

Inspector Adrian Mysteries – Book 3

A Twin Problem

Plot Summary - Chapter by Chapter Breakdown

Notes: We have left several details of this story vague, so you can give them a personal touch. You can tailor this outline in several of the following ways to make it unique, without changing the main plot. 1) Detective Inspector David Adrian may be involved romantically with Miss Connie Randal. 2) The story may be set in any seaside town, village or community of your choice. 3) Constables Xavier and Durable may assume a larger role in the story. 4) Mrs. Masters may have insisted in seeing her granddaughter. 5) They may have formed a bond already. 6) Change the ending – Mrs. Masters killed her daughters. “They were evil!”

Part One - Rising Tension

Chapter One

CH 1/ Scene 1 – Detective Inspector David Adrian is settling nicely in the village of Gorey on the Isle of Jersey. Sergeant Sylvia Hunter assists him in the conduct of all eventual investigations. The two constables who work at the police station are always keen to impress their “Boss”. David is lodged at the *White House Inn*. The guests are mostly retired folks who prefer living at the *White House* to living at the local retirement home. David Adrian finds the people of Jersey friendly and attentive to their wellbeing. Most of them have taken up a sport or take long walks along the island’s shores regularly.

CH 1/ Scene 2 – Miss Connie Randal has just arrived at the *White House*. She is an author of some note in Europe. Her latest book has made it to the bestsellers’ list. Quite happy with her achievements, Connie is nonetheless anxious to find answers to a quandary that has nagged at her mind for years now. Her parents died mysteriously while on holidays on the Isle of Jersey. Connie was only fifteen at the time. She did not accompany her parents then, but now she is here to retrace their last steps.

CH 1/ Scene 3 – Inspector Adrian has not read any of Connie’s books and has to inquire about them from his landlady, Mrs. Harris. How renown is Miss Randal? He has seen a few people approach her for an autograph. Mrs. Harris only tells him to read her latest book, which she lends to the inspector. That evening, Inspector Adrian decides to introduce himself and to invite the author to have dinner with him at the Inn’s restaurant on the terrace. Connie is delighted to learn that David Adrian is not only a police detective working in the area, but that he’s staying at the *White House*.

CH 1/ Scene 4 – During a pleasant meal – Mrs. Harris made sure the cook served his best – Connie explains the real reasons for which she is vacationing on the island. She tells David that her parents came to Jersey some fifteen years ago for a long holiday. They stayed in Gorey at a resort hotel with a beach frontage. The Orgueil Hotel (named after the medieval castle located on the promontory) is where Connie’s parents stayed. The first week was fine; they phoned Connie a couple of times. She was staying with an aunt on the French Riviera. But when Connie did not hear from them for two weeks after that, she began to worry. By month’s end Connie had learned of her parents’ demise.

CH 1/ Scene 5 – Inspector Adrian is quite taken by the young woman’s story. He is interested to know what happened to Connie’s parents. She tells him that their bodies came back to Oxford, where the family lived, after the Jersey police had finished their investigation into their murders. Adrian asks Connie if she was ever told how they were murdered and why. Connie replies that’s the reason she’s here. She wants to find out everything she can about the affair. The only thing she knows is that they were killed at the edge of the cliffs overhanging the beach and rocks along the shores below the castle. Her mother and father were apparently both killed with a single shot to the head and then thrown over the cliff.

Chapter Two

CH 2/ Scene 1 – The next morning, Inspector Adrian gets to his office a little late. “Too much wine and good company does that to you sometimes,” he tells his sergeant, Sylvia Hunter. The remark draws a smile on Constables Xavier and Durable. Hunter brings Adrian a large bottle of water, a glass with two

Alka-Seltzers and tells him to drink up. He has to smile. *She is a delight to work with.* When his head finally allows him to think straight, Inspector Adrian asks Hunter to dig out the files and all information pertaining to Mr. and Mrs. Randal's murders. Hunter and the two constables exchange a puzzling glance before Constable Durable, the older officer, says that he remembers the case. It was never solved. The two people were on holidays and ten days after their arrival, they were found dead at the base of the Orgueil Castle's cliffs. Nothing more was known about their deaths. They had no friends or family on the island and had no criminal records.

