

# KATE BECKETT

**One of the best homicide detectives in the New York City Police Department, she is the daughter of Jim Beckett and Johanna Beckett, muse and eventual partner of Richard Castle and commands a squad made up of Detectives Javier Esposito and Kevin Ryan. She is portrayed by actress Stana Katic.**

## **Youth**

Beckett was born November 17, 1980. Starting when she was three, her father frequently took her to baseball games while growing up, and she remains a fan as an adult.

When she was nine, she had her tonsils taken out and was so miserable, her mom took time off work to be with her. To help her recovery, Kate and Johanna would cuddle up in front of the television and watch the fictional soap opera *Temptation Lane*. Even as an adult and especially with her mother dead, Beckett finds watching the show comforting, saying it reminds her of home.

Her grandfather was an amateur magician and frequently brought her to the famous Drake's Magic Shop after school in her early teens. Even though she has a very logical mind and is not prone to believe in the fantastic, she remains fascinated by magic tricks as a result of this experience. She is also a comic book fan, having bought her first when she was 14 and envisioning herself as *Electra* if she had a choice of what character to be.

She hints to Castle many times about having a wild past and according to an old high school friend, she was something of a wild child in high school ("the biggest scofflaw at Stuey"), dating a variety of guys and helping her friends learn how to kiss. She spent one summer while in high school modeling as opposed to waitressing, eventually earning enough money to buy a 1994 Harley Soft Tail Motorcycle, which she still rides.

She attended Stanford University for a year and was pre-law, with a dream of becoming the first female Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, then transferred to New York University after her mother's death. Between her junior and senior year of college, she spent a semester studying in Kiev, Ukraine.

## **Mother's Murder**

Kate led the perfect life of a young Manhattanite with great parents, but in January of 1999, when she was 19, an event changed her life forever: the murder of her mother Johanna Beckett. She and her father, Jim Beckett, were supposed to meet her for dinner, but she never showed up. They had dinner and went home hours later to find a Homicide Detective named John Raglan waiting for them. He told them that Johanna had been stabbed multiple times. Her purse, wallet, and jewelry were all found, so robbery wasn't a motive. The detectives chalked the murder up to random gang violence and moved on, leaving the case unsolved.

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In remembrance of her mother, she wears her mother's wedding ring on a chain around her neck. As a remembrance of how she saved her father from the alcoholism he fell into after the murder, she wears his watch on her wrist.

Kate decided to enroll in the police academy to help find her mother's killer and to help others find the closure that she and her father never had. As she worked to get past her mother's murder, she found solace in reading Castle's books.

A few months into their partnership, Castle asks her if she ever thinks about reopening her mother's case, to which she answers that if he looks into it, their partnership is over. She describes how in her first three years on the force she spent every waking moment of her free time looking for some detail someone overlooked previously. It took her over a year's worth of therapy to understand that if she didn't let it go, it would destroy her. She considers re-opening the case tantamount to giving an alcoholic a drink. Castle disregards her warning to stay away from the case and finds that one of her mother's students and a law clerk were murdered around the same time and in the same manner. The medical examiner who did the autopsies never put all three killings together.

In Sucker Punch, Castle and Beckett come across a murder victim who Castle's friend, forensic pathologist Dr. Clark Murray, says was murdered by the same person who killed Johanna. The connection between the murders is the killer's use of a knife specially made for military Special Forces and how the murderer would stab his victims once to kill them, then multiple times to disguise the damage done by the first wound. Later in the episode, Beckett and Castle figure out that a hitman named Dick Coonan killed their victim and Johanna Beckett. Beckett demands to know who ordered him to make the hit on her mother, but when he pulls a gun on Castle, she is forced to fatally shoot him before he can answer. All Coonan says is "You'll never touch him."

Eventually, Detective Raglan contacts Beckett out of the blue, claiming to have new information on her mother's murder. She arranges to meet him, only to have him gunned down right in front of her. Before he is shot, Raglan tells her certain people noticed when Coonan's killing ended up in the press and that he did what he was told when it came to sweeping Johanna's murder under the rug. He also tells her that 19 years ago he made a bad decision that eventually cost Johanna her life. As Castle and Beckett look further into her mother's murder, and Detectives Kevin Ryan and Javier Esposito investigate Raglan's, they discover 19 years ago Raglan was involved in a conspiracy to cover up his and two other cops' participation in a kidnapping ring whereby the cops kidnapped, threatened, and ransomed low level mobsters in an effort to control crime.

