless has the confidence of the owner of the cruise line. He needs to discreetly solve the case and help protect the ship's reputation as a safe place to vacation. But his time is limited and suspects are not; plus, here are all sorts of distractions. Expect to chuckle as Grave rambles through his case. --Sacramento News, October 22, 2009 Give people too many choices and they get confused. In the old days, and I'm sounding like an old man here, passengers played shuffleboard and sat by the pool. But times change... These are the introductory words that begin mystery novel, *Grave Passage*, by City College anthropology professor William Doonan released Sept. 1. Henry Grave is not a traditional detective. He is 84 years old and very talkative about his personal life, to the point that it interferes with his work. My second marriage lasted all of two-and-a-half months before she figured out she did not want to be married. Or at least married to me, says Grave in response to a captain's comment about Grave not being the typical detective he was expecting. According to Doonan, most fictitious detectives follow the Sherlock Holmes stereotype: They are quiet and usually smarter than their peers. Usually they are no older than 60. *Grave Passage* is a very unique story for me, in that it takes place on a cruise ship, says Paul Frank, a political science professor. I have never been on a cruise myself, but it is written in a way that makes you believe you are actually on the high seas. It's a smart and witty book, lots of great detail. --Sacramento City College Express, October 12, 2009 Henry Grave is laugh-out-loud funny. This is one of the most enjoyable crime books I've read in a long time. The dialogue is witty, the situations unexpected, and the resolution surprising and satisfying. Henry Grave is one of a kind and an absolute joy. --Mark West, author *Fort Ross* In his book *Grave Passage*, author William Doonan gives us detective Henry Grave. During his many years on the planet Henry has acquired many traits, rude, obnoxious, obtrusive and funny. He uses all of these characters or rather Doonan uses these to make this a delightful and interesting read. Henry is called upon to solve a murder on a cruise ship. He takes us for an adventure on the high seas intrigue that is sooooo entertaining. What can I

say -- I started reading this book with the anticipation that it would be an average murder mystery, and boy was I wrong. This was so much more; it exceeded my expectations by far. I was bummed when I got to that last page because that meant the story was over. Aside from the wonderful characters the book is very well written. Doonan's writing style is one that really draws you into the story line. Doonan's writing style also has a kind of easy eloquence to it. Not a lot of big intellectual words just that the words and sentences come together flowing so well in a way that you rarely see from a new author. --Sacramento Book , February 10, 2010. The author is an archaeologist and professor of anthropology who is an experienced cruise ship lecturer. And he is a good writer. Professional maritime detective Henry Grave is an 84-year-old character who is helicoptered to the Caribbean cruise ship Contessa Voyager at sea to solve a murder that had been committed aboard. It seems that the body of the guest lecturer, ex-FBI profiler Robert Sampson, was found hanging from the ship's rock climbing wall. Henry Grave is a real piece of work. He cleverly solves the mystery but not before he shares his innermost thoughts and recollections about his likes, dislikes, phobias, love life, drinking experiences, ad infinitum. The reader quickly discovers that this hero is good for laughs as well as being a smart detective. He romances (or tries to) several women acquaintances, drinks to excess, and misses appointments by falling asleep viewing security tapes. Visiting the bridge to interview the staff captain, he notices, monitors with images of knobs and levers and dials. Seeing this he thinks, Everything is computers these days; even the toaster I got at Target last year had a thing where you can program in your desired degree of toasting. The book is full of this kind of unexpected humor. If you like mysteries and offbeat humor, this is the book for you. --Steamboat Bill, Winter 2009-2010

About the Author William Doonan is an archaeologist and professor of anthropology at Sacramento City College. He was born in New York and grew up in northern New Jersey and southern Puerto Rico. He received his B.A. from Brown University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Tulane University. His research focuses on architectural archaeology; he has spent many years conducting excavations in Costa Rica, Honduras, and Peru. He is also a veteran cruise ship lecturer, traveling the world and speaking on topics as diverse as the Trojan War, piracy in the Adriatic, and the peopling of the Americas. He lives in Sacramento, California with his wife Carmen, and his sons Will and Huey.