



## Rubies in the Roses

*Vivian Conroy*

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## **Rubies in the Roses** Vivian Conroy

Guinevere Evans has a dream summer job: cataloguing books at a castle on a tidal island off the coast of Cornwall. With her perky dachshund Dolly by her side she explores the island's colourful history, tries fabulous local food and sees the gorgeous sunsets.

But when an old friend of her employer drops in, claiming a rare bejewelled wedding goblet is hidden in the castle gardens, strange events start to take place: several people turn up claiming they have a right to the elusive goblet, and a dead body is found on the beach.

An unfortunate accident, or does this death relate to the struggle for ownership of the goblet? Is there even a goblet?

Guinevere and Dolly dig in and discover plenty of motives to lie, steal and yes, maybe even kill. Can they prove what really happened to the victim and what became of the precious rubies that are at the heart of the mystery?

## **Rubies in the Roses Details**

Date : Published August 30th 2017 by HQ Digital

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Author : Vivian Conroy

Format : Kindle Edition 243 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Young Adult

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## **From Reader Review Rubies in the Roses for online ebook**

**\*Avonna says**

Check out all of my reviews at: <http://www.avonnalovesgenres.com>

RUBIES IN THE ROSES (Cornish Castle Mystery, Book 2) by Vivian Conroy is the second cozy mystery in the murderous adventures on Cornisea Island. I fell in love with Guinevere and Dolly in the locked room mystery in the first book, "Death Plays a Part". In this second book, you become more intimately involved with Guinevere's personal life and emotions as she works to solve the new mystery and murder on the tidal island.

As in the first book, Guinevere and her Dachshund Dolly are on Cornisea Island on a working summer break from the theater in London where she is a costume maker. She is helping Lord Bolingbrooke catalogue his vast library in the castle.

Usually Lord Bolingbrooke hides from anyone trying to visit the castle, but he surprises Guinevere by actually greeting Gregory Wadencourt, historian and artifact hunter, when he arrives with his own photographer, Max DeBurgh in tow. Wadencourt has a history with Lord Bolingbrooke, but it is not necessarily friendly. Wadencourt is on the island to find the bejeweled wedding goblet called The Rose and Stars which he believes is hidden on the castle grounds, but he is not the only person claiming rights to the goblet if found.

Several players, new and old, race to figure out the clues to the goblet's location and claim it as their own. When a body is found floating under the small private pier by the castle, the islanders are devastated. Once again Guinevere and Dolly search for clues to bring a murderer to justice, but Oliver is not always by her side on this adventure. Oliver does not like or trust Max, but Max makes Guinevere feel beautiful and needed. She does not know if these feelings are real or if she can trust Max, but she wants to.

I really enjoyed this second trip to Cornisea Island and the visit with Guinevere and Dolly. This cozy mystery draws you in with an intricate plot, interesting characters, emotional motives and red herrings. The goblet mystery and the murder mystery both keep you turning the pages. You get to read more of Guinevere's history as she reveals emotional pain from her past which makes her more realistic and dear to my heart. The secondary characters, whether returning from book one or new to this story, are all fully fleshed and not just caricatures.

This book is a wonderful addition to the series!

Thanks to HQ Digital, Net Galley and Vivian Conroy for a copy of this eArc in exchange for an honest review.

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**Lisa Ks Book Reviews says**

RUBIES IN THE ROSES, the second book in the Cornish Castle Mysteries, is the first book I've read by author Vivian Conroy, but it won't be my last. This modern day cozy mystery had a Christie like feel to it that made it a fresh delight to read.

My introduction to characters, Guinevere Evans and her dachshund Dolly, as well as Lord Bolingbrooke and his son Oliver, had me instantly locked into this story. I must admit, I'm totally enamoured with Lord Bolingbrooke. He is just the sort of off the wall, living-in-his-own-world type of man that intrigues me. When I read scenes with him, in my head his voice sounds like actor Tom Baker of Doctor Who. As for Dolly the Doxie, I was ready to pull her out of the pages and make her my own.

