



Symbols at Your Door

Anthea Fraser

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To the casual observer, Beckwith is an idyllic place to live, with its pretty houses, superb views, and the added attraction of a Stately Home in its midst. Yet behind the high hedges some of its residents live lonely, even frightened lives, and when ugly faces are drawn on several front doors, robbery and murder are not far behind. Is it coincidence, DCI Webb wonders, or were the graffiti statements of intent?

Symbols at Your Door Details

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Denise says

This novel is a good, quick read with some interesting social commentary about the old town folks versus the new people in town. As a mystery, I thought it telegraphed information about one likely suspect pretty well if you were paying attention. I would enjoy reading another book by this author.

Damaskcat says

The village of Beckworth is picturesque and attracts second home owners and escapees from big cities. The influx of newcomers has changed the character of the village and the change isn't always welcome to the locals. When a spate of graffiti is scrawled on some of the doors in the village - a grotesque, gargoyle like figures - it seems someone is trying to warn or frighten people. There are a few burglaries and thefts and then Carol Dexter's body is found floating in a lily pond in the local stately home and DCI Webb starts to investigate.

Carol was a newcomer to the village and unhappy living there. Her husband thinks she might have committed suicide but it seems there is more to the case especially as Carol's house is one of those which has been targeted by the graffiti artist. The more Webb discovers about the village the more confusing the case seems to be and the more suspects there are - not just for Carol's death but for the thefts and the graffiti.

I found this a well written and interesting story and I thought the tensions between the newcomers and the older residents was well done. The book paints a somewhat depressing portrait of what can happen to a small community when too many of its inhabitants are part time residents. This is the eighth book in this well written series and it can be read as a standalone novel.

Julie says

Another DCI Webb mystery. A community is being threatened by someone writing symbols on the door then a young woman is found dead in a pond. Are they related? DCI Webb and his team slowly uncover what really happened.

Well-written.

Shirley says

Still enjoying this Inspector Webb series, totally relaxing, and as we will shortly be returning to England for another visit, finding it especially a good read. This one centers around graffiti found on some doors in the village and now long held resentment leads to murder.

Tessa says

Another good read in this detective series.

Peter Herrmann says

Good, but not great. This is the 4th of her books I've read (the 2nd of DCI Webb), and I'm finding that in all of them there's some missing quality that causes it to feel a bit flat at the end. Not sure what. For about the first third I struggle with a myriad of characters to try to 'absorb.' Well, that's okay. Then the mystery becomes quite compelling. But then the solution derives from some piece of information that is inaccessible to the reader. And perhaps I find the protagonists drawn too shallow. Maybe DCI Webb and his girlfriend and colleagues need some quirk to take them out of the realm of 'forgettable.' Maybe the dialogue is too mundane. Maybe somebody else has an idea of what quality is lacking in these books.
