

HARTLEY-BELL TEA SHOP

1. Older, rich man, J. Forbes Bell, married a young, pretty wife, Lilith. She was deeply in love with him as he was with her, but his jealousy and fear of losing her, made him a tyrant.
 - a. She received word that her father had been injured so she got a man to take her off island. She left a note for Forbes, but one of the girls used it as stuffing for her dolls arm.
 - b. Forbes software leave with a young man in a boat. He was a very handsome man and he was laughing. Forbes couldn't see her face but he assumed she was laughing too. However, she was telling him to drop dead.
 - c. Forbes carried on for three days as though nothing had happened. But an inferno of rage was inside him.
 - d. After her father died, Lilith return to Nantucket on a fishing boat with Portuguese fisherman who spoke no English.
 - e. When she found the front door locked she slipped through the garden gate. Forbes thought she was sneaking home, maybe to steal the girls from him. He strangled her before she could say a word. He buried her body in the garden, and planted a tree over it.
 - f. Forbes was never the same after that. He was obsessed with keeping his girls near him. Everyone on the island had sympathy for him after his young wife ran off with a young off islander, who was a known scamp and went down with the ship.
2. Forbes was an importer of tea. They had two daughters, Juliana and Hyacinth, born nine months apart. After his wife was gone, he kept them isolated. He had governesses to teach them. He didn't believe in giving them much education. The girls were rarely seen outside of the house. They were even prettier than their mother.
 - a. They dreamed of love. Sneaked books in.
3. Juliana managed to escape long enough to get married. But he ran off when Forbes said he ran off when he was told he wasn't getting any of her inheritance. TRUTH: Forbes found threatened the boy with death of his family, and the boy ran off. He was not a Nantucketer.
4. A Kingsley son, Mattias, was in love with Hyacinth. Juliana helped conceal the love affair and to plan her sisters elopement. He disappeared from the family at about the same time as a ship left port. Everyone in his family assumed that he had left on a ship and it went down. The truth was that he was trying to elope with one of the Bell girls.
 - a. Forbes caught him, killed him, and buried him in the back garden. Only Caleb knew that the boy liked the young girl. But Caleb and everyone else assumed that the boy had run away to make his fortune.
 - b. Young Kingsley left note that he was leaving. They assumed he went out on a ship and never came back. Didn't know he ran off with girl across the street, was murdered by her father. He told daughter that Kingsley jilted her.
5. After that Forbes increased his vigilance. He was going crazy. The idea that the girls would leave him was making him insane.
6. There were boys everywhere. The girls were so, so, so pretty.
 - a. Boys were climbing over the walls, invitations were stuck under doors. Pebbles at windows at night. Young man hiding in the garden.

7. Forbes set down rules. There were no more men allowed in their house. The girls had tea parties galore. It was their only means of socialization. They did not attend dances or gatherings where there would be men.
 - a. The girls covered for their father and didn't tell anyone that he forbade them to leave the house. They told people it was their own choice to stay inside.
 - b. Their father loved to come home to laughing women. It made him feel secure.
 - c. Women lived in a little house. Father was cheap, wouldn't in large the house. Had huge garden, though girls worked in it. Almost prisoners.
They had nice tea things. Had women — never men (not any over twelve) to the house. He thought he was generous in buying them things for the little tea parties.
8. The girls tried not to antagonize their father but the boys wouldn't stop. The girls swore on her mother that they wouldn't leave, but they didn't know that Forbes had killed her.
 - a. The beautiful girls became a legend around Nantucket. They never left the grounds, or forbidden to see man, but they managed to have a few clandestine nine meetings in the garden. A few stolen kisses, but the girls were so afraid of their father that they never let anything more happen.
9. When the girls were in their late teens they had a huge fight with their father. They said they wanted to open a tea shop on Main Street. Their father got so angry that he closed down the house for three months. He wanted to show the girls what he could do. He locked them in the basement. When the girls capitulated, they were allowed back upstairs. No tea shop on Main Street!
10. People began giving them gifts of tea sets and cookware, and the men brought back gifts with them from their overseas voyages. The girls were extremely popular on the island. It became a saying, "What did you bring back for the Bell girls?" Silks or jewels or other gifts that women liked had no interest for them. But their pretty faces lit up when a sailor gave them a packet of tea, or a pretty teapot, or a dish to serve on. If they returned with a recipe from a foreign country a sailor sometimes got a cheek kiss.
 - a. The truth was that the girls didn't accept gifts that their father might notice such as close or anything that sparkled.
 - b. It became a bit of a fantasy of these two pretty virgins who could cook like angels.
 - c. Caleb was one of the young men sneaking over the walls. He was seventeen. The girls were in their early 20s. He was on a ship when they heard that the girls had died of a fever. The whole ship cried for two days. We never cried over a fallen mate as we did over the Bell sisters.
11. Forbes poisoned the girls, and told people they died of fever. He died three years after the girls. It was said that he started foaming at the mouth, fell onto the floor, and died two days later in great agony.
12. House went to a distant cousin and was put up for sale immediately, and he spent all the money. Wasted it. Caleb had XX buy the house and rented it out in the summer.
13. The girls began appearing and serving tea to people who needed them. However there was a bit of a tussle in 1958. A summer person complained. It seems that Juliana and Hyacinth told a woman's husband that he should check into what his wife did all day — beside spend his money, that is. She was having an affair. Her husband made the mistake of telling how he found out about it, and who told him. The wife went to meet the two pretty young women and found that the parlor was derelict. The rest of the house was nice, but the parlor was a mess. The husband realized he'd seen ghosts. They wife threw a fit.