A wonderful tale, RUBIES IN THE ROSES is a mystery filled with intrigue and action. Each new page leading to more excitement, more questions, and more second guessing. Truly a great read all the way through with a satisfying conclusion. Certainly a book I will think about for some time to come.

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## **Elaine says**

Rating 4.5/5\*

Guinevere and her delightful Dolly the Dachshund are the sleuths again in this second mystery set around the Cornisea Island castle. It is a delightful, engaging and highly entertaining read that I thoroughly enjoyed escaping into. Guinevere is still working to catalogue Lord Bolingbrooke's vast library in the castle but this time new visitors arrive to disturb the tranquility of the setting. Gregory Wadencourt, a historian and artefact hunter, used to be a friend of Lord Bolingbrooke and he arrives planning to discover the hiding place of the "Rose and Stars" wedding goblet which he claims is hidden in the castle grounds. He's even brought his own photographer, Max DeBurgh, with him to record his unearthing of the bejewelled treasure. As more treasure seekers arrive and other characters from the first story join in, some claiming the goblet belongs to them should it be found. Discord abounds as the existence of any such goblet is uncertain - is it just a myth? When a body is discovered the cause of death needs investigating - is it another murder mystery to be solved?

It was great to return to Cornisea Island again and to meet so many familiar characters again - especially Dolly! The author skilfully draws readers into the story, painting pictures with her prose, bringing to life the characters, events and scenarios. It is a real page turner, a pair of cosy mysteries to endeavour to solve - one finding the goblet and the other discovering what happened to the person who has died. The story is also packed with humorous moments making it a brilliant story to escape into and I have no hesitation in highly recommending both this and Death Plays a Part, the first book in this series.

I requested and was given a copy of this book via NetGalley and this is my honest opinion after choosing to read it.

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## **Holly says**

\*3.5 stars

This was a cute 2nd installment in the Cornish Castle mystery. I loved getting back to the Cornish seaside. It's the perfect setting. I didn't love this one as much as the first but I'm not sure why. I don't know if it's because I didn't get enough of all the side characters? Especially Oliver. This one involves some shady characters that are after a centuries old goblet that has rubies and diamonds in the setting. Things don't go as planned, however, and someone ends up being killed. So we have two mysteries to solve, the goblet and the murder. Guinevere is out to solve them while also falling for a new guy, Max. But is he all that he seems? And is

Oliver just a little jealous? (I kind of hope so.) I can't wait to see where the next books leads us.

\*\*Thank you to the publisher and Netgalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Patty says**

This is the second book in the Cornish Castle Mysteries. I haven't read the first one, but I was able to keep up in this one. I may have to go back and read the first book to see what murder they solved, since this book doesn't really go in much detail about it.

In this book Guinevere and Oliver are at odds a bit. Wadencourt has come for a surprise visit. He in search of a wedding goblet, he thinks will make his career. Wadencourt brings a photographer, Max, to document the success, when he finds the goblet. Max is an odd character who has eyes for Guinevere and Oliver doesn't like it. Things get dicey when Jago winds up dead and the goblet is found without its jewels. Can Guinevere and Oliver see eye to eye and solve Jago's murder and find the missing jewels?

This is a great cozy little mystery. The characters are wonderful and catch your attention. Guinevere is a very intelligent woman and nothing gets by her. She looks at the bigger picture putting all events together to figure out the who. Wadencourt is a pompous ass in my eye. I didn't like Max too much either. I think he is all wrong for Guinevere. I like to think there is more to her and Oliver than what is being shown in the story at this point. Maybe future books will explore this further.

Let us not forget cute Dolly. That pup is super smart and sweet. I wanted to kick Max's butt when he was mean to her. She seems to know when Guinevere needs her, by leaning into her to give her strength, barking and growling to stop her from going somewhere dangerous. I love her.

If you are looking for a cozy mystery of who done it, then this is the book for you. I highly recommend this book for those rainy days curled up on the couch.

