



## Dead End

*Rachel Lynch*

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## Dead End Rachel Lynch

When the seventh Earl of Lowesdale is found hanging from the rafters at Wasdale Hall, everyone assumes the aging, hard-partying aristocrat had finally had enough of chasing the glory of his youth. But when the coroner finds signs of foul play, **DI Kelly Porter** is swept into a luxurious world where secrets and lies dominate.

At the same time, two young hikers go missing and it's up to Kelly to lead the search. But digging deeper reveals ties to two other unsolved disappearances and Kelly and her team find themselves in a race against time.

Now, as all roads of both investigations and Kelly's own family secrets lead to Wasdale Hall it becomes more important than ever for Kelly to discover the devious truths hidden behind the walls of the Lake District's most exclusive estate...

**Don't miss this gripping crime thriller featuring an unforgettable detective. Perfect for fans of Angela Marsons, Patricia Gibney and Robert Bryndza.**

Detective Kelly Porter Series Dark Game Deep Fear **Dead End** **Praise for *Dead End*: 'Rachel Lynch is a very talented crime writer who knows just how to keep her audience glued to every word!'** \*5 Reader review

**'It's hard to describe how much I loved this book ... I found this book utterly compelling reading, I nearly finished it in one long sitting'** \*5 Reader review

**'Another decent, drama filled read in what is shaping up to be a solid crime series. Fast paced and gritty with relatable characters and enough twists to keep you guessing'** 4\* Reader review

**'The third of the series, but the first for me. An excellent, compelling tale'** \*4 Reader review

## Dead End Details

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Author : Rachel Lynch

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# From Reader Review Dead End for online ebook

## Denise says

Family secrets, murder, and mysterious disappearances keep DI Kelly Porter busy in the Lake District. In the meanwhile, she's trying to navigate her new relationship with Johnny Friez of the mountain rescue team.

I love this series and the character of Kelly Porter. She's sensible and pragmatic, but also has a good heart and strong loyalty to her family and team. I've read both previous books in this series and always look forward to a new installment as I get to know her better. The police procedural and crime thriller elements combine to make a compelling read that I have a hard time putting down. I like the description and detail of the location along with the pace of the narrative. Occasionally told in alternating viewpoints, the main plot here hums along with enough clues to keep you guessing at the identify of the criminal despite the red herrings.

Thank you to NetGalley and Canelo Publishers for the e-book ARC to read and review. I look forward to #4 in the series and hope I don't have to wait too long!

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## Elaine Tomasso says

I would like to thank Netgalley and Canelo for an advance copy of Dead End, the third novel to feature DI Kelly Lynch, set in the Lake District.

Kelly is resisting promotion, preferring the sharp end of policing, but soon she doesn't have time to think about it as she has her hands full with the apparent suicide of the Earl of Lowesdale which soon turns out to be something different and the disappearance of two female students who went fell walking and didn't come back. As time goes on with no sign of the girls Kelly starts to suspect something darker.

I thoroughly enjoyed Dead End which has a good mystery a lovely location and some interesting characters. It is mostly told from Kelly's point of view but digresses to other characters' thoughts and actions from time to time. Fortunately, from my point of view, Ms Lynch doesn't spend any time with the perpetrator and their thoughts and motivations which as a device I mostly find banal and unconvincing. I like the slow accumulation of facts and theories as Kelly tries to solve both cases, not that the read itself is slow with its timely reveals and action scenes. I also like the picture it paints of the location, beautiful but incredibly dangerous for the unwary and ill prepared. It held my attention from start to finish.

The novel is a mixture of procedural and Kelly's personal life which is fairly tumultuous. She is a loner by nature and feels like an outsider both in the area she was brought up in after many years spent working in London and in her family with whom she has a difficult relationship. The cases she is working on bring some new dimensions to these dynamics and with so much change in the air it will be interesting to see where Ms Lynch takes Kelly in future novels.

Dead End is a good read which I have no hesitation in recommending.

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## **michelle says**

Dead End is the third in the series in the Detective Kelly Porter and it's the best one yet.

The Earl of Lowesdale is found dead by hanging at his home. First impressions is that he has committed suicide but, his post mortem says otherwise and they discover that the Earl's safe is missing. So they think that it is a murder/robbery.

Also Two girls have gone missing on the Lake district hills. The police thinks that they have just lost their way but, when a body of Freya Hamilton turns up after disappearing a few months previously. Detective Kelly Porter knows that there is a murder on the loose.

