



A Man of Some Repute

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Truth is rarely pure and never simple...

Selchester Castle in 1953 sits quiet and near-empty, its corridors echoing with glories of the past. Or so it seems to intelligence officer Hugo Hawksworth, wounded on a secret mission and now reluctantly assuming an altogether less perilous role at Selchester. The Castle's faded grandeur hides a web of secrets and scandals—the Earl has been missing for seven years, lost without a trace since the night he left his guests and walked out into a blizzard. When a skeleton is uncovered beneath the flagstones of the Old Chapel, the police produce a suspect and declare the case closed.

Hugo is not convinced. With the help of the spirited Freya Wryton, the Earl's niece, he is drawn back into active service, and the ancient town of Selchester is dragged into the intrigues and conspiracies of the Cold War era. With a touch of *Downton Abbey*, a whisper of Agatha Christie and a nod to Le Carré, *A Man of Some Repute* is the first book in this delightfully classic and witty murder mystery series.

A Man of Some Repute Details

Date : Published July 1st 2015 by Thomas & Mercer

ISBN :

Author : Elizabeth Edmondson

Format : Kindle Edition 306 pages

Genre : Mystery, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction

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From Reader Review A Man of Some Repute for online ebook

Angie says

This was a great English mystery. My second book to read by this author, and I have liked them both a lot. There were similarities between it and The Frozen Lake, though. Time will tell with reading of others by her if it's her "formula" or if just a coincidence.

It's somewhat of a "Clue" type mystery where you know the person is dead, but the who, where, when & with what are trying to be answered. Obviously, a much more detailed story surrounding it with a large dash of family dramas thrown in.

Recommended! Look forward to trying the next one in the series:)

Ana says

Um agradável romance recheado de mistérios e suspense. Gostei!

Lois Bujold says

I was actually seduced by the cover, which made it look like something that would suit my mood -- which it did, so, good accurate cover design, somebody.

I enjoyed it, reading it in one long evening on my Kindle, but the writing wasn't exactly Dorothy Sayers-level. The author wrangled a large cast of characters through the use of third-person multiple viewpoint, but her net went more wide than deep. I wanted more interiority, more interesting thoughts and opinions, more telling detail. I'd call the prose, hm, workmanlike? It got the job done, and was perhaps appropriate for all those stiff-upper-lip Brits in the cast, but was short on lagniappe. Ending felt contrived to make a messy situation go away without our heroes having to do anything morally questionable to make it do so.

It is rather strange to see times within my own lifetime (though just barely, in this instance) now treated as grist for historical fiction.

Ta, L.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

""What do you mean when you say I'm looking in the wrong place?""....."You're like the man who lost his key. When asked why he was looking in that particular spot for it and was he sure he'd dropped it there, he said, no, he hadn't dropped it there, but that was where the light was. You're looking under the light, and you need to investigate the shadows. Begin with the victim.....There has to be something in his character or his

actions or his life that led to his becoming a murder victim."

3 1/2 stars for this delightful and very well written English murder mystery set in 1953 at Selchester Castle.

Things are not as they were before the war. Lord Selchester disappeared one night following a dinner party at his abode. He is presumed to have wandered outside into the blizzard and perished, although no body has ever been recovered.

Soon he will be able to be declared legally dead, and daughter Sonia will be able to sell the crumbling pile to a luxury hotel chain.

Freya Wryton, the missing Earl's niece, is in residence at the castle, writing a family history. She is less than pleased when the trustees foist upon her Hugo Hawkesworth and his younger sister.

While fixing a plumbing leak under the flagstones of the old chapel, a body is discovered, starting a chain reaction where more than one skeleton comes out of the closet.

This enjoyable tale meanders along in no great hurry to get anywhere, but at the same time manages to cover a great deal of ground including espionage and blackmail.

The characters are well portrayed and interesting and as the book progresses we learn a lot about what has made them into the people they are.

This is apparently the first in a series and I look forward to reading more from Elizabeth Edmondson.

Thank you to NetGalley and Thomas & Mercer for the gift of a copy of *A Man of Some Repute* in exchange for an honest review.

