

Chapter 1 : Benjamin January

*Die Upon a Kiss (Benjamin January, Book 5) [Barbara Hambly] on blog.quintoapp.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. In A Free Man of Color and Sold Down the River, Benjamin January guided readers through the seductive maze of New Orleans' darkest quarters.*

John Davis, manager of a rival opera company, is being accused of hiring the attack and asks Benjamin to investigate. It is never a good sign which you keep checking to see how close you are to the end of a book. These characters never did. I knew what they looked like physically, but had no real sense of them and what made them who they were. There was some very clever dialogue. I particularly liked the line about beautiful music not necessarily coming from a beautiful soul. The sense of time and place was strong. I love books set in New Orleans. While the author talks about bigotry and racism of the time, it felt more educational than involving. She had a tendency to reiterate information, seemingly not trusting the reader to having picked it up the first time or now remembering it. As for the plot—what was the plot? When we finally get to the real plot, it is as though it is another story entirely. Humbly falls victim to the occasional use of portents, which I despise. It seems to take a long time for anything to happen. This is my second try at Hambly and, I am confident, my last. Is it their sentence structure, or choice of adjectives? The Ben January books, of which this is the fifth, are historical detective stories set in New Orleans after the Louisiana purchase, but before the civil war. Ben is black, a freeman of colour, and this gives him a particular perspective and allows the author to make subtle points about racial attitudes then and now. He is also a talented musician and doctor, and this gives him the opportunity to become embroiled in any number of shady goings on in the city - perhaps a slightly implausible number by this book, and I thought that he might have become a little more wary about becoming involved due to the constant risk he runs of being either beaten up, sold into slavery, or both. After a promising start this series runs out of steam, perhaps reaching a nadir is this book. Not that I could be totally sure, because I must confess I skimmed this one before giving up, at least for the moment. I might be being too hasty, but when a character living in thinks in Powerpoint bullet headings on the first page while being followed in a dark alley I kind of lose interest. The mystery involves an opera troupe and is just way too confused. So many people with too many hidden agendas. It feels confused and forced. I enjoyed the bits about the operas themselves way more than the plot. I enjoyed this novel very much, even if the mystery itself was a little out there. The interaction between characters who speak various dialects of French, English, Italian and Spanish is particularly engaging in this book. Janvier is a polyglot. Taking Rose with him. But then there would be no more books, I suppose. Review will shown on site after approval.

Chapter 2 : Die Upon a Kiss: blog.quintoapp.com: Barbara Hambly: Books

Benjamin January is leaving the American Theatre, after a rehearsal of a new production of "Othello," just in time to intervene in a vicious attack on the opera's impresario. John Davis, manager of a rival opera company, is being accused of hiring the attack DIE UPON A KISS (Hist. Mys-Benjamin January-New Orleans) - NR.

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Die Upon a Kiss (Benjamin January, #5) by Barbara Hambly In February , the cold New Orleans streets are alight with masked Mardi Gras revelers as the American Theater's impresario, Lorenzo Belaggio, brings a magnificent yet controversial operatic version of *Othello* to town.

You can help by adding to it. Benjamin struggles to find the real killer before he is jailed and executed for the murder. Fever Season During a cholera and yellow fever epidemic, Benjamin deals with a runaway slave girl, Cora, who is wanted for poisoning her master, Otis Redfern. He also meets Rose, the head-mistress of a school for free colored girls, when he helps to treat several of the students who have yellow fever. The kidnapping of free blacks to sell them as slaves forms a major subplot to the novel. Marie Laveau is an important secondary character. Sold Down the River The white planter who formerly owned Benjamin and his family asks Benjamin to determine the source of a series of violent incidents on his plantation. Benjamin agrees, but must go undercover as a slave, taking along Hannibal to serve as his master. The ruse places Benjamin in a great deal of danger, as well as bringing back unwelcome memories of his childhood as a slave. Die upon a Kiss An opera troupe, composed mostly of Italians, arrives in New Orleans, and Benjamin and Hannibal are hired to play in the orchestra. In a subplot, Dominique finds herself pregnant and struggles with the decision to keep the child. The smuggling of slaves from Cuba and Africa into America, despite the Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves , is another important plot thread. Historical events involving pirates, including Jean Lafitte , are relevant to the plot, as well as slave rebellions, leprosy, and hurricanes. Benjamin and Rose marry at the end of the book. Days of the Dead In Mexico City, Hannibal has been falsely accused of poisoning the son of a prominent local landowner. Benjamin and Rose, at his request, come to find the true murderer amid a complicated tangle of relationships and suspects, and to rescue Hannibal both from legal execution and from being held in captivity by a rich madman. Santa Anna plays a minor role in the plot. Dead Water A great deal of money has been embezzled from the bank where Benjamin and his wife Rose keep their money. The Underground Railroad appears for the first time in the series, and Benjamin agrees to join, allowing use of his home as a safe house. This will form a background detail in many of the subsequent novels. Shaw, Benjamin, and a newly-sober Hannibal travel to a trade rendezvous to find the killer. Ran Away A former Turkish ambassador moves to New Orleans, but is the first suspect when two of his concubines are murdered. Nearly half the book takes place in a flashback to Paris, , where Benjamin had met the Turkish man previously. Chloe, Henri, Dominique, and Benjamin go to the capital to investigate, becoming involved in subplots with early baseball, slave-stealers, mathematical codes, and Edgar Allan Poe. When the killers follow them there, Rose, Benjamin, and Hannibal head to Cuba to investigate before eventually reaching Haiti itself. Drinking Gourd Benjamin and Hannibal take summer jobs working for a traveling minstrel show , which brings them to Vicksburg, Mississippi. However, as Benjamin investigates, he discovers that the situation is more complicated than it first appeared. Benjamin is at first reluctant to get involved, but as matters complicate, he realizes that this murder is connected to another one he investigated in Paris, during the June Rebellion. The book alternates between the two time periods, allowing Ayasha and other characters from *Ran Away* to reappear. Hannibal is revealed to have knowledge about both cases. Cold Bayou A friend of Benjamin and Rose, the elderly Veryl St-Chinian, has engaged himself to an eighteen-year-old illiterate former prostitute. Analysis[edit] The series, beginning with *A Free Man of Color*, follows Benjamin January, a brilliant, classically educated free colored surgeon and musician living in New Orleans during the belle epoque of the s, when New Orleans had a large and prosperous free colored demimonde. January was born a slave but freed as a young child and provided with an excellent education; he is fluent in several classical and modern languages and thoroughly versed in the whole of classical Western learning and arts. Although trained in Paris as a surgeon, he has returned to Louisiana to escape the memory of his dead Parisian wife. As he is a very dark-skinned black man, in Louisiana he cannot find work as a surgeon. Instead, he earns a modest living by his exceptional talent and skill as a musician. Each title is an entertaining murder mystery with a complex plot and well-developed characters, and each explores many aspects of French Creole society. However, most tend

