

The Seagull by Ann Cleeves

5 stars

Order comes out of chaos in this fascinating missing person/crime investigation.

Detective Vera Stanhope is led to the discovery of two bodies buried close to St Mary's Island in Whitley Bay by her late father's friend John Brace. Brace, a former detective superintendent, is in prison and Vera had a hand in the incarceration for his crimes.

Vera's own upbringing and history is tied into her investigation. She puts the multi-faceted pieces together with a fierce, relentless determination even though some memories and new discoveries are painful to her. The characters in the novel are superbly built alongside the historical reconstruction needed to unveil the complex plot to get to the truth.

The investigation is tangled and messy and mesmerising. But Vera knows the people involved and has an insight into their greedy, self-enriching motives. But out of the many complex characters who is responsible for the two dead bodies hidden in a culvert together? That is what is most spellbinding in this Vera Stanhope series.

BonnieK

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.