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***THE WITCH CLUB: A SCOTTISH WITCHES MYSTERY***

**By Felicity Green**

**Paranormal cozy mystery THE WITCH CLUB is inspired by the author's honeymoon at a creepy inn on the shore of Loch Lomond in Scotland**

Missing grooms. A witch with disturbing visions. One loyal bride determined to dig up answers...

*The Witch Club* is the addictive first book in the *Scottish Witches* paranormal cozy mystery series.

And it is inspired by real events.

Author Felicity Green spent her honeymoon in Scotland, hiking the long-distance walking trail West Highland Way with her husband. When there was no room at Rowardennan Youth Hostel at the end of a strenuous day, they were forced to take a detour by water taxi to Tarbet, on the opposite shore of Loch Lomond. Unfortunately, there were no vacancies in any of the village's many B&Bs, either.

Someone finally took pity on the desperate, cold, and exhausted couple and directed them to Mary McDonald's place, a B&B that was not advertised in any guidebook and usually had a vacant room. The hopeful bride and groom were soon to find out why.

"The stooped woman who opened the door really looked like a witch," Green says. "She had messy black hair, lipstick on her teeth, and a wrinkled face. She may even have had a wart or two. When Mrs. McDonald told us she had a room available, I should have just been relieved, but I had conflicting emotions. Mrs. McDonald showed us to one of two guest rooms. Everything looked old and run down. We also found out that we would have to share a bathroom with the landlady. I did not really want to stay there, but we clearly had no choice. Still, I had this ominous feeling in the pit of my stomach."

It was then that Green conceived of the plot of a new novel. "I asked myself: What if a newly wed couple stays in a creepy inn in a remote Highland village owned by a witchy old lady... and the next day the groom has disappeared?"

- The place, the picturesque village of Tarbet, turned out the ideal setting for a cozy mystery.
- The landscape of the Highlands is suffused with the supernatural: at every corner awaits a local legend or fairy tale. Since the landlady looked like a witch, it seemed a natural step for the author to make the story a paranormal mystery. Fascinated with folklore, Green strove to base the paranormal goings-on in her novel on actual Highland lore.
- At the heart of the novel is the mystery of the missing groom:

*Dessie McKendrick is obsessed with the disappearance of her husband during their honeymoon ten years ago.*

*The determined B&B owner never left the village where he was last seen. And after her decade-long detailed investigation, she finally feels vindicated when another bride wakes up with a vanished groom.*

*With evidence piling up pointing to a local women's club, Dessie follows a suspicious person on a dark night and sees cloaked figures performing a ritual sacrifice. And when she discovers that her one ally is really a secretive witch with conflicted loyalties, the stubborn widow doubles down on her search for a murderer...*

*Can she expose a dangerous conspiracy, or will she fall victim to a coven of crafty spellcasters?*

Much of the story is based on the author's actual experiences in Tarbet, although Mrs. McDonald turned out to be a friendly and generous hostess, Green admits. "The following morning—my husband was still there—she made us a wonderful breakfast. And she recommended a local restaurant, an old church with a great atmosphere and delicious food. It features heavily in the *Scottish Witches* series, where it is called The Kirk. Mrs. McDonald told us that newly weds from Edinburgh come to Loch Lomond to put their marriage under a good star. It is a lovely little anecdote for the novel, where, ironically, the opposite is true for Dessie McKendrick. But it has come true for my husband and me. We are still happily married a decade later."

There is a spooky postscript to that story. After finishing her novel, Green researched if the B&B she based her fictional Thistle Inn on still existed. She came upon an article about a murder trial from the late 1990s in *The Herald*. The accused: Mrs. McDonald. The victim: Her husband. After years of physical abuse, his wife had stabbed Mr. McDonald to death in their B&B. According to the article, Mrs. McDonald pled guilty to the reduced charge of culpable homicide.

The paranormal aspects of *The Witch Club* certainly fall under the realm of fiction. It is an eerie coincidence, however, that Green had this ominous feeling in Mrs. McDonald's guest room, which made her think of a murder mystery. Almost as if echoes of that dark and tragic event had clung to the walls of that B&B overlooking scenic Loch Lomond...

FELICITY GREEN is the best-selling author of over thirty books in German and English. Set in Scotland, England, and Ireland, Felicity Green's books are all about magic and mystery, often with murder and mayhem thrown into the mix.

She holds an MA in Creative Writing from University of Sussex, and a bachelor's degree in English Literature and Drama from University of Kent.

She currently lives at the German-Swiss border with her family and an idiosyncratic Maine Coon cat. Visit [felicitygreenauthor.com](http://felicitygreenauthor.com) for more information and sign-up for the newsletter to receive the book *NO REST FOR THE WICKED WITCH* for free.

Felicity Green published the German version of *The Witch Club* in 2016 and it was a great success. She followed it up with six more books and numerous novellas and short stories in the *Scottish Witches Mystery* series. Tens of thousands of copies sold over the years, garnering many 5-star reader reviews.

*The Witch Club* is available for pre-order on Amazon and will be available in ebook and paperback via all major retailers on February 24, 2024.

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