**Synopsis**

 When successful New York surgeon Tora Hamilton and her husband, Duncan, have trouble conceiving a child, they move to his ancestral home in the Shetland Islands with hopes of adopting and of putting her string of miscarriages behind her. Tora is an outsider at her new home on the rocky, windswept island and though her husband grew up here, it’s the first time he’s been back in twenty years. Digging in the peat on their new property, Tora unearths a human body, at first glance a centuries-old bog body, interesting but not uncommon. But realizing that the body is in fact much newer, that the woman’s heart has been cut out, and that she was killed within a few days of bearing a child, Tora, herself an obstetrician, becomes obsessed with finding out what happened to her—even when the police, her colleagues, and eventually her husband warn her against getting involved.

The mystery of what happened to this woman - and the whereabouts of her baby - is something that Tora can’t let go of, especially as authorities on the island seem to want the case to just go away rather than ever solve it.

As Tora investigates, she finds her modern, scientific, rationale pitted against a close-knit community with considerable wealth and beliefs that date back to pre-Christianity.

But who is behind this diabolical ritual? Why are they doing it? Why do clues point to her husband’s family? And what is really going on at the mysterious, maternity hospital on the small island to the east?

 When she came to Scotland, Tora Hamilton said she would do anything to have a child of her own but, when the truth is finally unearthed and the knife is in her hand, does that include sacrificial murder…?