

A BABY'S BODY. THE BUTCHER WHO FOUND IT.
HIS WIFE WHO WON'T TALK TO HIM.
HER LADY WITH A SECRET.
THE DETECTIVE ON THEIR HEELS . . .



When a young butcher spots a strange shape on the banks of the River Liffey in the hot summer of 1866, the city of Dublin is gripped by a grimy case of infanticide. Detective Martin Peakin, an amateur entomologist and full of regret for his failed engagement, sets off in search of the murderer, eager to impress his superiors.

But, as Peakin draws closer, he begins to realise that not all is as it seems. Everyone related to the case is hiding something, while his own secrets threaten to bubble to the surface. The river binds these Dubliners together, but who will it divide in the end? And will Peakin actually solve this most shocking, ordinary and desperate of crimes?

The Grateful Water – sticky with blood and secrets and guilt –
will suck you in until the last page.



'Twisty, thrilling and visceral. Adelman is a superb storyteller.'
NIAMH BOYCE



Superbly evokes the squalor and grandeur of nineteenth-century Dublin . . .
intricate, absorbing, and beautifully told.' ANDREW HUGHES

JULIANA ADELMAN



THE GRATEFUL WATER

THE GRATEFUL WATER



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NEW ISLAND

DUBLIN

Dublin as ordered by the Superintending Office of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

‘Gives life to the concerns, travails and tragedies of women often overlooked by history.’

ROSEMARY HENNIGAN

‘Crisp and unsentimental yet rich in sensory details of the sights, smells and sounds of the thronged city.’

LAURA MCKENNA



JULIANA ADELMAN is a historian and a writer. She lectures at Dublin City University, where she teaches courses in the history of science, medicine and the environment. Born in Boston, she has lived in Dublin longer than any other city.

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