The plan fell apart, however, when Raglan and his associates accidentally murdered an undercover FBI agent, Bob Armen, instead of mobster Joe Pulgatti, their original target. To cover up the crime, Raglan pinned the agent's murder on Pulgatti, who pled guilty and was eventually convicted. Seven years later, Johanna Beckett agrees to reexamine his case, with the help of a court clerk and two volunteers. All four are murdered by Coonan to prevent the kidnapping ring, and those behind it, from being exposed. As a result of both investigations, they cross paths with a shadowy man going

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by the name of Hal Lockwood, who kidnaps and tortures Ryan and Esposito in an effort to find out what they know about Raglan's murder and the conspiracy. They eventually discover that Lockwood murdered Raglan, but he refuses to give up his real name or the identity of who hired him to protect the conspiracy. Beckett vows to meet him every week until he decides he wants to come clean.

In *Knockout*, Beckett, Ryan, and Esposito discover that Captain Roy Montgomery, Beckett's mentor and their boss, knew all-along the real reason for Johanna Beckett's murder, but kept it a secret from Beckett to protect her and his family. Montgomery was one of the three cops who, along with Raglan and his partner Gary McAllister, were kidnapping and ransoming mobsters. It was also Montgomery who killed Armen, albeit accidentally, and stood by as Pulgatti was framed for the crime. He endeavored to be a good cop from then on to atone for his mistake, and when Beckett joined the NYPD, he saw protecting her as further penance. Montgomery also made a deal with the devil when he agreed to keep the conspiracy from Beckett in exchange for Lockwood's letting his family and Beckett live. However, when Beckett arrests Lockwood, Montgomery becomes a liability for not having kept his end of the bargain. The leader of the conspiracy breaks Lockwood out of prison to give Montgomery a choice: hand Beckett over to him to be killed or have his wife and three children killed. Montgomery decides to lure Lockwood and his cronies into the open, so he can kill them, but after he mails a stack of files to someone to ensure Beckett's protection. Beckett meets Montgomery, who confesses everything. When she asks who is behind the conspiracy, Montgomery refuses to say, knowing Beckett will go after him, but does say that he took all the ransom money that he, McAllister and Raglan accumulated and used it "to become what he is." Beckett forgives him and tearfully refuses to let him risk sacrificing himself, but Montgomery orders Castle to hide her for her own protection. He carries Beckett away, kicking and screaming. Montgomery succeeds in killing Lockwood but dies in the effort. At his funeral, as she eulogizes her captain, Beckett is shot in the chest.

Beckett survives being wounded and upon reuniting with Castle in *Rise*, she discovers that he found evidence of a joint bank account between Montgomery, McAllister, and Raglan, but the bank closed, and its files were destroyed in a warehouse fire that was ruled accidental and all evidence about the sniper leads to dead ends. Beckett wants to push forward with the investigation, but is overruled by her new Captain, Victoria Gates. However, Beckett is unaware of the fact that Castle has made a deal with a mysterious man named Mr. Smith who promises to keep Beckett safe by blackmailing the conspirators with an incriminating file Montgomery sent him before he died. In exchange, Castle must ensure that Beckett backs away from the investigation. He succeeds without her knowing his true motivation.

Castle is contacted again by Smith in *Dial M for Mayor* when the Mayor, with whose permission Castle can shadow Beckett, is framed for murder. Castle and Beckett prove him to be innocent, but Castle keeps his bargain with Smith by hiding from Beckett the fact that someone attached to the conspiracy planned the framing to oust the Mayor from office and Castle from the precinct.