\*ARC provided by Vivian Conroy

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### **Trina (aNovelReader) says**

I'm typically drawn to a good cozy mystery because it is a fun, easy read. With Rubies in the Roses, there's lost treasure, a castle setting, a library, a missing book, and an adorable dachshund named Dolly. Oh, and don't forget a dead body! With character names like Lord Bolingbrooke, Wadencourt, Oliver, Lady Serena and Guinevere, you know you are in for a good regal mystery. Overall, the storyline was a bit slow but it had its moments of suspense. I would have liked more development of the characters but that will probably come as the series progresses. I was definitely stumped right through to the end as far as whodunit but also left with a lot of unanswered questions. I guess I'll just have to wait for Book 3.

Thanks to NetGalley and HQ Digital for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Leith Devine says**

Rubies in the Roses is the second book in the Cornish Castle Mysteries, and it's a worthy follow-up. It's a fun cozy mystery read with a little history. I really like the Cornwall setting, and the characters are quirky and interesting to read about.

Guinevere and her dog Dolly are spending the summer cataloging books at a castle in Cornisea for the owner, Lord Bolingbrooke and his son Oliver. An old acquaintance, a historian named Gregory Wadencourt, shows up at the castle with his photographer Max, looking for an ancient jeweled wedding goblet called the Rose and Stars that he believes is hidden at the castle. He wants the goblet before another man named Vex can get to it. Vex has done some research and is about to publish his findings in a magazine, which could result in tourists digging up parts of the castle gardens. The goblet's ownership, assuming it is found, is under dispute by Lord Bolingbrooke and Lady Serena Wilkonson, who says the goblet had been in her family for generations before it was lost.

A few days later, Guin finds one of the island's most colorful residents, Jago the boatman, dead by the docks. At the same time, the goblet is found, but it's missing the jewels, which have been recently removed. Guin doesn't know if Jago was involved, or who could have stolen the jewels, but she wants to find out.

I liked this book better than the first one. The plot was interesting and the identity of the murderer was drawn out for quite a while.

I definitely recommend this book to cozy mystery lovers.

Thanks to HQ Digital and NetGalley for the ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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## **The Cozy Review says**

Guinevere Evans has a dream job cataloging books at Cornish Castle on the tidal island of Cornisea. With her fur BF, Dolly by her side she gets to know the people and history of the beautiful island. And from time to time, comes across a body.

When an old friend of her employer arrives unexpectedly, claiming that a rare bejeweled wedding goblet is hidden in the castle gardens, strange things start happening. Several people turn up claiming they have the right to the elusive goblet, and the body of a local resident is found on the beach.

Was his death an accident, or does it have anything to do with the ownership of the goblet? For that matter, is the goblet even real or just a local legend? Guinevere and Dolly start digging into the mystery and discover motives for all of those involved to lie, steal and kill. A goblet is found, but the jewels are missing. Can she prove what happened to the victim? What became of the precious jewels from the goblet that were removed, and when were they removed and by whom?

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Series: Cornish Castle Mystery - Book 2

Author: Vivian Conroy

Genre: Cozy Mystery

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers (HQ Digital)

Rubies in the Roses is the second book in the Cornish Castle Mystery series by Vivian Conroy. It is filled with wonderful characters who will have the reader smiling and worrying at the same time. All the characters, especially Guinevere and Oliver are well rounded and at the center of all the action. The writing is smooth and fluid moving the plot along at a nice easy-to-read pace.

The victim is someone the reader will like and be upset when he is killed. The death is unexpected. When Guinevere finds his body, the reader gets the sense that the victim will be missed by many of the island's residents and Guinevere in particular. The newest character, Max becomes a romantic interest for Guinevere but one that will leave her and the reader questioning many aspects of her future.

It is not necessary for the reader to have read the first book in the series, but it would help to understand the character dynamics. There are quite a few references to the first book that are not explained, but it is not so much as to distract from the current story.

The setting of Rubies in the Roses is unmistakably exotic and exciting as well as romantic. What woman has not dreamed of living in a far away castle surrounded by the ocean and attractive men, and an exciting myth and mystery to fall into?