CH 2/ Scene 2 – Hunter orders the evidence carton and any hard copy files on the case to be brought from the town archives to their station. She then asks the ME, Dr. James Ross to send her his copy of the autopsy report. Most of the information, fortunately, has now been digitized. Hunter gets most of the data by the next day. In the meantime, Inspector Adrian makes his way to the ledge where the murder supposedly occurred. There's hardly space for three people to stand, let alone move about. He begins to doubt that the crime was perpetrated on that spot. He returns to the beach below the castle and to the base of the cliff where the bodies were recovered. There again, he is hesitant. A body falling from that height would have been pierced in several places by the jagged edges of the rocks on which they would have fallen.

CH 2/ Scene 3 – When he gets back to his office, he finds his constables and his sergeant huddled around Hunter's computer screen. They're watching a computer reconstruction of the event. Clearly, Inspector Adrian was right. The bodies could not have landed down on the rocks if they had fallen from the ledge. On the other hand, if the murders occurred on the beach and the bodies were pushed out to sea, then yes, the autopsy reports validates their lack of post-mortem injuries. So, these two were probably murdered on the ocean shore and nowhere near the cliff or ledge as previously surmised.

CH 2/ Scene 4 – Adrian's next stop is at the Orgueil Hotel. Mr. Constantine, the owner and manager meets with Adrian. Fortunately Constantine was on duty the night – or morning – of the murders. He recalls the couple. They were happy to celebrate their wedding anniversary with this particular holiday. They were staying in the best suite and spared no expense. They often had dinner at the hotel but were gone on tours or sailing most days. Mr. Constantine only recalls one strange incident during the first ten days of the Randal's holidays. Mrs. Randal had a visitor while her husband had gone fishing. The visitor was the spitting image of Mrs. Randal. "Could have been twin sisters," Mr. Constantine remarks. No, the lady did not stay long; perhaps an hour at the most. The ladies had a coffee and talked in the day room. No, the woman never came back.

CH 2/ Scene 5 – Armed of this new information, Inspector Adrian returns to his office and asks Hunter to dig into Mrs. Randal's past. He wants to find out if she had a sister; why the visitor was not mentioned in the reports of the investigation; if the person is still alive and where she lives currently. A half-an-hour later Adrian has his answers. The surviving sister lives in Paris. She was Alice Randal's twin sister. No, she is not married and has no children. That evening, he asks Connie if she knows her aunt. Connie is most surprised to hear of the existence of her mother's twin sister. Her mother never spoke about her.

Chapter Three

CH 3/ Scene 1 – Inspector Adrian talks to his Superintendent in St. Helier and takes the first available flight to Paris the following morning. He has not announced his arrival or his intention to visit Miss Masters. When he arrives in front of her building in Rue Victor Hugo, he smiles. He secretly wishes he, himself, lived in Paris. He rings the doorbell and the front door soon opens automatically. He takes the elevator to the fourth floor where an ageing lady is waiting for him in the doorway of her apartment. Recalling Mrs. Randal's photographs, Inspector Adrian knows this person is not the surviving twin sister. The lady invites the inspector to come in and only then tells him that she has been expecting him for fifteen years!

CH 3/ Scene 2 – Mrs. Masters – the woman who opened the door to the inspector – explains that her daughters were identical twins. Alice was the clever one, the one with all the tricks and all the lies. Louise was the quiet one, the one that knew instinctively when to talk and when to shut up. Louise was a lovely child but she had a tendency of hiding her feelings behind a sneer or sarcasm. When "Louise" (?) got

married, her other daughter was emotionally shattered. Mrs. Masters tells Inspector Adrian that she didn't live with either twins and rarely saw either, after the couple was married. She adds that "Alice" (?) died two months ago. She committed suicide when she saw Connie Randal's picture in the paper. With tears in her eyes, Mrs. Masters asks Inspector Adrian to find out what really happened to her daughters.

CH 3/ Scene 3 – When Inspector Adrian returns to the island, he can't wait to talk to Connie. He wants to know why she waited so long to come to Jersey to find out what happened to her parents. He also wants to ask her if she knows that her grandmother lives in Paris now and that originally her surviving aunt lived there until her death two months ago. Connie appears at a loss to find answers to David's questions. When he repeats his query regarding the reason why she waited so long before coming to the island, Connie replies that it felt right somehow. Adrian knows Connie is hiding something. She knows more than she lets on.

