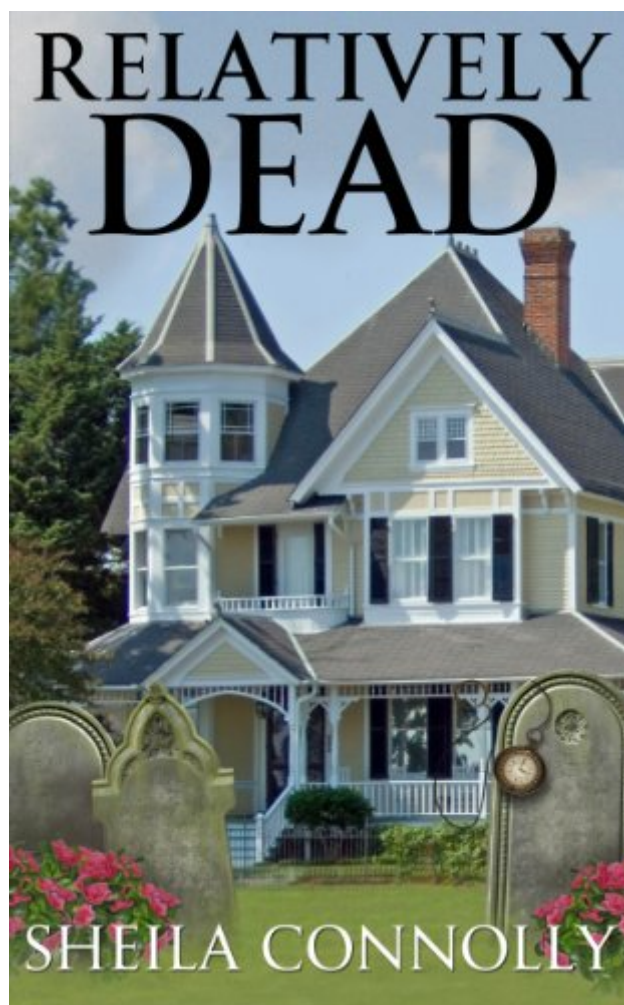


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# Relatively Dead (Relatively Dead Mysteries Book 1)



## Synopsis

The New York Times bestseller from author Sheila Connolly! Abby Kimball has just moved to New England with her boyfriend and is trying to settle in, but the experience is proving to be quite unsettling, to say the least. While on a tour of local historic homes, Abby witnesses a family scene that leaves her gasping for breath "because the family has been dead for nearly a century. Another haunting episode follows, and another, until it seems to Abby that everything she touches is drawing her in, calling to her from the past. Abby would doubt her sanity if it weren't for Ned Newhall, the kind and knowledgeable guide on that disturbing house tour. Rather than telling her she's hallucinating, Ned takes an interest in Abby's strange encounters and encourages her to figure out what's going on, starting with investigating the story of the family she saw . . . and exploring her own past. But as Abby begins to piece together a history that's as moving as it is shocking and unravels a long-ago mystery that nearly tore her family apart, she also begins to suspect that Ned's got secrets of his own, and that his interest may be driven as much by a taste for romance as a love for history. "This book kept me hooked until the very end, and even then I wanted more of it. The storyline . . . is original and fun." --Simply Bookish "I really enjoyed this little paranormal mystery and loved the storyline. Ms. Connolly created interesting characters that I wanted to learn more about." --Night Owl Reviews

**About the Author:** Sheila Connolly is an Anthony and Agatha Award "nominated author who writes three bestselling cozy mystery series: the Museum Mysteries, the Orchard Mysteries, and the County Cork Mysteries, which includes *Buried in a Bog* and *Scandal in Skibbereen*, both New York Times bestsellers. In addition, she has published *Once She Knew*, a romantic suspense; *Reunion with Death*, a traditional mystery set in Tuscany; *Relatively Dead*, a paranormal romance and a New York Times bestseller; and *Seeing the Dead*, as well as a number of short stories. She lives in Massachusetts with her husband and three cats and travels to Ireland as often as possible.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I enjoy Connolly's Museum Mysteries and I liked the premise for this book so I decided to give it a try. The concept is good and I had high hopes for the book but it never quite lived up to them. There is a lot of history in this book which I loved but the character development just wasn't there. The relationship between Abby and Brad was obvious and predictable while the chemistry with Ned was negligible. I kept waiting for a bigger picture to emerge or more of a climax to the book and it just didn't happen. This book was hard to get through and I'm not sure the author knew where she really wanted to go with the story. The book wasn't horrible but it wasn't really engaging either. It just...misses.

