



veritable super-sleuth, aided by her friend Hugo Cholmondley-Crichton Crump. In this Chronicle she faces a family crisis while planning a new business venture for Belchester Towers: guided tours. To celebrate (and road-test) her new venture, Lady Amanda invites a horde of old chums to a trial run at Christmas time, complete with tasty nibbles. However, things don't go to plan - a dead guest is discovered found slumped on the library table, having been dispatched in a variety of unusual ways! Lady Amanda and Hugo are off again, but can they beat the morose Inspector Moody to the unmasking of the culprit?

Christmas Mourning is the eighth instalment of Andrea Frazer's Falconer Files, a detective series chock-full of picture-postcard villages, dastardly deeds, and a delightful slice of humour. The UK is experiencing its worst winter for years. Catastrophic news for DI Harry Falconer, as he has rashly promised to spend Christmas with his sergeant, Carmichael, and Carmichael's rambunctious family, in Castle Farthing ? only to find himself snowed in and in and spending a lot longer at chez Carmichael than is desirable ? Without power or telephones, and Castle Farthing cut off from the outside world until further notice, Christmas Day greets them ? with a murder in St Cuthbert's Church, where the locum vicar has discovered, to his horror, one of Castle Farthing's residents nailed to a gigantic cross. Falconer and Carmichael are left to dig their way out of Carmichael's cottage to investigate the terrible crime, with none of the technology and support normally available to them. As if this is not enough to cope with, Carmichael has agreed to look after a huge Great Dane over the festivities, Kerry Carmichael is just about to give birth ? and death is still stalking the snowed-in community, intent on claiming at least one more victim ?

It is the summer of 1977, on the cusp of a technological revolution that will soon cause the world to shrink. Seventeen year old James Earl Williams arrived in Natchez, Mississippi, looking forward to a new beginning far from the world of his New Jersey childhood. After years of life in gang riddled neighborhoods and fast paced crime, life has come to a virtual standstill. But all is not as quiet as it first seems. Supernatural forces are beckoning to James, searching for a treasure hidden deep inside him. The changes he expected when he arrived are far different from the transformations about to overtake him and his family. His first surprise comes in the form of an annoying nightly sound - one that his grandparents dismiss as the natural decline of their aging homestead. The second surprise fits inside a pair of tight blue jeans, has bright blue eyes and long wavy black hair - Jolie Lefleur Dimanche. And she has had a dream impossible to ignore, one which lures her into a torrid relationship with James Earl. Tormented by the past and present, love and hope will entice James Earl Williams into a dark place where dreams and premonitions come alive. One wrong decision could easily take him to a place of no return.

From the author of the Falconer Files, a series featuring a pair of amateur sleuths and a delightful outpouring of English upper-class eccentricities - with the odd murder thrown in. Lady Amanda Golightly of Belchester Towers is a person in complete contrast to the stereotypical image of one of her breeding. She is short, portly, and embarrassingly forthright. If she wasn't calling a spade a shovel, it was only because she was calling it 'trumps'! On a visit to a local nursing home where an old business partner of her father's is residing, she unexpectedly discovers a long-lost friend, Hugo Cholmondley-Crichton-Crump - and stumbles upon murder as well. Installing Hugo in the more civilised and comfortable surroundings of Belchester Towers, the pair turn to sleuthing after Lady Amanda reports her appalling discovery to the local police inspector and is incensed when he treats her as a silly old biddy with an over-active imagination. Her outrage prompts her to teach the impertinent young whipper-snapper a lesson, and she and Hugo (Zimmer frame in tow) embark upon their first investigation, only for murder to become a distressingly frequent occurrence ...

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