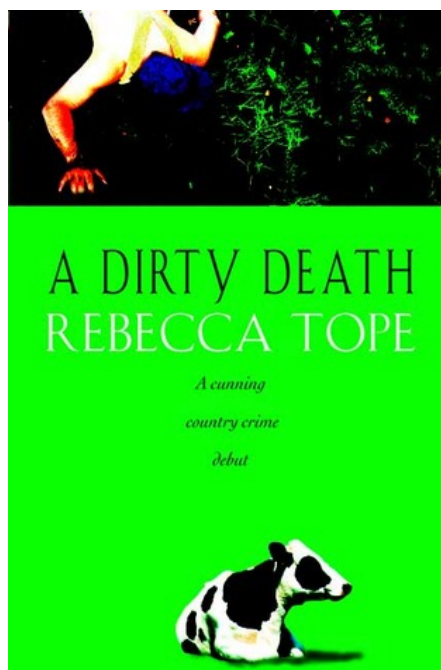




A Dirty Death

Rebecca Tope

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When irascible farmer Guy Beardon meets a very dirty death in his own farmyard, it seems like an accident at first, despite the fact that he was widely disliked. But when his daughter Lilah slowly begins to suspect foul play, no one is eager to help her investigation. Suspicion becomes certainty when two more deaths occur, both of which are unmistakably murder...

The difficulty lies in discovering who among the farmer's many enemies hated him enough to want him dead and then went on killing to conceal the truth. Could it be the disagreeable vicar? The self-absorbed widow? The crusty Wing Commander? The too-good-to-be-true freelance computer whiz? No one wants to get involved, and even the ubiquitous village gossip seems to know more than she will admit...

Set amidst the muck and mayhem of contemporary farming life, *A Dirty Death* is an entertaining and authentic crime debut.

A Dirty Death Details

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Author : Rebecca Tope

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From Reader Review A Dirty Death for online ebook

Fran says

I read the whole Costwolds series and liked most of them. So I was really enthusiastic about reading more of Tope's books. This book, however, turned out to be a disappointing read. It was so boring that I stopped reading after just one third.

Brenda says

I'm not usually a big fan of British mysteries for some reason. This seemed to take me forever to get through but I didn't completely guess who-done-it before the end and that's always a plus.

Mavis Hewitt says

Quite a long book, length is used to build up the tension and confusion as to who is doing the killings and more over what the motive is, as the victims appear unconnected. Called a West Country story, but other than occasional references to things like 'Devon hedges' I didn't feel it was anymore specifically Devon, than any other rural farming area. Didn't realise this was the first of a series, will read others if I see them, but won't go searching for them.

Megan Davis says

A somewhat cozy British mystery with an interesting premise, a fluffed out, substantially dull middle, and a not so satisfying conclusion.

Yes, I was disappointed. This was my first Tope, and I am told that her other, earlier works are better. I hope so, for the sake of those who like her stories, because I don't think I will be reading any more.

The main character was boring. Actually most of the characters were rather flat. I felt as if Tope were trying too hard to make things interesting. Hence the fluffed out middle. I was bored to tears in places.

There were also places where I felt she dropped accidental red herrings that she didn't even notice herself. For instance, there were plenty of opportunities for her to bolster up the plot by playing on some of the situations she described at length. But apparently she just wanted to describe things for no apparent reason.

My husband laughed when I declared, "Finally, someone else died!"

The ending was unsatisfactory, in my opinion, because although the motives were workable, I didn't find them believable enough, especially for the chosen culprits. One in particular really didn't stand to gain a thing.

I only really persevered because the book was a gift.

Annette Meier says

New-to-me author that I find I really like. The story got off to a bit of a slow start, but as the characters and plot developed it all came together for a great mystery - plenty of hints to lead the reader astray as to "who did it".

Pam Baddeley says

I found it a riveting page turner from the start. Lilah is the daughter of a farmer who is not popular with many in the local area, and the nightmare starts for her when she finds him dead in the slurry pit one morning. As the story develops, more people come under suspicion, especially when the deaths begin to mount up.

I liked the characterisation where Lilah and her mother in particular are developed as very different people who rub each other up the wrong way, and where emotions such as shock are dealt with in a realistic and powerful way. There is also a subplot of a love interest between Lilah and Den, a police constable she once had a crush on at school.

The setting is also very well realised, certainly for the period when written (1999), obviously due to the author's own practical experience with life on a farm and looking after livestock. I've only read this author's cozy crime novels previously, but this shows that she is more than capable of producing a darker story dealing with the undercurrents of emotion and spite in a rural setting.

Shonna Froebel says

This English mystery is set on a farm near a small village. Guy Beardon is the victim of the very dirty death referred to in the book's title, drowning in a slurry pit. At first everyone, including the police assume it is an accident. But when another death occurs, second looks are taken.

Guy's daughter Lilah finds herself suspicious of everyone except her younger brother and the young policeman she went to school with. As she interacts with people from the village, she finds herself looking carefully at their actions and questioning their motives. She is also compelled to look closer at her own relationship with her father and the influence he had on her life.

An interesting mystery, as well as watching a young woman forced to face adulthood with the loss of her father, a very quick growing up.

Karen wadey says

This is my first kindle read so I was pleased to say I found it very easy going but it kept me guessing who the killer was right to the end, I look forward to reading more.

Elizabeth says

Others have given a good synopsis of the plot so I will just say that the best part of this book is the descriptions of the family reactions to death and murder of a loved one. The inability to accept things, the difficulties of social interactions with people who are afraid to talk to you, suspicious of you or just plain uneasy in your presence.

I had a hard time accepting that people who suspected that the first death in the book was murder didn't tell the police about the person who was a stranger in town and had a public confrontation with the victim. Even the inveterate gossips felt this was unimportant. Huh?

Also there was an incident of a shoe in the slurry pond which no one felt the size of which could help find the killer, rather the finger was pointed at one who would have had a Cinderella ugly stepsister moment if the shoe had been tried on Arghh!

But I liked the book and would read another by this author.

Caroline Ryan says

If you like Midsomer Murders then you'll like these books. A great story, several murders, lots of twists and turns and I didn't work out who dunnit! Easy reading. Great.

Patricia says

Really enjoyed this first book in the West Country series.

Carol says

I will definitely read more of Rebecca Tope. Her mystery syle made it difficult to figure out who committed the three murders in the West Country community. The writing was awkward in spots and the characters were a bit undefined but the plot made up for these lapses.

Kirsty Darbyshire says

This is the author's first book but if I hadn't have known it then I wouldn't have guessed it. Good characters and a solid plotline with hardly any slow moments. Another English farm that's firmly in the nineties (or could be the naughties even) with the almost universally disliked farmer drowning in his own slurry pit. Another author on my lookout list.

Bev Taylor says

literally!

guy is found dead in a slurry pit and it is deemed an accident. he was not well liked amongst the villagers though his daughter adored him

then one of their neighbours is murdered and his brother critically murdered. r these events linked?

lilah is sure her father was murdered and works hard to prove this. and local policeman den cooper has to sort thru all the many suspects in the village to arrive at the answer - or answers

this story was very drawn out and could have been condensed to 300 pages with much more impact. as it is u have to contend with 500. also the amount of narrative again takes away from getting a true feel of the characters and the situations

one small point - no way would den not have interviewed phoebe and her daughter

3.5 stars

bev

Angie Perkins says

Enjoyable and certainly unusual circumstances!