This is another very entertaining novel involving Kelly Porter. Her peers steering her towards promotion but, she likes to be part of the action. I love her feisty character and she works hard to get the job done. This has a original with lots of twists and turns and different to others in this genre and I love that it's in the setting of the Lake district.

Thank you Canelo and Netgalley for a copy of this book.

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## **Joyce says**

3 stars

DI Kelly Porter has two missing girls Sophie and Hannah to help locate. It has been several days, and a massive search is still ongoing in the forest where they disappeared.

Kelly gets a call on her mobile saying that the coroner is not happy calling the recent death by hanging of the seventh Earl of Lowesdale a suicide. The ninety-five year old man named Xavier Fitzgerald did not die of a suicide.

While searching for the bodies of the two girls in the Lake, the divers come upon a bag belonging to another missing girl, Freya. Another body is found and the investigation intensifies.

The Earl's housekeeper Linda also has a son who is a total loser. Spoiled and lazy, he thinks that the world owes him a living. He lives at home and sponges off of his mother.

The eventual identity of the killer comes as no surprise for Ms. Lynch dropped many clues along the way. I suspected them from the moment I read about them.

I liked the relationship between Kelly and her boyfriend Johnny. But I didn't appreciate the carrying on between her mother and her sister Nikki. Ms. Lynch really dropped the literary ball on this one. The book was all over the place sometimes. I really liked Zac, but had a little bit of a hard time believing that he turned out that nice or naïve after all that he'd been through. This is not a bad book, but not stellar for sure.

I want to thank NetGalley and Canelo for forwarding to me a copy of this book for me to read and review.

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## Colette Lamberth says

This might actually be my favourite book of the DI Kelly Porter series. I should probably say 'so far' as I trust there will be further books to come. I found myself picturing Wasdale Hall in muted colour like an old movie, maybe influenced by the cover image which is very atmospheric. As with previous books in the series there is a good mix of the investigation and personal life of Kelly. I say this every time I read one of these books but I really must visit the Lake District.

Highly recommended but best read as part of the series.

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## Lou says

*Dead End* is the third book to feature DI Kelly Porter, set in the pristine surroundings of the Lake District, Cumbria, UK, and having loved the first two novels, I was excited to get going with this one. Initially, the setting was what drew me to the series as I live maybe two minutes from the Cumbrian border in Northumberland, however, I have come to the realisation that Ms Lynch is a superb storyteller who knows exactly how to grip her audience and spin a compelling yarn. It's this combination that makes this an unmissable series for anyone who enjoys thrilling crime fiction.

Here, there are two storylines running concurrently to one another: the first is the investigation into the apparent suicide of the affluent Earl of Lowesdale, who has been found swinging from the rafters of his home, Wasdale Hall. The second investigation follows DI Kelly Porter as she tries to locate two missing girls who were last seen when they went hiking in the stunningly beautiful but often treacherous landscape. Kelly soon discovers that clues from both investigations lead to a single place - Wasdale Hall.

This is a solid and highly entertaining mystery novel with a breathtaking setting which is vividly described and a cast of intriguing characters. Mostly told from Kelly's perspective, it is easy to follow and straightforward. There are action scenes aplenty and a slow unravelling of the story which had me reading faster and faster. The exploration of Kelly's personal life adds another dimension to the tale, and I really could relate to her introverted nature, being an introvert myself. She has been dubbed an outsider and recluse her whole life, so I loved the way she has been able to adjust to working as part of a team which comes as part of her job. Even so, her individuality remains. I look forward to seeing her evolve over the rest of this excellent series.

Many thanks to Canelo for an ARC. I was not required to post a review, and all thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.

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## Clare says

Yes

With thanks to Netgalley and Canelo for this ARC in exchange for an open and honest review.

Dead End Is the third book in the DI Kelly Porter series.

In this story Kelly and her team were Investigating two cases. The first was the death of Xiavier Paullus II, the Seventh Earl of Lowesdale. It was first thought 95 year old Xiavier had committed suicide by hanging. However the postmortom showed he was smothered to death and then hung. Years earlier Xiavier`s partner and daughter Trinity died in a car crash. Trinity`s twin brother Oliver died in a boating accident. There were a number of suspects including Zach his grandson, Linda his house keeper, her son Dominic and gardener Brian.

Meanwhile hikers Sophie and Hannah disappeared whilst camping on the Fells. The case drew striking similarities with the disappearance of drug addict Freya Hamilton. When some Freya`s bones are found Kelly has to find the missing girls before it is too late.