Ingela says

Written December 14, 2015

3 1/2 Stars - A oldish told (countryside "cold war" feeling) mystery I truly enjoyed

A modern 1950:s (non romance) mystery

I really liked every minute of this 8:30 hours audiobook perfectly good and for this style suitable narration by Michael Page. Not stunning impressive great maybe but a fairly good *whodunnit* mystery tale. All set in an still charming oldish after WWII England that I fancy so much.

Earl Selchester, at Selchester Castle, has been missing for seven years. He went out and left his guests in the evening a winter blizzard night 1947. He is since then lost without a trace.

A limping former spy hero and a nosy and curious teenage sister moving from *London* to the middle of nowhere in the English noble soil can't but be interesting reading entertainment.

Our hero here, a former brave intelligence officer **Hugo Hawksworth**, nowadays poorly wounded in a leg on a secret mission, and his fun and cheerful 13-year-old sister *Georgia* arrives to (the by now more or less empty) Selchester Castle in 1953. Hugo is supposed to work as a statistician at Thorn Hall and his younger (motherless) sister to study in the local highschool. Their lodgings will to start be in some rooms in the old big castle.

Daily working and / or living in the castle these days are only *Freya Wryton*, the missing Lord's free-spirited niece who is living there to write a book about the old Selchester family, the gossipy housekeeper *Mrs Partridge*, and *Ben* a former stable and chauffeur worker.

.....

“Guilt is nothing but a moral tale to confuse people who are too stupid to see the consequences of their actions.”

Already the second day is a skeleton discovered and uncovered beneath the flagstones of the castles OldChapel. Is it the since 7 years missing Earl?

This was good for me....

I got enough characters to suspect to stir it in my brain. The case was not resolved and clarified until the absolute end. There was even some (unexpected) fast-paced action. Not even one little kiss (or thought of it) but very fun anyway.

For all us lovers of small countryside villages, chilly old castles, pubs, housekeepers, village gossip, Tom, Dick and Harry and still some old-time noble ladies and gentlemen. *A Man of Some Repute* is just the kind of novel that are so very good for my lighthearted soul and tired brain (in between work, Christmas shopping and some grand romantic smexy hot romances) these days. More please!

Looking forward to Elizabeth Edmondson's next part, serial-book #2 and a new case in A Question of Inheritance.

I LIKE - nice and light crime solving

Jess says

That sneaky devil, Amazon Suggests for You, was spot on with this book. I enjoyed myself immensely

reading the story. Blurbed as "with a touch of Downton Abbey, a whisper of Agatha Christie, and a nod to Le Care.." it doesn't disappoint. I'm already ordering book 2. Edmondson leaves the reader wanting more and she hints at a deeper mysteries in lead characters, a potential love interest, and also more to come on the Earl Selchester's machinations which have left turmoil in the wake of his death. Well done. I'm hooked, Ms. Edmondson.

What's It About: Former Intelligence Officer Hugo Hawksworth finds 1953 a year of change. He struggles to acclimate himself to a desk job, convince everyone his leg injury is a result of a "bicycle accident", and raise his 13 year old sister Georgia with a semblance of normalcy after traumatic years of living in London during WW2 which led to their becoming orphans, oh yeah... and the Cold War is beginning with Moscow suspicions beginning . -before you roll your eyes and exclaim "Agatha Christie already did the brother and sister bit.."- Georgia is quite different. In fact, I happily began to compare her to one of my other favorite sleuths; Alan Bradley's Flavia de Luce! Georgia is quick witted, precocious, protective of her brother, and also irritatingly (for Hugo) a sharp, shrewd judge of human character. I can't wait to read more scenes with Georgia and Hugo!

While staying in the Castle; Hugo is present when a skeleton is found underneath the flagstones of the church. The Earl of Selchester had gone missing some years ago in a snow storm and his daughter eagerly awaits his declaration of death as she has an inheritance to sell off to hotel investors. Cash is King. The police seem eager to pin a murder on the Earl's dead son and niece. Hugo isn't convinced. With the help of his priest Uncle, Georgia, and Freya Wryton, the Earl's niece, he starts to put the puzzle together. And more sinister workings were at play all those years ago which spill into current times.

