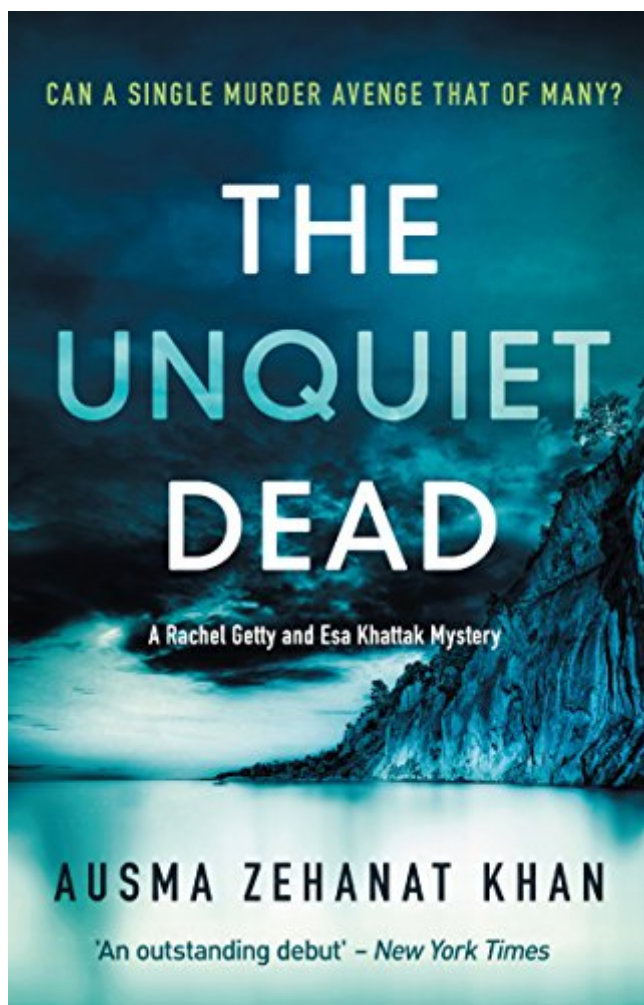


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The Unquiet Dead (Detective Esa Khattak And Rachel Getty Mysteries)



Synopsis

*Featured on BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour**'Outstanding' Åçâ –â œ New York Times 'Gripping' Åçâ –â œ Associated Press 'Powerful' Åçâ –â œ Publishers WeeklyOne man is dead. But thousands were his victims. Can a single murder avenge that of many? Scarborough Bluffs, Toronto: the body of Christopher Drayton is found at the foot of the cliffs. Muslim Detective Esa Khattak, head of the Community Policing Unit, and his partner Rachel Getty are called in to investigate. As the secrets of Drayton Åçâ –â œs role in the 1995 Srebrenica genocide of Bosnian Muslims surface, the harrowing significance of his death makes it difficult to remain objective. In a community haunted by the atrocities of war, anyone could be a suspect. And when the victim is a man with so many deaths to his name, could it be that justice has at long last been served? In this important debut novel, Ausma Zehanat Khan has written a compelling and provocative mystery exploring the complexities of identity, loss, and redemption. Winner of the Barry Award, Arthur Ellis Award, and Romantic Times Reviewers Choice Award for Best First Novel 'A debut to remember and one that even those who eschew the genre will devour in one breathtaking sitting' - LA Times 'Khan Åçâ –â œs device of inserting descriptions of events during the massacre, drawn from evidence given by survivors to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) is effective in recreating its horrors [...] The emotional tsunami always created by the description of those horrific few days, in which the Bosnian Serb Army committed genocide while the European peacekeepers looked on, is as strong as in anything I have read about Srebrenica, in fiction or non-fiction...' - Peter Murphy, creator of the Ben Schroeder series and former counsel at the ICTY. 'Compelling and challenging, this is a beautifully written and powerful story of inhumanity and justice' - Leigh Russell, bestselling author of the DI Geraldine Steel series 'A tale of rich complexity... intricately woven, delicately revealed' - Luke McCallin, author of The Ashes of Berlin

