



## Obit

*Anne Emery*

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### Obit Anne Emery

Declan Burke fled Ireland forty years ago and never looked back. Now settled in New York, he thinks he's put the old country behind him, until he reads the obituary of one Cathal Murphy. The obituary, he sees at once, is not about Murphy at all. It is a coded indictment of Burke's own life. And an announcement of his impending death. Halifax lawyer Monty Collins investigates the obit with its allusions to Burke's IRA past. Collins gets no help from Burke, who — good soldier to the end — keeps the silence of the grave.

But Burke's denial becomes harder to maintain following a burst of gunfire at a family wedding. The shooting brings another old soldier onto the field: Leo Killeen, the commanding officer of Burke's former battalion in Dublin. But he also has secrets to protect. When a body is found in a rundown Brooklyn flat, Collins wonders just how far Killeen will go to keep those secrets under wraps.

From the farms of Ireland to the tenements of New York City, Monty is confronted by a cast of enigmatic characters, including the owner of a nightclub frequented by the New York mob; a sultry chanteuse; and Burke's hotheaded son Francis, whose resentment and dubious activities set the family on a road to destruction. Monty isn't the only one who is surprised when he reaches the end of the road. Burke too must now confront the suspicion that he has been manipulated all along by an unseen hand.

### Obit Details

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## From Reader Review Obit for online ebook

### **Biblioblond says**

The true allure of Anne Emery's mysteries are the characters. Like with her first novel (Sign of the Cross), the storyline of this novel is torn in too many directions and the climax is anti-climatic. By the end it was difficult to care who had committed the initial crime because so many subplots had emerged. However, I will continue to read more of Anne Emery's books because I absolutely love the character development and the dialogue.

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### **Laura says**

Second entry into this series is one of my favorites. Especially because it focuses on the Burke clan in NY. They are brilliant, funny and tragic. Monty in NYC is fascinating as well. Very enjoyable entry into this series. Narration is great

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### **Lorraine says**

Language to say the least is colourful. I can only say how badly I felt reading this that family hate continues. Some of the stuff mentioned in this book is still passed down to the younger generations and they sometimes don't even know the whole story.

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### **Philip says**

This is a good story which I think is every bit as good as number 1 in the series "Sign of the Cross" if not actually better. The story is populated by many very interesting characters actually may be too many to keep track of without a programme if most of them weren't from the Burke family. What a bunch of characters they are! Again, as in the first book, in my opinion, Brennan Burke steals the show. He is as colourful and wild a character as can be found in any mystery series and I hope there's much more of him in subsequent books. On the other hand Monty Collins really doesn't show any brilliant defence attorney attributes while trying to be a good father to his two kids until he gets back to Halifax but in the last chapters he becomes much smarter. Again Maura is not a likeable character although a bit better than in the first book. The motive or motives is/are a bit weak and I don't think parachuting the priest in from Ireland advanced the story any but it did muddy the waters some more and provided some comic relief. I guess the ending was satisfactory if a bit ambiguous All that being said I did enjoy this book and I will read more Anne Emery books in this series and I already have the next one!

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### **Terry says**

Good mystery, although it's the 2nd in a "trilogy." I like the Canadian protagonist, Monty Collins, from Nova Scotia--adds a twist to this complicated tale of family loyalties and IRA connections. Want to return to this author. Thoughtful, legal. Why were the older generations so secretive? A bit like PJ Tracy's Live Bait.

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## Alice says

New author. Story is about the Irish and their settling in the US in the 1950s and what they did to survive and how it effects the present.

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## Julie says

1.5 stars

That's it. I'm done with Anne Emery. I didn't have such great luck with her first novel in the Monty Collins series, *Sign of The Cross* and had told myself I'd seen enough. Unfortunately, a friend insisted I give this one a try as it "gets better". My friend is an eejit, but I still love her.

This is the shaggiest-of-shaggy-dog stories about the IRA. How anyone can make the IRA come out dull and boring is beyond me to grasp. And while I know that the Irish love to spin a good story, not even the most fabled of Erin's storytellers could make head or "tale" out of this one. (Sorry. That stupid pun is high literature in comparison to some that I found in the book.)

In this novel, Monty Collins has deteriorated into a simple-minded lawyer-detective on the loose in New York City, chasing his tail over the IRA, as he chases tail in various sleazy bars. During his down time, he makes feeble, moon-eyed attempts to reunite with his wife, from whom he's separated. (Or is it divorced? No matter. They're not living together and it's all Monty's fault.)

Accompanied on this NYC escapade is our eminent Father Brennan Burke -- who's in fact getting more action in the bedroom than Monty ever dreamed of.

Amid bedroom episodes and bar scenes, Brennan and Monty spend some of their lacklustre ambition chasing clues on a 40 year old mystery with which everyone seems bored, despite that people have murdered to keep the secret! The feeling is that Emery just doesn't care all that much about the IRA -- or she lost the plot to her own storyline. It's convoluted to the extreme -- and perplexing that she has made an essentially straight-forward tale into a labyrinthine nightmare of dead-ends and dead-beats.

I am especially irritated by the poor characterization in this one. Where both Monty and Brennan were pleasantly bearable in the last one, in this novel they've turned into morons. It seems that Emery doesn't know how grown men behave or speak because the image that she leaves me with is of Monty and Brennan as two 12 year old girls, giggling and sniggering over pre-pubescent sex jokes, while they merrily skip down the street, hand in hand, one in his priest's frock and the other wearing his judicial robes and tabs. It's the best I could muster from what the author gave me.

I gave up on page 157. I skipped to the end. I didn't miss anything by leaving the last 150 pages unread. I did regain my mental equilibrium after a few shots of Bushmills.

### **Tonya says**

This second book of the Collins-Burke Series is great!! I have found myself really enjoying these books and the characters! Father Burke is one of my favorite characters. This books focuses more around an event with his family & is set mostly in New York. I listened to the Audio Book and I feel that really added to the experience.

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### **Helen L. says**

I found the characters unappealing.

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### **Denise says**

I couldn't give this book as strong a recommendation as I did the first one in the series. Don't misunderstand me...still loved the characters, the settings and the humour...I just, personally, did not like the story line as much as I did in the first....but, that is a flaw with me....I don't always like the second and third books in a series....I find it hard to re-create the fun or enjoyment that you have with reading the first novel....this one was good....but not nearly as page-turning.

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### **Ellen Dark says**

Convolutd, but that's the way mysteries should be.

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### **Georgiana says**

Unfortunatly, the characters and relationships that made the first book a great stand-alone story make for a lousy series. By the time the plot started getting interesting, I was already so annoyed with the people, I simply couldn't bring myself to continue. Life's too short to waste on a book I'm not enjoying!

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### **Diane says**

An intriguing book. Took me a bit to get into it, but once I was there, it had me. The family was beautifully drawn in all of its Irish character, and I especially liked the crusty father. Monty, the family friend, is more true-blue than imaginable, with great detective smarts. The story made me want to raise a pint or two in its honor.

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All in all a good read.

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### **Judith says**

#### **Not my cup of tea.**

Well plotted and good characters, but too far fetched for me. Not a fan of weaving everything back to the Russians during the Cold War.

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### **Francis says**

I like mysteries. I read a lot of them, probably average a hundred or so a year. So, I don't understand why this series doesn't get consistently higher ratings from readers. My personal opinion based on the first two books is that it is well above average and deserves much better ratings.

Just saying

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