Leslie says

I absolutely adored this atmospheric, unique, mystery. Set in Post WW2 Britain is has a missing Earl, spies and blackmail. When Hugo Hawksworth, a benched due to injury, secret agent is sent to the Hall, nominally a statistics office near Selchester he is lodged at the Castle. Selchester Castle has been mostly empty since the disappearance of the 17th Earl in 1947; only a housekeeper, a chauffeur turned groom and a family member Freya Wryton who is ostensibly writing a family history.

When Hawksworth arrives with his stick, he has a bad leg, and his orphaned 13 year old sister Georgia; he has no idea he will be working to solve a cold case. Everyone in the castle and in the surrounding town are on tenterhooks as that the Earl's disappearance is almost 7 years old and as soon he is declared legally dead his heir, Lady Sonia, plans to sell the castle to a hotel chain.

Every character, large and small, is wonderfully described and developed. You absolutely feel like you are walking the lanes, and creepy corridors. You'll want to stop into the Daffodil Tea room for a cuppa and a cake and some local gossip.

Carla Geraldes says

Estive seriamente entre um. 2 e um 3 na classificação. Optei por dar 3*, mas porque ainda não sei muito bem o que pensar de um livro do qual esperava mais. Muito mais

Ivonne Rovira says

Take one part Josephine Tey's Allen Grant and one part Agatha Christie's Tommy Beresford, then add a *soupçon* of G.M. Malliet's Max Tudor, and you'd have author Elizabeth Edmondson's *A Man of Some Repute*, the debut novel in what promises to be a delectable historical mystery series.

It's 1953, and the mysterious Hugo Hawksworth arrives in the quiet English village of Selchester with his lively 13-year-old sister Georgia in tow. He's supposed to be a statistician at Thorn Hall, but the entire village knows that he — like everyone else who works for Sir Bernard at The Hall — is actually Special Branch or something near enough.

In early 1947, Lord Selchester disappeared from his home, Selchester Castle, during a raging blizzard; his pretty, selfish daughter Lady Sonia Richmond has been counting down the time until she can have him declared legally dead and sell the old pile. She's spared the trouble when her father's bones turn up in the castle's chapel. That re-opens the case, and Inspector MacLeod, who led the initial investigation, returns. He and Hawksworth combine forces to determine who did the old peer in. Edmondson does yeoman's work crafting an intriguing mystery with suspects galore and a Golden Age of mystery sensibility that's an homage rather than a cliché. Indeed, Edmondson has perfectly captured the atmosphere and dialogue evocative of the English 1950s, when rationing still held sway but the country was restless for something new and better. Further, Edmondson infuses the novel with plenty of intrigue and suspense.

If Hugo's playing Tommy Beresford, then the role of Tuppence goes to Freya Wryton, Lord Selchester's free-spirited niece. It's no spoiler to say Hugo and Freya are likely to get together before this series gets too old. I loved *A Man of Some Repute*, and I can't wait to devour the sequel, *A Question of Inheritance*.

A Man of Some Repute's Hugo Hawksworth put me in mind of Max Tutor; in addition to the two of them having spy connections, the audiobooks for both are read by the magnificent Michael Page, who brings his great talent to bringing both Hugo's Selchester And Max's Nether Monkslip to life.

MTK says

Η ιδ?α εν?ς αστυνομικο? μυθιστορ?ματος τοποθετημ?νου χρονικ? στην ?κρως παραμελημ?νη απ? τους συγγραφε?ς δεκαετ?α του 1950 ε?ναι πολ? ενδιαφ?ρουσα, κατ? τα λοιπ? το βιβλ?ο ε?ναι απλ?ς μ?τριο.

The idea of a detective story taking place in the (untterly overlooked by writers) 1950s is very interesting; the book itself is mediocre.

Dion Ribeiro says

Achei o livro aborrecido, não parece ter sido escrito pela mesma autora de "Uma Villa em Itália" ou "A Arte de Amar" que tanto me agradaram. Apenas o final consegui despertar o meu interesse, mas mesmo assim de uma forma bastante subtil.

Espero sinceramente que o segundo volume desta triologia seja melhor.