CH 3/ Scene 4 – The next day, Inspector Adrian reluctantly asks Hunter to dig into Connie's past. He wants to know whether the young lady has visited Jersey before now; if she has ever been in contact with Mrs. Masters (difficult to find out but Hunter should try anyway); and whether the investigative officers ever interviewed her during the first investigation. Next, Adrian wants answers regarding ballistics. The forensic lab report is incomplete. It seems that only the finger prints found on the gun were the victims' prints – both victims! Did they shoot each other? Who shot who first? Or did someone else force them to shoot themselves with the same gun to confuse the issue. Adrian tends to believe this last assumption to be the correct one.

Part Two - Main Action

Chapter Four

CH 4/ Scene 1 – Inspector Adrian and Sergeant Hunter sift through the investigation reports trying to find a clue as to the reason for such murders. If there was jealousy between the sisters, Hunter suggests that Louise would have come to the island to kill Alice in order to have Martin Randal all to herself. Now, that's an explanation the inspector can accept. Louise was a reclusive child, according to her mother; she may have wanted to take her sister's place. But, there is the question of establishing identity. Mrs. Masters mentioned that "Alice" was the surviving daughter and that "Louise" was the one who married Martin Randal. The Inspector will need to find out who Connie's mother was.

CH 4/ Scene 2 – After a lengthy day in front of the computer screen, Hunter finally comes up with some answers regarding Connie's movements before coming to Jersey – this time. Yes, this was not the first time she visited the island. She stayed at the Orgueil Hotel on the two previous occasions. The first time she was here, just out of college, she went to St. Helier to interview the inspector in charge of the investigation into her parents' murders. She talked to Detective Hensley. Hensley since died of pneumonia. His notebook only makes mention of a couple of conversations he had with the girl. Nothing came to light then. The next time Connie came to the island, she engaged some private detective to question the people who had been in contact with her parents before their deaths.

CH 4/ Scene 3 – As for knowing her aunt or even visiting her in Paris, there is no way of knowing if that ever happened. Inspector Adrian picks up the phone after he had listened to Hunter's report and calls Mrs. Masters. She tells him that she never met Connie. She knew about the child but neither parent allowed her to visit with their granddaughter. Next, Adrian asks Mrs. Masters if she knows if "Alice" ever came to Jersey. Mrs. Master could not swear to it but she believes she was a resourceful young woman who could have visited the island during one of her vacations, which she always spent in England.

CH 4/ Scene 4 – When Sergeant Hunter ultimately finds out that Connie Randal only spent a week with her aunt on the Riviera when her parents were killed in Jersey, and when the Aunt Stephanie Randal (Martin's sister) tells Hunter that Connie was very mature for her age, the sergeant has to wonder if Connie didn't just come to the island to be with her parents before returning to Oxford to attend summer school. And if she did come to the island, would she have witnessed the murders, or perpetrated the crimes herself?

CH 4/ Scene 5 – When Adrian hears Hunter’s report and discuss the conclusions they could draw from it, he decides to ask Connie to come to the station to make a statement. It’s about time for him to leave his emotional attraction for the woman aside and to attack her head on. David Adrian doesn’t like to be distracted by a woman’s beauty. He has learned long ago that this sort of “side effects” could be very detrimental to one’s career.

Chapter 5

CH 5/ Scene 1 – As soon as Adrian enters the interview room, he notices Connie’s red eyes. Although he is quite sure she has been crying, he is not going to be snared into such female trappings as teary eyes. He begins the interview by asking her about her grandmother – if she has ever tried to find her. Connie shakes her head. She insists she did not know of her existence before the inspector told her about it. Same goes for her aunt. Adrian has a hard time believing her. Any child being orphaned at the age of fifteen would look for its family. He then asks her why she came to the island while her parents were on holidays here. Connie stares at the inspector. Obviously, she had no idea he would find out.

CH 5/ Scene 2 – Connie replies that she had to return to Oxford for summer school and she thought she would take the Jersey ferry instead of going directly to Dover and on to Oxford. When asked if she saw her parents, Connie says that yes, she met with them at the hotel. They spent the weekend together and then she flew back to Oxford. It was the last time she saw them. She is glad she made the trip. Connie then repeats that she never knew she had an aunt in Paris and had been told her grandmother died before she was born.

CH 5/ Scene 3 – Adrian knows he won’t get anything else out of the young woman. He lets her go, but still asks her to remain on the island until he has concluded his investigation. Before she leaves the station Connie says something to Adrian that he finds a little perplexing: “So, one twin killed the other. How very odd, don’t you think?”