- a. As a result, the parlor was boarded up. No one was allowed in. The Kingsleys realized that it would take a very special tenant to live there. Mrs. Whitley — a widow with two young children — moved in in 1962. She said that she never saw the sisters, and eventually the rumors died down. The truth was that she was afraid she'd be thrown out if she said that the ghost were alive and well.
14. Many years later Addy lent the house to her friend whose husband had died and left her with two young children. Addy bullied a lawyer into teaching her how to be a legal secretary and into giving her a job. She and Mrs. Whitley were good friends, and spent a lot of time together when Victoria wasn't there. Mrs. Whitley was quite jealous of Victoria and Aunt Addy.
- a. Mrs. Whitley never left even though her children grew up and left the island the minute they could. They are both lawyers now and rarely ever visit Nantucket. She stayed in the house, low rent. She was a good companion for Addy.
- b. She has to go away, not die. Goes on a cruise.
15. IDEA: what if Graydon is the one who sees the girls first? Jared calls Lexie's house. He needs someone to check on the Whitley house as the woman is out of town. He wants to know what kind of condition. Graydon answers the phone, goes to see the house in meets the ladies.
- a. Jared asks Lexie to go into the house to see how bad it is. Roof could be leaking Aunt Addy said it needed repair but Mrs. Whitley would let anyone in there to see it. The house is beautiful. Small but well-kept.
- b. Two women. What are they wearing? In their 40s, slim, pretty. They say they are staying there while Mrs. Whitley is away.
16. There are two dead bodies buried in the back garden. One, their mother. Two, a young Kingsley who is believed to have died at sea.
- a. DNA test on body found in garden. Would women stop appearing?
17. SCENE: Caleb chokes on his drink when told of Juliana and Hyacinth.
TO JARED: "They died before I did. Scarlet fever. Their bastard of a father died and they had two years of freedom. Left money. They were going to open a tea shop on Main Street but scarlet fever killed them together. Pretty girls. One engaged man ran off. Coward! Other man managed to marry, but didn't get to spend the night with him because Forbes caught them, separated them. He ran off with his tail between his legs, was never seen again. Girls waited until Father died. It's a wonder they didn't Lizzie Borden him. Had an accident (bad, ugly one). Lying on bed, quiet. Everyone thought it was such a tragedy. They were probably virgins.
18. Storm — Hurricane Sandy? — takes down a tree, and reveals teeth. Check date of storm. TV on, no power loss, TV all about Martha's Vineyard.
19. At the end of the book, Jared decides to leave the parlor where the ladies serve their tea open, unused. It has a door that opens to the side and there is an open/closed sign hanging in the window. If the girls feel that a person needs them, they put the open sign out. If no one needs them, the closed sign is out. I am beginning to see a need to introduce whoever runs the Sea Haven Inn. She is a local girl and Jared helped her.
20. THE BELL TEA ROOM
a Bell Tea Room Mystery
What if they solve mysteries that aren't murderers? They find love for people. Remember guests and put them together. Match sons and daughters.
Tea works magic on people. Check out tea cozy mysteries.
The tea room shows itself to people who need something.

Like what?