I absolutely LOVE this series. This book kept me hooked until the very end and even then, I wanted more. The storyline was unique and different from all of the other cozy mysteries I have read in the past. It was original and fun. Abby is an enjoyable heroine who found herself in the center of experiencing residual hauntings upon her move to the Lexington/Concord Massachusetts area. As it is soon revealed these sightings are from her ancestors. The author cleverly integrates genealogy and history. She draws you into the addictive highs and lows of researching in world of genealogy. I can't wait to read what is in store for this series. Reading this book gave me the same adrenaline rush I feel when I'm searching for my own ancestors. I would love to have the visions that Abby does because placing your ancestors in context to their everyday life and extraordinary moments in history, would be amazing. Definitely read this book. I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

This book is a little tedious. Not so interesting you can't put it down, and sort of so boring you don't want to pick it back up. I did read through the whole book. It did not leave me wanting more. Read this only if you have no interesting cereal boxes around to read.

There's a certain amount of the plot that we can see coming, but it's still engrossing and satisfying as it plays out. No murder to solve in this one, but lots of intriguing ideas to play with and enough clues to follow to keep murder enthusiasts engaged. I thoroughly enjoyed this first installment in what I hope will be a full series.

While it was predictable that Brad was not going to last long and that Ned was going from friend to lover.....the writing was still excellent in the telling. The story writing makes you wish we could all experience our past and learn where we come from. I enjoyed the history aspect and it was told without all the boredom of history lessons in school. I really liked this book very much and cannot wait to read further.

Relatively Dead is book one in the Relatively Dead series by Sheila Connolly. It is set near Boston. The characters are realistic and well developed. It is a good book and one which is hard to put down. I really liked it. Abigail (Abby) Kimball has quit her job and moved to the Boston area with her fiancé Brad. Brad is in finance and is totally caught up in his new job. He spends hours at work and then on the weekend, he spends the time with men from his new company playing golf or watching sports on television. He thinks nothing of leaving Abby alone all week and then all weekend. Even when she starts going out, he ignores what she is trying to tell him. She meets Ned when she goes on a local house tour. Ned is the guide for this particular house. As she enters the dining room, Abby begins seeing it crowded with people from an earlier century. She is pulled into the scene and is shaken when she realizes Ned is talking to her. Seeing she is shook up, he has her sit down and makes her some tea and then they talk. As they talk, she finds out the history of the house and realizes she was the older child who was holding a baby. She wants to find out more and Ned gives her some suggestions on where to start. She tells him how she quit her job and came to the area with Brad and that she is going to start looking for a job. Later Ned sends her to see Leslie about a job at a Concord museum. Her job would be helping coordinate and teach the school groups as they visit the museum. He also offers to show her around the area. When she calls Leslie about a job, she is accepted immediately and drawn straight into the chaos of her job. She loves the job but Brad doesn't think much of it since it doesn't pay much. He has

been acting strange anyway so she doesn't think much of it. When Ned calls one afternoon and Brad takes the message, he begins to accuse her of having something going on with Ned. She gets angry and realizes that Brad is the one having the affair, he is just accusing her to validate his own discretion. One thing she can't abide is cheating and she leaves that very night. Leslie finds a place for her to stay for six months house-sitting. She continues her search into her genealogy and seeing ghosts from her past. Ned takes more of a role in this now that she is separated from Brad. What will she find in her family history that the family would not like to have divulged? What changes the situation between Ned and Abby?

I have read a lot of books by this author and loved them. This book took me totally by surprise as I was expecting a murder and it never happened. Since I have never been interested in genealogy I must confess I did a bit of skip reading towards the end. I'm not sure how I feel about continuing on with this series. Connolly's books are so well written I will probably try one more book just to see where she is going with this series.

As usual, the author provides the setting for the story that enables the reader to drop in and feel at home. Not your standard mystery with a crime but for anyone who loves history, genealogy and the idea of ghosts, it's great. An excellent description of discovering you have paranormal powers and the acceptance by yourself and others.

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