to emphasize some particular element of antebellum Louisiana life, such as Voodoo religion Graveyard Dust , opera and music Die Upon a Kiss , the annual epidemics of yellow fever and malaria Fever Season , fear of miscegenation Dead and Buried , or the harsh nature of commercial sugar production Sold Down the River. This last theme occurs most often with respect to music, spirituality, and respect for law and social custom.

Chapter 5 : Die Upon a Kiss (Benjamin January, Book 5) by Barbara Hambly

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Due to publisher restrictions the library cannot purchase additional copies of this title, and we apologize if there is a long waiting list. Be sure to check for other copies, because there may be other editions available. Excerpts- Chapter One " Benjamin January froze in his tracks. It was past three and bitterly cold. Even in Carnival season, New Orleans had to sleep sometime. January considered turning immediately back to the stage door and retreating through the theater and out to the street by one of the side-doors that admitted patrons to its galleries or pit. He was a big man -- six feet three -- and built on what the slave-dealers at the baracoons along Baronne Street liked to call "Herculean" lines; he could have taken most assailants without trouble. Words had been uttered: It was like escaping from a pack of wild dogs. For a time he stood listening in the darkness. But even in the Halles district, or the St. Antoine, few of the local orgues were dim-witted enough to take on someone who bore that close a resemblance to an oak tree. In New Orleans a white man would do it -- and expect to get away with it -- if his victim was black. That led to the stable yard of the Promenade Hotel, and would be locked, too, at this hour, though the gaming-rooms were still running full-cock. Another carriage rattled by up Camp Street, its occupants blowing horns and banging tin pans. The hell with this. January pulled off his gloves, shifted his music-satchel to his left hand, and balled his right into a fist the size of a cannonball. He took off his hat, and that annoyed him, too: She has worked as both a teacher and a technical editor, but her first love has always been history. As with the other entries in this popular series, the background is a hook on which Hambly hangs her main theme--the conflicts of a society based on race, sex and class. A widowed, European-trained surgeon who makes his living as a piano player and teacher, January is in the orchestra of an Italian opera company backed by the "Americans" who are moving south into New Orleans and threatening the power of the Creoles--those of French and Spanish heritage in a city still French three decades after the Louisiana Purchase. When two members of the company are attacked and a backer murdered, January and his colleague, the erudite, consumptive, white violinist Hannibal Sefton, help their friend Abishag Shaw, the wily Kentuckian of the New Orleans City Guards, to investigate. In an afterword, Hambly describes early 19th-century opera as "grandiose, overblown, politically hot, sometimes silly but enormous fun. Publishers Weekly "As with the other entries in this popular series, the background is a hook on which Hambly hangs her main theme -- the conflicts of a society based on race, sex and class. This one grips the reader from start to finish. Sweeps from lavish balls on elegant river plantations to voodoo rites in Congo Square and savage brawls in mean waterfront dives January proves the ideal guide through these treacherous social strata.

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Chapter 7 : - Die Upon a Kiss (Benjamin January, Book 5) by Barbara Hambly

Die upon a Kiss (Benjamin January Series #5) by Barbara Hambly In February , the cold New Orleans streets are alight with masked Mardi Gras revelers as the American Theater's impresario, Lorenzo Belaggio, brings a magnificent yet controversial operatic version of Othello to town.

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Die Upon a Kiss starts out as a mystery at the opera. It didn't sound very interesting compared to the previous books in the Benjamin January series. It actually took this book awhile to get blog.quintoapp.comr, when it does, it really cooks.