

The Rorhart Inheritance – Synopsis

Standing on the snow blown steps of a crematorium in Scotland waiting to say farewell to an aged and troublesome aunt, Jane Rorhart hardly expects that day to start a process of revelation full of curious and dramatic secrets about her forebears.

When the old lady's lawyer calls unexpectedly the same day her son returns from Mexico accompanied by an old Dutch flame from his student days, Jane discovers life has more to offer than work, students and housekeeping. A case of old papers brought by the lawyer and a visit to another old lady who lives nearby sets them off on a convoluted tail of discovery with a deadly secret hiding in the shadows.

An old journal, kept by her great, great grandfather takes Jane to the wilds of war torn southern Africa and the British army's most shameful military defeat by the Zulu army of King Cetshwayo. In his charge is the son of his employer, sent to the war to grow out of his youthful indiscretions, who proves more than a handful, finally being sent home by sea and bringing a surprise package with him. On the journey home the boy disappears overboard leaving his chaperone to take charge of a packet of curious rocks and the pregnant girl he had brought secretly aboard.

On arrival in the Clyde, Rorhart, faced with a dilemma over what to do with the girl, draws her into his own family. Unbeknown to anyone she carries an awful secret which is to pass down the generations of Jane's family, only to be discovered by her geneticist colleague whilst sorting out another complicated family relationship for one of the students in her charge.

The potential consequences of her discovery pose more questions than Jane has answers for and it falls to Jack, the lawyer and Chip, her son to find an answer.