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# Murder Is Easy: A BBC Radio 4 Full Cast Dramatisation



## Synopsis

"It's very easy to kill—so long as no one suspects you." So says Miss Pinkerton when ex-policeman Luke Fitzwilliam meets her on a train. Luke doesn't take much notice of this little old lady's story about a serial killer on the loose in her village—until her predictions start to come true, when he feels compelled to check it out. Very soon the race is on to prevent any more murders. . . Dramatized by Joy Wilkinson, and with a distinguished cast including Patrick Baladi, Lydia Leonard, Michael Cochrane, and Marcia Warren, this is a gripping BBC Radio dramatization of one of Agatha Christie's most ingenious detective stories. 2 CDs. 1 hr 30 mins.

## Book Information

Audio CD: 1 pages

Publisher: BBC Books; Unabridged edition (February 7, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1445878631

ISBN-13: 978-1445878638

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 10 x 5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 95 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

'Suspense, mystery, romance and an agreeable touch of the macabre.' *Guardian* 'Contains some clever plotting and enough casting of suspicion to keep you guessing like mad.' *Books* 'One of Agatha Christie's best mystery novels, a story fascinating in its plot, clever and lively in its characters and brilliant in its technique.' *New York Times* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable

edition of this title.

Murder is Easy is a Christie mystery that should have been made by Alfred Hitchcock. Hitchcock's recurring theme of the guy caught up in a mystery by pure happenstance (I am thinking particularly of North by Northwest and The 39 Steps) is the plot herein, but with a twist--the man, Luke Fitzwilliam herein, has a choice whether to get involved or not. Having shared a train compartment with a talkative lady Mr. Fitzwilliam listened politely as the lady described how people were mysteriously dropping dead in her town and that she was of the mind that it wasn't by accident; that someone was behind all the deaths, all seemingly occurring by accident. She further informs Mr. Fitzwilliam that if she is right then the local doctor will be the next likely to fall "by some sort of accident." But when he later reads that this lady herself was run down seemingly by accident on the way to Scotland Yard to report her suppositions and then that local doctor is befallen by "an accident" too then he has a choice to make. Does he get involved or not? He is, after all, a retired policeman (and a creation of Agatha Christie) with more than a natural curiosity in crime so in he jumps into this finely crafted murder mystery.

When Luke Fitzwilliam retires from a police position in an Eastern location and returns to England, he's not expecting to instantly begin investigating a series of murders in a small village. And when an elderly lady relates her story to him en route to London to report the suspected murders to Scotland Yard, he thinks she has an overly-active imagination. Then he sees an article in the newspaper about her being killed by an automobile while crossing the street to Scotland Yard. A few days later he sees an obituary for the old woman's next predicted murder victim. The policeman in him can't resign and he soon finds himself in the aforementioned village under a false pretense, but with the intent to get to the bottom of the murders the old woman didn't get the chance to report. If all the victims on her list were actually murdered, he knows he's dealing with a psychopathic killer. As always, the question in Agatha Christie's novel is Who-Dun-It? The story has plenty of twists which will keep you guessing to the last minute and also an unexpected romance for Luke Fitzwilliam. Note: Inspector Battle arrives on the scene towards the end of the book but mostly in time to make an arrest. He's not really involved in solving the mystery so I wouldn't call this an Inspector Battle story.

Most of Agatha Christie's stories have been made into movies or t.v. episodes so we think we know all about them, but that isn't true! Reading the original story is so much better! She reveals so much

more about her characters than can be shown on film, and some of her characters are cut out of the story altogether on film! So reading her original work is a real joy and because she writes such a carefully constructed mystery story it gives me a deeper appreciation for her work. I recommend reading her stories in chronological order (whatever series you choose to start with) so that you don't miss any references her characters make to previous interactions with other characters. It just adds to the enjoyment when you feel you have grown to know the characters. This book is the 4th book of the Superintendent Battle series.

Murder is Easy. However, writing great murder mysteries is not! Dame Agatha Christie was at the top of her game writing this excellent novel in the scary year of 1939. Dame Agatha proves again in this one that she is the Queen of Crime! The intricate plot, with a cast of fascinating characters, concerns a series of horrible murders in the village of Wychwood set in rural England. Luke Fitzwilliam has returned to Britain following several years in Malaysia. He meets Mrs Lavinia Fullerton on a train heading for London. The old lady is traveling to Scotland Yard to report a series of murders in Wychwood. She is murdered by being pushed in front of a speeding motor car. Luke is intrigued and decides to investigate the case. He enters into a romance with Bridget Conway. Together the pair team up to solve the crime. Who is the murderer? The weird Lord Easterfield who has many skeletons in his closet? Jim Harvey the local mechanic who was in love with the murdered Amy? Old Major Horton whose shrewish wife was poisoned? Honoria Waynflete who was made at Eastefield for jilting her and taking up with Bridget? Whodunit??? Read and it will be revealed unto thee! The story has many twists and turns before the person guilty of the murders is uncovered in a spectacular ending which will chill the bones and bruise the frayed nerves of the reader! Agatha Christie wrote in a simple style easy to understand. She makes it easy to keep the many characters straight as the clues are followed leading to the satisfying ending. This reviewer recently saw "Murder is Easy" on Masterpiece Mystery. The BBC film was good but this book (which differs in significant ways from the film) is even better! Nothing profound here just pure sleuthing joy!

I'm not a reader of mysteries, so that may factor in, but I don't think the novel is all that well written either in terms of the language or the authenticity of the police/detective/crime stuff. But I bought the book to practice my French; so for that the book was a perfect fit. My French isn't good enough for me to judge the quality of the translation other than to say that it fit my level of moderate proficiency.

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