Love, usually. In fact, I'm not sure they deal with anything else.

Kind of a ghostly matchmaking service?

Exactly. (Glad he wasn't freaked out by this info.)

Parlor that no one uses. Behind glass doors. What happens to people when they entered tea shop? They disappear. Come through door, then not there. Others have to wait for them to return. In real time.

There are many things in the tea parlor. But there is nothing past 1958. People have given them things to thank them for their help and once the girls have them they can use them. Close, books, makeup, cookware, one caddies. Gifts need to be brought up to date. DVD player for music. New clothes, new makeup, new cookware.

JARED AND CALEB

talking about Mrs. Whitley's house. Mrs. Whitley dies. Caleb will NOT let him sell it or rent it. Those girls deserve some time alive.

Alive?

Relative term.

Repair house. Person can stay there who can see them.

Asked them what they want. Cookware catalogs.

HARTLEY- BELL TEA SHOP

1. Older, rich man, J. Forbes Bell, married a young, pretty girl, Cora Aronson. She was deeply in love with him as he was with her, but his jealousy and fear of losing her, made him paranoid. He was always coming home early, secretly following her, etc. That she never gave him any reason to be jealous made no difference to him. Forbes was an importer of tea. They had two daughters, Juliana and Hyacinth, born nine months apart.
 - a. When the girls were 7 and 8, Cora received word that her father, who lived off island, had been injured so she got a man to take her to him. She left a note for Forbes, but one of the girls used the paper as stuffing for her doll's arm.
 - b. Forbes saw her leave with a young man in a boat. He was a very handsome man and he was laughing. Forbes couldn't see his wife's face but he assumed she was laughing too. The truth was that she was telling him to drop dead.
 - c. Forbes carried on for three days as though nothing had happened, but an inferno of rage was inside him.
 - d. After her father died, Cora returned to Nantucket on a fishing boat with Portuguese fisherman who spoke no English. When she found the front door of the house locked, she slipped through the garden gate. Forbes saw her and thought she was sneaking home to steal the girls from him. He strangled her before she could say a word. She'd been putting in fruit trees in the garden. He dropped her body in the trench, put dirt over her and the trees over her.
 - e. Forbes was never the same after that. He was obsessed with keeping his girls near him. Everyone on the island had sympathy for him because he said his young wife had run off with a young man who was a known scamp. He went down with the ship and never knew of the lies told about him.
2. After his wife was gone, Forbes kept the girls isolated. He hired governesses to teach them, but then he didn't believe in giving them much education. The girls were rarely

- seen outside of the house. They grew up to be even prettier than their mother.
- a. They dreamed of love. Sneaked books in.
 3. When she was 18, Juliana managed to escape her father's rule long enough to marry Leland Hartley. But he ran off before the wedding night. Forbes told the girls he'd told the boy he wasn't getting any of her inheritance and he'd left.
 - a. TRUTH: Forbes threatened the boy with death of his family, and the boy ran off. He was not a Nantucketer.
 4. A Kingsley son, Mathias, was in love with Hyacinth. Juliana helped conceal the love affair and to plan her sister's elopement. But Mathias disappeared at about the same time as a ship left port. Everyone in his family assumed that he had left on a ship and it went down. They never knew that he'd been trying to elope with one of the Bell girls.
 - a. TRUTH: Forbes caught him, killed him, and buried him in the back garden.
 5. Thomas the gardener saw the murder of the boy and suspected that Forbes had killed his wife, but Thomas knew no one would believe him (criminal record?) over Forbes. Besides, if Thomas left, who would protect the girls? Forbes suspected that Thomas knew more than he told, but he wasn't sure as Thomas was careful to act dumb.
 6. After the murder, Forbes increased his vigilance over the girls. He was going crazy. The idea that the girls would leave him was making him insane.
 - a. But then, there were boys everywhere. The girls were so, so, so pretty that males couldn't stay away.
 - b. Boys were climbing over the walls, invitations were stuck under doors. Pebbles hit the windows at night; young man were hiding in the garden.
 7. Forbes tightened his rules. There were no men allowed in their house. The girls did not attend dances or gatherings where there would be men. They had tea parties at home often, and it was their only means of socialization.
 - a. The girls covered for their father, never telling anyone that he forbade them to leave the house. They told people it was their own choice to stay inside.
 - b. Their father loved to come home to laughing women. It made him feel secure.
 8. The girls tried not to antagonize their father but the boys wouldn't stop. The girls swore on their mother that they wouldn't leave, but they didn't know that Forbes believed she had betrayed him.
 - a. The beautiful girls became a legend around Nantucket. Even though they never left the grounds, and were forbidden to see any man, they managed to have a few clandestine meetings in the garden. There were a few stolen kisses, but the girls were so afraid of their father that they never let anything more happen.
 9. When the girls were in their early twenties they had a huge fight with their father. They said they wanted to open a tea shop on Main Street. Their father got so angry that he closed down the house for a month, telling people that the girls were off island visiting relatives. Forbes wanted to show the girls what he could do. He locked them in the basement. In one of his rages, he hinted that he'd killed both the young men the girls had been in love with. When the girls capitulated, they were allowed back upstairs. No tea shop on Main Street!
 - a. During their imprisonment, Thomas sneaked the girls food and treats, and carried letters for them.
 10. After that, the secret kisses and meetings stopped. The girls were truly terrified of what their father would/could do. People knew something had happened as the girls were quieter, more subdued.
 - a. Through the females in their family, the men began giving the girls gifts of tea

