



The Corpse at the Crystal Palace

Carola Dunn

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A casual outing to the Crystal Palace in London takes a mysterious and murderous turn in *The Corpse at the Crystal Palace*, the latest mystery in Carola Dunn's beloved Daisy Dalrymple series.

April 1928: Daisy Dalrymple Fletcher is visited in London by her young cousins. On the list of must-see sites is the Crystal Palace. Discovering that her children's nanny, Nanny Gilpin, has never seen the Palace, Daisy decides to make a day of it—bringing her cousins, her 3-year-old twins, her step-daughter Belinda, the nurserymaid, and Nanny Gilpin. Yet this ordinary outing goes wrong when Mrs. Gilpin goes off to the ladies' room and fails to return. When Daisy goes to look for her, she doesn't find her nanny but instead the body of another woman dressed in a nanny's uniform.

Meanwhile, Belinda and the cousins spot Mrs. Gilpin chasing after yet another nanny. Intrigued, they trail the two through the vast Crystal Palace and into the park. After briefly losing sight of their quarry, they stumble across Mrs. Gilpin lying unconscious in a small lake inhabited by huge concrete dinosaurs.

When she comes to, Mrs. Gilpin can't remember what happened after leaving the twins in the nurserymaid's care. Daisy's husband, Detective Chief Inspector Alec Fletcher of Scotland Yard, finds himself embroiled in the investigation of the murdered nanny. Worried about her children's own injured nanny, Daisy is determined to help. First she has to discover the identity of the third nanny, the presumed murderer, and to do so, Daisy must uncover why the amnesic Mrs. Gilpin deserted her charges to follow the missing third nanny.

The Corpse at the Crystal Palace Details

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From Reader Review The Corpse at the Crystal Palace for online ebook

Annette says

Carola Dunn has written another wonderful Daisy Dalrymple Fletcher cozy.

Daisy has 2 boys visiting her family. And being a wonderful mother and hostess, she has plans for entertaining the 2 boys. First, there will be an expedition to the Crystal Palace. The party will be a large one. There are toddlers, older children and several adults. It is exciting and entertaining and most of all fun.

The fun ends immediately when a dead body is found. At the same time, Daisy's young twins' nanny is attacked and almost drowned. Everything is connected but it takes some clues to put everything together.

This is the 28th book in the series. I hate to admit it, but I have not read all of them and I have missed the most recent few. I was still able to follow the story easily.

Daisy is married to a detective inspector for Scotland Yard. She has inserted herself in investigations in the past and Alex, her husband, loses patience with her about investigating.

But, she has opportunities that the police would not have available. She is from a family with friendships in the “upper” classes.

Daisy's friends, as well as some strangers, have information that slowly but surely lead to the murderer. At the same time, the clues lead to a viable motive for murder. The victim is someone who has created many motives for his murder. He treated people as though their feelings and goals were jokes. He went out of his way to humiliate people. He took pleasure in punishing anyone who chose to disagree with him. The more we learn about the victim the more we realize, he was a terrible human being.

Carola Dunn is a writer who knows her characters and allows the reader to get to know them as well. Daisy and her family and friends are all very real human beings. They are humorous, intelligent, and charming. Both the upper classes and those people who are not from such elevated birth are wonderful examples of the British in the early part of the 20th century.

There is strong evidence that the class system is alive and well. Examples of women being put in their place are frequent. Daisy, and all women, have just been given the vote, in 1928. The entire story is filled with references to life at the end of the Roaring Twenties.

The plot is filled with many possible murderers. Gradually, each suspect is examined and then proven to be not guilty. But, each of the various suspects are fascinating people.

I have enjoyed this book very much. I do not recall ever not enjoying a Daisy Dalrymple book.

I received this book from the publisher through NetGalley. I am voluntarily writing this review. All opinions are my own.

3 no 7 says

“The Corpse at the Crystal Palace” by Carola Dunn is the 23rd book in the Daisy Dalrymple series; it does not seem possible, but it is. I have not read all twenty-three books, but a reader does not have to have read them to enjoy this one. It is entertaining to read about Daisy, her family, and her friends from close by and far away, and new readers are bound to become “addicted” to Daisy and go back to read the previous books.

