



## Murder Will Out

*Alison Joseph*

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## **Murder Will Out** Alison Joseph

1923. The Great War is over, but the ghosts of the dead still linger. Agatha Christie was one of the lucky ones - her husband returned from the conflict - and for her, and her local neighbours, life has resumed. Agatha is beginning to gain some notoriety for her crime writing and she is busy working on her latest novel. But then her neighbour tells her there has been a real 'murder at the vicarage' - a young man, Cecil Coates, has been poisoned, and due to Christie's expertise in the crime genre, the neighbourhood wants her to investigate. At first Agatha is reluctant to get involved. After all, she is a writer, not a detective. But then Robert Sayer, godson of her neighbour, and one of the main suspects in the case, appeals to her directly for help, and she finds herself being drawn in... What secrets and lies are lying beneath the village's tranquil exterior? Can Agatha Christie use her imagination to draw the murderer out? 'Murder Will Out' is the first in a new series of murder mysteries, in which famous authoress Agatha Christie takes time out from writing to investigate real crime.

## **Murder Will Out Details**

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Author : Alison Joseph

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## From Reader Review Murder Will Out for online ebook

### Ann says

A real cozy village mystery which features Agatha Christie as a character. Much against her will Agatha is drawn into investigating a murder at the local vicarage and despite quite a complicated plotline succeeds in unmasking the murderer. My main criticism is that there were too many characters for such a short book and, apart from Agatha, didn't really get developed in any depth. I got so confused at times that I had to reread previous chapters to find out who was who. However it was pleasant easy read.

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### Ivyd says

3.5 stars

After the Great War Christie's husband, Arthur came home and life has returned to what's now considered normal. Christie's writing career is in its early stages but she has gained a bit of notoriety. When a visitor to the vicarage is poisoned everyone expects Agatha to rise to the occasion. It does her absolutely no good to stress the difference between real life and fiction so she's reluctantly drawn in.

There's a plethora of books out now featuring famous historical people, literary and otherwise, as protagonists. Some are hits and some are misses. MURDER WILL OUT has enough potential to be listed as a hit.

Agatha, Arthur, Rosalind, and Stokes have settled into village life. Arthur is spending a lot of time in London. All Agatha wants is to work on her new novel, though it's beginning to feel a bit like pulling teeth. Sylvia Ettridge's visit with news of a death at the vicarage puts paid to Agatha's plans. Despite her protests of not being qualified to investigate she's drawn into the investigation.

On first starting MURDER WILL OUT there's a strong feeling of melancholy. Whether this was pervasive in England at the time, perhaps an acknowledgement of all that had been lost and wasted, or emanates from Agatha regarding her marriage is up for grabs. As events progress the feeling lessens, becoming more hopeful and spirited. As Agatha is drawn deeper into the mystery and investigation the idea of Miss Marple is born along with a hint of the future Poirot waiting in the wings.

Will Agatha's creative mental processes be up to the challenge of working out the who and why of an actual vs fictional killer? Will the police resent or appreciate her inserting herself? What will Arthur think? You can discover the answers to these questions and more by reading MURDER WILL OUT.

Ms. Joseph's skillful weaving of Christie facts into the fiction gives MURDER WILL OUT an authenticity and sense that it could, indeed, have happened this way. My only problem with MURDER WILL OUT lies in the solution. All the clues and details are not available to readers. Any good puzzle, cozies and other mysteries included, make every piece available to the solver. Where's the fun in a puzzle with missing pieces? Hopefully the next installment of Ms. Joseph's series remedies that problem by giving readers a fair chance to solve the mystery right along side Agatha.

Reviewed for Miss Ivy's Book Nook & Novels Alive TV

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## **Jillian says**

A clever concept and some passages of nice writing. Some of the characters, especially the women, are credibly portrayed and developed. On the other hand, the narrative became convoluted in places and I share other readers' confusion over the continual swapping between first and surnames in addressing characters. It was difficult enough keeping the cast clearly in mind without that additional hurdle.

The cleverness of the concept, however, and the strength of the portrayal of Agatha leave me with no regrets in having read it,

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## **Gardener0126 says**

### **Enjoyable mystery**

This book really reminded me of the old fashioned English village mystery. Whatcha Christie is the amateur detective, who also happens to be an author of mystery novels.

I did find it a bit difficult to keep the children characters straight and although the conclusion was plausible, the author kept some clues to herself and didn't reveal them until the end. Never the less it was an enjoyable, easy to read cozy mystery.

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## **Deborah says**

An enjoyable cozy murder story where the culprit is found by Agatha Christie

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## **Ian says**

Death stalks the vicarage...

1923. The Great War is over, but the ghosts of the dead still linger. Agatha Christie was one of the lucky ones - her husband returned from the conflict - and for her, and her local neighbours, life has resumed. Agatha is beginning to gain some notoriety for her crime writing and she is busy working on her latest novel. But then her neighbour tells her there has been a real 'murder at the vicarage' - a young man, Cecil Coates, has been poisoned, and due to Christie's expertise in the crime genre, the neighbourhood wants her to investigate. At first Agatha is reluctant to get involved. After all, she is a writer, not a detective. But then Robert Sayer, godson of her neighbour, and one of the main suspects in the case, appeals to her directly for help, and she finds herself being drawn in... What secrets and lies are lying beneath the village's tranquil exterior? Can Agatha Christie use her imagination to draw the murderer out?

'Murder Will Out' is the first in a new series of murder mysteries, in which famous authoress Agatha Christie takes time out from writing to investigate real crimes.