- sets and cookware, and the men brought back gifts with them from their overseas voyages. The girls were extremely popular on the island. It became a saying, "What did you bring back for the Bell girls?" Silks or jewels or other gifts that women liked had no interest for them as they couldn't accept gifts that their father might notice. But their pretty faces lit up when a sailor secretly gave them a packet of some exotic tea, or a pretty teapot, or a dish to serve on. If they returned with a recipe from a foreign country a sailor sometimes got a full smile.
- b. The two pretty virgins who could cook like angels became an island fantasy.
 - c. Caleb was one of the young men sneaking over the walls. He was the same age as Hyacinth.
11. In the end, Forbes' insanity and jealousy overcame him. One day when Thomas was off work, recovering from a fierce hangover, Forbes poisoned the girls. He told people they died of fever.
 - a. Thomas suspected the truth and he blamed himself for their deaths. He never drank again.
 12. Two years after the girls' death, Thomas saw that Forbes was thinking about marrying some nice young girl. Thomas had to stop it. He poisoned the man in exactly the way Forbes had poisoned the girls. Forbes was in his shop and he started foaming at the mouth, fell onto the floor, and died two days later in great agony.
 - a. Caleb was on a ship when they heard that the girls had died of a fever. "The whole ship cried for two days. We never cried over a fallen mate as we did over the Bell sisters."
 13. The house went to a distant cousin who put it up for sale immediately, and he spent all the money. Wasted it.
 14. In xx, the girls began appearing and serving tea to people who needed them. They helped a lot of people who thanked them with gifts.
 - a. After Thomas died, he wasn't in the least surprised to find himself a ghost and working in the garden of the girls.
 15. In 1958, there was a problem. A woman, a summer visitor, complained publically. Juliana and Hyacinth had told the woman's husband that he should check into what his wife did all day — beside spend his money, that is. She'd been meeting a man in their garden. Her husband made the mistake of telling how he found out about it, and who told him. The wife went to meet the two pretty young women and found that the parlor was derelict. The rest of the house was nice, but the parlor was a mess. The husband realized that he'd seen ghosts and the wife threw a fit to the newspaper, saying that she'd not met a man anywhere. (Years later her husband found out the truth and divorced her, but by then the damage had been done.)
 - a. As a result of the woman's revelation, the parlor was boarded up, and for years the house was vacant.
 16. 1940s WW II — A young man, Andrew Bell, invented something used on submarines. Made a fortune, retired at 31. Looked up genealogy, found his family's connection to Nantucket. Bought the Hartley-Bell house. Restored it, but didn't remodel it.
 - a. He was married to a nice, quiet lady, and they had one son, Henry Bell. They spent their summers on Nantucket. After his parents died, they left the house and fortune to Henry. He stayed in Hartley-Bell house full-time. He was a quiet young man, a reader, and he studied Nantucket history. He stayed at home, walked everywhere, never married. He was a recluse because he had two beautiful ghosts inside, gardener ghost of Thomas outside. He had friends, but

