



Check-Out Time

Kate Kingsbury

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The Pennyfoot hides many secrets and its downstairs staff keeps a tight lip, even when the Edwardian aristocrats are spotted dallying with damsels in the boudoirs, or gambling in the forbidden card rooms hidden below the floorboards. Should now and then one of the hotel guests fall prey to a dastardly murderer, however, it is up to Cecily Sinclair to restore order before Scotland Yard steps in and shuts down her infamous seaside hotel.

CHECK-OUT TIME

In the midst of planning the Midsummer Ball, Cecily receives surprising news. One of the aristocrats staying at the hotel just checked out, in a most bizarre way. After climbing onto his top floor balcony, he did a little dance on the railing and fell to his death. The downstairs staff are convinced the lord was crackers, but Cecily suspects that the victim had a little help with his dive to the pavement and is determined to prove it.

The final Pennyfoot Mystery, also a Christmas edition, Mulled Murder, was published in November 2013 by Berkley Books.

Check-Out Time Details

Date : Published March 1st 1995 by Berkley

ISBN : 9780425146408

Author : Kate Kingsbury

Format : Paperback 217 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction

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From Reader Review Check-Out Time for online ebook

Laura Miyazaki says

Annoying

The little boy was so annoying I was tempted to put it down. But it got better. I'm curious see how it goes with Michael's wife.

Donna Zigmont says

I really enjoy this series. I've always been fascinated by the Edwardian/Victorian time period. I didn't guess the killer until right before he was revealed. Which made me happy. I enjoy the building friendship between Cecily and Baxter. I like how Cecily treats the staff members as family and isn't an uptight snob. Phoebe on the other hand got on my nerves real bad in this book. I like Gertie but she got on my nerves in this one as well.

Bev says

Check-Out Time is the fifth book in Kate Kingsbury's other mystery series featuring the Cecily Sinclair and the Pennyfoot Hotel. It is also the second book in my "read two books by the same author" entry for the Autumn Semi-Charmed Challenge. The Pennyfoot Hotel books are set during Edwardian times and Cecily's hotel is the place to be for London aristocrats looking for a little seaside holiday. Except it also appears to be the place to be if you want to commit murder. Cecily is as bad as Jessica Fletcher at attracting dead bodies.

In this outing, Sir Richard Malton has taken a nose dive off of his top-floor balcony...and, no, there wasn't a swimming pool below. The local police would like to call it a simple suicide or at least the result of a drunken binge--but it wasn't just a jump over the edge or a drunken slip. Sir Richard hopped up on the railing, walked it like a tightrope artist, and then topped the performance with a little jig. The man was known as a teetotaler who drank milk when he went to the local pub and certainly didn't have acrobatic aspirations. What could make a middle-aged man do such a daring and deadly thing?

Cecily doesn't trust the local police to get to the bottom of things before her clientele move on to quieter and less-deadly lodgings. So, she and her right-hand man Baxter set out to discover what really happened. They'll wind up at a vaudeville-like variety theater before the case is closed (much to Baxter's shock and dismay--madam does not belong there!)--and there will be a last-minute rescue of an unwitting witness before all is well at the Pennyfoot again.

This one wasn't quite as good as the Manor Mystery book I just read (Death Is in the Air). The story seemed very contrived and I'm not buying the murder method. I just don't believe it could be done...and certainly not in such a short period and so little contact. I can't say more without giving it completely away. The ending is rather nice and the heroics make it a bit exciting (which lifts the book to two star status)--but it's not the best Kingsbury I've read. I've sampled a couple of her Christmas-themed Pennyfoot books in the days before blogging and found them to be more interesting. If you're looking to try the series--I'd suggest giving one of

those a go.

First posted on my blog My Reader's Block. Please request permission before reposting. Thanks.

Valorie Hunter says

Be careful of swinging watches in front of your face!!!!!!

This is an amazing book, I truly lost a lot of sleep reading this.

10 stars for this story, Wow Kate great job.

