

English Country House Murders Classic Crime Fiction Of Britains Upper Crust

Mystery crime fiction written in the Golden Age of Murder "There's murder, mutilation, and mayhem aplenty until the redoubtable Detective Inspector Kendall reveals his clever conclusions with a timetable of mischief." —Publishers Weekly observer, ignorant of the situation, would have guessed that death lurked nearby and that only a little distance from the glitter of silver and glass and the hum of voices, two victims lay silent on a studio floor.' On a fine autumn weekend Lord Aveling hosts a hunting party at his country house, Bragley Court. Among the guests are an actress, a journalist, an artist, and a mystery novelist. The unlucky thirteenth is John Foss, injured at the local train station and brought to the house to recuperate—but John is nursing a secret of his own. Soon events take a sinister turn when a painting is mutilated, a dog stabbed, and a man strangled. Death strikes more than one of the house guests, and the police are called. Detective Inspector Kendall's skills are tested to the utmost as he tries to uncover the hidden past of everyone at Bragley Court. This country-house mystery is a forgotten classic of 1930s crime fiction by one of the most undeservedly neglected of golden age detective novelists.

"It's absolutely delightful, and I would recommend it to anyone who's a fan of S. D. Caudwell, or Agatha Christie, or anyone who loves really clever British murder mysteries set in the '20s." - Gillian Flynn, author of *Gone Girl*. On his return from South Africa, Charles Knox is invited to spend the weekend at the country home of Sir Neville Strickland, whose beautiful wife Rosamund was once Knox's fiancée. Early in the dead of night Sir Neville is murdered. Who did it? As suspicion falls on each of the house guests in turn, Knox finds himself faced with deception and betrayal on all sides, and only the enigmatic Angela Marchmont seems to offer a solution to the mystery. This 1920s whodunit will delight all fans of traditional country house murder stories.

NAMED ONE OF THE "TEN BOOKS WE RECOMMEND THIS WEEK"—The New York Times NAMED ONE OF THE BEST CRIME FICTION OF 2020 BY OPEN, THE MAGAZINE For fans of *Knives Out*, a book that embodies all the things we love about Agatha Christie—a haunted manor house, estranged relatives, a will, and a murder— set in modern-day India, and the first in a series from author R. V. Raman. Aging and wheelchair-bound patriarch Bhaskar Fernandez has finally reclaimed his family property after a bitter legal battle, and now wants to reunite his aggrieved relatives. So, he invites them to remote Greybrooke Manor in the misty Nilgiris—a mansion that has played host to several sudden deaths; a colorful edifice that stands alone in a valley that is said to be haunted by the ghost of an Englishman. But Bhaskar has other, more practical problems to deal with. He knows that his family is waiting for him to die to regain the family fortune, and to safeguard himself against violence during the house party, he writes two conflicting

wills. Which one of them comes into force depends on how he dies. Into this tinderbox, he brings Harith Athreya, a seasoned investigator. When a landslide occurs, temporarily isolating them all at the mansion, and resulting in a murder, Athreya finds that murder is not the only thing the mist conceals. WILL TO KILL is the first Harith Athreya mystery.

The Red House Mystery is a detective novel by A. A. Milne, better known for his children's writing, who wrote this book for his father in 1922. It is his only mystery novel and was very popular at the time. Mark Ablett is the amiable host of a country house party to which his estranged brother, Robert, arrives from Australia. Robert is the black sheep of the family who is said to have borrowed money in the past and had written to warn of his visit. One afternoon a gunshot is heard, and Robert is found shot in the head while locked in the library, while his brother Mark has vanished. Tony Gillingham, who has arrived to visit Bill Beverley, one of the guests at the house-party, takes it upon himself to investigate the death. Together Tony and Bill form a Holmes and Watson partnership and seek to solve the mystery in an unorthodox manner, taking over from a bumbling police force. The Red House Mystery has divided opinion on its literary merit but it remains an entertaining and intriguing read nonetheless. This book is part of the Standard Ebooks project, which produces free public domain ebooks.

