

RECAP
An Unlikely Revelation
Book #4: The Unlikely Murder Club Series

SPOILERS! SPOILERS! SPOILERS!

JJ Urquhart, a convicted murderer and self-proclaimed “killer of killers,” is preparing to publish his latest true crime book, *The Grift of Grab: The Agatha Shadewell Story*, based on the life of Agatha Shadewell, a criminal known for her frauds, forgeries, and burglaries. JJ, currently incarcerated, sees Agatha’s story, now that she is supposedly dead, as a definitive market success.

Meanwhile, Agatha, released from prison into the joint custody of former FBI agent Martin Kopp and his son, Detective Cecil Kopp, stages her fourth faux funeral at the Belfair Bijou theater in Unlikely, New York. This tactic should make the criminals she has crossed, including those sent by JJ, believe she is deceased, stopping further attempts on her life.

The entire town enjoys Agatha’s (using her alias Sarah Connor) faux funeral. Martin is shocked by the arrival of his ex-wife, Hazel Kopp, who announces she has retired and is moving back to Unlikely to run for mayor. Agatha also reunites with her long-lost friend, Clara Simpson-Goldband, who attended the funeral out of respect. Clara reveals she purchased the old Belfair Bijou just before coming to town and donated it to the community in Agatha’s memory.

Now that the town of unlikely owns the Belfair Bijou, Agatha and Martin, along with others, volunteer to renovate the old theater. While they’re working in the basement, Agatha’s dog, Chance, frantically digs in the crumbling concrete, leading to the discovery of a human skeleton. The body is later identified through dental records as Eustace “Ace” Urquhart, JJ’s estranged father.

Martin and Agatha, assisted by Officer Jada St. Clair, begin investigating the cold case. They deduce that Ace, who was likely murdered by blunt force trauma sometime after 1977, was not JJ’s biological father. This suggests the killer might be JJ’s real father, possibly triggered by Ace’s abusive behavior toward JJ’s mother, Betty. A key clue is a Star Wars keychain found near the body, which Hazel identifies as one she purchased in 1977. Hazel secretly suspects Martin might have killed Ace, who had a history of stalking Hazel.

As Hazel’s mayoral campaign ramps up, she organizes a joint fundraiser and debate with Mayor Bob Steward. During the event, the collected cash is stolen from the cash box handled by Mayor Bob’s father, Gus Steward, the town’s long-time volunteer bookkeeper. Despite not having a financial background, Agatha agrees to use her criminal expertise to audit the town’s books for Hazel, who suspects embezzlement is behind the town’s chronic lack of funding. Agatha quickly identifies a systematic pattern of fraud, tracing back years of forged invoices used to siphon thousands of dollars from the town coffers.

Meanwhile, Agatha and Martin receive escalating anonymous threat letters, all printed from the seniors’ center computer. Clara receives notes warning her not to sell the theater, while Agatha gets warnings to stop investigating the skeleton, followed by a specific threat mentioning Echo, Martin’s granddaughter. Hazel confesses to writing Agatha’s initial notes, using the generalized fear as leverage to pressure

Agatha. Following a visit to JJ in prison, where he confirms his belief that his real father killed Ace, JJ promptly escapes from custody.

The investigation converges when Gus Steward is suspected of both the theft and the threats. During a search, Chance points to a secret tunnel entrance in the Bijou basement. Agatha narrowly escapes a cave-in to retrieve a vintage pickaxe, identified as the likely murder weapon.

Gus Steward, anticipating arrest for embezzlement, breaks JJ out of the local holding cell and ambushes Agatha at her home. Gus confesses everything: he is JJ's biological father, the notes were sent to deter investigation and protect himself, and he murdered Ace because Ace was roughing up his wife Betty, and JJ. Gus intends to kill Agatha so JJ can claim responsibility, securing JJ's success as a writer. Before Gus can shoot, JJ leaps in front of Agatha, taking the bullet. He's only grazed. JJ explains he saved her only because the Hollywood studio requires her signature to make his book into a movie, and lawyers are concerned about next of kin interfering. Gus and JJ are promptly arrested.

In the aftermath, the Bijou celebrates its grand reopening. Hazel Kopp is declared the new mayor. Ace Urquhart is finally laid to rest. Agatha, using the last of her legitimate funds, borrows a car and travels to New York City to warn her former partner and protégé, Daniel Ortega, of an impending FBI raid. She provides Daniel, his wife, and their son with new passports, tickets, and financial means to escape, effectively giving away her final stash of emergency funds.

Agatha returns to Unlikely, broke and trapped by the community she has grown to love. She hears JJ Urquhart on the radio discussing the upcoming movie deal and realizes that the only way for her to earn money and survive is to leverage her own story and cooperate with the studio.