Readers now find Daisy in April 1928, in London with her young cousins. The group plans an outing to visit the Crystal Palace. Of course, this is a mystery after all, so something goes wrong. The nanny does not return from the restroom, and when Daisy goes to look for her, she does not find the nanny but does find the body of another woman dressed in a nanny's uniform.

Daisy is a pleasant and enjoyable character, and the supporting cast adds dimension and entertainment. There is a mystery to keep readers engaged but without nail-biting drama or blood and guts everywhere. Little historical references help develop a strong sense of place and add dimension to the character-driven story.

I received a copy of “The Corpse at the Crystal Palace” from Carola Dunn, St Martin’s Press, and NetGalley. I loved reading this fun, casual, but mysterious book. It was a quick, enjoyable book, and a perfect pause from reading thrillers.

Kathleen says

Wow Daisy Dalrymple #23, thanks NetGalley& St. Martin's Press for the read. I have not read all Carola Dunn's books, but enough to know this one was a very fun read. Daisy's family life is quite entertaining, with cousins from other countries, friends from near and far and the twins and Belinda.

Alec (who ends the book at Superintendent of his unit at Scotland Yard) , tries very hard to keep Daisy from being immersed in his cases to no avail. His subordinates and colleagues are also sort of their extended family.

The school holidays have started and stepdaughter Belinda arrives at home, where Daisy has arranged many exciting day trips, as well as houseguests. The first one, which included visiting cousins, close friends,Nanny Gilpin and her young assistant, was via several chauffeured vehicles to the Crystal Palace.

Before lunchtime, Nanny Gilpin ends up floating in a pond and rescued by the older cousins Ben and Charlie, Belinda and others were in the ladies room where another Nanny appears to be deceased. A closer look at the deceased reveals the corpse is male, and a third Nanny was seen fleeing the scene after being pursued by Nanny G. Daisy feels she knows this man and it ends up he is a cousin of Lucy, her best friend and heir to a Baronet.

A complicated plot including Russian jewelers as well as a huge amount of possible murderers ensure. Teddy, the victim has made himself universally disliked in many social circles. The ending was enjoyable, as was another look at Daisy's world.

Susan says

This is the 23rd Daisy Dalrymple and it earns its two thumbs up rating from me. I have enjoyed every one of them. Now we are in London, Spring 1928 and Daisy is planning an outing to the famed Crystal Palace for her young cousins and her own children along with the nanny. What starts out as a lovely day at the Crystal Palace ends up with a corpse in the lady's room. The first nanny (of Daisy's children) fails to return from the lady's room but the corpse is an unknown woman wearing a nanny uniform. Then the missing nanny is seen chasing after still another nanny. Too bad the original nanny is found unconscious and, when she comes to, has no recollection of the other nanny or is that two nannies? Daisy is always up to solving murderous puzzles, whether or not her Detective Chief Inspector approves. Balancing her own family needs with running her household and solving a murder - Daisy gets it done.

These mysteries are not just very well crafted puzzles but are like a time machine taking the reader to Daisy's time in wonderfully balanced detail. Some authors try to throw in every little detail they can think of and it ruins the balance of the story. Carola Dunn paints Daisy's world with a deft stroke - pitch perfect.

It isn't necessary to have read all of the previous 22 titles to enjoy this entry but, be warned, if this is your introduction to the wonderful world of Daisy Dalrymple, you will want to go find book #1 and play catch up. For myself, I have read them all and must wait for my next visit with Daisy. I know it will be worth it.

My thanks to the publisher St. Martin's and to NetGalley for giving me an advance copy in exchange for my honest review.

✳️Crittterbee says

Time for another Daisy fix! We join Daisy and (whats seems to me like) a crazy amount of people out on a day trip to the Crystal Palace. If you have never seen a photograph of this famous London building, stop right now and search the internet. It really was an amazing building, but burned down in 1936... What a great setting for the first part of the mystery.

Daisy and a ton of family and friends venture out to spend the day among the marvels housed in and around the Crystal Palace. By 'a ton', I mean Belinda, Miranda, Oliver, Ben, Charlie, Nurse Gilpin, Nurse Bertha, Sakari, Kesin, Tom Tring, Mrs. Tring and Truscott. Daisy stumbles upon a corpse, as she does. Even worse, Nurse Gilpin was seen racing across the grounds after another nurse, pursued by the older children, and was knocked unconscious into one of the ponds on the grounds.