A Man Lay Dead

The Murder on the Links

Murder Underground

A Dream of Death

Murder on a Mystery Tour

A house-party with a glittering guest-list. An imposing country estate with endless shadowy staircases and unused rooms. The breathless period between the two world wars. It's the ideal setting for the classic English murder mystery, and bringing it to perfection is the introduction in a supporting role, for the first and last time of Albert Campion, the consummate (if compulsively quipping) Gentleman Sleuth. The guests take some time to be grateful for Campion's presence; he is a bit peculiar, and they have more than enough distractions, what with various complicated love affairs, a curious ritual involving a jewelled dagger, and a deadly game of hide-and-seek. But the savvy reader will be singing hosannas from Campion's first appearance, knowing that it marks the beginning of one of the most intelligent and delightful series in the history of crime fiction. "An extremely fine tale of death in an English country house" New York Times "In Margery Allingham's hands the detective novel is transformed from a craft into an art" The Sunday Telegraph (UK) Fans of Dorothy L. Sayers, Agatha Christie, and the Golden Age of British Mystery In a mystery originally published in 1934, Scotland Yard's Inspector Roderick Alleyn arrives at Sir Hubert Handesley's country house party only to discover a real corpse has appeared during the guests' parlor game of "Murder." Reprint. A seemingly ordinary village participates in a yearly lottery to determine a sacrificial victim.

*From the files of mystery's #1 bestselling author A classic case for Hercule
Poiret, the best-loved detective
The Murder at Sissingham Hall*

Thirteen Guests

In Cold Blood

A Most Efficient Murder

Towards Zero

NATIONAL BESTSELLER • Considering a trip to a quaint English village? You'll think twice after learning about the countless murderous possibilities lurking behind the bucolic façades, thanks to this illustrated guide from #1 bestselling author Maureen Johnson and illustrator Jay Cooper—perfect for fans of cozy mysteries. A weekend roaming narrow old lanes, touring the faded glories of a country manor, and quaffing pints in the pub. How charming. That is, unless you have the misfortune of finding yourself in an English Murder Village, where danger lurks around each picturesque cobblestone corner and every sip of tea may be your last. If you insist on your travels, do yourself a favor and bring a copy of this little book. It may just keep you alive. Brought to life with dozens of Gorey-esque drawings by illustrator Jay Cooper and peppered with allusions to classic crime series and unmistakably British murder lore, Your Guide to Not Getting Murdered in a Quaint English Village gives you the tools you need to avoid the same fate, should you find yourself in a suspiciously cozy English village (or simply dream of going). Good luck! And whatever you do, avoid the vicar.

'Downton Abbey meets Agatha Christie with a touch of Wodehouse and a dog of distinction.'

The “consistently witty” Agatha Award-winning author presents a tale of murder in a country mansion (Mystery News). With their fortunes dwindling, Reggie and his wife, Midge, have turned the family mansion into an English country inn. When Midge gets a call from an old classmate who arranges “mystery tours” for visiting Americans, she happily agrees to host one of these staged-murder events. But the tour seems to be a disaster from the get-go, with lots of arguing and complaining among those involved. Then, after a massive snowstorm, a real murder takes place—and it's up to the amateur sleuths to solve the case before the killer checks them out permanently. Praise for Marian Babson “Marian Babson's name on a mystery is a guarantee of quality writing wrapped around an unusual crime.” —Houston Chronicle

"In the England of murder mysteries and TV detectives, no destination is deadlier than a quaint country village, and you never know you're in a murder village until it's too late. No attraction or local character is safe--whether in the pub for a pint, or on the manicured grounds of the local estate for a shooting party, bodies can turn up anywhere! Danger lurks around every cobblestone corner. If you are foolish enough to make the trip, at least be prepared. Brought to life with dozens of Gorey-esque illustrations by Jay Cooper and peppered with allusions to classic crime series and unmistakably British murder lore, Your Guide to Not Getting Murdered in a Quaint English Village gives you the tools you need to avoid the same fate, should you find yourself in a suspiciously cozy

English village (or simply dream of going). Good luck, and whatever you do, avoid the vicar and don't drink the tea"--

The Thursday Murder Club

The Uninvited Guests

Murder at Mansfield Park

Mystery in White

"The settings of train, blizzard, and the eerily welcoming home are all engrossing. Dorothy L. Sayers characterized Farjeon as 'unsurpassed for creepy skill in mysterious adventures.' This reissue proves it." —Booklist STARRED review 'The horror on the train, great though it may turn out to be, will not compare with the horror that exists here, in this house.' On Christmas Eve, heavy snowfall brings a train to a halt near the village of Hemmersby. Several passengers take shelter in a deserted country house, where the fire has been lit and the table laid for tea—but no one is at home. Trapped together for Christmas, the passengers are seeking to unravel the secrets of the empty house when a murderer strikes in their midst. This classic Christmas mystery is now republished for the first time since the 1930s, with an introduction by the award-winning crime writer Martin Edwards.