I thought I had it figured out 3 times, but then Cecily had another idea.

The closing of a business being closed by a self absorbed idiot can be deadly.

You won't be disappointed. You will love it.

Julia says

The Pennyfoot Hotel is the site of another murder in Badger's End. This time, in a locked-room type of story, a guest has fallen to his death after trying to balance on the balcony railing like a tightrope walker. Much to business manager Baxter's dismay, Cecily insists on investigating the latest crime, with a visit to a scandalous Variety Show in London.

Kalendra Dee says

In the fifth book of the Pennyfoot Hotel series, Cecily and Baxter try to solve the mystery of a guest who fell to his death from his room's balcony. Was Sir Richard Malton's death a tragic accident or did someone help the man in his plunge off the balcony?

Cindy says

I figured this one out a little early on.....lots of clues dropped.

THT Steph says

I found Check-out Time by Kate Kingsbury to be remarkably well played out this time around. There was enough to keep my imagination spinning trying to guess for myself who did it.

I was quite pleased with the final outcome of the mystery and how everything came together so very nicely surrounding the mystery. There were, however, a couple of loose ends not pertaining to the mystery that I would have liked more of an explanation for.

Baxter leaves us with a bit of a cliff hanger with just one spoken sentence at the end. I wonder what he's up to.

Betty says

Really into this series now and enjoying it very much.

Bettye McKee says

The last dance

Onlookers are shocked to see Sir Richard Malton dancing on the balcony railing four stories up. Then he lost his balance and plummeted to the earth.

Was it suicide? He was alone on the balcony, and the door was locked on the inside. Cecily Sinclair needs to know. A scandal such as this could close down the Pennyfoot Hotel for good.

Cecily needs Baxter's help to investigate this puzzling death. By the time they have the answer, there is almost another tragedy.

Vanessa says

I am willing to accept a lot of suspension of disbelief, but this book has a vast number of "seriously, are you kidding me?" plot points. The method of murder is so ridiculously not possible that I can't even begin to wrap my head around--like, not scientifically possible ridiculous. The casual portrayal of voodoo reflects not even the most basic level of knowledge or research. And then at the end, the killer WAITS PATIENTLY for the police to come arrest him/her. Just, no.

Pat says

Pennyfoot Hotel series

Owner, Cecily. Husband died and she runs hotel with hired help and a butler type she is in love with.

1908 class divisions in London.

Guy jumps from balcony.

Sheri says

Another great installment in the Pennyfoot Hotel mysteries. I feel as I'm really in Badgers End and a part of this charming series. I love the idea of hypnotism laced through the story and am intrigued by Madame's new daughter in law.

Georgia Lengyel says

Not as good as most of this series. I figured out that the victim had been hypnotized. The actual murderer eluded me till almost the end. Baxter and Cecily argued and sniped at each other a little too much.

D.w. says

From bad to worse. Kingsbury is just pretty bad at her craft. This time the only saving grace is that the mystery has more meat than in the three previous outings. Yet there are three elements that ruin the book

First can you see an Edwardian Officer leaving the service to run a Pub with a Fuzzy-Wuzzy native wife back in the south of England on the Dover Road? This is how bad it gets. But it is not some minor character to us. It is the beloved son of the heroine. Here we have a modern woman forcing her views on a prior time. If such would happen, it would be so few and far between that it would be extraordinary. Why much up the book with this.

Then we have voodoo. The sticking pins in doll type. That is Haitian or New Orleans voodoo which the author attributes to West Africa. This took me right out of the book. The author just thought to mention something that an educated person would not give credence too. Forcing me to confirm my knowledge and stop my reading. And further find fault with this historical, for it has no bearing on history.

Last, the lower class servant employed at this very uppercrust resort has a POV with this "leaning over him with her tits brushing his shoulder..." while I am sure that lower class men might think of a 1908 bosom as tits, a serving girl in a very respectable establishment. It was beyond vulgar. Again the author took me right out of the story.

So can I recommend this to anyone. Save your money and stay away from this author.
