



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH JULIANNA DEERING

1. What inspired you to write *Murder on the Moor*?

The literary inspiration for the book was the novels of the Brontës, and nothing characterizes their works more than a lonely manor house on a windswept moor and a brooding, mysterious hero. And, as a tip of the cap to possibly the most famous moor story there is, I couldn't resist throwing in a little bit of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

2. Which of your new characters is your favorite?

Because I'm smitten with *Poldark*'s Aidan Turner, I couldn't resist creating my rakish gamekeeper, Rhys Delwyn, in his image. Don't tell Aidan he's Welsh and not Irish. Oh, and there's the mysterious Mr. Selden. I think readers will especially enjoy him, even if he and Drew are at loggerheads from the moment they meet.

3. What is the spiritual theme of the story?

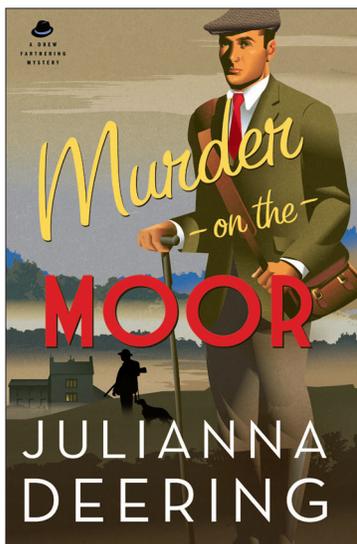
First Samuel 16:7, which says, "For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Drew sometimes makes assumptions based on prior experiences that have left their mark on him rather than seeing things strictly for what they are. He prays that God will show him what's true and that, no matter what he finds during his investigation, he will be fair.

4. What did you find out in your research that particularly interested you?

I always enjoy folktales and superstitions. Since *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was part of the inspiration for the story, I decided I had to have a spectral black hound of my very own. According to legend, the barghest was a huge black hound that haunted crossroads where gibbets used to stand, a portent of death for anyone who saw him. And if he was seen lying across a threshold, it meant someone in that house was soon to die. Though it most often took the form of a large black dog with fiery eyes, sometimes it was headless or invisible and walked the night with the sound of rattling chains. Legends vary about the appearance and meaning of this specter, some even claiming a sighting was a sign of good fortune to come. I enjoyed adding aspects of this very British superstition to my story.

5. What is Drew's next adventure about?

Death at Thorburn Hall, Book Six of the DREW FARTHERING MYSTERIES, takes Drew and Madeline up to Scotland for the 1935 British Open golf tournament, and Nick and Carrie are along for the trip. There they find murder, mayhem, international intrigue, and surprising revelations. Drew discovers unexpected connections to his past, Madeline worries about the dangers of the present, while Nick and Carrie make some very important decisions about their future—and mystery is par for the course.



Murder on the Moor

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by Julianna Deering

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