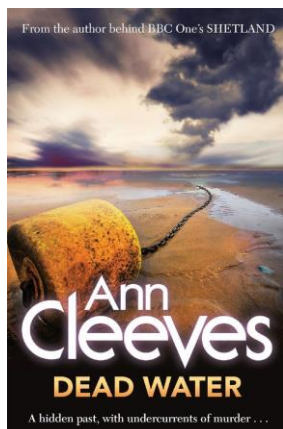


Compilation Review of Dead Water by Anne Cleeves

This is a detective book where a grieving local detective clashes with an incoming supervisor but they then go on to solve a pair of murders on the main island of Shetland.

Not long after photojournalist Jerry Markham has returned to Shetland after years in the south, someone runs his car off the foggy road from the oil terminal in Sullom Voe. Rhona Laing, the Procurator Fiscal of the district, finds his body in the boat.



Then DI Willow Reeves arrives from the West Hebrides to supervise the subsequent investigation, she is occasionally highhanded with the local force, including Detective Jimmy Perez. Who resents taking orders from a stranger, especially one he's attracted to in spite of himself. Interviews with Markham's family, his best friend, Evie, the young woman Markham got pregnant and abandoned, and the widower she's about to marry point to a green-energy movement as a common denominator among the involved parties. Then the man who was going to marry Evie is murdered. Perez and Reeves further question the real motive behind the murders and demand to know what Laing is hiding.

Most people agreed that the book was an easy read and entertaining

"I really enjoyed this book and found it a very easy pleasurable read."

".....this Ann Cleeve novel I actually really enjoyed and reads far better than the couple of episodes of the TV Shetland series I recently watched."

"...It was a fairly easy read..."

"It was good to have this different genre of book to read for book-club, and this was one for light entertainment....., not requiring a lot of thought – let the detectives do their job is my attitude – and only challenging , to me, in trying to visualise the community and their setting."

"I read this book in 4 to 5 days, which is a first for me,"

"Ann Cleeves writes a very good story – lots of twists and turns and possible reasons for the murder that turns out to be red herrings. She keeps your interest...."

"I found this book entertaining, It reminded me of the days I devoured Enid Blyton mysteries and the suspense at the end of a chapter hurled me into the next chapter. "

"I read the book in a day, thoroughly enjoyed it"

"enjoyed reading this novel overall. "

Almost everyone enjoyed the setting ...

"However In the novel the Nordic landscape felt accurate..... I think the setting of the oil and gas exploration was spot on from my recollection of previous work experience in the oil industry when I was young. The green issues were informative and thought provoking. The economic background and descriptions of island life researched by the author seemed authentic and made the read particularly worthwhile."

"I also loved the descriptions of the setting for the crimes in Sullom Voe etc."

"A book which I felt portrayed the isolated life of the islanders, descriptive scenery...."

"Ann Cleeves set her story in Shetland and wrote the mix of islanders and incomers, old traditions and new technologies to be found there."

...although some were unimpressed

"I was unable to conjure up satisfactory images of the scenes and scenery from her descriptions, possibly because I have never been there."

...and some found it confusing and would have liked a map

"I like the geography to be accurate and had a map of Shetland out while I was reading the book."

"I especially liked the Shetland setting: the politics around oil and alternative energy sources; tensions between locals and incomers (soothmothers); and the description of the fluidity of the water and the land. I would have appreciated a map though as it was confusing working out where each place was in relation to the other. "

Most people liked her main characters although several people felt there were too many

".....but I felt she described her characters so well"

"The characters portrayed were therefore quite divers and I found them to be believable."

".... the number of characters was a challenge."

"Keeping a hold of all the people and their relevance to the plot was quite difficult for me.

.....I did like the characterisation of Jimmy Perez,"

"-I admire her writing because of the way she intricately constructs her characters e.g., Jimmy Perez, Willow etc. "

"Her characters have a good depth to them and their interactions"

".....very descriptive with interesting believable characters"

"The large number of characters was also a little confusing and a couple less wouldn't have harmed the story. "

People were less sure regarding the credibility of the murderer

".... the murder plot almost believable"

"because I thought that the behaviour of the actual murderer was a bit far-fetched, and not really convincing

"There are incidents that aren't totally explained until later in the book....."

".....and was disappointed with the final revelation. I had already picked him out as the most likely suspect but was thrown by the second murder which to me is quite implausible."

"I found the ending quite disappointing as, to me, it seemed to come out of nowhere and I wasn't entirely convinced by how the detective had worked it out. "

".....for me a disappointing conclusion"

In conclusion most would be willing or eager to read more of Ann Cleeve's books

"I say again a good reason for belonging to a book group to read something very different from one's normal comfort choice"

"I don't usually read modern crime fiction so I found this book a change.I would be quite likely to read another of her books in the future."

"I might read another of her books to meet Jimmy Perez again."

"I look forward to more of her writings in book form and the TV series that come from them like Vera."

"It was well written with no bad language. I would read the other 'Shetland' books"