Cindy Rollins says

Absolutely delightful English mystery. Halfway through I looked up the author guessing her to have written in the 1960s and I was surprised to find she is a modern author.

This was a Kindle deal book recommended by Modern Mrs. Darcy. I am so happy I bought this book and plan to look for others by the author. It was thoroughly English with a bit of cold war flair that I also enjoy.

Nice to know there are still really good English mysteries being written.

Maria says

De Elizabeth Edmonson apenas tinha lido "Uma Menina de Boas Famílias" e tinha gostado muito, daí ter-lhe dado 5* no Goodreads. Não sei porquê, nunca mais li nada da autora, mas o facto de "Um Caso Tipicamente Inglês" juntar um bom mistério a um romance de época despertou-me a curiosidade e decidiu voltar à leitura da autora que, infelizmente, faleceu este ano.

Inserido na Série Selshester, o romance começa com o desaparecimento do Conde de Selchester, em 1947, pessoa muito influente naquela localidade. Sete anos depois, o corpo do conde (já em ossada) é descoberto numa capela, pertença do castelo. Dono do Castelo e com bastante dinheiro depressa se começa a suspeitar de quem poderá ter sido o assassino.

Gostei muito e aguardo ansiosamente pelo segundo livro da série, até porque ainda ficaram muitos mistérios por desvendar.

opinião completa em: [http://marcadordelivros.blogspot.pt/2...](http://marcadordelivros.blogspot.pt/2015/07/um-caso-tipicamente-ingles.html)

Tempo de Ler says

Em *Um Caso Tipicamente Inglês*, o primeiro da série, Elizabeth Edmondson criou um **interessantíssimo jogo de suspeitas**, grandemente enriquecido pelo meio em que se desenvolve a trama. Os mexericos são fomentados pela natureza curiosa dos habitantes da vila e surpreendem-nos a ser, nós próprios, um *pouco* coscuvilheiros...

Da lista de pessoas que estavam no Castelo na noite do desaparecimento de Lorde Selchester somos aliciados a considerar quem sairia a ganhar mais com a morte do conde, que motivos poderia esta pessoa ter para cometer um homicídio e quem teria realmente coragem para o fazer... mas quando pensamos que estamos perto Edmondson aprofunda o enredo e o mistério complica-se - **o caso é mais complexo do que nos pareceu no início!**

Além do ambiente rural e das personagens que o habitam, também o **período histórico** joga a favor da narrativa, tornando-a ainda mais interessante. A Segunda Guerra terminou há pouco tempo e as alterações

que esta forçou na vida das pessoas é ainda fresca e ressentida.

A construção das personagens é muito agradável de acompanhar; gostei especialmente da irmã de Hugo, Georgia, uma sabichona de 13 anos, cheia de irreverência, que abrilhaanta todas as cenas em que participa. A única personagem que me pareceu mal desenvolvida foi Sónia - tão sincera na sua maldade e tão óbvia na sua mesquinhez que acaba por perder credibilidade; pelo menos foi com essa sensação que fiquei.

Surpreendeu-me a ausência de cenas românticas, mas a verdade é que não fazem falta nenhuma ao livro e gostei de ver a escritora afastar-se um bocadinho do seu estilo habitual. O mistério é mais do que suficiente para nos manter entretidos e estou **muito curiosa para continuar a acompanhar estas personagens no próximo livro.**

Shawn Thrasher says

This may be the best book I've read all year. It's a terrific, old fashioned murder mystery, and completely Dame Agatha Christian to its cozy little core: 1950s English village, aristocrats, servants, an actress, a ne'er do well boozy society daughter, some humor, some espionage. I mean this as the best of flattery to this book: it was like Edmondson took stock Christie characters and sprinkled them throughout the book like raisins in a loaf of cinnamon raisin bread. Every time I bit into this book, it was delicious. The only things missing were cameos by Christie detectives (Miss Marple at the tea shop). The whodunnit at the end wasn't all that great: but Agatha Christie's whodunnits weren't always that great either (they can't all be Murder on the Orient Express). It's the journey there that was tons of fun.

Here's something sad: Elizabeth Edmundson died last January, so this series will be no more.
