



Dearly Departed

Hy Conrad

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Fanny and Amy Abel, the dynamic mother-and-daughter owners of a NYC travel agency, have just booked their biggest trip yet. But with danger in the air, the itinerary may include murder...

Paisley MacGregor, a maid to the rich, made a dying request to send all of her wealthy employers on a first-class wake to spread her ashes around the world. Amy has her suspicions about these “mourners,” especially when one has a life-threatening “accident” at the first stop in Paris. And when a mysterious American stranger tagging along with the group has his ticket punched in the shadow of the Taj Mahal, Amy knows she may have a killer on her tour.

Who was this stranger, and what’s the connection to someone in her group? Digging for clues while continuing on with the trip is a lot for Amy to manage, especially when another mourner has a possibly fatal encounter with a Hawaiian volcano. Back in the States, Fanny and Amy start to piece together a secret worth killing for, but someone is hot on their trail, and ready to send them on a one-way trip—to the morgue!

Dearly Departed Details

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From Reader Review Dearly Departed for online ebook

Stormi (BMReviewsohmy) says

Though I thought the ending sort of dragged out a little I must say that I enjoyed this one much more than the first book in this series.

Amy's travel agency isn't doing very well. Having a murder happen on your murder mystery tour doesn't help. Though some people are morbid enough to want to go on murder mystery tour after hearing they actually had a murder she just can't make herself book another one.

Peter who also has a travel agency and is crushing on Amy invites her to help him with his newest assignment. He is hoping spending time together she would see that she might actually like him. One of his old maids Paisley has died and he has been assigned to make sure that her ashes travel to various destinations and that several of her old bosses go along to spread them.

Things were going fine at first but then of course it doesn't last. They don't actually have a murder in the tour but there is a murder and one of the tourist could be the murderer. Amy just can't find the connection between the victim and her group.

Her mother and her boyfriend Marcus get in on the hunt for the killer back at home by trying to get into Paisley's home which doesn't go well. It does get Detective Rawlings attention as the man was from New York. They don't find the suspect while on the tour and it ends and they are all back home.

The hunt for the killer continues on american soil and could prove to be very dangerous.

The mystery was done well as I had several suspects, but the hunt for the killer and catching him just sort of drug on a bit in my opinion.

I like Amy and her mother Fanny, they are fun characters. I really love her mother she is so funny but if I was Amy I might want to smack her a few times...lol. I don't like her boyfriend Marcus, if I had to choose I would rather she be with Peter. Marcus is a conman more or less, he lost his job and then got his new job by being sketchy. I just don't like him.

I think because this author wrote some of the MONK books that his cozies sort of play out a bit more like a clean detective book but with an amateur sleuth. If you like that sort of book then you will enjoy this series. It does have some funny moments and overall I did like it.

Kristina says

Dearly Departed by Hy Conrad is the second book in Amy's Travel Mystery series. Amy Abel runs Amy's Travel (they do custom travel excursions) with her mother Franny. If business does not pick up soon, though, they will have to close (the lawsuits do not help). Peter Borg (also has a travel agency) asks Amy to help him plan a trip for the mourners of Paisley MacGregor. Paisley was a maid who considered her employers her families. She collected their travel pictures and kept them on a piano in her apartment (she always wanted to travel). Unbeknownst to many of them Paisley was rich (thanks to an inheritance from employers). Her dying wish was for all of her families to go on a trip around the world (first class all the way) depositing her ashes as each destination. Amy will get to go along on the trip as well. To Amy's shock all the families agree

to the trip and they set off for their first destination. At their first stop in Paris, Laila Steinberg suffers a severe allergy attack (allergic to nuts). When they try her epi pen, it is empty. Laila is rushed to the hospital. Amy is highly suspicious. Did someone sabotage Laila? Amy goes into high alert when she notices a stranger following them. Then the stranger ends up dead. What is going on? Amy sets out to find some answers with the help of her mother, Franny and boyfriend, Marcus (both in the states). Do they have a murderer on the tour? After an incident with a volcano in Hawaii, they all head home. They need to find out the connection between the murdered man (stranger that was following them), Paisley, and the group. Will they find the answers they seek in Paisley's apartment? Amy will not give up until all her questions are answered.