When a strange child follows her home on the train from London, Ella Bridges feels bound to help her. However she soon discovers the child is not what she seems. Having recently moved into a large home on Linhay Island, affectionately known locally as The Yellow Cottage, Ella finds herself at the centre of a murder investigation thanks to a special gift from the previous house owner. Along with her unusual sidekick, a former cottage resident, Ella follows clues which take her to the heart of London. As the mystery unravels she is forced to enter the lion's den to solve the crime and stop the perpetrator. But can she do it before she becomes the next victim?'An Accidental Murder' is a vintage amateur sleuth novella, with a difference. Set in 1930's England, it is the first in the series of The Yellow Cottage mysteries.*Revised new edition May 2015*Please note this is a novella of around 25,000 words.

On a remote Scottish island, American antiques dealer Kate Hamilton wrestles with her own past while sleuthing a brutal killing, staged to recreate a two-hundred-year-old unsolved murder. Autumn has come and gone on Scotland's Isle of Glenroth, and the islanders gather for the Tartan Ball, the annual end-of-tourist-season gala. Spirits are high. A recently published novel about island history has brought hordes of tourists to the small Hebridean resort community. On the guest list is American antiques dealer Kate Hamilton. Kate returns reluctantly to the island where her husband died, determined to repair her relationship with his sister, proprietor of the island's luxe country house hotel, famous for its connection with Bonnie Prince Charlie. Kate has hardly unpacked when the next morning a body is found, murdered in a reenactment of an infamous unsolved murder described in the novel—and the only clue to the killer's identity lies in a curiously embellished antique casket. The Scottish police discount the historical connection, but when a much-loved local handyman is arrested, Kate teams up with a vacationing detective inspector from Suffolk, England, to unmask a killer determined to rewrite island history—and Kate's future.

"Writing Crooked House was pure pleasure and I feel justified in my belief that it is one of my best." --Agatha Christie Described by the queen of mystery herself as one of her favorites of her published work, Crooked House is a classic Agatha Christie thriller revolving around a devastating family mystery. The Leonides are one big happy family living in a sprawling, ramshackle mansion. That is until the head of the household, Aristide, is murdered with a fatal barbiturate injection. Suspicion naturally falls on the old man's young widow, fifty years his junior. But the murderer has reckoned without the tenacity of Charles Hayward, fiancé of the late millionaire's granddaughter.

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Murder in the Crooked House

The Crime at Black Dudley

A Novel

Murder at the Manor

The Shakespeare Murders

The snow is thick, the phone line is down, and no one is getting in or out of Warbeck Hall. With friends and family gathered round the fire, all should be set for a perfect Christmas, but as the bells chime midnight, a mysterious murder takes place. Who can be responsible? The scorned young lover? The lord's passed-over cousin? The social climbing politician's wife? The Czech history professor? The obsequious butler? And perhaps the real question is: can any of them survive long enough to tell the tale?

"The Shakespeare Murders" by A. G. Macdonell. Published by Good Press.

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"First published in hardcover in Great Britain by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Books, a division of Penguin Random House Ltd., London"--Copyright page.

"[Readers] are bound to be caught up in the adventures of Bess Crawford . . . While her sensibility is as crisp as her narrative voice, Bess is a compassionate nurse who responds with feeling."— The New York Times Book Review In the uneasy peace following World War I, nurse Bess Crawford runs into trouble and treachery in Ireland—in this twelfth book in the New York Times bestselling mystery series. The Great War is over—but in Ireland, in the wake of the bloody 1916 Easter Rising, anyone who served in France is now considered a traitor, including nurse Eileen Flynn and former soldier Michael Sullivan, who only want to be married in the small, isolated village where she grew up. Even her grandmother is against it, and Eileen's only protection is her cousin Terrence who was a hero of the Rising and is still being hunted by the British. Bess Crawford had promised to be there for the wedding. And in spite of the danger to her, she keeps that promise—only to be met with the shocking news that the groom has vanished. Eileen begs for her help, but how can Bess hope to find him when she doesn't know the country, the people, or where to put her trust? Time is running out, for Michael and for Bess herself, and soon her own life is on the line. With only an Irish outlaw and a man being hunted for murder on her side, how can she possibly save herself, much less stop a killer?

