



A Death in the Dales

Frances Brody

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

A Death in the Dales

Frances Brody

A Death in the Dales Frances Brody

A murder most foul

When the landlord of a Yorkshire tavern is killed in plain sight, Freda Simonson, the only witness to the crime, becomes plagued with guilt, believing the wrong man has been convicted. Following her death, it seems that the truth will never be uncovered in the peaceful village of Langcliffe . . .

A village of secrets

But it just so happens that Freda's nephew is courting the renowned amateur sleuth Kate Shackleton, who decides to holiday in Langcliffe with her indomitable teenage niece, Harriet. When Harriet strikes up a friendship with a local girl whose young brother is missing, the search leads Kate to uncover another suspicious death, not to mention an illicit affair.

The case of a lifetime

As the present mysteries merge with the past's mistakes, Kate is thrust into the secrets that Freda left behind and realises that this courageous woman has entrusted her with solving a murder from beyond the grave. It soon becomes clear to her that nothing in Langcliffe is quite as it appears, and with a murderer on the loose and an ever-growing roster of suspects, this isn't the holiday Kate was expecting . . .

A Death in the Dales Details

Date : Published October 1st 2015 by Piatkus Books

ISBN : 9780349406565

Author : Frances Brody

Format : Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Mystery, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Historical Mystery, Crime

 [Download A Death in the Dales ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Death in the Dales ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online A Death in the Dales Frances Brody

From Reader Review A Death in the Dales for online ebook

GONZA says

Frances Brody tells of the times when, after the end of World War II, have a woman driving through the countryside in English was a source of wonder, imagine if the same woman began to solve mysteries; this time the mystery goes back many years, when the owner of an inn is killed by what looks like the perfect culprit. Freda, the aunt of Lucian, however, has witnessed it all and has always claimed that they had blamed the wrong person, who had been an innocent end up on the gallows, but until her death no one had ever believed her. When Kate and her niece Harriet travelled to the old cottage Freda for a vacation do however soon to realize that things in Langcliffe are much more complicated than they seem. A nice cozy mystery where we have three different plots developing at the same time, but in the end I was a little disappointed because I didn't get the end I wanted.

Frances Brody racconta di tempi quando, dopo la fine della seconda guerra mondiale, avere una donna che guida per le campagne in inglese era fonte di stupore, figurarsi se la stessa donna poi si metteva a risolvere misteri, ma stavolta il mistero risale a tanti anni prima, quando il titolare di una locanda viene ucciso da quello che sembra il colpevole perfetto. La zia di Lucian però ha assistito al tutto ed ha sempre proclamato che avevano incolpato la persona sbagliata, che era stato un innocente a finire sulla forca, ma fino alla sua morte nessuno le aveva mai creduto. Quando Kate e sua nipote Harriet si recano nel vecchio cottage di Freda per una breve vacanza fanno però presto ad accorgersi che le cose a Langcliffe sono ben più complicate di quello che sembrano. Un cozy mystery che é un piacere da leggere, che sviluppa tre trame contemporaneamente e che però non mi ha dato il finale che desideravo.

THANKS TO PIATKUS FOR THE PREVIEW!

QNPoohBear says

Kate decides to take her niece Harriet, who is recovering from diphtheria, on holiday to the Yorkshire Dales. Kate's vacation has an ulterior motive-she will be staying at the home of her beau, Dr. Lucian Simonson's late aunt to get to know him better. Lucian hints that he wants more from their relationship, but Kate isn't sure she wants to marry again. When Kate arrives, she discovers a mystery 11 years old. Miss Freda Simonsen claimed to have witnessed a murder for which an Irishman was convicted and killed. Freda's friend, Mr. Wigglesworth, believes her claims that she saw a third man that night, but the law and the villagers never believed her, causing Freda to become an outcast in her native village. "Wiggy" claims it was Freda's greatest wish to meet Kate and have her investigate the case. Can Kate discover the truth after all this time? Meanwhile, Harriet is eager to assist Kate in her detective work while Kate is eager for Harriet to make friends her own age. Beth, an orphaned mill worker is the first candidate and she brings a new mystery to solve: the case of her missing brother Martin, recently sent out to work on a farm despite being slightly underage. Harriet sees this as her opportunity to solve her first mystery!

The plot of this book gripped me and I could not put it down. I read very late into the night and dreamed about solving cases. I had to wake up really early and keep reading! I ended up skipping extraneous details in the last third of the novel to find out what happened! The reveal was shocking and very sad. I never guessed who or why.