I enjoyed this nicely woven, well plotted and written mystery starring the Queen of Crime herself, Mrs Agatha Christie. And delivered in the true style of a Christie mystery.

This is the first of what I hope will be a continuing series of Mrs Christie murder mysteries.

If you like the review and would like to read reviews on other books I have read, visit my blog at [www.finalchapterreadersgroup.wordpress.com](http://www.finalchapterreadersgroup.wordpress.com) like, comment and follow.

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### **Tricia says**

The conceit of this book is that (a youngish?) Agatha Christie is drawn into a real life murder investigation, because her neighbors assume she will want to be involved because of what she writes. She is reluctant, because she knows that her "stories" are a far different thing from real people. But the real people and their personalities draw her in, and in true cozy fashion, she solves the mystery for the detectives.

What I didn't like: I had a hunch about the culprit, but it was only a hunch, because Agatha figured things out based on documents she read that we weren't privy to and because of inter-relationships I couldn't always keep straight. Which leads to my second complaint: I kept getting confused about characters because it would frequently switch between formal/full names (as would seem appropriate for the era) and first names, often between a pair of characters on the same page. Good thing this kindle edition was x-ray enabled or I would have gotten lost! Also, there is also some attempt at connecting the real life events to the plot Agatha is working out / writing at the time, but it felt forced. Maybe if I were more familiar with the entire Christie canon it would be more meaningful. Does that mean the only good audience for the series is die-hard Christie fans that are willing to let the author be a character?

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### **Gowri N. says**

The writing isn't bad and I like the premise of Christie the author herself being pulled into real-life mysteries. But the author has over-complicated the plot. Too many characters, too many disconnected, confusing threads, a jerky narrative...

Overall, it just doesn't work.

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### **Debbie says**

3.5 stars

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### **Sheri says**

I really enjoyed this take on s cozy and I love anything that had to do with Agatha Christie! I can't recommend this wonderful little cozy enough.

I've already downloaded book 2 in the series ?

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## **Lisa says**

As someone who has never actually read an Agatha Christie novel, I was nevertheless interested in reading this cosy crime novel featuring Agatha Christie herself as the (reluctant) detective.

I won't recap the plot as it's all there in the blurb, but it takes place in the village of Sunningdale the early 1920s, when Christie would have been in her early thirties.

The sense of time and place was quite immersing; I never 'forgot' about the period setting as I have done with some less-well written novels set in the not-too-distant past. We learn just enough about the characters' backgrounds and personalities to make sense of the plot without going into too much detail (it's a short novel). I did however experience a little confusion over who was who from time to time, possibly because often the characters were referred to as Mr/Mrs-, and sometimes by their first names, which is entirely consistent with the setting.

I did not guess 'whodunnit', and the reveal at the end took me by surprise. I did not have any suspects in mind, although I picked up on some suspicious behaviour near the end, and one clue that I was sure was a red herring turned out not to be. The explanation and backstory did make sense retrospectively.

There were plenty of references to Agatha Christie's life and novels, which mostly went over my head, but I'm sure they would add even more enjoyment to fans. I am certainly tempted to try some of Christie's novels now.

Overall I found this to be a light, easy read. Nothing groundbreaking or very exciting, but certainly comforting and satisfying.

Note: I received this book free (no strings attached) from the publisher, Endeavour Press, as part of their online Historical Festival.

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## **Alayne says**

An interesting idea - Agatha Christie is involved in solving a murder because her neighbours think that she should know all about detection, being a crime writer - but it didn't really work for me. I found it an easy read but I found it hard to suspend my disbelief.

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## **Damaskcat says**

Agatha Christie as a detective is an interesting concept and definitely something different for Alison Joseph after her successful series of novels featuring Sister Agnes. I enjoyed this well written village mystery in which Agatha becomes reluctantly involved in investigating a poisoning at the vicarage. There is a complex web of old scandals, feuds and relationships and Agatha must unravel these before she finds the solution.

This is a quick read but I think the author has caught the essence of Agatha Christie and created in her a

delightful character. If you enjoy Nicola Upson's recreation of Josephine Tey as an amateur detective then you may enjoy this story too.

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### **Brooke says**

I was a little leery of this book to start out with. Agatha Christie as a detective? She's one of my favorite authors, but a detective? However, I had no reason to worry since this book was excellent. Agatha is a reluctant investigator as she would rather be working on her latest manuscript and the book takes just the right tone. The village setting and characters are very enjoyable and the mystery itself was first rate. All in all, a great read and I'm looking forward to continuing with the series.

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### **Susan says**

As Agatha Christie is my favourite author of all time, I found this mystery, which features her as the sleuth, irresistible. All Agatha wants to do is concentrate on writing her new novel, when neighbour Sylvia Ettridge calls to ask for her help. Her godson, Robert Sayer, is curate at the vicarage and there has been a murder there. Robert's friend, Cecil, who was staying at the vicarage has been found poisoned and Sylvia seems to think that Agatha can solve the crime.

Agatha is not a willing participant in this view of her as a detective. However, once she begins to investigate, she finds that she is drawing conclusions which lead her to the killer. There are lots of possible suspects, and a plot worthy of a Christie novel itself – with mysterious graves, long lost legacies, links to a clinic in the East End of London and motives which include both love and greed...

If an author uses real people into their novels, it is important that they treat the subject they are writing about with respect. Agatha here is one that lovers of her novels will recognise and there are lots of lovely bookish clues about future plots and characters, as well as hints about her life at the time – from the beginning of her writing success to her husband's obsession with her royalties. At times, I found the sheer amount of characters a little confusing to, but this was a fun read and I would certainly read the next in the series – and hope there is one.

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