This book is highly recommended to anyone who enjoys far away locations, castles, and furry friends as main attractions in their mystery. If a reader likes a straight forward who-done-it, they will love this story.

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### **Sara Oxton says**

Rubies in the Roses by Vivian Conroy a fab four-star read. This is the second book in the Cornish Castle Mystery series but you don't have to have read the first book to follow this one, if you have you may pick up on some inner jokes and such, but you don't miss the story.

There is so much going on in this book that you could get lost, but the author does a great job at keeping everything tied up and keeping you hooked. Genevieve and Dolly are a great twosome, even though one of them is a dog. The whodunit aspect of the book had me guessing all the way, I even fell for a red herring, something I never do so well-done Vivian Conroy!!

If you are looking for a mystery with a good plot, and characters who will make you keep reading well past your bedtime then this is the book for you.

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### **Rachel says**

have to say that I definitely have a soft spot for cosy/cozy crime and after reading the first book in the series Death Plays a Part and getting to know the characters I couldn't wait to re-visit Cornisea. After reading the description for the book I was intrigued and wondered how everything would play out.

Guinevere is a great character she is determined and yet again I enjoyed her interactions with Oliver. Their

friendship is a little shaky at times in this story which adds an extra depth but they still work brilliantly together. I always enjoy the moments where they talk through everything that they have learnt so far and try to put all the clues together. I like that you get to see more of Guinevere's feelings in this story so it felt more personal in that respect. There was definitely a deeper character development with her character and there is a vulnerability that pulled at my heart strings a little.

The focus isn't just on the people who live on the island in this story but we also get a few "outsiders" who all come to the island to try and discover the goblet. There is a good mix of characters with differing personalities who all pretty much have hidden agendas but is there a killer amongst them? A special mention yet again has to go to Dolly I loved how she has her own little personality making me smile on quite a few occasions.

Even though it is the second book in the series I still think you could get by without reading Death Plays a Part. However it really is worth a read as you do get a great introduction to Guinevere and Dolly and not forgetting missing out on a brilliant closed door mystery.

Trying to figure everything out was half the fun of reading Rubies in the Roses and with a good range of suspects the story kept me on my toes. The pacing is good with the right amount of clues revealed at certain points in the story to intrigue the reader. I love the setting of Cornisea I really wish it was a real place as I would love to visit especially to meet all of the locals and to have a look around the castle.

Rubies in the Roses is entertaining and will have you trying to piece everything together throughout. There is a special charm about the characters and the setting that will have you turning the pages to discover if you figured it all out correctly.

Charming with wonderful characters!

With thanks to Vivian Conroy, HQ Digital & Netgalley for my copy. This is my honest and unbiased opinion.

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## **DelAnne Frazee says**

Title: Rubies in the Roses - Cornish Castle Mystery Book 2

Author: Vivian Conroy

Publisher: HQ Digital

Published: 8-30-2017

Pages: 202

Genre: Mystery & Thriller

Sub-Genre: Humor, Cozy Mystery, Series, Town & Rural, Crafts & Hobbies, Suspense, Amateur Sleuths, Women's Fiction

ISBN: 9780008257521

ASIN: B06XGD1WHG

Reviewed For NetGalley and HQ Digital

Reviewer: DelAnne

Rating: 4.25 Stars



Welcome to Cornisea island and spend your summer holidays in a Cornish Castle.

Guinevere Evans has a dream summer job: cataloguing books at a castle on a tidal island off the coast of Cornwall. With her perky dachshund Dolly by her side she explores the island's colourful history, tries fabulous local food and sees the gorgeous sunsets.

But when an old friend of her employer drops in, claiming a rare bejewelled wedding goblet is hidden in the castle gardens, strange events start to take place: several people turn up claiming they have a right to the elusive goblet, and a dead body is found on the beach.

An unfortunate accident, or does this death relate to the struggle for ownership of the goblet? Is there even a goblet?