Murder Is Easy

An Accidental Murder

An English Murder

An Irish Hostage

The Honjin Murders

When the reclusive Earl of Unsworth's first party in over a decade is spoiled by murder, His Lordship's loyal and efficient secretary, Mr. Quayle, must unravel a web of red-herrings and buried secrets in this "English country house mystery infused with humor, verve, and plenty of surprises." (Kirkus Reviews) "I do not wish to disturb you, your lordship, but there is a body in the garden..." England, 1925. When a strange young woman is found murdered on the grounds of Unsworth Castle, the Earl and his family are astounded at first, but quickly become enraged when the police begin asking all sorts of impertinent questions. And when suspicions dare to fall on one of their own, it is up to Mr. Quayle, Lord Unsworth's exceedingly efficient secretary, to find the true culprit and save the House of Unsworth from scandal and ruin. _____ Perfect for fans of Agatha Christie, Benedict Brown, Karen Baugh Menuhin, or Dorothy L Sayers. WHAT READERS ARE SAYING ABOUT A MOST EFFICIENT MURDER: "Thanks to vivid writing, lively characters, and quietly snarky humor...this entertaining mystery hits all the right genre buttons in a fresh way. An English country house mystery infused with humor, verve, and plenty of surprises." - Kirkus Reviews "Reminiscent of the tone of classic mysteries which deliver suspects, clues, and questions around each corner...A Most Efficient Murder is clever, enjoyable, charming, and a must-read for all historical mystery lovers." - Reader's Favorite (Five Star Review) "I recommend A Most Efficient Murder - especially to those who enjoy taking a step back in time and reading an Agatha Christie-style murder mystery!" , Valleri M., NetGalley "As an aficionado of the Golden Age of Crime, this did not disappoint but amply rewarded in droves. Billed as the first in the Mr. Quayle mysteries, the second is now eagerly awaited." -Ruth G., NetGalley "I absolutely loved the book. It's a murder mystery house party à la Agatha Christie style...and it kept me interested the entire book. As a bonus I absolutely did not know who the killer was." -Lynn B., NetGalley "A lovely and intriguing read. Twists, turns and red herrings abound!" -Lorna M., NetGalley "I quite enjoyed this book...it is well written and the characters work well. Highly recommended." -Laura F., NetGalley THE DETECTIVE Quiet, methodical, and eminently efficient, Mr. Quayle has been Lord Unsworth's personal secretary for almost a year now, but their connection runs far deeper and has its origins in the horror and trenches of France. Serving in the same regiment as Theodore Statham, Lord Unsworth's only son-and-heir, Mr. Quayle wrote to the family when Teddy was killed on the Western Front. Unable to protect His Lordship's son, Mr. Quayle is determined to save Lord Unsworth's remaining family—from themselves, if necessary. THE SETTING Unsworth Castle, nestled on the outskirts of Hartchester County, was once widely considered to be amongst England's oldest and grandest stately homes, but is now a crumbling ruin of its

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former self. Burnt down twice in the past century alone, the castle has been built and rebuilt countless times, leaving a labyrinth of hidden passages, forgotten rooms, and crumbling halls. Previous attempts to restore the castle to its former glory have all but bankrupted the family, and the current Earl of Unsworth has been largely content to allow his estate to fade back into picturesque ruin. ALSO BY ANTHONY SLAYTON THE MR. QUAYLE MYSTERIES Book 1: A MOST EFFICIENT MURDER

A fiendish LOCKED ROOM MYSTERY from the Japanese master of the genre. Never before available in English. By the author of the acclaimed Tokyo Zodiac Murders. The Crooked House sits on a snowbound cliff overlooking icy seas at the remote northern tip of Japan. A curious place for the millionaire Kozaburo Hamamoto to build a house, but even more curious is the house itself - a disorienting maze of sloping floors and strangely situated staircases, full of bloodcurdling masks and uncanny, lifesize dolls. When a man is found dead in one of the mansion's rooms, murdered in seemingly impossible circumstances, the police are called. But they are unable to solve the puzzle, and powerless to protect the party of house guests as more bizarre deaths follow. Enter Kiyoshi Mitarai, the renowned sleuth, famous for unmasking the culprit behind the notorious Umezawa family massacre. Surely if anyone can crack these cryptic murders he will. But you have all the clues too - can you solve the mystery of the murders in The Crooked House first?

