



Murder in the Mystery Suite

Ellery Adams

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Murder in the Mystery Suite Ellery Adams
First in a new series!

WHO WOULD RESORT TO MURDER?

Tucked away in the rolling hills of rural western Virginia is the storybook resort of Storyton Hall, catering to book lovers who want to get away from it all. To increase her number of bookings, resort manager Jane Steward has decided to host a Murder and Mayhem week so that fans of the mystery genre can gather together for some role-playing and fantasy crime solving.

But when the winner of the scavenger hunt, Felix Hampden, is found dead in the Mystery Suite, and the valuable book he won as his prize is missing, Jane realizes one of her guests is an actual murderer. Amid a resort full of fake detectives, Jane is bound and determined to find a real-life killer. There's no room for error as Jane tries to unlock this mystery before another vacancy opens up...

Murder in the Mystery Suite Details

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Melissapalmer404 says

Book #67 Read in 2014

Murder in the Mystery Suite by Ellery Adams

This is the first book in a new cozy mystery and I loved it. The book is set in a quaint village called Storyton with the primary setting being a wonderful literary retreat called Storyton Hall, a reader's dream. Rooms are named after authors and characters and this book is during a murder mystery themed retreat, which was the brain child of Jane Steward. Jane is a single mother of twin boys (her husband died when she was pregnant) and the manager of Storyton Hall, owned by her aunt and uncle. Jane is intelligent, brave and an avid reader. When a guest dies in his room, things get a bit more complicated and Jane is forced to take on a more adventurous role than she ever anticipated.

I loved this book. The setting was ideal for a reader. The characters were interesting and engaging. Personally, I loved Muffin Cat. This book had a good mystery with twists and turns to keep readers guessing. I look forward to book 2 next year.

I received an ARC of this book from the author in return for a honest review....thank you, Ellery!

<http://melissasbookpicks.blogspot.com>

Sandie Laughner says

I was lucky enough to receive this book from the author. Once I started reading it, I couldn't put it down!! Ms Adams has created a whole new village, Storyton, in the beautiful mountains of Virginia. Storyton Hall is a huge resort for book lovers. It's filled with books and mystery.

Jane Steward, her fun 6 yr old twin boys, aunt and uncle, along with other great characters, run the charismatic resort. Jane comes up with a brilliant idea for a murder and mayhem theme week at the resort to help raise monies for needed repairs to the resort.

Little did Jane know just what exactly would be raised that week. Her life would never be the same.

Dive into this great new series and join Jane and a wonderful cast of characters who will soon become your new friends. This book has every element that a great cozy mystery should have~~ murder, suspects, food, zany friends, and a few good looking fellas. :)

LORI CASWELL says

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Dollycas's Thoughts

Welcome to Storyton and Storyton Hall. Book lovers are going to come for a visit and never want to leave.

Imagine a place with a library that has any book you can imagine, classics, bestsellers, children's books, mysteries from cozy to thriller, romance from mild to wild, literary works from any author you can think of and Head Librarian, Mr. Sinclair, who can find your request in mere minutes.

Resort Manager, Jane Steward, is your host along with her Great Aunt Octavia and Great Uncle Aloysius. There is staff to meet your every need.

The Hall needs some work and Jane hopes to bring in some funds by holding a Murder and Mayhem week. The response was phenomenal and the whole place is booked for a week a fun activities. Everything is great until one of the guests is killed and then the real life mystery begins.

I was blown by this story. Ellery Adams has taken inspiration from all the great mystery heroes we love from Nancy Drew to Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie and wrapped those feelings into one fabulous story. In fact she has a party and invites all the guests to dress as characters from their favorite mystery novels. Some of the guests even go to great lengths to stay in character their whole visit.

The rooms are even named the Ian Fleming Lounge, the Jane Austen Parlor, the Daphne du Maurier Morning Room, the Beatrix Potter Playroom and more. I was completely enchanted with the place.

Adams has given us readers truly engaging characters. From the Stewart Family to their employees and those running the shops in Storyton, I couldn't pick a favorite if I tried. They are all special in their own way and are integral to this story and those coming in the future. She also gave us a eclectic group of people visiting the Hall for this special week. Jane has her hands full with all of them.

The main plot and the subplots are interwoven with precision. It was so much fun following the clues and puzzling through the possibilities. There is also a truly surprising twist that I can't tell you about. No Spoilers Here!

I loved this book and I know you will too!!

Ronna says

I got this book free from the author. This is my honest review.

Ellery Adams has begun a mystery series for all lovers of mystery and books. Storyton Hall is a huge resort nestled in rural Virginia, surrounded by shops and restaurants that also cater to the literature lover. Guests will have the services of a full staff, including butler, chauffeur, and a librarian who reins over a library that

could rival parts of the Library of Congress. He can find books for everyone from the toddler reading Beatrix Potter, to those wanting mysteries from the classics to the very latest bestseller, to those wanting a tasty bodes ripper. But beware, as no one and nothing is just as they may seem.

On a special Mystery Holliday event filled with scavenger hunts, mystery trivia games, a costume ball and more, one of the staff finds a "Van Winkle", the staff's term for a dead body, in one of the rooms. He had just won a valuable book as a prize and apparently there is someone who will do anything to own that book for themselves. Quietly solving a real murder amongst the mystery guests becomes quit a task, considering that one of those guests may be a real murderer.

