



***A Dangerous Goodbye* – Fliss Chester**

“If you are reading this, then in all likelihood I am dead.”

This is how *A Dangerous Goodbye* begins. It is written in a letter to Fen Church from her fiancé Arthur. It is 1944 and soldiers are sent all over Europe to fight in World War 2. Fen does not know where Arthur is stationed or even what his job is, she only knows he is in danger.

About a year later when the war has finally ended, Fen decides to set out on a quest to find Arthur, from whom she hasn't heard anymore after his alarming letter. Might he really be dead?

Arthur and Fen used to enjoy solving cryptic crosswords together. Their letters were always full of riddles and clues. This is also the case with Arthur's last letter, leading Fen to France.

In France she finds work and lodging at a local winery, not knowing she would soon be busying herself with solving three murders. Would solving these murders lead to Fen finding her fiancé?

This lovely mystery novel is from author Fliss Chester. As I have never before read anything by Chester, I could only compare the book to other writers. Visualise historical fiction author Kate Mosse meeting Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's character Sherlock Holmes and Kerry Greenwood's Miss Phryne Fisher. That might describe the atmosphere of this book. A romantic, historical story with a touch of strong femininity and some page-turning murder mysteries.

I've enjoyed this book from the beginning until the end. It's the little details that made me smile. Fen saying 'Bonjour monsieur' every time she saw the winery's cat, speaking to him like he would solve all her problems. It gives the book a realistic vibe, as though this could really have happened.

Elise Prins-Kleuskens,
Department of English Literature