- they were never allowed inside the big side room of the house. Everyone assumed he was a hoarder, but he was afraid someone would see the beautiful lady ghosts. His only real friend was Addy, who he shared his secrets with.
- b. Henry loves to garden, and he opens the house for garden tours for charity.
 - c. Henry has a heart attack and is airlifted to a Boston hospital. Henry's attorney informs Jared that Henry probably won't recover and that he, Jared, is the executor of Henry's estate. Jared is out of the country, and so is everyone else. He calls Toby, gets Graydon on the phone, and asks him to please look at the house. Jared tells Graydon that Henry was a friend of his great aunt's and that no one other than those two has been in parts of the house for forty years, and that includes workmen. Jared wonders what condition the house is in. The lawyer knows where the key is hidden — or the house has never been locked.
 - d. Graydon and Toby go to see the house. Or maybe Graydon goes by himself the first time. It makes him feel useful to have something to do. That's when he meets the tea ladies.
 - e. Henry dies and he leaves a letter. He wants to right a wrong that was done centuries before. He leaves his house and fortune to Cora Hartley, who is a descendent of Leland. Henry has done a lot of research, and he gives her name and address.
17. IDEA: what if Graydon is the one who sees the girls first? Jared calls Lexie's house. He needs someone to check on the Bell house as Henry is in the hospital. He wants to know what kind of condition it's in. Graydon answers the phone, goes to see the house and meets the ladies.
- a. Roof could be leaking. Aunt Addy said it needed repair but Henry wouldn't let anyone in there to see it. The house is beautiful. Small but well-kept. (I think Addy met the ladies.)
18. There are two dead bodies buried in the back garden. One, their mother, Cora Bell. Two, young Mathias Kingsley, who was believed to have died at sea.
- a. DNA test on body found in garden. Would women stop appearing?
19. SCENE: Caleb chokes on his drink when told of Juliana and Hyacinth.
- TO JARED: "They died before I did. Scarlet fever. They were going to open a tea shop on Main Street but scarlet fever killed them together. Very, very pretty girls. One girl managed to marry, but she didn't get to spend the night with him because Forbes caught them, separated them. The boy ran off with his tail between his legs, and was never seen again. Coward as well as a fool! The girls were lying on their beds, quiet, like they were sleeping. Everyone thought it was such a tragedy. They were probably virgins.
20. Storm — Hurricane Sandy? — takes down a tree, and reveals teeth. Check date of storm. TV on, no power loss, TV all about Martha's Vineyard.
21. At the end of the book, Jared decides to leave the parlor where the ladies serve their tea open and unused.
- a. "The tea room shows itself to people who need something. Love, usually. In fact, I'm not sure they deal with anything else."
"Kind of a ghostly matchmaking service?"
"Exactly." (Glad he wasn't freaked out by this info.)
 - b. It has a door that opens to the side and there is an open/closed sign hanging in the window. If the girls feel that a person needs them, they put the open sign out. If no one needs them, the closed sign is out and it is impossible to open the door. I am beginning to see a need to introduce whoever runs the Sea Haven

- Inn. She is a local girl and Jared helped her.
- c. Parlor that no one uses. Behind glass doors. What happens to people when they enter the tea shop? They disappear. Come through door, then not there. Others have to wait for them to return. In real time. People look through the windows but see nothing, just a dirty old room.
 - d. Food. People eat until they are stuffed, but an hour later they're hungry.
 - e. There are many things in the tea parlor. But there is nothing past 1958. People have given them things to thank them for their help and once the girls have them they can use them. Clothes, books, makeup, cookware, tea in caddies. Gifts need to be brought up to date. DVD player for music. New clothes, new makeup, new cookware.

22. THE BELL TEA ROOM

a Bell Tea Room Mystery

What if they solve mysteries that aren't murderers? They find love for people.

Remember guests and put them together. Match sons and daughters.

Tea works magic on people. Check out tea cozy mysteries.

JARED AND CALEB

talking about Henry's house. Henry dies. Caleb will NOT let him sell it or rent it. Those girls deserve some time alive.

Alive?

Relative term.

Repair house. Person can stay there who can see them.

Asked them what they want. Cookware.

What if Graydon finds a descendant of the Hartley young man? What if that's Cora?

The note is found inside the doll's arm.

Pantry: it's full of gifts that have been given to the girls. They are things that are used in the tea room, but they're dirty in the pantry. Someone (?) cleans it up, washes everything, scrubs shelves, paints them, puts it all back in neatly.

Actually, whole parlor is a mess, full of cobwebs and dirt, mouse droppings. Clean it, wash windows, make it smell better.