While Kate's cold, impassive narrative style still doesn't appeal to me, I think though, I am getting a better feel for her character, reading between the lines. I don't buy a romance with Lucian at all. Lucian is a very

nice man. I liked him but there was no chemistry between them. He came home from the war seeking peace and domesticity, understandably so; while Kate returned a widow and independent woman. I think she enjoys being independent. It bothers her that Lucian doesn't fully support her work. He feels it is incompatible with his line of work and his position as a villager. I think though part of Kate worries he disapproves of her working in general. Kate seems to like being an independent woman. She has a lively, curious mind and she's taking advantage of new roles for women that have opened up during and after the war. She also doesn't have closure for her husband's death and I think part of her still loves him and is waiting for his return.

Harriet is a fun character. She's a feisty girl who was greatly influenced by her father, who seems to have been involved in organized labor. I don't know her back story yet but I enjoyed the parts of the story told from her point-of-view. She admires and is influenced by her aunt and seems to have the same keen mind and curiosity.

Though Freda Simonsen is no longer living at the time of the story, we learn a lot about her. She sounds like a remarkable woman. I loved how she fought for what she believed to be right, especially women's issues. I was sad she gave up her life to raise her nephew but she seems to have been kind and loving and never resentful. She sought to shield him from village gossip about her and always made sure he had a happy home to come to. She sounds like a remarkable woman I would have liked to have known. The revelation at the end about her last moments with Lucian wouldn't necessarily be a deal breaker for me the way it was with Kate. I don't think what he did was so bad, just sad.

Harriet's friend Beth is probably not someone I'd be friends with. There's nothing really wrong with her but her personality seems a little forceful to me. I understood her worry about her brother and his feelings towards her. He seems like a good boy who is just hurt and confused by the desertion of his father and the death of his mother. He was ready to leave school but not quite ready to work.

The villagers are composed of Mrs. Holroyd, the widow of the murder victim. She's an unpleasant sort of woman I wouldn't want to cross. Mr. and Mrs. Trevelyan and their daughter Susannah are the leading land owners in the area. They seem nice. Bertie is a typical country squire but I didn't like his treatment of Susannah. I loved Susannah. She's shy and bookish like me. Mr. Wigglesworth, the apothecary, is such a dear. I loved him right away though I was slightly suspicious of his role as an apothecary.

Outside the village proper there are the farmers: The Murgatroyds and the Gouthwaites. The Murgatroyds seem like decent people. They're very dedicated farmers. I liked Jenny and wanted her to be happy and have her parents support her. Mr. Gouthwaite is a nasty person and I felt bad for Selina and Martin. I really really felt bad for Martin to be thrust into that situation. I also pitied Selina even all the way to the end. Then there's Gabriel Cherry, a shepherd/farm hand hmmm inspired by Gabriel Oak perhaps? He seems kind like Gabriel Oak but not so noble.

Finally, there's the murder suspect: Jim Flaherty, an Irishman, seems to have been a decent man. I was convinced from the first he was a scapegoat, especially when I learned the murder took place shortly after the Easter Rising.

Fans of the series will be glad to note Sykes and Mrs. Sugden appear in the last third. He's too cold and uncaring for me and I think she is a meddler!

I'm curious enough to go back and read other books in the series now.

Janet Emson says

I received a copy of this book from the publishers and this is my honest opinion of the book.

Kate Shackleton has taken her niece, Harriet, to the countryside to recuperate after an illness. It will also give Kate time to assess her relationship with Lucian Simonson. Staying in Lucian's deceased Aunt Freda's home Kate becomes aware that Freda was a witness to a murder 10 years previously and that she was adamant that the wrong person had been convicted and hung for the crime. Kate is at first reluctant to

Although this is only the second Kate Shackleton book I have read it was lovely to be back with the characters of Kate, Mr Sykes and Mrs Sugden. This time they are joined by Kate's niece, Harriet, who adds another element to the story, keen as she is to be a detective, like her aunt.

The scenery and characters are well drawn. I could easily picture the village and the locals, some of whom have secrets to hide. The atmosphere and feel of the 1920s was portrayed in a great way and I found myself transported back to what I imagine a country village on 1926 would be like.

The mystery was engaging. Was the wrong man hanged ten years ago for the brutal murder of the local pub landlord? Another suspicious death throws confusion into the mix. What does the disappearance of a young boy and an old affair that ended years ago have to do with it. It was lovely to read along and play armchair detective, seeing if I could guess the culprit.

