



Cold

Stella Cameron

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(*Folly* was originally published August 13, 2013 as *Cold* in eBook format.

Following the breakdown of her marriage, Alex Duggins has returned to her picturesque home town in the Cotswolds in order to start afresh. But you can't outrun the past, as Alex discovers, when she stumbles across a frosted corpse buried in the snow. The subsequent murder investigation threatens to unearth old secrets - including Alex's own.

As Folly-on-Weir braces for a chilling winter and Alex finds herself top of the police's suspect list, she determines to clear her name and find the real murderer. But as she begins to peel back the layers of deception that have long-concealed one of the town's darkest secrets, she herself becomes the target of a ruthless killer who has nothing left to lose. Will Alex be the next snow-covered body to be found in the beautiful hills above the town? .

Cold Details

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Author : Stella Cameron

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Genre : Mystery, European Literature, British Literature, Crime, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Cold for online ebook

Lori says

Alex Duggins returned to Folly-on-Weir, a village in the Cotswolds where she grew up, after a failed marriage. She purchased a cottage and the local pub. She discovered the body of a monk with a missing ring. Who is he? Why was he in Folly-on-Weir? A second monk shows up, claiming the man was from his traveling order of monks. I loved the use of DNA in the resolution of the mystery. The snowstorm adds to the atmosphere. Some characters needed further development, but it was a good start to the series.

Jen says

Cold (an Alex Duggins mystery). After her divorce, Alex Duggins returns to the small town in the Cotswolds where she grew up. While she is out walking her dog early one morning, she discovers a body in the snow. The victim was killed by a dart like the ones in her pub, and Alex is a master at the game. Then another man is murdered, and the Vicar is pushed down the stairs and remains in a coma. A suspect, even if not a very likely one, Alex begins some investigating on her own.

Aided by her childhood friend Tony, Alex begins inquiring into the past in an attempt to find a motive for the murder. Secrets begin to surface and more than one party begins to have a reason to want the victim out of their lives.

A fast-paced mystery with some interesting characters. This is my first book by Cameron, but she is a prolific writer. She must turn out a book or two a year.

NetGalley/Purple Papaya

Mystery. 2013. Print version: 238 pages.

Knewmyer says

Boring.

Kathleen says

I had reviewed the latest Alex Duggins book, "Whisper the Dead" for NetGalley and promised myself to read more of this great series. This is Mystery #1 and am glad I made the purchase.

Alex had returned to her childhood neighborhood prior to this and this volume cleared up some things unexplained in the much later volume. Alex and Tony the Vet, who were friends as teens, renew their

acquaintance with a bang. They both are present at a discovery of a body in the snowy woods, Alex because she stumbled upon it and Tony to help his father with the post mortem as he is the local GP.

They plunge back into a trusting friendship that could evolve into something more while they help with the murder, which becomes murders. Tony is protective of Alex who seems to be impulsive and is not well thought of by the local law enforcement for that reason.

The ending was a good one tying loose ends together. I must check into the later book to see how certain people rehabilitate themselves to remain in Alex and Tony's circle and employ(Alex now owns the Black Dog Tavern where her mother worked for years.)

Recommended as more than a "Cozy" mystery and quite well done.

Damaskcat says

Alex Duggins returns to her home village of Folly-on-Weir in the Cotswolds after the traumatic breakdown of her marriage determined to make a new life for herself. She is settling into being the owner of a pub and restaurant and continuing her career as a graphic artist. Out for a walk one snowy morning she stumbles across a body. It is soon clear that the police have Alex cast as first murderer and she will need all her wits about her and the help of her friends to extricate herself and uncover the real murderer and the secrets the whole village seem to be in league to keep secret from everyone including the police.

I liked the characters in this well written mystery and there are plenty of suspects and motives for the crime and the next murder which takes place soon after. The village background in the depths of winter is well realised and the build up of tension and the fear engendered in Alex herself is very well done. The final pages are tense and I found myself willing Alex and the other characters to succeed in a race against time to stop the killer disposing of another victim.

If you like mysteries set in the English countryside with some interesting characters then try this one. It is the first book in a proposed series so I shall be watching out for new future episodes. I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley for review purposes.