English Country House Murders Mysterious Press

Nothing could seem more civilized, more orderly and sedate than a weekend at one of Great Britain's country estates. Yet these staid, conservative houses play host to a wider variety of murders than do the mean streets of America's darkest cities.

A Will to Kill

The Story of Classic Crime in 100 Books

A Yellow Cottage Vintage Mystery

Dead of Winter

Murder at Archly Manor

A high society murder. A spirited lady detective. Can she out-class the killer before an innocent person takes the fall? London, 1923. Olive Belgrave needs a job. Despite her aristocratic upbringing, she's penniless. Determined to support herself, she jumps at an unconventional job—looking into the background of her cousin's fiancé, Alfred. Alfred burst into the upper crust world of London's high society, but his answers to questions about his past are decidedly vague. Before Olive can gather more than the basics, a murder occurs at a posh party. Suddenly, every Bright Young Person in attendance is a suspect, and Olive must race to find the culprit because a sly murderer is determined to make sure Olive's first case is her last. Murder at Archly Manor is the first in the High Society Lady Detective series of charming historical cozy mysteries. If you like witty banter, glamorous settings, and delightful plot

twists, you'll love USA Today bestselling author Sara Rosett's series for Anglophiles and mystery lovers alike. Travel back to the Golden Age of detective fiction with *Murder at Archly Manor*. One of Japan's greatest classic murder mysteries, introducing their best loved detective, translated into English for the first time In the winter of 1937, the village of Okamura is abuzz with excitement over the forthcoming wedding of a son of the grand Ichiyanagi family. But amid the gossip over the approaching festivities, there is also a worrying rumour - it seems a sinister masked man has been asking questions around the village. Then, on the night of the wedding, the Ichiyanagi household are woken by a terrible scream, followed by the sound of eerie music. Death has come to Okamura, leaving no trace but a bloody samurai sword, thrust into the pristine snow outside the house. Soon, amateur detective Kosuke Kindaichi is on the scene to investigate what will become a legendary murder case, but can this scruffy sleuth solve a seemingly impossible crime? Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best nonfiction books of all time From the Modern Library's new set of beautifully repackaged hardcover classics by Truman Capote—also available are *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *Other Voices*, *Other Rooms* (in one volume), *Portraits and Observations*, and *The Complete Stories* Truman Capote's masterpiece, *In Cold Blood*, created a sensation when it was first published, serially, in *The New Yorker* in 1965. The intensively researched, atmospheric narrative of the lives of the Clutter family of Holcomb, Kansas, and of the two men, Richard Eugene Hickock and Perry Edward Smith, who brutally killed them on the night of November 15, 1959, is the seminal work of the "new journalism." Perry Smith is one of the great dark characters of American literature, full of contradictory emotions. "I thought he was a very nice gentleman," he says of Herb Clutter. "Soft-spoken. I thought so right up to the moment I cut his throat." Told in chapters that alternate between the Clutter household and the approach of Smith and Hickock in their black Chevrolet, then between the investigation of the case and the killers' flight, Capote's account is so detailed that the reader comes to feel almost like a participant in the events.

Mystery crime fiction written in the Golden Age of Murder "[T]he entire book is filled with country-house-mystery wonders: the closed-circle puzzle, the dying-message clue, and the sociopathic guest who invades the weekend house party."

—Booklist *The English country house is an iconic setting for some of the greatest British crime fiction. This new collection gathers together stories written over a span of about 65 years, during which British society, and life in country houses, was*

transformed out of all recognition. It includes fascinating and unfamiliar twists on the classic 'closed circle' plot, in which the assorted guests at a country house party become suspects when a crime is committed. In the more sinister tales featured here, a gloomy mansion set in lonely grounds offers an eerie backdrop for dark deeds. Many distinguished writers are represented in this collection, including such great names of the genre as Anthony Berkeley, Nicholas Blake and G.K. Chesterton. Martin Edwards has also unearthed hidden gems and forgotten masterpieces: among them are a fine send-up of the country house murder; a suspenseful tale by the unaccountably neglected Ethel Lina White; and a story by the little-known Scottish writer J.J. Bell.