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The trail picks up again, when Beckett and the team identify Cole Maddox as the same man who shot her and who orchestrated a break-in of Montgomery's house to steal old family photos which will lead him to Smith's identity. As Beckett doggedly pursues the case, Castle reveals his contact with Smith and the deal he made to save her life and begs her to walk away from the investigation. She is furious, and he ends their partnership after she refuses to give up, but Beckett forgives him when she barely survives a confrontation with Maddox. Maddox escapes and finds and tortures Smith into revealing where he has hidden the file. Beckett, Castle, and Esposito find it at the same time as Maddox, but Smith rigged the safe in which the file was hidden to explode once opened, resulting in Maddox's death and the file nearly being destroyed. The team, including Ryan, piece the papers together and discover an old bank account number indicating that the file included copies of money orders that show deposits of the ransom money taken from Montgomery, McAllister, and Raglan. They trace the bank account to a powerful U.S. Senator, but when Smith is killed, they realize not only is Beckett the next target, but they cannot prove the Senator's complicity. Refusing to be afraid anymore, Beckett confronts the Senator, who hides behind all the good he has done in office and reminds her she is powerless against him. She then threatens to go public with her evidence, which he doesn't know is scanty, and ruin his career if he tries to come after her or anyone she cares about. To make her point, she scratches him across his cheek, telling him the scar left behind will be a reminder that he should be afraid of her. He agrees to back off and Beckett is satisfied that she will eventually get justice for her mother.

## Career

Her training officer Mike Royce, considered her "easy to teach" and "easy to impress", and supposedly, according to Esposito, retired once she became a detective because he "realized he couldn't do any better." Royce also tells Castle that when working with her, you had to be ready for anything. Two of his favorite moments with Beckett involve a time when she offered to show her boobs to a man brandishing a spear gun if he promised to put his weapon down, and when, in an effort to get a biker girl to rat out her gang, she offered to let the woman sleep with Royce.

Beckett is the youngest woman to make detective in NYPD history, beating her Captain Victoria Gates by six weeks. Beckett's former Captain, Roy Montgomery, considers her "the best detective I ever trained, bar none."

Because of her mother's death, she has tremendous empathy towards the family members of the victims of the murders she investigates. She is also intelligent, has a saucy sense of humor which she often uses to tease Castle knowing he is an easy mark, and generally prefers to keep her personal feelings to herself since she hates being vulnerable. Additionally, because she can relate to the victims of the murders she investigates, she treats her victims with great respect and is highly professional, dedicated, and hard working. As Castle says to her "Most people who come up against a wall, they give up. Not you. You don't give up. You don't back down. That's what makes you extraordinary."

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She has developed a close friendship with Medical Examiner Lanie Parish, who almost immediately recognizes that Kate is attracted to Castle and frequently urges her to act on her feelings. Lanie also offers to set Kate up on dates, telling her she needs more fun in her life.

Her badge number is 41319. She currently works at the NYPD's 12th precinct and likes to work the weirder homicide cases. Detectives Kevin Ryan and Javier Esposito make up her squad and are fiercely loyal to her.

## **Relationship with Richard Castle**

She meets Richard Castle when she brings him in for questioning after recognizing two recent murders as copycat murders taken out of his books. As she works with him to solve the crime, he finds himself inspired by her, and creates the character of Nikki Heat for his next book series, having experienced a bit of writer's block after killing off Derrick Storm, the main character in his most successful series. He uses his friendship with the Mayor to get permission to shadow her and her team for research on the series.

As Castle's inspiration for Nikki Heat, she becomes a target for sociopathic wannabe-writer Scott Dunn, who blows up her apartment. Castle saves her in the nick of time when he calls her to tell her that Dunn framed a man named Ben Conrad for the crimes, then faked Ben's suicide. She jumps into the cast iron bathtub in her bathroom and survives the explosion.

At first, Beckett hates having Castle follow her and likens him to "a nine-year old on a sugar rush, totally incapable of taking anything seriously.". However, as they work together, and Beckett sees Castle's warm relationship with his daughter Alexis and his mother Martha Rodgers, and realizes his propensity to think outside the box and approach murder cases from the angle of writer is actually useful in her investigations, she comes to respect him, trust him, value him as a friend, and develop feelings for him. However, his reputation as a playboy, his two failed marriages and Beckett's rational mind and desire not to be hurt as previous boyfriends have done, keep her from pursuing a relationship with him, despite many people telling her he would be good for her and that he cares about her. In *A Deadly Game*, the season 2 finale, when confronted with the possibility of Castle leaving the precinct for the summer and no guarantee that he would return in the fall, she finally breaks up with her boyfriend at the time, Detective Demming, and builds up enough courage to reveal her feelings to Castle. However, she is interrupted by Castle's ex-wife Gina Cowell with whom he leaves to spend the summer at his house in the Hamptons, and Beckett to piece her broken heart together.

