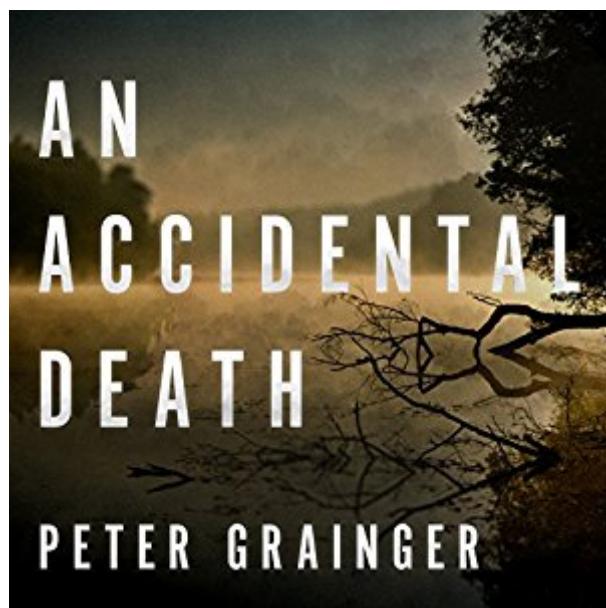


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An Accidental Death: A DC Smith Investigation Series, Book 1



Synopsis

The story opens with the apparently accidental drowning of a sixth form student in the Norfolk countryside. As a matter of routine, or so it seems, the case passes across the desk of Detective Sergeant Smith, recently returned to work after an internal investigation into another case that has led to tensions between officers at Kings Lake police headquarters. As an ex-DCI, Smith could have retired by now, and it is clear that some of his superiors wish that he would do so. The latest trainee detective to work with him is the son of a member of his former team, and together they begin to unravel the truth about what happened to Wayne Fletcher. As the investigation proceeds, it becomes clear that others are involved - some seem determined to prevent it, some seem to be taking too much interest. In the end, Smith operates alone, having stepped too far outside standard procedures to ask for support. He knows that his own life might be at risk but he has not calculated on the life of his young assistant also being put in danger.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As an American fan of British mysteries, I was delighted to find a new voice who deserves attention for creating a character who is warm, funny and endearingly human. Detective Sergeant DC Smith looks as ordinary as his name, even a bit shabby, like a "disappointed junior clerk in accounts", but his vast experience and knowledge of human behavior are just what's needed to discover whether the drowning of a young man is accidental. Reluctantly saddled with an eager trainee, he soon realizes D.C. Waters has potential, although his grasp of modern technology leaves Smith feeling

he'll never catch up. Both the setting and the dialogue are wonderfully rendered here. You really feel the bite of the wind and the chill of the rain in Norfolk on the North Sea. Smith's banter with his colleagues is delightful, especially when he is baiting his Superintendent. I also like his relationship with his immediate boss, D.I. Reeve, a woman who admires, respects and supports him. Mr. Grainger has delivered a thoughtful, entertaining novel without having to resort to gratuitous violence. I can't wait to meet up with Smith and company in his next mystery, "But For the Grace."

Candy Bishop

DC Smith is a no-longer young, hard to influence, police detective who has his own methods. Asked to check into a drowning before signing off on it as an accident, and given an intern to work with him, DC slowly picks up the pieces, ranging from several unusual bruises on the body to a stolen canoe and a hole in a fence and puts together a case that goes far beyond a mere drowning, and throws light on crimes committed 20 years in the past. An enjoyable yarn!

DC Smith is not an ordinary cop. He has voluntarily come down to lower position from being at top. He has a past including his beloved wife's now deceased, a crime in past which is referred to continually, work place politics, and previous military service which aids in this case. Smith is given a trainee to show the ropes. He does and it turns out to be former partner's son. Interesting characters

Thank heavens for small mercies. I was beginning to believe good detecting was lost amidst guns blazing, amazing coincidences, and so called detectives accusing everyone on sight pointing to the right culprit in the last chapter. And now Peter Grainger gave us D C Smith. A proper detective. With a proper mystery, and a grand resolution obtained through hard work and good reasoning. Will download all other books asap and give myself a good time!

DC Smith is a very agreeable detective. A recent widower who has a long history in the CID, Smith is known as an intuitive investigator who doesn't take first impressions ads lasting. His interactions with the trainee he's assigned -- who happens to be the son of a beloved former partner -- show insight, patience, and skill. A well written good ad.

A well written mystery, I enjoyed the tale and portrait of the main character. I found too many British idioms and references to schooling confusing. But that's due to my lack of knowledge of their mores. The fact that the story continues beyond the solution of the mystery death adds to the characters.

Excellent plot, great writing skills, wonderful characterisation, and true to life portrayal. I could help re-read some of the paragraphs for the excellent writing skills. An accidental death gets investigated and leads to revealing untold crimes. Simply a great book. I enjoyed.

Peter Grainger writes a different type of mystery. Instead of the usual guns, violence, and action, DC Smith's solves crimes primarily by his intellect and the more tedious aspects of police work. Three features distinguish his writing...the wry humor, the quiet challenge to our notions about what actually constitutes a crime, and the psychological poignancy of the protagonist. DC Smith is an older officer grappling with his own sense of mortality who has the ability to see suspects in a deeply human way. Grainger's superb writing includes outstanding descriptions that add a depth to the tale. I highly recommend the book.

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