



Length: 60,000 words

Series: The Declan Hunt Mysteries Book #3

Prior Reading: recommended

Genre: detective/mystery

Tropes: Mystery, Hot Detective, Age Gap, Workplace Romance, Canadian Romance, Multiple POV, Hidden Past

Trigger/Content Warnings: While the murders in this book are not graphic, there are three deaths in the book that are described in general terms. There is a description of a ghost that has been burned in a fire...not graphic, but it could be triggering for someone who is triggered by fire. The sex is mostly closed door or fade to black.

Publisher: Entwined Publishing



The Burnt is the third book in the *Declan Hunt Mysteries* series.

Finding work-life balance isn't always easy when you're sleeping with the boss. Charlie Watts is stressed as he studies for his private investigator's license, starts taking on his own cases and navigates his relationship with Declan Hunt. He thinks he can handle it, but every time their relationship is going well, work always gets in the way.

While Charlie investigates a threatening note that appears to be from a boy who mysteriously disappeared ten years ago, Declan tries to find the meaning behind the final words of a man who was brutally murdered. As Declan and Charlie work to solve these mysteries, secrets from the past are exposed, Charlie is haunted by ghostly dreams and Declan is forced to confront some terrible truths from a hidden past.

Ultimately, the truth will be revealed, but at what cost? And will Declan and Charlie be able to solve the mystery of where they want to go next with their relationship before things at work take a terrible turn?

GRR

**AS THE DETECTIVE SLOWLY MADE
HIS WAY ACROSS THE ROOM, ALL
EYES WERE ON HIM AND HIS
GLORIOUS PHYSIQUE. HE GOT TO
THE TABLE AND MADE NO
ATTEMPT TO HIDE THE KISS HE
LAID UPON CHARLIE'S LIPS.**



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EXCERPT:

Declan was unsettled by the news his father had delivered.

Archie Whitcher is dead.

He'd never thought he'd see the day when that man would pay for what he'd done to his son. But Archie's last message... Who the hell is Milo? And why did Archie want me to know about him?

Maybe Declan could find something in his notes from the last time he'd encountered Archie Whitcher—notes he hadn't looked at for a number of years.

Declan opened the large cupboard in his office that contained the safe. Inside, underneath various boxes and binders, was a file folder labelled Freddy. He placed it on his desk, poured himself a scotch, then sat down and opened the file. Declan looked over the photocopies of the pages of his old police notebook.

While Declan and Gary Sawchuck had been the ones who had discovered and dealt with the identification of Freddy's body, the investigation had been turned over to a Sergeant McKeckran. Declan had encountered the homophobic asshole again just last year. McKeckran had tried to close the file on the Ian Mann case because he was sure the victim was gay. Years before, he had swept the Freddy Whitcher death under the same carpet. Declan knew the case had never been adequately investigated.

The rage returned.

There was nothing of value to be found in the notes other than stirring up a painful memory. Declan placed a quick call to Gary Sawchuck. A gruff voice answered on the other end.

"Yeah."

"Gary, it's Declan. I got your message. Are you still on the scene?"

"Forensics is wrapping up for the day. We'll be back tomorrow, but the body's gone and

we've been through the preliminaries. I'll keep you posted if there's anything else that pertains to

you. You got any idea what Archie was talking about when he used your name before he died?"

"Nope," Declan replied. "All right, Gary. Thanks. Keep in touch."

Declan disconnected. He wasn't going to get any sleep tonight unless... He knew what he needed to do next.

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About The Author



The Burnt is Peter E. Fenton's fifth novel (and the third in The Declan Hunt Mysteries series)

Peter's first novel, The Woodcarver's Model was released by Pride Publishing in April of 2022 and was a four time nominee in the Goodreads M/M Romance Readers' Choice Awards.

Following the success of the first book, Pride Publishing released The Declan Hunt Mysteries series which includes Mann Hunt (nominated for a Goodreads M/M Romance Readers' Choice Award and recently translated into Spanish), and Hoodoo House, (also a Goodreads M/M Romance Readers' Choice Award nominee and just released in Spanish).

2024 also saw the release of the critically acclaimed teen novella Not Not Normal, published by Lorimer Press.

Peter's previous work was focused on writing for the stage, with award-winning productions of The Giant's Garden, Newfoundland Mary, Bemused, and The Detective Disappears being produced across the country.

He spent many years working in palaeontology in remote locations including the Canadian Rockies, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Peter lives in Toronto, Canada with his partner of more than twenty years, Scott White. At heart, he is an incredible romantic.

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