

A Dream of Death (2019)

Connie Berry

Author

Set in the United Kingdom, the enchanting Kate Hamilton Mystery follows an American antiques dealer with a knack for solving crimes and her partner-in-detection, Detective Inspector Tom Mallory. Drawing from her unique upbringing, Connie mirrors her own experiences in the series. There are currently six and a half books in the Kate Hamilton Mystery series. *A Dream of Death* is the first book.

Raised by charmingly eccentric antiques collectors who opened a shop, Connie developed a deep appreciation for history, fine art, and travel. With a bachelor's degree in English from DePauw University (Kit's parents' alma mater), Connie furthered her education at the University of Freiburg in Germany and St. Clare's College, Oxford, where she fell under the spell of the British Isles and later earned her master's degree in English Literature at The Ohio State University, diligently typing her thesis at a child-sized table in her sons' playroom.

She enjoys indulging her passions for history, foreign travel, and cute animals finding inspiration in the world around her. Connie resides in central Ohio and northern Wisconsin with her husband and their adorable dog, Emmie. No further info on her sons (and I didn't pry/search).

Characters

Kate Hamilton Bill Hamilton Linnea Larsen Matt Larsen Eric Hamilton Christine Hamilton	Elenor Spurgeon Hewie Spurgeon Becca Wallace (Geoff) Agnes MacLeod Sofia Nancy and Frank Holden Daughter in Dundee	Abraham Arnott Capt. James Arnott Flora Arnott Penny & Cilla Arnott Joseph Former/Current Mrs. Arnotts: Eliza Brodie Maria -? & Daughter
Tom Mallory (Sarah, Olivia) DI Devlin DS Bruce Constable Mackie	Bo Duff Brenda	Jackie MacDonald Dora MacDonald
Dr. Hugh Parker Guthrie Margaret Guthrie	Gowyn Campbell	

Significant Places, Organizations, Dates

Inner Hebrides	10 th Annual Tartan Ball	Sept. 19, 1746
Rum & Eigg	Noble & Sacred Order of the '45	March 9, 1810
Isle of Glenroth	Jacobites	January 18 1811
Cuillin Sound	Stately Homes & Castles	Oct 5, 12, 19,
Harborview Hotel & Marine	Applegarth	Oct 28/29th
Lowlander	Bonnie Prince Charlie	
Inverness	Culloden	

Questions

1. The past plays a role in each of the character's lives. What part does the past play in Kate's life? In the lives of the other characters? How does that past either help or hinder them?
2. What is Kate's ostensible reason for returning to the Isle of Glenroth? Is there an underlying motivation as well, and if so, how does that affect her actions and feelings?
3. Why does Kate feel obligated to help her husband's childhood friend? How have events in her past intensified those feelings?
4. How do the events at the Tartan Ball set up the action that follows?
5. Kate's feelings toward her gift as an antique whisperer are ambivalent at best. Does her experience with the antique casket influence her decision to become involved?
6. What role does Kate's mother play in her life? How are they different? How are they similar?
7. Do you see a similarity between Kate and any of the Scottish characters in the novel? Do you identify with any of the characters? Which reminds you of someone else in your life?
8. Think about the setting of the book—a remote Hebridean island in late autumn. What effect does the setting have on the crime and the investigation? How does the weather affect and/or reflect the action?
9. What part does the legend of Flora Arnott's ghost play in the book?
10. Why do you think Kate remembers and reflects on the words of the Isaac Watt hymn? What does she learn from it in the end?
11. How is Tom Mallory different than Kate's first husband, Bill? Do you think a long-distance relationship can work going forward?
12. Who wrote the notes to Elenor and Kate?
13. What did you think of the twins

Quotes:

Kate: "And the little chest is called a casket." Impending death is no excuse for sloppy terminology.