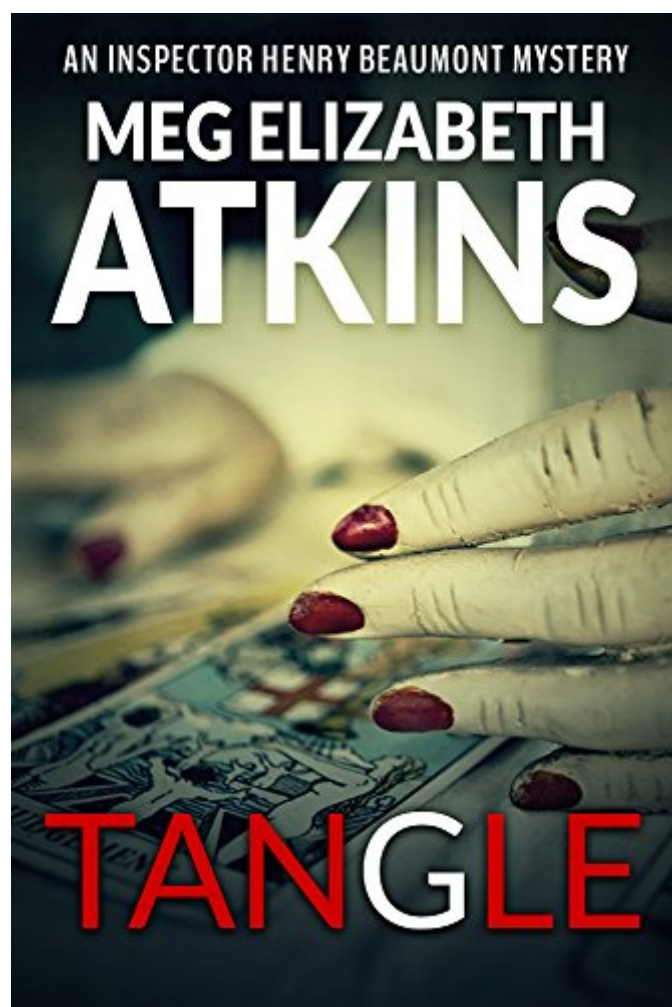


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Tangle



Synopsis

Murder is on the cardsâWhen Arnold Peabody dies, nobody but his grasping cousin Edith takes much notice. A quiet, ineffectual little man, he was lost following the death of his domineering motherâand took his own life shortly after her demise. The death of Mildred Hewitt, on the other hand, is an entirely different matter. A pillar of society and formidable matriarch in Avenridge, Mildred falls to her death from a local beauty spot one snowy night a few weeks after Arnoldâs death. Like Arnold, her son Gilbert is helpless without the commanding presence of his motherâbut Gilbert goes even more spectacularly off the rails. Puffed up with his own sense of self-importance and twisted sense of reality, Gilbert is entirely incapable of life on his own. He decides, as Arnold had done, to visit a local medium in the hope of obtaining some contact with his mother from beyond the graveâsomething, anything, that will tell him what to do. There he meets the mysterious Veronica, who quickly becomes his guardian angelâor does she have a more sinister motivation for inserting herself into Gilbertâs life? Chief Inspector Henry Beaumont, a frequent visitor to Avenridge since his years there as an evacuee, finds himself increasingly involved in the Hewitt caseâwhich smells of murder. The case of Arnold Peabody, and its similarity to the Hewitt case, flickers at the back of his mind and Henry begins to wonder if the two deaths are not connected. Incidents from his childhood, blurred by time, return to haunt him as Gilbert spirals into madness, stirring up memories of old scandals and bringing long-forgotten people back into play. As Henry unpeels layer upon layer of old scandal and undreamed-of connections, Veronica becomes ever more elusive, leading him to wonder if he can find her before tragedy strikes yet againâ

Tangle is a thrilling murder mystery novel, so full of drama and suspense that you wonât be able to put it down. Meg Elizabeth Atkins has won many plaudits for her fiction on both sides of the Atlantic, and reviewers have compared her to Elizabeth Bowen and Barbara Pym for the elegance of her writing. In several of her earlier novels, such as Samain, Palimpsest and Tangle, she has explored the disturbing undercurrents beneath the polite surface of English middle-class life, and in Cruel as the Grave forces erupt through the repression and containment of daily existence with violent consequences. Meg Elizabeth Atkins lives with her husband in a North Yorkshire village. She teaches creative writing and her other books include By The North Door, Cruel As The Grave and Samain.

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Customer Reviews

Arnold Peabody takes his own life | maybe |. After the death of his mother. No one is really concerned except for his cousin Edith | and she™s only irate because he left his small fortune to some woman he had met a few weeks before he killed himself. A few weeks later, Mildred Hewitt falls to her death. There were no witnesses .. an accident? Her son, Gilbert, is completely lost without his mother. Lost like entirely unable to face life without her. The only commonality between these two is that both sons have visited a local medium. Even a voice from beyond the grave might go a long way in calming their fears about a motherless future, But then Gilbert meets Veronica | a God-send so he thinks. Is this the same woman that Arnold Peabody met before his untimely death? And is there a sinister reason why she has played some part in their lives? Chief Inspector Henry Beaumont notices the similarity of these cases. One plus one equals murder, especially when Veronica disappears. This seemed to move at a slower pace, but it was steady. The author took time to forge character identities and most of them were rather intriguing, some a bit on the quirky side. CI Beaumont reminded me a bit of Columbo, never seeming in any real hurry, never getting upset or angry, and having a mind that just never shut off. Tangles is a very good mystery, with a touch of suspense. Many thanks to the author / Endeavour Press / NetGalley who provided a digital copy in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

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