In typical Daisy fashion, and to Chief Inspector Husband Alec's dismay, she attempts to ferret out as much information as possible. There are cabaret performers, bohemian artists, a Russian Prince and Princess, and a devoted dog rescuer. Phillip Petrie pops over from the USA to make an appearance, and Lucy fashionably lounges around London.

This was an enjoyable, fluffy and cozy read. Daisy's life is constantly changing, and she is so likable. She does seem a bit exasperated at times, but there is a lot going on in this story. I felt like Dunn was going to address racism in 1920s Britain, but just gave it up after the first few chapters. There has always been a strong flavour of tolerance in Daisy's personality, and I think it would be interesting to hear more about how she interacts with society regarding race discrimination. The mystery is ... oops! well forget about that, no spoilers here!

I have grown very attached to Daisy over the years, and while this was not quite as stellar as *Death at Wentwater Court* or *The Bloody Tower*, it was lovely to visit with her again.

eARC Netgalley

Kath says

I first discovered this series when I joined my local library and was looking for a series to get my teeth into. I read all the available books pretty much back to back, in order, until I caught up. Silly really as then I had to start playing the waiting game for the next one! Not too painful until this book which it seems I have been waiting on for ages! Anyway, my patience was rewarded as I once again immersed myself into Daisy's world.

The action here mostly takes place at the Crystal Palace where Daisy is taking a party of family and friends for a day out. The children discover their Nanny knocked unconscious. Meanwhile, another Nanny is found dead in a toilet cubicle. Obviously Daisy is on hand to shepherd people around in Detective-husband Alec's absence, swiftly aided by Tom Tring. Not one to shy away from such matters, Daisy continues her investigations, within and without her husband's knowledge and approval. But has she met her match this time as she soon uncovers all sorts of shenanigans and goings on surrounding the corpse?

This being the 23rd book in the series, it is helpful to have read all the others first, especially with respect to the characters, which there are quite a lot of. Most of the connections between family and friends are explained satisfactorily however in this book so, at a push, it could be read standalone as the main story is self contained.

One of the things I really love about this author and indeed this series is the attention to detail she gives the time and place in which she sets the books. But, not only that, she also sets the atmosphere well, incorporating all the values and politics of the era perfectly. It's almost like stepping back in time when I start reading one of her books.

I already said that I've been waiting for this book for ages and I have lost count of the books I have read in the mean time but I found it so easy to jump back into Daisy's world and, by the end of the book, I felt like I had reconnected with some really good friends and I was quite sorry to have to say goodbye to them at the end. The gang is all here in this book and there were so many familiar faces that I was so happy to see that I was actually quite bereft at the end. Not that the story wasn't satisfying, on the contrary, it was of equal standard to those that had gone before and the main thread was tidied up very well indeed. But, things go on and people evolve and, with how the book ended, I really can't wait to see what the author has in store for them all next time.

My thanks go to the Publisher and Netgalley for the chance to read this book.

CatBookMom says

While this had Daisy's newly-discovered distant young cousins Ben and Charlie (who will inherit after Edgar dies) visiting her and Bel in London, which was an added source of fun, there were bits of the mystery that were never quite adequately dealt with, imnsho. Alec spent a great deal of time checking out the suspects who might have wanted to kill the victim (who was an obnoxious and nasty person), the actual reasons why the murderer did kill him were rather glossed over.

So, now we wait, until the 24th book comes out..... Please?

Judy Lesley says

Thank you to NetGalley and St. Martin's Press - Minotaur Books for a digital galley of this novel.

Daisy Dalrymple #23 and what a crowded character list there is. I was a little concerned when I saw how young some of the children are who would be involved in the investigation but they were kept away from the action surrounding the dead body so it all worked out fine. Detective Chief Inspector Alec Fletcher of Scotland Yard and Daisy have been married nearly five years when this story takes place and Alec knows he will have no luck keeping Daisy completely away from the crime. After all, the victim is someone from Daisy's social class so she has sources of investigation which would be harder for him to pursue. As unlikely as this murder victim is it's no wonder so many people had a motive for murder.