Guinevere and Dolly dig in and discover plenty of motives to lie, steal and yes, maybe even kill. Can they prove what really happened to the victim and what became of the precious rubies that are at the heart of the mystery?

Guinevere & Dolly once again bring humor and suspense to the reader. Such well developed characters and a curious mystery provide the reader with an enjoyable, lazy afternoon. Readers will fall in love with scenes that bring the castle and island to life.

My rating of "Rubies in the Roses - Cornish Castle Mystery Book 2" is out of 5 stars.

Amazon Link: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B06XGD1WHG/...>

B&N Link: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/rubi...>

Books-A-Million Link: <http://www.booksamillion.com/p/Rubies...>

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GoodReads Link: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3...>

The Reading Room Link: <https://www.facebook.com/permalink.ph...>

Twitter Link: <https://twitter.com/DelAnne531/status...>

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**Marie Andrews says**

\* 4.5 stars\*

Full review is also posted here: <https://lotsoflivres.com/2017/09/01/b...>

Rubies In The Roses by Vivian Conroy is the second book in the Cornish Castle Mystery series (the first being Death Plays A Part) and follows Guinevere Evans, a costume maker for a theatre in London, as she embarks on a summer job cataloguing books for Lord Bolingbrooke at the castle on Cornisea Island, off the coast of Cornwall. Whilst she's there, there is a claim that a jewelled goblet is hidden on the grounds and a dead body is found, so Guinevere, along with her Dachshund, Dolly, go on the mission of uncovering this mystery.

I was a huge fan of this book! I don't usually read many mystery novels but both Death Plays a Part and Rubies in the Roses offer a well-built island with intriguing and memorable characters that urge me to want to continue reading. The whole "who done it?!" and "What happened?" scenarios, with the various clues throughout, which are uncovered throughout the novel (with the help of Dolly) are so cleverly intertwined within the story that when I'm reading along, I'm forever guessing what the truth is, and that's what makes such a great mystery book. Vivian has done an excellent job!

In terms of characters, we get to know Guinevere better than in Death Plays A Part, which was great to see her character development, as well as see some familiar faces such as Cador, Lord Bolingbrooke and Oliver. There are also a few new characters, but they are all so distinguishable that I sometimes think I'm actually on Cornisea Island itself (not always the case in some mystery novels as there is a pure emphasis on plot) and this allowed for a great balance when reading it. The plot and characters are equally as intriguing, which makes this such a great read!

The book is also very fast paced in that a lot happens in the book (which is only just over 200 pages), yet is all explained with such precision and detail. Vivian has a great writing style that is easy to read and understand – and I can definitely see the similarities between her books and the Agatha Christie books I have read!

Rubies In The Roses is an excellent mystery novel, and is so compelling, yet a short read, that you cannot miss it! Even though it is the second book in the Cornish Castle Mystery series, it can also be read as a standalone (although the first book is just as great, so why not read both!!!). The characters are well developed, as is the setting and plot. Rubies In The Roses grabs your attention from the very first page and I can't recommend it enough! I will definitely be checking out Vivian's other mystery novels and I can't wait!

\*I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review\*

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## **Karen Mace says**

Guinevere and her faithful companion Dolly the dachshund are back for more mystery solving in this engaging series set in Cornisea Island.

Following on from the first in the series, Death Plays A Part, Guinevere is still at the Castle helping Lord Bolingbrooke catalogue his extensive library, and life in this idyllic setting takes a sinister twist once more. With the arrival of old acquaintances, a treasure hunt for a lost goblet soon becomes the talk of the Island, and pits friends old and new against each other, as they try and track it down and claim ownership. And when another body washes up in the docks, it becomes clear that this goblet search is proving to be a costly one.

I loved the return of the characters from the first book, with the new additions adding extra depth, and although it is part of a series it can easily be read as a stand alone. The storyline was really easy to be drawn into, and I found it to have a slightly darker edge than the first book, but still managed some lighter moments - normally thanks to Dolly and her exploits!