On the home front Kelly caught her old friend and colleague visiting her mother. Kelly speaks to her friend and found out they had an affair before she was born. Her mother confirmed she may be his daughter. Kelly had always felt she was not like her family and now she understood why. After an altercation with an old school friend she considered going back to London.

Kelly`s sister was suffering from PTSD after abducted by The Teacher in the previous book. Kelly`s boyfriend Johnny was trying to help her overcome it.

Like always I was immersed in the story was first page. I enjoyed reading more about the dynamics of Kelly`s family and why she turned out the way she did. I look forward to finding out what happens in the next book

Out of the two investigations I found the death of Xiavier more interesting. I especially liked Zac who was very innocent for a 19 year old.

My only criticism is the killers motivation for kidnapping Sophie and Hannah and killing Freya was never explained. It left me feeling a bit deflated but overall it was an enjoyable book.

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### **Samantha Jayne Grubey (ABookHaven) says**

Okay so to start with I am loving Johnny and I really like his and Kelly's relationship! I love that we have the same characters reappearing and we still see the teamwork between the police.

I really liked the lasting effects of Deep Fear are still present in this book and although I had to say Nikki was a right asshole and she was being really horrid to Kelly and I didn't like it.

I love how perceptive Kelly is!

I didn't see some of the family secrets coming so it was really interesting to learn about them and I can't wait to know more.

I do have to say after a certain incident in the book I guessed who the killer was, and I'm actually proud that I did guess lol!

I really enjoyed the story and I am very interested to read the next one!

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### **Allyson Abbott says**

Dead End by Rachel Lynch. DI Kelly Porter book 3

Thank you to NetGalley for giving me a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Set in the north of England, Dead End has DI Kelly Porter working on two cases when two young women go missing and a local earl is found hanging in his study.

I found this book to be intriguing and most enjoyable. Every character was well rounded with enough information to keep them interesting while the reader is not being overwhelmed with too much information or background.

Porter herself has her own life problems threaded through the story as her relationship with Johnny moves forward, her issues with her sister; where there is no love lost, worry over her mother's health and then the realization that she may not know who her father is. All this while she is tracking down clues and hunting murderers.

With a few possible suspects for the reader to keep the hooked and to think about while being fast paced and well developed.

Having the love angle gave the story an extra element but I couldn't help but feel it either needed more to be made of the relationship or to remove some of the details and to keep some parts private. It was as if the author was not sure if to slip it into the romance genre or not. Not quite enough to satisfy romance lovers, but too much information for a mystery/detective story.

On saying that it was a good book which I thoroughly enjoyed and would highly recommend to readers of mystery/whodunit detective stories.

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### **Janet Newport says**

Thank you NetGalley and Canelo for this arc.

I had seen good/great reviews of the previous Kelly Porter stories but have not read either of them and I felt I was a little behind the eight ball starting with this 3rd story as a "stand alone". I wasn't so confused that I quit reading, but I definitely think I would have enjoyed it more if I had started with book one and then book two. Kelly's back story and her relationship histories (with Johnny, her family, co-workers, etc.) were certainly a part of who she is in this 3rd book. Overall, I think these books should be read in their proper order.

I'm not all that proper, nor that orderly.... I kept reading book three. It was a very good story, fast paced with multiple crimes and criminals. A nice big nasty knot to unravel. While I had some trouble fully engaging with the characters initially because I should have started with the earlier books, by the half way point in the book, my "brain fog" had cleared up enough that the last half of the story just flew by.

I've really got to get my hands on the earlier books! A solid four stars without them and likely to go higher after I've caught up!

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## **The Cats Mother says**

I really don't like starting a series part way through, and when I requested this from NetGalley I thought I could catch up with the first two in time, which is the thinking that has got me so far behind... So, trusting the reviews which said this could be read as a standalone (which turned out to be correct) I decided to break my rule, which I have mixed feelings about. On the one hand it means I have discovered another great author and series to continue, but it means that when I read the previous books (and I have bought the first already) I will be a bit spoiled - although happily not for the identity of the villains.

DI Kelly Porter loves her job, her new man, and her outdoorsy Cumbria lifestyle. Life isn't perfect - her family are hard work, her boss wants to promote her - which would take her away from active investigations, and it rains a lot. Assigned to the case of two missing hikers, she is shocked to discover their resemblance to another young woman who disappeared months earlier, and as the days roll on, the chances of something suspicious having befallen them increase rapidly. Then the local earl is found hanging in his decrepit stately home by his young nephew, and the pathologist doesn't think it's a suicide...

