
Clare Francis

A Dark Devotion

Title: A Dark Devotion

Author: Clare Francis

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Description

'A Dark Devotion is a treat ... a crime novel with action to keep you guessing until the very end'
Daily Mail

Insightful reviews

Ben: I really enjoy her writing. The story is clever and, I have written this before about Clare Francis, the story just gradually unfolds. It just happens so naturally. This combined with the sensitivity of the narrative main character makes a very enjoyable and memorable book. In short, I like her style.

Pam Mcgurk: I worked out the whodunnit way too early in the novel - I just prefer the author to surprise me especially with a crime / legal thriller.

The setting in the farmlands and marshes near London is well written though.

Sridhar Babu: Author..

Clare Francis..

Location..

Norfolk, London (UK)..

Characters..

Alex O' Neill, Grace Dearden, Will Dearden, Maggie, Charlie, Paul, Edward, Jilly and others..

Genre..

suspense..

PLOT..

Grace Dearden.. charming, caring, beautiful and sweet woman outward,admired and adored by the people of Norfolk village.But a mean, selfish, cruel woman inside. Obsessed to do anything to get what she wants,willing to go any extent to achieve her desire.One night she vanishes into the lonely Norfolk marshes in the black depths of winter, without any trace.

With police investigations going nowhere, Her husband Will Dearden requests his childhood friend Alex O'Neill to investigate the disappearance of Grace. A solicitor by profession, having a troubled relationship with her lawyer husband Paul, Alex O'Neill accepts Will's request and returns to the haunting landscape of her childhood. Alex immediately begins to uncover disturbing new clues. Looking into the Grace's Dairy, address book, telephone receipts, her bank accounts, hotel bookings for the past six month prior to the date of her disappearance, Alex discovers a secret man in Grace's life and a meeting place with the secret lover, in London city at a flat owned by Norfolk doctor Julian Hampton.

With Grace's corpse turning up under the sluice gate of the Gun Marsh embankment, the case now turns into murder investigation.All of a sudden Will becomes prime suspect. His family suffers humiliation from police and local press. Alex teaming with local DI Ramsay, interviews all Grace's close associates in the village. From the interview she discovers that the secret man in Grace's life is none other than her(Alex's) own brother Edward. Grace, unsatisfied and bored by the ordinary middle class life with Will Dearden, wants to leave him for Edward. By making Will

sell the Gun Marsh, the place owned by Dearden family for generations to her lover Edward, she wants to bankrupt Will and leave him. Grace also wants to send her dyslexic son Charlie away to a public school.

At last Alex O'Neill discovers that it was Grace's mother in law Maggie, who killed her (Grace) to save family reputations and to prevent Will from selling their land to Edward, and made it look like an accident. Alex not only as a solicitor, but also as a well wisher of Dearden family, covers the murder and proves it as an unfortunate accident, thereby helping Will to move on in life.

MY COMMENT..

Why this book is so different from other murder mysteries? Because the author has very well narrated, that family values, love, affection and loyalty are very much essential in families. To make marriage a success, Both husband and wife should not have secrets unknown to each other, should be truthful and loyal. If marriage is damaged, better execute the person causing it and save the family.

A crime novel with action to keep you guessing until the very end.

Clare: now not as gripping as Wolf iciness yet nonetheless an relaxing mystery. I loved the quiet calm speed and the surroundings of the tale in Norfolk. The characters were not relatively rounded or full, yet as a no brainer I grew to become fascinated by the story.

Kate Millin: i discovered this ebook tough to place down - the characters are good drawn and their relationships, whereas complicated, particularly believable. I guessed who had 'done it' part manner through, yet doubted my self again and again because the tale developed, until eventually it used to be proven correct on the end. Grace Dearden is beautiful, shrewd permanent and admired. The final individual to vanish into the lonely Norfolk marches within the black depths of winter. With police investigations stalled previous family members buddy Alex O'Neill returns to the haunting panorama of her childhood. And instantly starts to discover aggravating clues.....

Cindy: Her writing is usually poetic, however the publication is way too lengthy for the story. If the publication was once made right into a movie, i may see the size being extra appropriate, yet even then, if I have been the scriptwriter, i would lower outn large chunks of unimportance.

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