



Dead in the Water

Ann Granger

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The fourth murky murder in the Campbell and Carter Mysteries

As Christmas approaches in the sleepy English village of Weston Saint Ambrose, the rains bring the wettest winter on record and the farmer's fields are left under several feet of water. The water washes up all manner of things, including a dead body, dredged up from its watery grave.

Snagging on the jetty of Isolde Evans, the reclusive writer is shocked to recognise the victim. And she's not the only one. When Inspector **Jess Campbell** investigates, she recognises the body of Courtney Higson, a local barmaid with a doting, ex-con father. Terry is set on finding his daughter's killer, and Jess must get to the bottom of this quickly, before he takes the law into his own hands...

Dead in the Water is perfect for fans of **T E Kinsey**, **Ann Cleeves** and the **Midsomer Murders**.

Praise for Ann Granger:

'Set in the familiar mode of traditional country crime novels, there is nothing old-fashioned about the characters...**Granger is bang up to date'** *Oxford Times*

'Characterisation, as ever with Granger, is sharp and astringent' *The Times*

'Entertaining and lifelike characters...a satisfying and unexpected twist' *Mystery People*

'Lovely characterisation and a neat plot' *Yorkshire Post*

Dead in the Water Details

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Author : Ann Granger

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From Reader Review Dead in the Water for online ebook

Dale Harcombe says

This is an enjoyable, if not actually riveting, read. I liked the setting of the Cotswold Village of Weston St Ambrose and could picture it. I really liked the prologue which is very descriptive as it sets the scene of the dead girl in the river. This is the first book I have read by this author and I was initially attracted by the cover. I love blue/green covers.

The story held my interest throughout but never enough that I absolutely had to get back to it. I always felt a little detached from the characters. For me part of the problem was that with a couple of exceptions, some of the characters, especially those from the writing group tended to not be distinctive enough to keep track of who was who. Or maybe I just wasn't paying enough attention. I did notice whoever had the library book before me was perhaps an aspiring writing or editor themselves as they punctuated it with a couple of corrections and 'overdone' written next to one passage. I tend to agree a little.

On the positive side I liked the two main characters, Inspector Jess Campbell and Superintendent Ian Carter. It was the other characters that blurred for me. As usual I picked the murderer but that is not necessarily a deterrent, as it happens more often than not. If you like a cosy mystery without lots of sex or bad language, and a story that takes its time, you should enjoy it. It probably helps too if you have read other books in the series which I hadn't. Maybe it also suffered a little from having followed a few books which I adored.

Gaby Meares says

Cosy crime novel set in a Cotswold village. No sex and the violence is pretty tame. A bit "Midsomer Murders", if you know what I mean!

Dead in the Water is the 5th in this series, but that doesn't affect the reading. There is a barely discernible frisson between Campbell and Carter, which has obviously been developing over the previous books, and would appear to be heading in the right direction! But this novel is more about the murder mystery than the police officers' personal lives.

This would be a perfect holiday read!

Dawn Davies says

A lovely well written murder mystery, an amazing description in the prologue, a great read I loved it

Cath Hughes says

Listened to this as an audio in the car. Enjoyed meeting all the strange characters of the book writing club. It reminded me of a Ruth Rendall book with all the characters and descriptions of them. For once, I actually guessed correctly who the murderer was!!

Plum-crazy says

Book four in the "Campbell & Carter series & to be honest I didn't find it much improvement on book three....my review of which was *"A reasonable enough read but this series always seems a little lack-lustre to me. It's missing both the charm of the Mitchell & Markby series & the likeable relationship between the characters. The storyline is ok but all the characters are a bit two dimensional & there's no chemistry between the Campbell & Carter. ...& the same pretty much goes for this one too.*

The storyline itself is okay. There were one or two moments where my interest perked up but on the whole I found myself skim reading, not a good sign that a book is as absorbing as it should be - I want to be gripped! I did find myself smiling over Carter worrying about having a "spud" in his socks, haven't heard that term for donkeys but it's a bit sad that's about the highlight of the tale for me!

It's a shame because I honestly don't know why this series just doesn't grip me like others by this author. So will I give book five a go? As I used to adore the Fran Varady series & have read some of Mitchell & Markby ones over & over I somehow feel I owe it to Granger not to give up, so yes I guess I will but ONLY if I happen across one, I certainly won't be making an effort to track a copy down.

Sarah Baines says

I'm very disappointed to say this but I couldn't get on with this at all. I adored Ann Granger's Mitchell and Markby novels and even the first couple in this series were good. I remember being a bit underwhelmed by Bricks and Mortality but thought I'd give this a go and wish I hadn't. Its not a bad book by any means but it just wasn't grabbing me. Also sorry to say that unless I reread the Mitchell and Markby novels this will be the last book by Ann Granger that I'll be reading.

Alissa says

Improvement over the last one but still not quite as good as book 2.

Ms. Granger knows how to weave a mystery... completing unique and interesting. Again, the supporting cast of characters was stellar. You had a little bit of everyone in this book... the mysterious man living all alone in his big house, the members of the book club, the fantasy writer plus more interaction between Campbell and Carter. However... the inspector and superintendent are moving at a snail's pace. I understand why but it's driving me crazy! These two have so much chemistry!