It was full of intrigue and kept me guessing from start to finish and I found myself suspecting everyone! Not sure I'd make a great detective!! I have been well and truly won over by the cosy mystery genre and look forward to finding more mysteries to enjoy!!

thank you to netgalley and the publishers for the advanced e-copy in return for a fair and honest review

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### **booksofallkinds says**

RUBIES IN THE ROSES by Vivian Conroy is the second book in the Cornish Castle Mystery Series and I could not wait to dive back into this wonderful series. Guinevere is back with her fabulous sidekick, Dolly the dachshund, and it isn't long before there is mystery in the air once again.

Still working at her dream summer job up at the castle, it is only when an old friend of her employer appears, claiming that there is a rare antique hidden in the castle grounds, that Guinevere and the community of Cornisea Island will find themselves in the middle of a mystery, as people start to crawl out of the woodwork staking their claim, and a dead body floats up on the beach. Will Guinevere and Dolly be able to uncover the truth before it is too late?

I love this cozy mystery series with its stunning setting and intriguing (and loveable) characters that draw you into the story and make you feel a part of the action. I really enjoyed the first book in the series (Death Plays A Part) and I had high hopes for the sequel and hats off to Vivian Conroy, as this one was even better! The mystery element is superb with plenty of twists and turns to throw you off the scent, but it is the castle and the community of quirky characters that really steal the show in this novel.

RUBIES IN THE ROSES by Vivian Conroy is the perfect read to curl up on the couch with and I highly recommend it and the series!

\*I voluntarily reviewed this book from the author

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### **Louise says**

First of all, what a treat to be given the chance to review this highly anticipated follow up to Death Plays a Part.

The cover of the book features Dolly the Dachshund who plays a huge part in helping owner Guinevere solve the clues in both Cornish Castle mysteries. She is always by her owner's side and can be depended on to sniff out evidence whenever it arises, and keep her owner out of harm's way. The pair have such a strong relationship that they seem to know what the other is thinking.

"Come on then" Guinevere clipped the leash onto Dolly's collar. She rose and gave a tug. "Off we go". She

wanted to walk to the pier but Dolly stepped in front of her as if to stop her. She looked up at her and barked.

Rubies in the Roses works really well as a standalone, but I was glad to have read Death Plays a Part because the main characters were already well formed in my mind, and the stunningly beautiful Cornisea island was a pleasure to revisit.

Again, there is the owner of the castle, the gregarious Lord Bolingbrooke and his dashing son Oliver, and the trusty butler Cador who "seemed to be everywhere and see everything with his sharp blue eyes"

This time there are interesting new characters. Wadencourt, an old friend of Lord Bolingbrooke, has a very strong desire to find an ancient wedding goblet he believes to be buried in the castle gardens. Wadencourt brings along his photographer Max Deburgh who is clearly attracted to Guinevere. There is also the elusive Lady Serena who believes that the goblet belonged to her family, and Mr Vex who has written a highly anticipated article about the artifact.

A sudden death adds more intrigue to the plot. Guinevere and Oliver are just as determined to unravel the details of the death as they are to uncover the mystery of the missing goblet. They have to discover if the two are linked or just a disturbing coincidence. The story overflows with twists and red herrings which keep you rooted from the beginning of the book to its conclusion.

Much to the displeasure of Oliver, Guinevere is pursued by Max and she is extremely flattered by his attention. Oliver sees the photographer as fake and untrustworthy, but can Guinevere see past the compliments and view Max DeBurgh as a suspect?

This modern day Miss Marple leaves no stone unturned in her quest to unravel the mystery of the ancient goblet. With her trusty sidekick Dolly, and the well travelled Oliver by her side, the trio become a powerful team. Inspector LeFevre returns to Cornisea when he is informed of a crime and provides high spec laboratory analysis and police manpower to lead the investigation.

A cleverly scripted and enchanting whodunnit with charming characters and a beautiful backdrop.

Vivian Conroy has produced another absolute delight!

5/5 stars.

Thank you NetGalley for the opportunity to review this book.

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