help. He's a very important part of this investigation, Ellen. He might see something out of the ordinary. Something missing. Maybe a painting, or-'

'A painting?' Ellen said. 'You think the Langleys were killed because someone wanted to steal a painting?' She looked at me, supposedly the art expert. 'Did the Langleys have valuable art?'

'Not that I know of,' I said.

'It's just a for instance,' Barry said, trying not to sound impatient. 'I don't know that they have any expensive paintings at all. Maybe someone came into the house, I don't know, to steal Mrs Langley's jewelry or-'

'What on earth would Derek know about Donna's jewelry?' Ellen said. 'Why would you even think-'

'Ellen,' I said.

'-he'd know anything about that?'

Abridged from *Too Close to Home*, L. Barclay, Orion, 2008