I did start to figure out "whodunit" around the 80% mark so the author kept me guessing for quite sometime. On to the next installment!

4 stars

Ivonne Rovira says

A pretty, young girl turns up dead in a swollen river; she's soon identified both as a murder victim and as Courtney Higson, the daughter of an imprisoned criminal enforcer (think breaking legs for the mob). When the father is released from prison, Inspector Jess Campbell and Superintendent Ian Carter race to get to the culprit before the violence-prone father does.

Author Ann Granger has gotten a bit lazy in her old age. The denouement relies on the tired trope of the crazy — and, therefore, unsuspected — perpetrator, and the subplot about Carter's self-absorbed ex-wife just doesn't go anywhere. I'm not sorry I read it, but this series doesn't have the staying power of the Markby and Meredith series she abandoned in 2004. (Yes, I'm still bitter.)

Helen Aasaleht says

Not too bad read, but could have a bit more suspense and chemistry between the main characters. The ending came quite out of the blue for me, I didn't really pick up any hints at all through the book. But then again for me it meant that I didn't think with the story at all, didn't try and figure out who the killer was or anything.

Wendy says

Dead in the Water is the fourth outing in the series of 'Campbell and Carter'. Although I haven't read its predecessors I wasn't lost for a single moment, as this remarkably well-written murder mystery unfolds at a leisurely pace, yet still leaves you with absolutely no idea as to whodunit until the very end.

Certain elements conjure a 'Midsummer Murder-ish' feel throughout. There's a famous writer who relocated to the Cotswold village of Weston St Ambrose, hoping the idyllic rural life would coax his next best seller from his head and onto the blank pages staring back at him. For the most part he wanders around his garden raking leaves into neat little piles, much to the dismay of his wife.

Then we have the writers' circle he mentors, where every quirky member has their own opinion of events taking place and frequently become disgruntled when their own works of wordiness are criticised.

Just to throw the whole village equilibrium into disarray, the body of an unidentified young woman is found floating in the swollen river, and this is where we meet our crime busters – Jess Campbell and Ian Carter – as they are called in to investigate how she came to be in the water. Did she fall? Was she pushed? More importantly, who on earth IS she?

Well, after a little bit of witness tussling it turns out our victim is the local villain's daughter, which, let's be honest, isn't entirely good news. Main reason being he's currently serving time for extreme menacing behaviour and is now hell-bent on discovering who is responsible, so he can take matters into his own hands, so to speak. Things could get very ugly indeed.

Weston St Ambrose is hiding more than the flood waters are covering up when it turns out that most of the residents seem to know the victim in one way or another. But Campbell and Carter make a ruddy marvellous team to root the culprit out, I must say. There's no die hard heroics, nor a sniff of profanity, just tidy police

work that I'm mightily impressed by. And it's a relief to find there's none of this repetitive drumming of character's job titles down your throat with 'Inspector Jess Campbell this' and 'Superintendent Ian Carter that'. The duo are generally referred to by their Christian names, which not only makes them more human it suits the style and grace of the story much better.

For me, quaint places never fail to make the most lethal backdrops and this was no exception. *Dead in the Water* is a quality village mystery yarn, spun with absolute class.

(I received a paperback copy of this book from the publisher following a Twitter giveaway, with thanks.)

Judi Mckay says

If you like cozy crime, this is a series you should read. It is quirky, village life crime. Sadly, I like more violence so I didn't enjoy it as much as something with more violence! Which probably says something worrying about me.

Emma says

Spoiler Free!

I'll admit, I'm not an avid reader of the mystery genre, and those that I have read were pretty much all by Agatha Christie. This book...lacked that certain charm and unique 'je ne sais quoi'. It felt like an average and sort of dull police case. All the way through I sort of hoped there'd be a surprise twist, a shocking reveal or something of the sort, but it never quite got there.

In the end I was almost disappointed to learn who the murderer was. Not because it was obvious, not at all, but because we weren't really given enough information to have an inkling ourselves. Having too many Points of View confused me at first, and then I realised I could use it to work out who *wasn't* the murderer, as seeing into their private moments made me less suspicious of them.

I did enjoy the descriptive elements of the book and thought that was very well done, they really helped place you in the settling, in that cold rain or sullen pub.

I don't think I'll ever bother re-reading this, because I don't think it would at all help me like the story more, but it's an okay light read.

Petula Darling says

[And the way the police decided it HAD to involve the book group was pretty weak. (hide spoiler)]

Joan says

A young woman's body is found caught on something in a swollen, raging river in the Cotswolds during a period of interminable rains.

We learn that the victim worked at a local pub/restaurant and has been having an affair with the owner. Also, her father is a thug who is about to be released from prison.

Everything seems to center around a writer's group who had dinner at the restaurant the night before the girl disappeared.

C.G. says

A complete twist that I never saw coming!

I have only continued to read this series because I purchased them as a set for Kindle. The first two were nothing to write home about, but it picked up in book #3, and book #4, "Dead in the Water", kept me guessing from start to finish. The characters were more likeable, the plot was more involved, and when the murderer was revealed, I was totally shocked! I had two other people tagged as possible suspects and didn't suspect the actual killer at all. Well done, Ann Granger, on this addition to the series! I look forward to reading book #5 to see if it continues the uphill pattern.
