

From Beyond the Grave by David Spielmann

3 stars

How to recreate a love affair 125 years later.

The storyline of this book is intriguing and a bit different to anything I have read before. Dave and Mike are two normal blokes living in 1976. Dave is single, in his late thirties and bored with his life. Mike, his friend, is upset as he has been told his long-term girlfriend Carol has been seen kissing another man.

They decide to go away for a few days in Dave's camper van to the West Country but suddenly in the middle of the night they encounter an impenetrable fog and when it clears they are suddenly on a farm, but in 1851. This fog appears every six months.

They become involved with the day to day working of a farm and the family living there, in particular Martha who is a childless widow. Dave finds himself drawn towards her and the feeling is completely mutual. They marry but Dave realises that in six months he will need to decide whether to stay in the past or go back to his life and if so will be able to take Martha with him?

Tragedy resolves this problem for him when Martha is killed in an accident and Dave returns to 1976 mourning the only woman he has ever loved.

Dave becomes completely depressed and Mike who is now reunited with Carol (the man she was kissing was her brother!) tells Dave to rekindle his interest in searching his family tree to try and bring him out of his morbid mood. This search brings him into contact with Marcia, a woman the same age and with the same looks as Martha. Could this be a reincarnation of his lost wife?

I will not reveal the ending but his search of local records and the way he gathers together his evidence is well written and almost feasible.

My main problem with this book is just that I did not like the style of writing. It is mostly written in the present tense which I did not like and the language is very simplistic. I called Dave and Mike blokes at the start and the whole book is written in a style that seemed like slang to me. There were also too many events that just seemed totally unrealistic. However it was an enjoyable read but not one to encourage me to read more by this author.

Dexter

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review