

A Grave Death by Wendy Cartmell

4 Stars

Will they ever find the real killer?

DI Derek Anderson is attending the funeral of his childhood friend, Kevin Dean when he notices a flash of white protruding from the space that's been prepared for the coffin. He immediately stops the funeral and calls in his team, Sgt. Major Tom Crane arrives with one of the junior members of the team, Ciaran. They soon discover that a body has been hastily buried and it is that of Jill Dean, sister of Kevin and Paul.

Tom Crane becomes the lead in the investigation, because of Derek Anderson's long and close friendship with the remaining living brother, Paul. Has he jumped to conclusions that Paul could really be the killer? What reason could this family orientated man possibly have for murdering his siblings?

I loved that Wendy Cartmell has included letters written by Anne Clements to her friend Ada. Anne tells of her time as a worker at the munitions site in Chorley during WW2. The letters begin in 1941 and explain the work she's employed to do and of her growing romance with an African-American soldier, Memphis Jackson. These letters add depth to this complicated storyline. She continued to write to Ada after the war and we learn of her marriage to Joshua Dean and becoming the mother of Paul, Jill and Kevin.

Wendy Cartmell never ceases to amaze me with her convoluted plots. This one had me knowing who the killer was long before the team did, but this fact simply spurred me on to see how long it would take them to discover the facts for themselves.

Treebeard

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.