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Customer Reviews

"The Unquiet Dead" is a stunning debut novel written by Ausuma Zehanath Khjan. She has written a complex mystery that interweaves the lives of her main characters with the horror of the 1990's Bosnian War. A war many people may know little about, she focuses on the 1995 genocide committed at Srebrenica by the Serbs, as they systematically committed the ethnic cleansing of the Muslim men and boys that lived in the one-time nation of Yugoslavia. Khan also visits the rape camps that destroyed the lives of the countless women and girls that were attacked and murdered by the Serbs and ignored by the U. N. peace keepers. Christopher Drayton has been found dead, an accidental fall from the cliffs near his home. A hiking trail used by the locals along the shores of Lake Ontario near Toronto, leads to an area known as Cathedral Bluffs where erosion makes getting too close to the edge very dangerous. But this simple accident may not be so simple. Esa Khattak has been asked by his superior and friend to look into Drayton's death. Khattak, head of Canada's Community Policing Section (CPS) which looks into cases involving ethnic minorities. A strange request that Khattak agrees to look into along with a once up and coming officer, Rachel Getty. As both Esa and Rachel look deeper into Drayton's life and the lives of those around him, they find that his death may not have been so simple as an accidental fall from a cliff. There may be motive for a number of people to have been involved in Drayton's death. And Drayton may not be whom he appeared to be. There is a possibility that Drayton may be a Bosnian War criminal known as Drazen Krstic, one of the leaders that oversaw the genocide that occurred at Srebrenica. At the same time both Esa and Rachel must examine their own lives and deal with the personal issues that drive them and have caused their withdrawal from the people that they should be closest to. Khan does an excellent job of looking into the personal lives of the two police officers, all while they uncover the layers of subterfuge that may have hidden the monster in their midst. It is a character study into why we, as human beings, often fail to look too closely at the people that surround us, for fear of finding our own

failings. And we often want to ignore the realities that horror may exist within our world. I think this book is an excellent introduction to the characters that will appear in Ms. Khan's sequel "The Language of Secrets". I found this to be a well constructed, evenly paced novel that pulls the reader along and assures us that even in this day and age human atrocities can and do still occur. The headings on each chapter are the actual testimony heard during the War Crimes Tribunal held after the Bosnian War. This is a highly recommended read.,

There were some distractions that took away the fifth star. I was surprised a woman who earned a Ph.D sometimes lapsed into poor use of the English language, as an example, using sentences that contained no verb. As another reviewer pointed out, there was extraneous verbiage. One example was, when Inspector Essa Khattak, himself Pakistani, expresses interest in a blond woman, his police partner, Rachel Getty, says, "A blonde sir? Really?" "Why can't he like a blonde? I must be missing something here." However, overall the characters were interesting individuals & the story lines were worth developing. Ms. Khan managed to do an interesting mix of Officer Getty's investigation into the disappearance of her younger brother, Zach, into the mystery of the death of town resident Christopher Drayton and what happened in the 1990s to the citizens of Bosnia, perhaps at his hands. She got me interested in the history of this region as well as Islamic teachings and perhaps I will read some more of her writing.

First Sentence: Esa Khattak turned his head to the right, offering the universal salaam at the conclusion of the evening prayer. Esa Khattak and Det. Rachel Getty are members of the Canadian Community Policing Section which handles minority-sensitive investigation. At first glance, it doesn't seem that the death of Christopher Drayton, who is believed to have fallen from a cliff, fits their charter. Or does it? And is that Drayton's real name? Was he really Canadian, or did he have a much darker past? During this time in which we live, learning about other cultures and religions is not only informative but vital. The very humanizing aspect of Khattak's rug being made by his ancestors, that we learn of his wife's death, are good indications of the man. It is also an excellent introduction to the character's history and that of the unit he heads up; the Community Policing Station. How refreshing when an author with eschews chapter-ending cliff hangers, but with uses clues instead. Good chapter headings; some mild, others disturbing, are also much appreciated and can add so much. "Father, take care of my children, look after my children." It is only much later one realizes the significance of these passages.

There are many passages within the text that cause us to pause and consider. “Because friendship was more than a source of comfort or a place of belonging. It was a source of responsibility. Although this is the first book in the series, there are constant references to a past time where Rachel and Khattack worked together. One may find this more annoying than informative. However, learning of Rachel’s background and present concerns does bring her to life. What is interesting is how Rachel actually becomes the lead character after Khattack becomes too personally invested in the events. She is a wonderful character and one of whom one would like to see more. Best of all, we are provided with so many examples of such fine writing. “She scorned those who genuflected at the temple of nonviolence, their voices ringing with praise of the defenseless victims of butchery while they sat on their hands when the gods of carnage came calling. So much of the book’s theme is relevant today. “It was a compelling history lesson: how quickly the violent ideals of ultra-nationalism led to hate, how quickly hate to blood. “An Unquiet Dead” is more a novel and a warning. “Everywhere the radical right was rising: Sweden, France, Belgium, Denmark, Holland. While a steady stream of vitriol drifted north of the US border. --rather than a mystery. Either way, it is disturbing and painful, and excellent. THE UNQUIET DEAD (Crime Novel-Rachel Getty/Esa Khattak-Canada-Contemp-) ExKahn, Ausma Zehanat 1st in series Severn House Feb 2017

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