Country House Mysteries

Why Shoot a Butler?

English Country House Murders

A Kate Hamilton Mystery

The Red House Mystery

In honor of the Agatha Christie Centenary, members of the Crime Writers' Association offer stories set in the Golden Age of detective fiction, between the two world wars

A quiet English village is plagued by a fiendish serial killer in Queen of Mystery Agatha Christie's classic thriller, Murder is Easy. Luke Fitzwilliam does not believe Miss Pinkerton's wild allegation that a multiple murderer is at work in the quiet English village of Wychwood and that her local doctor is next in line. But within hours, Miss Pinkerton has been killed in a hit-and-run car accident. Mere coincidence? Luke is inclined to think so—until he reads in the Times of the unexpected demise of Wychwood's Dr. Humbleby....

A Rina Martin Mystery - Against her better judgement, Rina Martin accepts an invitation to Aikensthorpe, a country house hotel with a sinister reputation. Gathered there are a collection of experts in the esoteric; their plan is to re-enact the incident in 1872 that left one man dead and another mad. Rina, unimpressed by the company and their techniques, is relieved when her friend DI MacGregor comes to rescue her. But then a blizzard traps them in the house, and Edwin Holmes, grand old man of psychical research, is found murdered in his bed . . .

Essays that explore major theoretical viewpoints of the detective fiction genre and then apply those theories to the novels of Agatha Christie and her heirs in the British ratiocinative tradition.

Murder at Melrose Court

Your Guide to Not Getting Murdered in a Quaint English Village

A Classic English Crime

Murder on the Orient Express

The Stately Home Murder

2018 Macavity Award winner for Best Nonfiction 2018 Anthony Award nominee for Best Critical/Nonfiction Book This book tells the story of crime fiction published during the first half of

the twentieth century. The diversity of this much-loved genre is breathtaking, and so much greater than many critics have suggested. To illustrate this, the leading expert on classic crime discusses one hundred books ranging from *The Hound of the Baskervilles* to *Strangers on a Train* which highlight the entertaining plots, the literary achievements, and the social significance of vintage crime fiction. This book serves as a companion to the acclaimed British Library Crime Classics series but it tells a very diverse story. It presents the development of crime fiction—from Sherlock Holmes to the end of the golden age—in an accessible, informative and engaging style. Readers who enjoy classic crime will make fascinating discoveries and learn about forgotten gems as well as bestselling authors. Even the most widely read connoisseurs will find books (and trivia) with which they are unfamiliar—as well as unexpected choices to debate. Classic crime is a richly varied and deeply pleasurable genre that is enjoying a world-wide renaissance as dozens of neglected novels and stories are resurrected for modern readers to enjoy. The overriding aim of this book is to provide a launch point that enables readers to embark on their own voyages of discovery.

Mystery crime fiction written in the Golden Age of Murder
"Despite its title, this British Library Crime Classics reissue of a 1936 novel isn't just an entertaining Christmas read. It's a fine example of the old-time country-house murder mystery, with loads of suspects, lots of period atmosphere, and much caustic wit." -Booklist
Aunt Mildred declared that no good could come of the Melbury family Christmas gatherings at their country residence Flaxmere. So when Sir Osmond Melbury, the family patriarch, is discovered-by a guest dressed as Santa Klaus-with a bullet in his head on Christmas Day, the festivities are plunged into chaos. Nearly every member of the party stands to reap some sort of benefit from Sir Osmond's death, but Santa Klaus, the one person who seems to have every opportunity to fire the shot, has no apparent motive. Various members of the family have their private suspicions about the identity of the murderer, and the Chief Constable of Haulmshire, who begins his investigations by saying that he knows the family too well and that is his difficulty, wishes before long that he understood them better. In the midst of mistrust, suspicion and hatred, it emerges that there was not one Santa Klaus, but two.

Murder at Mansfield Park is a witty and clever reimagining of Jane Austen's much-loved novel *Mansfield Park*. But in this *Mansfield Park*, things have changed ... Formerly Austen's meekest heroine, Fanny Price has become not only an heiress to an extensive fortune but also a heartless, scheming minx. Hiding

her true character behind a demure facad...