I found Dearly Departed to be too silly. Would a travel agent take ashes on an international trip without the proper paperwork (winging it seems very unprofessional and you know something is going to happen to those ashes). I wanted more substance and mystery (which was so simple to solve). It is not necessary to read the first book in the series (the author explains most of what happened). I found it to be a superficial book and a little boring (I started dreaming up my own alternate endings to the book). I give Dearly Departed 2.75 out of 5 stars (I did not like it). I will not, though, be reading any more books in this series. This series is just not my style.

I received a complimentary copy of Dearly Departed in exchange for an honest review.

Check out my blog for additional details: <http://bibliophileandavidreader.blogs...>

Nancy H says

This mystery involves Amy and her travel agency as she takes a trip around the world with the intent of scattering the ashes of a very wealthy woman who had once acted as a maid to several families. The woman found out all the secrets of the families and later used that information against them, in a way that ultimately results in a murder while the group is in India. Amy is tempted to let that go when the Indian police insist it was just a mugging, until there are more threats later and eventually, (view spoiler)

Richard Goodman says

Another fun read in the series. I initially started reading them because of the travel theme but that is clearly secondary to the mystery aspect which is a shame. In fact, the logistics of travel seem almost effortless to these high-end travelers. There are so many oddball things that can happen during a trip which is what I was hoping to read about. Still, I like the characters so I will read more of the series and see where it goes.

Dawn Frazier says

I love the idea of this series, traveling to other countries, etc. But I just can't connect with the main character.

Suzanne says

This was a surprise to me. I picked the book because it sounded intriguing. A maid dies, and asks her wealthy employers to travel the world to spread her ashes.

All were willing to go this extra mile for Paisley MacGregor. Of course all expenses were paid by her. A wealthy woman who works as a maid? Well it takes all kinds.

Peter Borg, the travel agent who was an employer of MacGregor asked Amy Abel, of Amy's Travel to accompany him and help with the rich and picky people.

Amy's agency isn't doing great so she agrees. A free trip around the world first class, private jet, sounds perfect. She's also hoping that this trip will help put the stigma of a murder on her last tour behind her.

The group travels to Paris, Turkey, where a mysterious man is murdered, then on to India and the Taj Mahal, Beijing each spreading a little of MacGregor's ashes at each stop and finally Hawaii. There on the rim of the volcano on the Island of Kona where the reading of her will takes place, and one of the travelers disappears. As much as I hate to admit it I was totally wrong on the killer and the motive. I should have picked up on the little clues but to tell you the truth, I was enjoying the characters too much.

Since this is the second in the series, (it sounded better to my mood on Sunday) I had to visualize them on my own. Which was easy to do.

Hy Conrad writes with such ease and can describe a character in very few words and give them a personality that had me chuckling throughout the book. Especially Fanny, Amy's mother. For some reason I pictured the nosey neighbor in Funny Girl with Sophia Pattillo's (mom in Golden Girls) spunk.

This book was so enjoyable that I really have trouble writing a review because I would give away the whole story line and ending. So it involves, a nosey maid who died of cancer, and held a lot of secrets. 2 murders, 2 attempted murders, and an accidental (I'm still not sure about that) death.

If you decide to read it I hope you enjoy it as much as I did

Susan says

A mildly entertaining story of Amy Abel, who runs a travel agency with her mother. This turned out to be #2 in the series, so references to the previous book pretty much went over my head. A tour is arranged for the employers of a former maid to travel around scattering the maid's ashes at various tourist locations such as the Taj Mahal and the Great Wall. When a couple of murders occur, Amy is afraid the publicity will ruin her business. But her mother has already done a pretty good job of that. A light read, not good enough to tempt me into the series, though.

Maureen Hetzel says

Somehow this trio of main characters didn't work for me. The mother was annoying and controlling and the daughter in the travel agency was very unfocused. The idea of a group of travelers together when a murder happens has been used multiple times in the past....to much more success. Stock characters and derivative plot.

Tanya Dominguez blackwell says

Exactly what I wanted!

I enjoy lighthearted mysteries. If you do to then this is for you. The travel descriptions and multiple subplots keep this from being your typical somewhat boring cozy. And it's perfect. There is enough going on to keep you up at night but not so creepy or bloody to give you nightmares. Again, perfect balance. Thanks By Conrad!

Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says

Review: DEARLY DEPARTED by Hy Conrad

DEARLY DEPARTED is a truly cool cozy, truly delightful: engrossing, at times dangerous, at times lighthearted, variably romantic, humorous, wraparound comfy: the perfect kind of cozy. I must read the first in the series (TOURED TO DEATH; DEARLY DEPARTED is #2 in the AMY'S TRAVEL MYSTERY Series). Amy and mother Fanny are a pair of enterprising travel agents [and in this era of online travel booking, "enterprising" is essential). With a flair for the dramatic and outre, they're following up the first fatal mystery-road rally with a five-stop global tour to wake the late former maid, Paisley MacGregor. Several former employers will drink, dine, and commemorate the exceptional MacGregor while strewing her ashes. What could possibly go wrong? What, indeed!

Laura says

Great Book!

This is a great book; this is the second book in the Amy's Travel Mystery series by Hy Conrad. Fanny and Amy Abel are mother and daughter who owns a NYC travel agency. Paisley MacGregor, a maid to the rich made a dying request to send all of her wealthy employers on a first class wake to spread her ashes around the world. When one of the mourners has a life threatening accident, Amy is determined to find out what is going on. If you are looking for a great mystery then you need to read this book, I am looking forward to reading more books by this author.

A Review copy was provided to me in exchange for a fair and honest review. The free book held no determination on my personal review.

Kristine (A Cozy Booknook) says

This is the second book in the series and it's very enjoyable! Amy has been asked to book a wake tour for the former employers of Paisley McGregor, a maid who became wealthy herself. Paisley intends to have her former employers sprinkle her ashes at stops along the tour and at the final stop have her will read. As Amy soon finds out, they are some people on the tour who have secrets they would rather keep buried and will murder anyone who gets in their way.

I enjoyed the characters, especially Amy, Fanny, and Marcus (Amy's boyfriend). Fanny is my favorite character, she is very entertaining and quite funny. The story is well written, with plenty of suspects and red herrings. I was kept guessing until the end. This can easily be read as a stand-alone, I didn't have an opportunity to read the first book and didn't feel lost. I'm eager to read the first book to see what happened.

I received an advanced review copy from the publisher, via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Teresa Kander says

This is the second book in the series, but the first that I have read. There are a few mentions of incidents from the first book, but not enough to prevent this one from being enjoyable.

This is one of the most humor-filled cozies I have read in a long time. However, that is not to say that the humor overpowers the mystery. It merely adds to the fun of reading the book.

Amy is a great main character, and someone I would love to travel with in real life (except for that pesky murder thing that happens around here all the time!). Her mother, Fanny, is also a lot of fun. Their relationship lends itself to a lot more fun in the future, as well.

Going along on the worldwide "farewell tour" for Paisley MacGregor gives the reader a chance to "see" places we might never get to see otherwise. Can't wait to see where Amy and Fanny take us next!

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions are entirely my own.

Nese says

The book has such an intriguing and original story line, one with a millionaire maid who appeared so dedicated and loyal to her employers and one treated them like family while alive but there was much more to her as the families find out after her demise. The story starts with her last wish of her beloved employers visiting exotic locations first class, she never got to see since she lived vicariously through others, paid by their beloved maid. Although the story flows well, the story line and the murder mystery are linear without much of twists and turns, and the characters are one dimensional. The travel destinations are referred by the name of the cities without descriptions of the environment, food, or people. In addition, the book has a very subtle xenophobia showing the author's biases about developing countries, especially in the descriptions and impressions of India and China and stereotyping a female character as "typically shy Middle Eastern woman...with grateful helplessness." Never mind Turkey is Near East not Middle East and Turks are descendants of Ottoman Turks and are not Arabs as the author refers. Traveling without appreciating, and learning about the cultures and people one visits is nothing but sightseeing since the world is so rich in history and culture and the people anywhere are fascinating. The book is supposed to combine murder mystery and travel, unfortunately it misses the mark in both.

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

You're going to love the trip you take when reading DEARLY DEPARTED!

While this is the second book in the Amy's Travels Mysteries, this is the first for me. Author Hy Conrad mentions enough from book one, TOURED TO DEATH, to keep the reader from feeling lost.

As witty as it is mystery filled, DEARLY DEPARTED was a fun read that I truly enjoyed. Well written, and very intriguing, this story really kept me guessing. A clever whodunit, I tried to figure out who did do it all

the way to the surprising reveal.

I enjoyed series lead, Amy and her mother, Fanny. It was fun to get to see some of the world with them and the other wide variety of characters that traveled with us. Each character brought so much to the story...even characters no longer there.

If you love a good mystery, and you enjoy traveling, DEARLY DEPARTED is the perfect book for you!

Did you miss the first book in this series, TOURED TO DEATH? Check out the excerpt at the back of DEARLY DEPARTED!
