

Mystery Along the Colorado River

New to the Family

A Rosetta Blessing Mystery
Sample - Travel Mystery Book 3

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Prologue

Bernard Gantry lived on his wealthy estate in Junction, Colorado. He made his fortune from land sales market trading, and his winery. Now at the age most would retire, he spent his days in his large residence with his brother and wife, Ben and Arlene, his niece, Denise, and his housekeeper, Carleen.

His son, Arthur, and Beth would stop by during the week to keep up with the workings of the vineyard and get away from his hardware business.

Ruth Manning, his friend and companion was the only person he could confide about his home and family. She suggested several times they should marry and enjoy life traveling. He wasn't sure or trusted his brother or the groundkeeper to manage the estate and the vineyard.

This morning, during breakfast, he struggled to get the jar of marmalade open when his housekeeper grabbed it out of his hands.

"I'm old but not feeble Mrs. Redmond," he barked.

"You know these things stick," she said and placed a warm wet cloth over the rim of the jar. Popping the canning lid open with the edge of a table knife, she handed the open half-pint jar back to him. He jerked it away from her hand and set it on the table. He stabbed the jam with the table knife his housekeeper used and placed a large blob of the glistening confection on his light brown toast. He loved the sweet raspberry flavor dissolving in his mouth. This time, however, there was a bitter after taste.

"Mrs. Redmond!" he yelled.

She returned from the kitchen and asked, "Oh, what is it now?"

"This tastes terr-terri-" He didn't get to finish. He gasped, grabbed his throat, and fell out of his chair.

Mrs. Redmond screamed. When he didn't move, she bent down to her employer and touched his neck. She couldn't feel a

pulse. "Oh dear, oh dear." She collected her thoughts and withdrew her cell phone.

Carleen's shaking fingers tapped the numbers 9-1-1, and called for the ambulance.

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