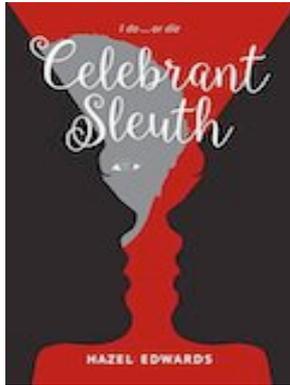


Julie Ditrich's review of 'Celebrant Sleuth' (Good Reads)



Exploring Topical Themes

I've always had a great respect for the versatile Hazel Edwards who writes children's picture books, educational books, young readers' chapter books, non-fiction and now crime. I expected CELEBRANT SLEUTH to be an Agatha Christie style novel but was pleasantly surprised to find it contained a series of mini mysteries and investigative challenges for the major character Quinn and her entourage in the form of random deaths, murders, poisonings, industrial sabotage and more.

Hazel has always been cutting edge in exploring topical themes in her books, and CELEBRANT SLEUTH is no different... in this case Quinn openly acknowledges her asexuality and lives in a non-traditional relationship but it is her career that is critical to her identity—she is both an actor as well as a celebrant.

Hazel Edwards provides some fascinating insights and observations into the world of the celebrant each time Quinn marries couples, conducts funerals and naming ceremonies, as well as navigates the challenges of family, social, cultural and religious dynamics that accompany each scenario. Quinn is both guide, counsellor and mediator to her clients. She even has a series of Laws and Theories—my favourite being QUINN'S THEORY OF SOUL-MATES, which states: “The number of times the word soul-mates is used in public is in reverse proportion to the number of months the relationship lasts”. This made me laugh because I think it's pretty spot on!

I also believe CELEBRANT SLEUTH is great source material for a potential television series. The setting, the backdrops of the café and the flower shop, and the cast of characters who make their presence known from vignette to vignette would translate well to the small screen as Quinn solves each episodic mystery in the context of her celebrant activities.

I really enjoyed this book. It was a gentle, smooth and multi-levelled read that taught me a lot and made me feel good.