I really liked Kelly as a heroine - she is pragmatic, smart, compassionate, and refreshingly undamaged for the genre. I enjoyed her relationship with hunky Johnny (although that's my fluffy cat's name so entirely the wrong mental image kept popping up). I was dreading him turning out not to be as he seemed. The descriptions of the Lake District landscapes had me wondering why I've never done more than drive past when I lived in the UK, and there was a decent but not confusing array of characters. The reveal was a little too obvious, so I hadn't actually expected it as I suspected something a bit more elaborate, but neither did I feel cheated. I look forward to finding out what happens next, as well as filling in the earlier gaps.

My thanks to Canelo and NetGalley for the ARC in exchange for a voluntary honest review, and my apologies to the author for it being a few weeks after the deadline.

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## **Paromjit says**

This is the third in the Lake District set series featuring DI Kelly Porter, who has returned to the area after spending numerous years in London. I read the first book which I really enjoyed but somehow missed the second. Nevertheless, this is mostly fine to read as a standalone. In the atmospheric *Dead End*, Kelly has two seemingly disparate investigations that are slowly revealed to have connections with each other. The hard living and ageing seventh Earl of Lowesdale, named Xavier-Paulus II, is found hanging by the rafters in his bedroom by Zachary, his grandson. Is it suicide or is there more to it? Two young women hikers, Hannah and Sophie, have gone missing from their camp and it turns out they are not the only women to have disappeared in the area.

Kelly harbours few ambitions as she is reluctant to scale the career ladder, she has little wish to be removed from the front of end of policing which is what she enjoys. Her family life has its struggles, as with her mother and sister. As she digs deeper into her cases, Kelly uncovers the secrets and lies behind the facade of the well heeled estate of a local aristocrat. Lynch has written a well researched and well plotted storyline with plenty of twists, suspense and tension. It is the creation of the determined DI Kelly Porter and her development which holds the readers attention with ease. This is turning out to be a great series, with all the requisite parts of what makes a gripping read, a wide cast of compelling characters and an added bonus with the wonderful location. Many thanks to Canelo for an ARC.

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## **Julie Lacey says**

This is a great series.

DI Kelly Porter is asked to investigate a murder which was made to look like a suicide. The victim lived in a stately home and his grandson made the gruesome discovery of his body.

Zac is in shock and the housekeeper Linda tried to support him, but what is she hiding?

Everyone linked to the house had secrets and Kelly and her team have to try and unravel them.

Kelly also discovers her own family have been keeping a secret from her which she stumbled across as part of the investigation.

As well as the murder there are two missing girls which Kelly is desperate to find.

This is a good book full of mysteries to solve and is definitely a gripping read.

Thanks to Canelo and NetGalley for the opportunity to read this book.

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## **peggy says**

This is the third in the Kelly Porter series.

I found this a slow burner but was really glad I stuck with it.

A British crime thriller at its best. So many twists and turns and so much tension right up until the climax.

You can read this book as a stand alone and it does mention her past cases. If anything it should make you want to read the the other two books just to find out how she caught them.

Female detectives are really coming into their own in books at long last. Go girl power oops getting carried away.

As I said a good British crime thriller with a touch of the Dark.

I would like to thank the author Rachel Lynch,Canelo and Net.galley for giving me the opportunity to read this book in return for giving an honest review.

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## **Pat says**

The first two books in the series were very suspenseful and quite dark. This one not so much. In fact it reminded of the previous book I had read (Last Lullaby by Carol Wyer) - different story but same pacing and structure. There were two story lines that didn't seem to have anything tying them together but you know how it goes.

The 95 year old Earl of Lowesdale, Xavier-Paulus II (is that a pretentious name or what), is found hanging in his study by his grandson. Is it suicide or something more sinister? Also two young blonde women hiking in the Lake District seem to be missing. Their tent is still at the campsite but they haven't been seen for a few days. DI Kelly Porter takes on both cases. As usual everyone is hiding things and being evasive. There are numerous suspects for both cases and the clues, I thought, were a bit clumsy (obvious means to make you suspect someone). Are these cases even linked? Are the missing hikers linked to some earlier disappearances of young women?

This was another solid police procedural that was a bit predictable with nothing to set it apart from all the others out there. We did learn a little more about Kelly's family and background which was interesting but

the book lacked the drama of the two earlier instalments. I'm beginning to think I would enjoy these more if I read the whole series straight through instead of mixing it up with other stuff. Obviously its a bit late for that now.

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