The Kate Shackleton investigations are what I like to call 'gentle' murder mysteries, if you'll excuse the oxymoron. The blood, guts and gore aren't there and this was a time before DNA so investigations are centred on brain power unsupported by science. There's no swearing, violence is hidden and social hierarchy is shown to be important. They are books to curl up with on a rainy day, between episodes of Poirot and Miss Marple.

This is the seventh book in the series and though I prefer to read a series in order this could be read as a standalone. Whilst I'm waiting for the next book I'll just have to go back to the beginning.

Damaskcat says

Kate Shackleton has been offered the use of a house in the Dales by her friend Lucian Simonson. She decides she will take her niece, Harriet there for a short holiday to help her recover from diphtheria. Kate decides she will have a holiday from her own investigations as well.

Almost on her arrival she is approached by a Mr Wrigglesworth who wants her to investigate a murder which was witnessed by Lucian's Aunt Freda - the former owner of the house in which Kate and Harriet are staying. Kate's curiosity gets the better of her good resolutions and she quickly become involved in investigating what appears to be a past miscarriage of justice as well as a suspicious death in the present.

I found this is a satisfying and enjoyable read. I liked Harriet as a character and I hope we shall see more of her in later books. I thought the author captured the atmosphere of the Dales village very well indeed. People are suspicious of newcomers and don't want to talk about past crimes which make Kate's investigations difficult.

I liked the way the author dealt with Kate's budding romance with Lucian and I thought it was very sensitively handled. This is an enjoyable addition to this series.

Michael Tweed says

Very enjoyable well crafted novel.

Melissa says

I enjoyed this entry (#7). I hope that some of the characters in this story will make their way into future books.

"A murder most foul-When the landlord of a Yorkshire tavern is killed in plain sight, Freda Simonson, the only witness to the crime, becomes plagued with guilt, believing the wrong man has been convicted. Following her death, it seems that the truth will never be uncovered in the peaceful village of Langcliffe . . . A village of secrets-But it just so happens that Freda's nephew is courting the renowned amateur sleuth Kate Shackleton, who decides to holiday in Langcliffe with her indomitable teenage niece, Harriet. When Harriet strikes up a friendship with a local girl whose young brother is missing, the search leads Kate to uncover another suspicious death, not to mention an illicit affair. The case of a lifetime-As the present mysteries merge with the past's mistakes, Kate is thrust into the secrets that Freda left behind and realises that this courageous woman has entrusted her with solving a murder from beyond the grave. It soon becomes clear to her that nothing in Langcliffe is quite as it appears, and with a murderer on the loose and an ever-growing roster of suspects, this isn't the holiday Kate was expecting ."

Paromjit says

The author has penned a stylish period murder mystery and captures the wonderful atmosphere of a Dales village of that time. It is both well plotted and structured. Kate takes on the investigation whilst she is living in Lucien's late aunt's home. She is there trying to see if her and Lucien could work out as a couple, and she has brought her convalescing neice, Harriet, with her.

Lucien's aunt had been a lone voice in the village who had argued that the wrong person had been convicted for a murder that had taken place some years ago. At first reluctant, Kate decides to find out what happened. She is aided by the feisty and intelligent Harriet who seems to take after her aunt! They uncover village intrigue and complications. The past and the present collide when another murder occurs.

This is a great read. I found myself immersed in the story and straining to find out how it all ends. There is a surprise ending which I did not see coming. I can recommend this novel to all those who enjoy a good entertaining mystery. I would like to thank the publisher via goodreads giveaways for a copy of the book.

Rebecca McNutt says

I received a copy of this book in a Goodreads giveaway.

Death in the Dales is a great book; I loved the authors vibrant descriptions of the rural scenery, the originality of the characters, the captivating plot and the vivid vocabulary. The main heroine is very remarkable and likeable and brings out somebody readers can easily relate to in the story. However I found that the mystery itself was rather predictable and the story did drift off-topic many times. Nonetheless I still really enjoyed this novel and I would definitely recommend it to any mystery or crime genre fan.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

I was quite thrilled when I was given a chance to read the latest Kate Shackleton book since this is a series I have been meaning to try out but never got to.

Amateur sleuth Kate Shackleton and her niece Harriet is on holiday in the little village of Langcliffe. Harriet has recently recovered from diphtheria and Kate thought it would be good for her to get away from the town and spend two weeks in the country. Kate is also planning to spend some time with Lucian Simonson, the local doctor to see if they have a future together and it is his late aunt's house they are living in during their stay. But it seems that Lucian aunt all along wanted to meet Kate and to get Kate to help her clear an innocent man's name. It seems that 10 years prior to the present day in the book a man was killed and Freda witness the murderer, but she is convinced that the wrong man was convicted. Now it seems that Kate has a new mission.