Shelley Fearn says

It's always lovely to get in on the ground floor of a mystery series so that you can read the entire run without missing a title. *Folly* is the 1st in the Alex Duggins mysteries. Recently having returned to her childhood home in Folly-on-Weir, Alex has become the owner of the local tavern. After stumbling on a dead body in the woods, it quickly becomes apparent that Alex herself is being targeted in connection to the murder. In traditional cozy style, place and character rather than violence take center stage. Readers will find Alex Duggins an engaging character and the mystery is well developed. The 4th book in the series will be out in June so start the series now.

Betty says

After a life-changing event Alex Duggins returns home the town left as she enter college to recover. Taking a

walk through the woods she hears a dog crying. She finds the dog and discovers a man dead with a dart in his throat. Alex meets the town vet an old flame in high school. Events are happening to Alex so she suspects that someone is trying to chase her from town. The investigation begins to uncover event that happen years ago. Alex need to find the a solution before she looses all that is dear to her. I recommend this book.

Full Disclosure: I received a free copy from Severn House through Netgalley for an honest review. I would like to thank them for this opportunity to read and review the book. The opinions are my own

Julie says

Folly/Whisper of the Dead by Stella Cameron is a 2015 Crème de la Crime publication.

Deeply absorbing British Mystery-

After Alex's divorce, she moves back to her hometown in Cotswold, and is now the new owner of a local pub. But, her fresh start hit a snag when she stumbles across a dead body covered by snow.

As the investigation proceeds, Alex finds herself mixed up in things, whether she likes it or not. Not only that, her past is being raked up, her renewed friendship with Tony, a man she grew up with, is in jeopardy, the local law enforcement has it in for her, and she could be in danger. If that weren't bad enough- another murder takes place, putting the entire community on edge.

This is the first book in the Alex Duggins mystery series. I've been curious about this series for a while. It seemed like a bit of a departure for this author, after making a name for herself writing romantic suspense novels, many of which I really enjoyed.

I am happy to report this series got off to a great start for me, and Cameron did a great job writing a pure British style mystery. The location is divine, and the mystery is multi-layered and suspenseful, ending with a tense and stunning twist. There are still a few mysteries left to explore, especially concerning Tony and his mysterious past. I'm really looking forward to seeing how this series progresses.

4 stars

Note: (Folly was originally published August 13, 2013 as Cold in eBook format.)

Charlene says

I have admired the writing in every Stella Cameron book I've read. This is a review of FOLLY, which is a newly-edited (with additional material, I think I read) version of COLD, which was published in 2013 on a somewhat limited basis. I have not read the earlier version, but I see that many of the reviews posted for this book appear together with reviews of the present edition. I do not know whether the reviewers would have changed their stars (or reviews) had they read FOLLY.

I was captured by the opening paragraph of Cameron's first book in her new Alex (Alexandra) Duggins series, and I eagerly await the second volume.

You can read summaries in the book blurb and some reviews, so I will not belabor the point or give spoilers here. I could see this story being characterized as mystery, suspense, and even as romantic suspense, and some might also list it as a cozy mystery. There is no gore, almost no foul language (two brief expletives, I think) and no sexual intimacy, for those who wish to know in advance.

I liked Alex, and sensed that Ms Cameron will unfold more of Alex's story upon her return to her childhood home after her failed marriage. I liked veterinarian, Tony, Alex's childhood friend whose own story is shrouded in some mystery in Australia. They recall their early friendship when the entire village of Folly-on-Weir in the Cotswolds is enveloped in a snowstorm and a murder, and the police investigators are looking at all possible suspects, many of whom we have to guess ourselves as characters are introduced. I liked the two elderly sisters who bicker, and several others -- I hope they show up in future stories, all!

I rarely give 5 stars, and perhaps this is more a 4.5 star read, but there is so much potential, such excellent writing and intriguing characters that I highly recommend this for readers of any of the genres I listed above.

Joyce says

Folly was a real departure for Stella Cameron who is known to me as a chick lit author. It is a genuine mystery and although there is the start of a romance, it is not important to the plot and is treated as quite secondary.

Alex has returned home after a bad marriage. She is attempting to rebuild her life when she runs (almost literally) into a body on her morning walk. The police began investigating the crime, but so does Alex and her friend, the local Vet (the romance).

the story moves at a decent pace but is definitely not your basic action - adventure. It is well written and well plotted. The characters are likable and believable. It is the first of an Alex Duggins series. I will read more of them.

Thanks to NetGalley for the advance copy of the book.