This was another enjoyable read in the Daisy Dalrymple series. Even though a lot of history and backstory has taken place in the previous books someone new to the series could read this story and pick up the general ideas of what had come before. The series has worked its way into 1928 so there is information about this time period with several references to Daisy exercising her newly won right for women to vote. These stories tend to be more character driven than focusing on historical events so the domestic situations are covered quite naturally. Recommended for readers who have an interest in historical settings for crime solving.

Crittermom says

The Corpse at the Crystal Palace is a charming 1920s mystery set in Britain. Unlike many set in the time period, it doesn't focus on glamorous flappers and decadent society, instead focusing more on middle and upper class family life. The entire Dalrymple clan, as well as quite a few friends and relatives, play major roles in the case. When Daisy, her children, their young cousins and a few close friends visit The Crystal Palace, the last any expect is to be drawn into another murder. While exploring, Belinda and her cousins see Nanny following another nanny. Perplexed, they follow. Nanny is found unconscious in a fountain and another nanny is found dead in the ladies restroom. (*small spoiler*) It is soon discovered that the nanny found dead was not a woman at all, but a man in women's clothes - a man with a history of lurid practical jokes and a bevy of angry acquaintances. Daisy's husband Alec is assigned the case, but as you might expect the bulk of the investigation is done by Daisy. After all, she is the one with the society connections.

The story is an entertaining one, and Carola Dunn is always good at creating interesting characters and situations. The historical tidbits are of definite interest. Alec is a bit ineffectual, but that is to be expected with a wife who has a long history of taking over his investigations. On the whole, The Corpse at the Crystal Palace is a solidly written mystery that can be enjoyed by a wide range of ages.

I received a copy of *The Corpse at the Crystal Palace* from the publisher and NetGalley.com in exchange for an honest review.

— Crittermom

Diane says

3.67 Goodreads stars. Obviously, Daisy is going to keep poking her nose into the murder investigation, but the characters are likable, the writing is smooth, the setting is excellent... altogether an enjoyable light read that I consumed practically in one sitting.

Suspects in the death are numerous, ranging from the artsy set, to Russian refugee jewelers, since the victim antagonized so many with spiteful gossip and "pranks". I can't really discuss much of anything w/o getting into a big spoiler right at the heart of the matter.

Readers who avoid any book with children in it may approach this one with caution, but Daisy's toddlers have only a minor role, stepdaughter Belinda is growing up, and the visiting boy cousins are believable and appealing youngsters. Different attitudes toward parenting (and nannying) are involved on the personal side, as is the fact that Daisy's newfound cousins are part-"coloured".

I do wonder whether all Alec's pondering this time as to whether he should hope for a promotion is leading toward changing things in the upcoming volumes: safer, more regular hours, but more paperwork and less fieldwork! We'll have to wait and see.

(HC read from library, but I do plan to buy the PB at some point.)

Louisa Dwyer says

Always prefer the country setting novels to those in town. I usually love this series and this was ok but I couldn't get as excited about the plot or characters as usual

Ruth Feathers says

The twins are older, and Daisy's taking a more active role in child-rearing. As a reward for her stepdaughter and nephews, a day trip to the crystal palace is arranged. And that's where the action begins. An unlikable murder victim and some charming side characters. Another wonderful period cozy from Ms. Dunn.

Lorraine says

I used to be a lover of "cozy" mysteries, but to be honest, I've found most of them tiresome. I only have a few favorites that I still follow. Carola Dunn's Daisy Dalrymple series is one of them. I think it's because I

really like the period: post WW1 Great Britain, but pre Great Depression. Hemlines are up, waists are down. Daisy is the daughter of an aristocrat now married to a Scotland Yard detective to the dismay (at one point) of her aristocratic friends. Daisy worked as a writer for an American magazine for years before meeting her husband and marrying him. The estate went to a distant cousin after her brother was killed in the Great War. Daisy never really cared. She recognized the work involved.