This is the kind of book you want to curl up in the sofa with and with a large cup of tea or coffee. It's a cozy mystery book and it was no problem whatsoever getting into the story and get to know the characters. I did think the pacing of the book was a bit slow and I felt that not much happened for a while in the book other than Kate trying to find out the truth about the murder and looking after Harriet. The town's people are quite convinced that the right man was convicted for the murder and it's been ten years since the murder so Kate hasn't got that much to go on. So much of the book was spent trying to find anyone that would have motive and means to kill the poor man. But towards the ending it got better when it pieces started to come together. And, Frances Brody really manages to write an ending I never expected. I'm really impressed with that.

One thing I reflected on while I read the book was that Kate didn't seem that in love with Lucian. She is contemplating a future as a doctor's wife, but I really didn't feel any passion between them. It felt more like two old friends when they were together. I have only read this book, but I feel that she really needs someone more passionate than Lucian. I hope she finds him.

It was a good book. I enjoyed reading it. The pacing could have been better, but I do look forward to reading more books in this series especially the books before because I curious to learn more about Kate and her family.

Thank you Piatkus for providing me with a free copy for an honest review!

Susan says

Such a delightful, British series. The narrator is outstanding. I'm looking forward to the entire series.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

The latest in this savvy historical mystery takes Kate to a small town full of dark secrets. A mystery that is also a character(s) study. Worth the read!

Reviewed for Affaire de Coeur Magazine: <http://affairedecoeur.com>.

Anji says

Really enjoyed this book for a light, page turner read. Well written, believable characters. Loved the location, knowing the place well I could imagine it all. A good story.

Maureen says

In 'A Death in the Dales' our female detective Kate Shackleton is on holiday with her teenage niece Harriet. This holiday is supposed to give Kate her much needed rest and Harriet her strength back, after a short sickbed. Together Kate and Harriet stay in Langcliffe, in the house of Lucian's deceased Aunt. Since Lucian is courting Kate, this vacation seems to be the perfect way to see if a marriage will work between them and to get the house of Lucian's Aunt Freda cleaned up. But soon Kate finds out Freda witnessed a murder years ago, where an innocent man was hanged for. Freda was never able to prove the man's innocence and it haunted her till the day she died.

Now Kate is determined to get to the bottom of this, together with the help of her niece.

I loved the mystery in 'A Death in the Dales', and the way it stayed mysterious until the very end. The characters and the way this book takes place in the 1920's, makes this book even more enjoyable. I loved how the characters interacted with each other and how the etiquettes in that time came back in this book. It's just so fun to read about that time and to imagine yourself as a part of that time.

The character I liked the most was definitely Kate. It can't be easy to be a young amateur female detective in the 1920's. But Kate Shackleton really did it well. I loved how strong she was and how she worked hard to find out the truth. She was kind and passionate and she really is just a perfect female heroine.

There also is a little romance in this book. Lucian is obviously trying to charm Kate. And although Kate seems to like Lucian, I just didn't like the guy from the beginning. I don't have an obvious reason for it, but I just felt like something was off with him. Thankfully, the author revealed everything in the end and I don't have to wonder about him anymore.

This being the second book in the Kate Shackleton series I read, I can definitely say I really recommend this book. It's a fun book and works perfect for a cold evening.

Heather Duff says

It is the time of the year when it is crisp and cold outside (I'm in Scotland!) and I just want to cosy up with a cosy mystery. So Frances Brody has not disappointed with her Kate Shackleton mysteries.

Taking us back to the 1920's, this novel takes Kate to the Yorkshire dales, her companion is her niece Harriet, who is convalescing from an illness and as she is a fourteen year old girl she has an opinion on everything!

They are staying in the house of Kate's gentleman friend Lucian, the house did belong to his late aunt and because of her there is a mystery to be solved.

A pub landlord murdered, the wrong man convicted, Lucian's aunt saw the murderer and till her dying day was convinced that the man she saw carrying out the murder was not the man in prison for the crime. This led to her being ostracised by her fellow villagers who believe the right man was imprisoned.

Kate believes she can get to the bottom of it, to clear the man's name, to clear Lucian's aunts name but as she delves in to the past of the village she gets caught up in the affairs of the present.