Jonel Boyko says

This novel was a shocker right from the 1st paragraph. Cameron took off running and the suspense didn't let up right until the very end. I found myself always guessing until I came to the 'I didn't see that coming' ending. Cameron has definitely mastered the mystery/suspense genre, keeping her story fast paced without having to resort to mass amounts of death, dismemberment, and explosions to keep the attention of her audience.

Through her vivid and uniquely developed writing style Cameron is able to bring her world to life in the most natural way. Her understated descriptions bring a calm and natural air to this community amidst a time of crisis. As a reader you are able to experience this world in an all-encompassing way through the eyes of the various characters.

Cameron has created some very captivating and insightful characters for this novel. Both the main characters

and the supporting cast are extremely well developed. They all play counterpoint to each other to create an entire community, rather than a one sided cast.

All in all this was a very unique murder mystery/suspense novel that kept me captivated and guessing right till the last page.

Please note that I received this novel free of charge from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Iris says

I see a lot of differing reviews here which range from OMG this book was so great to I was greatly disappointed. That makes it difficult for a reader to really decide whether a book is worth purchasing or not. Let me preface my review by saying I have been a fan of Ms. Cameron for as long as I can remember. I devoured her historical romances when I was in high school. COLD is about as different from those novels as you can get and still have the same feel for a Stella Cameron book.

I was captivated with the story from the very beginning. Wonderfully descriptive, I could almost feel the cold, biting wind. I could feel the angst of wanting to do what was right no matter the cost that Brother Dominic felt in those final moments of his life. Let's not forget Alex Duggins! Having suffered so much upheaval in her life she comes back to her previously quiet, peaceful town and a murder. She's not sure who she can and cannot trust. Even her closest friends' motives are questionable.

I found myself so embroiled in the story and characters to the point of losing track of time. This is a sign of a truly awesome book. I set high expectations for certain authors that I follow and I must say that Ms. Cameron has not disappointed me yet.

E. says

"Cold" by Stella Cameron introduces Alex Duggins (aka Alex Bailey-Jones) as she deals with a series of horrific events taking place in the normally peaceful and picturesque village of Folly-on-Weir. A grim discovery embroils Alex in a murder investigation that threatens the peace of mind that she has sought to regain after her personal tragedy yet it also forces her to interact with others, among them a personable veterinarian named Tony Harrison and a couple of delightful canines. As events continue to intensify, Alex discovers that there is a chilling purpose to all of the villain's actions, and she seems to be the focus of that person's attentions. Will the investigators Detective Inspector O'Reilly and Detective Sergeant Lamb be able to get past the insular villagers' distrust in time to solve the case? Or will Alex have to take matters into her own hands?

This entertaining mystery evokes the charm of a small village in the Cotswolds yet cloaks it in the chilling aura that this author creates so well. The action nicely escalates yet is tempered by the vignettes that feature the four-footed companions of various characters. It would be nice to have a bit more depth to the main characters but I suspect that the gradual exposition of their pasts will take place over the course of several novels in the series. There are plenty of fascinating secondary characters who provide great color and background to the story and the snippets of information revealed such as the artistry that goes into creating lace are enlightening both in terms of the mystery itself and as a way of detailing some of the fascinating

resources that can be found in these quiet villages. An enjoyable light read that will make one grateful for a way to warm blanket to snuggle into.

© Night Owl Reviews

I received a copy of this title in return for an honest review.

Elaine says

This is an entertaining, cosy amateur sleuth novel which at just over 200 pages is a fairly quick read. Set in a picturesque chocolate box type village in the Cotswolds in the middle of a snowy winter, we meet Alex Duggins who has returned to Folly after her divorce and bought the local pub around which village life seems to revolve. There are some good colourful, likeable characters who are fun to read about here and who keep your interest throughout the read. The story does twist and turn and throws up a number of suspects and is certainly not as predictable as you might think. It is a good read and although it is rounded off nicely the ending did feel a little abrupt and I would have liked to have seen some sort of epilogue just to finish it off. Thanks to the publishers for the review copy.

Deb says

Alex Duggins has returned to her home village after the disaster of her marriage and a breakdown. She's the new owner of the pub where her mother has worked for years and she's kept the former owners on as managers. On her way to the pub one morning she discovers the body of a murdered man in the woods. The tragedy sets off a chain of events which eventually results in a long-held village secret being uncovered, putting several people at serious risk.

I liked the book but felt that it was a bit too rushed in the story telling. It was hard to feel very connected to most of the characters and the plot needed to be fleshed out a bit more. But it did keep my attention, and I thought the author did a good job creating the setting.
