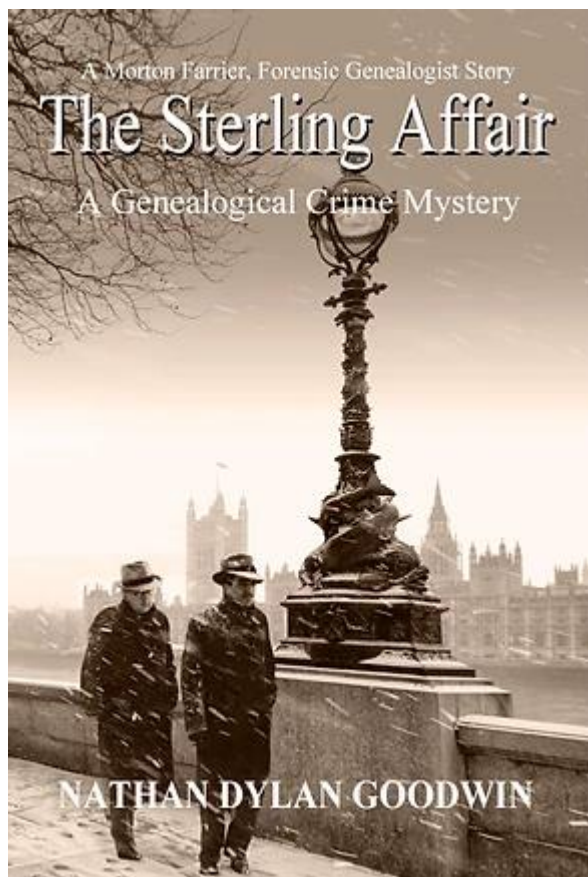


Review of *The Sterling Affair: a genealogical crime mystery* by UK author Nathan Dylan Goodwin [www.nathandylangoodwin.com](http://www.nathandylangoodwin.com) - available in print or as an e-book.



This is the latest book covering the adventures of fictional forensic genealogist, Morton Farrier by UK author [Nathan Dylan Goodwin](http://www.nathandylangoodwin.com). Morton is one of my favourite fictional characters and it is always a joy to read his latest adventures.

This book was even better as it was considerably longer than previous books. I could not read it all in one sitting, although tempted.

*The Sterling Affair* is set in the thrilling spy world of the 1950s as well as Morton's current client and the reason they asked him to look into their family history.

As someone who enjoys a good crime thriller, this was my kind of book. Sometimes I find it hard to work out who are the good guys and who are the bad guys who often seem to be good guys. But then I guess that is what makes a good spy. We tend to think of James Bond, but in real life they were/are often just ordinary people.

We are also brought up to date with Morton's personal life and his family. This book includes a

sideline DNA story that other researchers might face if their DNA matches throw up something unexpected. I have had that experience myself, and there is the dilemma of telling or not telling, or just how to handle that surprise information.

It is always hard to review a novel without giving away the story line. I really enjoyed this, and I think part of this was that it took me longer to read. More substance if you like.

Morton's cases are professionally researched, and as usual, I wish that there were interesting characters in my own family history. This is the eighth novel and the author continues to maintain the reader's interest in Morton, his family, and his work adventures.

Some book series lose their way or become too blasé but that is most definitely not the case here. I cannot wait for the next adventure of Morton Farrier, forensic genealogist.

In the meantime, readers can follow Nathan's own adventures on his Facebook page [Nathan Dylan Goodwin](https://www.facebook.com/nathandylangoodwin). There is also a series of Pinterest boards with photographs and reviews relating to the various books. Start with [Nathan's main board](#) and I really enjoy seeing some of the places in the books as well as photos of Nathan working in the archives.

As an avid fan of the Morton Farrier series, I have also reviewed the previous titles. My December 2014 review of the first two books *Hiding the Past* and *The Lost Ancestor* can be read [here](#). Then there was the novella, *The Orange Lilies*, where Morton Farrier starts to explore his own family origins. I read and thoroughly enjoyed the novella. My January 2016 review of Nathan's third book

featuring the adventures of Morton Farrier, *The America Ground*, can be read [here](#). My October 2016 review of Nathan's fourth book *The Spyglass File* can be read [here](#). My May 2017 review of *The Missing Man* can be read [here](#). Finally, my review of *The Wicked Trade and The Suffragette's Secret: genealogical crime mysteries* in May 2018 can be read [here](#).

Looking back at these reviews, I just realised that I have been reading about Morton Farrier's genealogical adventures for the last six years. Thank goodness he was not just a flash in the pan!

Shauna Hicks

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