

Synopsis for Death on D'Urville

By Penelope Haines

2-line Summary:

Claire's routine task as a pilot turns to chaos when she finds a body on D'Urville Island. Now she's caught up in a world of Maori myth, sexy detectives, and child abuse.

Short Synopsis:

Pilot Claire Hardcastle's routine task of picking up a client turns to chaos when she finds a body on D'Urville Island. Now she's caught up in a world of police, child abuse, and Maori myth, as she and Detective Sergeant Jack Body struggle to uncover the murderer.

Medium Synopsis:

A mystery featuring pilot Claire Hardcastle. During a routine task to pick up a client, Claire finds herself at the murder scene of Jorge, a retiring novelist. Claire's fiery, clever, daring — and she's trying to prove herself in a man's world. As she and her partner, Detective Sergeant Jack Body delve into the mystery, she finds herself questioning everything she knew about the dead man. The key to solving the case depends on her ability to unravel a tangle of possible motives. From rifled grave goods, Maori tapu, to child abuse it seems many people had good reason to murder the man who used to be her passenger.

Long Synopsis:

Death on D'Urville is the first novel in a new mystery series featuring Claire Hardcastle, commercial pilot and flying instructor, who operates out of Paraparaumu airport in New Zealand.

Claire Hardcastle is fiery, clever, daring —and she's trying to prove herself in a man's world. Recently recovered from a disastrous relationship with her ex, she's determined from now on to live on her own terms.

A high level of confidence is required to handle the varied risks and responsibilities of aviation, and flying attracts alpha type personalities. Claire is no exception, but there is a

fine line between confidence and its mirror image arrogance, a line Claire sometimes struggles to negotiate successfully. Fortunately she has her boss Roger, and her sister Kate to keep her in check.

When her routine flight to pick a passenger up from a remote island in the Marlborough Sounds turns into a murder investigation Claire is excited to discover she may hold a clue to the crime.

Greville Harbour is home to a small number of people who, like the deceased Jorge, come to stay for short periods in their holiday homes, and Claire, whose job it is to fly them to and from the mainland has known them for several years. On the face of it, none look likely to be the murderer. Why would anyone want to murder an inoffensive, reclusive novelist?

Claire's interest in solving the murder is heightened by her growing attraction to Detective Sergeant Jack Body.

The key to solving Jorge's death depends on unravelling a tangle of motives as diverse as rifled grave goods, artefact smuggling, disputed Maori history, breached tapu, and child abuse. It seems many people had a reason to murder the man who used to be Claire's passenger, and Jorge was not the man she thought she knew. When his criminal history is exposed, Claire unwillingly finds her sympathies realigning with the murderer.

As Claire and Jack's professional and personal partnership deepens they have to accept that, for others, obsession can turn sour, love can be twisted and traumatised and one man can unleash a malignant strain that leads to murder.

Sure to delight the fans of Penelope Haines' earlier novels "*The Lost One*" and "*Princess of Sparta*," this exciting new series, set in the world of small aircraft aviation, features a strong protagonist, solid mystery and off-beat humour.

Back Cover Synopsis

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Her interest in solving the murder is heightened by her growing attraction to Detective Sergeant Jack Body. As Claire and Jack's professional and personal partnership deepens they have to accept that, for others, obsession can turn sour, and become a malignant strain that leads to murder.

The key to solving Jorge's death depends on unravelling a tangle of motives as diverse as rifled grave goods, artefact smuggling, disputed Maori history, breached tapu, and child abuse. It seems many people had a reason to murder the man who used to be Claire's passenger, and Jorge was not the man she thought she knew. When his criminal history is exposed, Claire unwillingly finds her sympathies realigning with the murderer.

The first novel in a new mystery series featuring Claire Hardcastle, commercial pilot and flying instructor, who operates out of Paraparaumu airport in New Zealand. Sure to delight the fans of Penelope Haines' earlier novels *The Lost One* and *Helen Had A Sister*, this exciting new series, set in the world of small aircraft aviation, features a strong protagonist, solid mystery and off-beat humour.