CH 5/ Scene 4 – Adrian doesn’t want to stir the pot at this point. He believes Connie knows what happened to her parents now. Or, if she doesn’t “know”, she is very close to deducing what Adrian himself has concluded from that statement.

CH 5/ Scene 5 – The next morning Adrian is jogging along the beach when a thought comes to his mind. At this point of the investigation, Adrian has come to the conclusion that there are only three possible answers to this mystery. First, Louise and Martin made a suicide pact and killed one another. Who shot who first, no one will ever know. Second, Alice killed them both and forced them to walk into the water before they died. Third, after killing them both, Alice killed herself out of remorse when she saw Louise’s daughter’s photograph in the paper. There could be a fourth explanation: Connie killing her parents. But then, where’s the motive? Inheritance? Life Insurance?

CH 5/ Scene 6 – Adrian shakes his head and returns to the *White House* to have a shower before breakfast and before going to the station. The more he thinks about it, the better he likes the third proposition: Alice killed Louise and Martin out of rage or jealousy.... But, what if Louise took Alice’s place initially and Connie is her daughter? That makes sense when one recalls Mrs. Masters saying that Martin had first made advances to Louise – not to Alice. Moreover, Louise would be more likely to keep Connie away from her sister’s grip. Alice was the conniving one, the one ready to lie any time she felt it was necessary.

Part Three - Resolution

Chapter Six

CH 6/ Scene 1 – Yes, definitely a possibility worth investigating, Adrian concludes as he walks up to the station. He then thinks about the possibility of Alice, Louise and Connie meeting at the Orgueil Hotel. Instead of going to the station then, he retraces his steps, goes down to the beach and soon arrives at the hotel. He finds Mr. Constantine and asks him about the three women meeting here fifteen years ago. “If they have, I don’t recall. Mind you, they could have. I am not on duty 24/7.”

CH 6/ Scene 2 – Although the answer is inconclusive, Adrian feels he is very close to solving the twin problem. There is one more thing that Adrian would like to check before he calls on Connie to give her the answers she's been looking for. He asks Hunter to see the clothes both victims were wearing when they were found. Hunter replies that the only things she found in the evidence box were bathing suits. In fact, they were both practically naked and had no identification of any sort on them – no watch, no jewelry – nothing.

CH 6/ Scene 3 – That's all Adrian needed to know. He knows who killed Connie's parents and why. But before he calls Connie, he wants to write it all down. Two hours later, he is ready for Connie to read his statement. As soon as she arrives at the precinct, Adrian invites her to sit in his office. He asks her if she ever got her mother's jewelry back or even if her father's watch was returned to her. She shakes her head. She remembers her Aunt Stephanie asking about it when her parents' coffin arrived at the mortuary in Oxford.

CH 6/ Scene 4 – Satisfied that he now has all the information and evidence he needs to close the file on the case, Inspector Adrian hands his statement to Connie.

CH 6/ Scene 5 – Louise Masters met Martin Randal during a birthday party some thirty-two years ago now. It was love at first sight. Their relationship blossomed until Alice decided to take over. She menaced Louise with all sorts of punishments if she didn't step aside and let Martin court her. Louise obliged. However, Martin was no fool. He knew Louise better than most by this time. The two of them eloped and were married on the Isle of Jersey a year after they met. Nine months later Connie was born....

CH 6/ Scene 6 – Connie stops reading and lifts her gaze to the inspector. She notes that her mother's name was Alice – not Louise. Adrian smiles and asks her to continue reading. She does.

CH 6/ Scene 7 – Knowing how unstable and liable to tell a lie Alice was, Louise changes her name to Alice when she marries Martin. Since the girls had a joint birth certificate, it was easy to say she was Alice rather than Louise. When Alice comes to the island to meet Louise – now happily married and mother of a fifteen year old child – something snaps. Jealousy overcomes her. She goes to the beach in the early hours of the morning after she has met her sister for coffee and forces Martin and Louise to walk into the water. She shoots them and closes each of their hands on the gun's grip. She knows that no powder residue would be found on them after being in the sea water for hours if not days.

CH 6/ Scene 8 – When Connie finishes reading, she asks Adrian if she could get a copy of the entire report. She wants to go to Paris to meet her grandmother. The two of them have a lot to talk about now.

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