Besides, Alex, her husband, has conveniently inherited a sum of money from an relative so they now live in comfort with a nanny, a nanny's assistant, a maid and a cook: yes that's comfort! In this episode of Daisy's life, Belinda, her stepdaughter, is coming home for school holidays. Also the wife of the cousin who inherited the estate is visiting along with her adopted daughter and two sons. The boys are mixed race, from Trinidad. I find it interesting that race is not an issue in this book, but this book isn't about race in Great Britain in the 20's although an old friend of Daisy's brother who now lives in the USA with his pregnant heiress wife alludes that things are different in "America."

Daisy decides that a trip to the Crystal Palace is in order. It's a leftover from a grand Victorian exhibition. (Interestingly enough, I just read a book that takes place in present day London that centers around the Crystal Palace neighborhood. The palace burned down in 1936.) Nanny Gilpin says she has never seen it so along with Sakari, Daisy's friend whose husband is part of the Indian Diplomatic Corps in London, Daisy's 3 year old twins, Belinda and the boys, Ben & Charles, they head out for some fun. It doesn't take long for Daisy to not only find a body, but also learn that Nanny Gilpin was found unconscious in the pond and rescued by the boys.

This was a fun book after reading so many darker ones. Now I'll have to wait until next year or the year after I imagine.

Kaijsa says

Note: I received a free ebook ARC from St. Martin's Press/Minotaur Books via NetGalley in exchange for a review.

This is the 23rd book in the Daisy Dalrymple series. Daisy Fletcher is entertaining the current Lord and Lady Dalrymple's recently adopted children, Ben and Charlie, so she decides to entertain them and her own children with a trip to the Crystal Palace. Sakari and the Trings come along with Daisy, Miranda, Oliver, and Belinda and all the assorted servants. Of course, Daisy stumbles upon a body while the children chase after Nanny Gilpin, who is in hot pursuit of another nanny before ending up unconscious in a pond with no memory of her attack. Shortly Daisy and the Metropolitan Police begin to unravel a connection to people in her circle of titled acquaintances. Naturally, Chief Inspector Fletcher is assigned the case.

Daisy's investigations are always fun, and I enjoyed that she ended up sniffing around the bohemian neighborhood where she used to live with Lucy when they were poor and single and trying to make careers for themselves as a journalist and a photographer, respectively. Some old favorite characters are back, and

Phillip Petrie visits from England which was fun. Overall, this is a fun, enjoyable read, and once again Carola Dunn takes us to another historical site in London. I always enjoy learning a little about that.

One thing I like about these books is that there isn't a ton of backstory/exposition about the characters in each book, but new readers might find that a little confusing. If you haven't read the series from the beginning, you won't know enough about Lucy to really understand why she and Daisy are best friends, as they're so different even though both were born into the titled class. I always recommend starting with the beginning of a series, but new readers will probably enjoy this if they're fans of early-20th C. English murder mysteries.

Janet says

Daisy Dalrymple is back for the 23rd book April 1928: Daisy Dalrymple Fletcher is being visited in London by her young cousins who are desperate to see the Crystal Palace. On discovering that her children's nanny, Nanny Gilpin, has never seen the Palace, Daisy decides to make a day of it with the family. Yet what should be an ordinary outing starts going wrong when Nanny Gilpin goes to the ladies' room and fails to return. When Daisy goes looking for her, she doesn't find her nanny but instead the dead body of another woman dressed in a nanny's uniform.

Meanwhile, the rest of Daisy's party spot Nanny Gilpin chasing after yet another nanny. Intrigued, they trail the two into the park and, after briefly losing sight of their quarry, stumble across Mrs Gilpin lying unconscious. When she comes to, she has no recollection of what happened after leaving the twins in the nurserymaid's care.

Daisy's husband, Detective Chief Inspector Alec Fletcher of Scotland Yard, soon finds himself embroiled in the murder investigation. Worried about her children's own injured nanny, There are suspects everywhere and Alec is certainly busy with his investigation into the murder, while Daisy is doing her own sleuthing and caring for a busy household.

I haven't read all 22 previous books but whenever I read a new book I want to go & read the series from the beginning. This was a fun read which I thoroughly enjoyed, there were lots of children & I though I'd never recall their names. The characters were well fleshed & the story flowed seamlessly. I hope there are more books to come as Daisy & Alec are so likeable & I enjoy their antics

My honest review is for a special copy I voluntarily read