What is the connection among a failed suicide attempt, a wrongful accusation of theft against a schoolgirl, and the romantic life of a famous tennis player? To the casual observer, apparently nothing. But when a house party gathers at Gull's Point, the seaside home of an elderly widow, earlier events come to a dramatic head. As Superintendent Battle discovers, it is all part of a carefully laid plan—for murder.

The Santa Klaus Murder

Crooked House

Theory and Practice of Classic Detective Fiction

The Lottery

A 1920s Country House Christmas Murder

It's rural England, just after the turn of the last century. Charlotte married Edward Shift after the sudden death of her first husband, Horace Torrington. They live at Sterne, the home they are in danger of losing due to a financial crisis, with Charlotte's 3 children: Emerald, Clovis and Smudge. On the day of Emerald's birthday party, a terrible train wreck occurs on a branch line and the stranded passengers seek refuge at Sterne. Among these passengers is Charlie Traversham-Beechers, a sketchy figure from Charlotte's past. This unusual guest list makes for an unforgettable birthday celebration for Emerald and an evening of the past literally coming back to haunt Charlotte.

An unpleasant spinster meets her end on the stairs of the Belsize Park Tube station. All of the residents of the Frampton Private Hotel in Hampstead knew that Euphemia Pongleton was in the habit of walking one stop closer to the center of London to save a penny's fare on the Underground. But they hardly expected to hear that she was found on the stairs at Belsize Park, strangled to death with her terrier's leash on her way to a dental appointment. Her death sends shock waves through the boardinghouse. Betty Watson and Cissie Fain are all agog. Mrs. Daymer regards the murder as fodder for her latest psychological thriller. The landlady, Mrs. Bliss, frets about how she'll get dinner done with the maid, Nellie, crying her eyes out because the police have detained her boyfriend, Bob Thurlow. Gerry Plasher is in a tizzy because the question of whether his fiancée, Beryl Sanders, will or won't inherit her aunt's fortune depends on what vindictive Euphemia wrote in the latest version of her will. Meanwhile, Basil Pongleton, the other claimant to the family fortune, tells the police a cock and bull story about traveling to Hampstead from his own boardinghouse in Tavistock Square when he was actually in Belsize Park at the time of his aunt's death. He's so rattled by his own blunder that he seeks advice from Joseph Slocum, another Frampton tenant whom young Basil regards as a man of the world. All the while, Mr. Blend sits at his table in the living room, cutting his newspaper placidly into strips. How this band of halfwits will solve a murder will surprise, and perhaps amuse, readers of this Golden Age classic.

In 1970s England, a broke nobleman and a body in a suit of armor present a puzzling mystery in this witty novel by a Diamond Dagger Award winner. It is the early 1970s, and times are tough in the upper reaches of British society. To survive the changing times, the Earl of Ornum has done the previously unthinkable and opened his estate to wandering tourists. One day, a hyperactive little boy and his family are roaming Ornum House delightedly. The curious tyke

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sees a full suit of armor and lifts the visor . . . only to see a face staring out at him. As Detective Inspector C. D. Sloan soon finds, the man in the suit of armor is dead—and there's a slew of suspects waiting to be interviewed. Was it the ditzy duchess? The disappointing nephew? One of the servants? The earl himself? It's up to Sloan and his wisecracking sidekick, Detective Constable Crosby, to find out before the murderer strikes again.

A New York Times and USA Today Bestseller! "Miss Heyer's characters and dialogue are an abiding delight to me." —Dorothy L. Sayers Every family has secrets, but the Fountains' are turning deadly? On a dark night, along a lonely country road, barrister Frank Amberley stops to help a young lady in distress and discovers a sports car with a corpse behind the wheel. The girl protests her innocence, and Amberley believes her—at least until he gets drawn into the mystery and the clues incriminating Shirley Brown begin to add up? In an English country-house murder mystery with a twist, it's the butler who's the victim, every clue complicates the puzzle, and the bumbling police are well-meaning but completely baffled. Fortunately, in ferreting out a desperate killer, amateur sleuth Amberley is as brilliant as he is arrogant, but this time he's not sure he wants to know the truth? PRAISE FOR WHY SHOOT A BUTLER? "If genteel mysteries are your cup of tea, you have here a steaming teapot just waiting to be poured."— Bestsellers "Georgette Heyer is second to none."— Sunday Times "Heyer is an author to read ? this means you!"—New York Herald Tribune "Sharp, clear, and witty"— New Yorker

A 1920s Country House Mystery