Throughout Season 3, with Beckett and Castle in separate relationships, Beckett is free to learn more about him and to flirt with him occasionally without worry of it developing into something she is not ready for. The two reach a deep level of friendship and trust as they watch their respective personal idols arrested for different murders, as Castle saves Beckett's life several times, and as they confide in each other about their pasts. She finally shares a kiss with Castle in *Knockdown*, for better or for worse, while re-investigating her mother's murder as part of the investigation into

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Detective Raglan's killing. The two approach a building where Beckett's colleagues Ryan and Esposito are being held captive and impersonate drunken lovers out on the town to get close enough to knock out a guard. When Beckett senses the guard isn't buying their act, Castle kisses her. She backs away in surprise, then realizing how she must keep up the act, she kisses him, and they fall into a long, passionate make out session.

However, when her mother's murder case unravels, and Beckett's life and sanity are at risk, Castle asks her to walk away from the case to spare those who love the pain of possibly losing her. Beckett becomes furious with Castle and tells him their partnership is over, but he comes to her assistance again when Captain Roy Montgomery enlists his help in saving her from the assassin who arranged her mother's murder. As Beckett gives the eulogy at Captain Montgomery's funeral, she is shot in the chest, and, Castle finally tells her he loves her before she falls unconscious. She nearly dies on the operating table but survives and recovers over the summer. During this time, she cuts off contact with Castle and Lanie, her closest friends and figures out that she cannot totally commit to a relationship with anyone until she solves her mother's murder. When Castle asks her if she remembers anything about the shooting, she says no, but eventually reveals to a police psychologist that she lied to him: she remembers everything, including his "I love you." She spends most of season 4 perpetuating the lie.

One reason Beckett comes to respect, like, and thought she won't admit it to herself, love, Castle is because of the assistance he gives her when she uncovers clues to her mother's murder. After looking into the case without her permission in *A Death in the Family* and she rebukes him for doing so in *Deep in Death*, Castle learns how painful the case is for Beckett to deal with. So, he leaves it alone. However, she slowly becomes increasingly comfortable talking about it around him because he respects her desire to keep it private from her colleagues, because he doesn't joke about it, because he provides her with a source of strength when it comes back into her life, and because he is as determined to solve it as she is. Nathan Fillion predicts that whenever Beckett does solve her mother's murder, and the major reason she was driven to become a cop is put to rest, she will eventually discover that "she's Castle's missing piece."

## **Other Love Interests**

Although, unlike Castle, she has never been married (she considers herself a "one-and-done kind of girl"), she has been a bridesmaid multiple time.

Years prior to meeting Castle, she dated an FBI Agent, Will Sorenson, for six months. The relationship ended when he accepted a job offer in Boston and left town, leaving Kate bitter.

She briefly dates 12th precinct Robbery Detective Tom Demming but breaks up with him when she discovers that her feelings towards Castle may run deeper than just friendship.

She also admits to being in love with Mike Royce, her former training officer, because he was the only one who understood how her mother's death drove her. She tells Royce that the night she killed

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Dick Coonan, she had a dream where she was laying on the ground dying, and he approached her, telling her to get up and keep working on the case. The next morning, she wanted to call him, but didn't since they hadn't spoken in a long time. Royce responds that he never forgot about her or her mother's case. She also tells Castle that she wants him around when she finally does figure out who ordered the hit on her mother.

For a time in season 3, she dated Josh Davidson, a mysterious, attractive cardiac surgeon who also rides motorcycles. However, in Setup, Beckett confides in Castle that she has grown frustrated with his frequent absences to volunteer with Doctors Without Borders, even though this is what initially attracted her to him. She admits that he is being gone allowed her to keep "one foot out the door" and that what she really wants is someone who will be there for her while she can be there for him. She reveals in Rise that they have broken up over the summer while Beckett was recovering from being shot because she realized she cannot fully be in a relationship until her mother's murder case is solved.

*The End*