For a small village there is quite the tangled web of intrigue and the presents problems seem to be connected to those events in the past.

Can Kate solve the mystery?

Cosy, compelling and wonderfully weaved, the landscape, the characters are just beautifully written. I love these books as reading them is like taking a step back in to the past and discovering old friends there.

A death in the dales in a great read, so cosy up in your chair of choice and help Kate solve the mystery!

Thanks to Piatkus for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review.

Agi says

"A Death in the Dales" is the second book by Frances Brody that I have read, and one that I eagerly awaited - I totally fell in love with Kate Shackleton and with her adventures, and what a joy it is to read a book about private investigator that doesn't have any modern devices, such as internet, mobiles and other fancy helping things, and the only thing she can rely on is her own brain and logical thinking - it so refreshing.

Even though "A Death in the Dales" is a part of the mystery series featuring the above mentioned Kate (and also, for good measure, the ex - policeman, Jim Sykes and Kate's housekeeper, Mrs Sugden), this book can be read and enjoyed as a stand - alone novel.

I have a feeling that there is a great successor growing just under Kate's wings, her niece Harriet, whom the author introduces to us in this book. Harriet is young and has thirst for knowledge, and she by all means wants to be Kate's assistant. Harriet is like her aunt, outruns the times she's living in, they're both intelligent and clever, and I totally adored the ways they conducted their investigations. Kate is, as always, discreet and knows no limits in her investigations, and even though she's on holidays this time, her work comes first. And as usual, when Kate starts to investigate one thing, she soon finds herself involved in many other different matters, that starts to roll like a little snowball, to finally turn into a real avalanche. But no matter how much I like Kate, the story really gained a real speed when Jim Sykes and Mrs Sugden arrive to the little town Langcliffe and take matters in their hands as well - they are the best addiction to the story, I think it wouldn't be the same without them.

Investigations, you may ask? Yes, investigations, plural, because where Kate is, there are many mysteries to

solve. I don't want to give anything away because I don't want to spoil your reading - and you MUST read this book! It's elegant, clever, it has style and even though it takes part between the two wars, it reads like a modern story - but believe me, there is not a single second flat in this book, and it still feels like reading a book set in 1920's - the vocabulary, the way the characters behave and talk, their clothes, it was so spot on and felt so realistic. One mystery carries the next, but yet the reader doesn't feel overwhelmed with the plethora of information or puzzles.

There is such a feeling of peacefulness to this story. Of course, as it's a cosy crime, there is murder and many other things that I didn't expect, but it is told with style, in a gentle way, without unnecessary drama or pumping up the atmosphere. About the things I didn't expect - it is really incredible how much the author squeezed between the covers of this book, and even though the events and situations were unexpected for me, they suit the story and fit in the plot wonderfully.

There are plenty of characters in this story, but they are very distinctive and I didn't have any problems to know who is who and why. Each of the characters has their own story, and we have not only murder and a sentence of an innocent person, but we have children looking for brothers and sisters, mysterious death of a healthy man, farmers living secluded with their own secrets, love letters stolen and a little town that - this time - doesn't know all the secrets! Perhaps it is so because they didn't have internet in those times and people kept themselves to themselves. But back to the characters - they were all so significant to the plot, and their stories intertwined and made a brilliant, hooking book that I've read in two days - I couldn't put it down. The author pays attention to all of the characters, and even if they are the background ones, I still had a feeling that I know them and that I can understand their actions.

There was also so much love to the details in the story, and I had a feeling that every single word is this of the utmost significance. The author puts a lot of effort to explain everything and to write things in such a way that we don't feel confused, but yet she adds a mystery here and there and, in fact, we truly don't know what we can expect and how it's going to end, which I, personally, was loving. I wasn't even trying to guess who's the real murderer because I was sure that I'm going to be wrong, and so I let the author to take me with her on this brilliant journey, together with Kate and Harriet. Yes, I had a feeling that some of the threads were left open, such as Harriet plotting something with Suzannah, I had a feeling they are for some mischief or to investigate on their own, but this, in fact, didn't spoil the whole reading.

I have truly enjoyed this book, it has totally fulfilled my expectations. It felt so different, so fresh and so clever, a story written with a lot of subtlety and gentleness, and also with a great dose of humour. Even though the plot was complex and the author was adding new mysteries on the way, it was still a very neat, logical read, and the characters were brilliant representatives of this age. It was truly wonderfully pieced together and I really can't wait for more Kate's adventures.

Copy received from publisher in exchange for a review.
