

Book Review: What the Wife Knew  
By Darby Kane

Thanks to NetGalley and William Morrow Books for this advance reader's copy, in exchange for an honest review. "What the Wife Knew" has an expected publication date of December 10, 2024.

Dr. Richmond Dougherty, a renowned pediatric surgeon and national hero, is dead. That much we know from the opening pages. But how did he die? Was it an accident, or murder? And who was the killer if he *was* murdered?

Those questions and more abound in the soon-to-be-released mystery-thriller "What the Wife Knew" by Darby Kane. The twists and turns are as dizzying as a winding country road and will keep you guessing while you turn the pages at a rapid clip.

Yes, Dougherty is dead. But it seems this supposed national hero who survived a family tragedy had more enemies than friends. That starts with his second wife, Addison, a much younger woman who he'd been married to for only ninety-seven days. Seems she was stalking him for years before he suddenly divorced his first wife, Kathryn.

And Kathryn, despite putting on a great show of tears at the funeral, is more concerned with her greatly reduced financial status now that there's a second Mrs. Dougherty in the picture.

Then there's Thomas, Dougherty's partner, who it seems has been covering for Dougherty for years. Seems the renowned pediatric surgeon was more concerned about maintaining his image than practicing medicine.

And let's not forget Addison's mother who I guarantee you will not need more than a few scant pages to despise. She's nasty, conniving, and one of the more narcissistic, self-centered characters I've ever come across.

Little by little, Kane peels back the layers to this domestic drama. But each time she does it seems there are more layers buried beneath. Dougherty's legacy is monumental, so it's no small chore unraveling what has taken decades to assemble.

But then there's Elias, Dougherty's (and now Addison's) attorney, who is the calm amid all the chaos. Someone, after all, has to counter-balance all the craziness.

The narrative is written first-person in Addison's voice for about the first half of the book, then periodically alternates to Dougherty's voice as we learn more about his, Kathryn's and even Addison's early life – all of which sheds great light on the multi-layered mystery.

“What the Wife Knew” is a fun read that at times may have prompted you to question, “Which wife?” But you'll have to get to the final pages before that and many other questions can be answered.

Five full stars for this very entertaining novel.