This book is like the exciting experience of a puzzle box. Opening one section may reveal truths or send you on another path, but by the end of the puzzle you can fit all the pieces in expertly. Cozy lovers and lovers of intrigue and books will be fascinated with all the secrets that open up to them. The characters are much more then simple innkeepers. There are also some ancient secrets and legends that tantalite the imagination deliciously, and set the background for lots more adventures in books at Storyton Hall.

Paige says

Have you ever wished there more than five stars to give ? I do right now in writing about this book. This is a cozy like no other I have ever read. The heroine Jane Steward is not your usual cozy girl. She is the mother of twin boys Hemmingway and Fitzgerald and that is a big clue to her personality. She like me is a book lover. She works in the family owned resort Storyton Hall. The theme of the resort is books, authors, and fantasy. Just my kind of place. When Jane hosts an event called Murder and Mayhem Weekwell you can imagine what ensues ! Jane's aunt and uncle are characters who are just delightful and lovable. Jane has friends among the shop owners of Storyton Village and a quirky bunch they are. Ellery Adams has done her research in several areas to make this book real. She has added little touches that us book lovers swoon over. Oh and least I forget to mention there is a well crafted mystery. I was left feeling as if I needed to step right into the pages and live at this resort. Don't let yourself miss this one.

Kim Barger says

I wanted to like this book and I've been trying to convince myself that I do, but I just don't. I'm not fond of any of the characters and while I do like how the book started, it completely lost me when the family secret was revealed (even though I didn't enjoy the book I don't want to ruin it for anyone else.). I would've enjoyed the book (and series, I'm sure) if it had just been a book loving retreat that mysteries happened at.

Fred says

Murder In The Mystery Suite is the first book in the Book Retreat Mystery series.

Ellery Adams has come up with another engaging and fun series with a cast interesting characters. This series takes place at the venerable Storyton Hall in western Virginia.

Jane Steward, a widow and mother of precocious twin boys, is the manager at Storyton Hall, having taken

over from her great-aunt Octavia and great-uncle Aloysius. Storyton Hall houses several extensive libraries and Jane has come up with a plan to host a Murder and Mayhem Week. She is planning on having a fancy dress ball where the guests will dress as their favorite mystery character and a scavenger hunt.

Just before the guests begin to arrive, Jane and her boys, Fitzgerald(Fitz) and Hemingway(Hem)bicycle to the nearby village and while there Jane witnesses a lady fall from her runaway horse and is soon declared dead.

As the guests begin to arrive, chauffeured in by Mr. Sterling in a vintage Rolls Royce, Jane is amazed that some are arriving already dressed as their favorite character. The first nights scheduled event is a scavenger hunt. Each guest will be given a clue that pertains to their character and the first person to complete the hunt will receive the prize of a copy of Lost Letters by Alice Hart. The hunt is won by Felix Hampden who bears an uncanny likeness to his character, Umberto Ferrari, the detective that Adela Dundee. The prize, Lost Letters, is a book that is written about lost letters from Dundee that have reportedly been found. Shortly after the prize has been awarded, Fitz and Hem run to their mother saying that Aunt Octavia is sick. Octavia asks Mrs. Hubbard the Hall's chef to tell Jane to get the book back, that the wrong one had been given as the prize. The next day Jane goes to Hampden's room to get the book back, only to find him dead. What with Hampden's death, the police have also learned that the lady who died after falling from the horse, is in fact the editor of Lost Letters. Jane's first thought is whether these deaths are related. In addition, Hampstead had tipped Fitz and Hem to help him with the clues and also the fact that two people immediately after the prize was presented attempted to buy the book from Hampstead. Jane, with the help from the members of her book club, The Cover Girls, set off to find who would want the book bad enough to kill for it. And of course to find the killer before any of the guests learn of the death and start canceling there reservations.

This is another well plotted and told story from Ms. Adams. I particularly liked the setting of the book and would love to sit back in one of the winged back chairs in just about any of the libraries Storyton Hall has to offer. I would also like to visit with the very helpful staff. Particularly Jane and Head Librarian Mr. Sinclair and enjoy the wonderful meals that Mrs. Hubbard prepares. And Fitz and Hem are bound to provide lots of entertainment with their antics. As the saying goes: boys will be boys. Another thing that caused me to chuckle are the names of some of the village shops, The Pickled Pig Market and Tresses Hair Salon, just to name two.

Also, the reader will learn of the mystery of the Steward family and Storyton Hall.

So looking forward to spend time at Valentines Day at The Storyton Hall.

Lesa says

Ellery Adams introduces her first Book Retreat mystery, *Murder in the Mystery Suite*, with a paragraph to delight the heart of any book lover. "There were books everywhere. Hundreds of books. Thousands of books. There were books of every size, shape, and color. They lined the walls from floor to ceiling, standing straight and rigid as soldiers on the polished mahogany shelves, the gilt lettering on their worn spines glinting in the soft light, the scent of supple leather and aging paper filling the air." And, after setting the perfect stage for a book lover, she invites us into a resort dedicated to books, Storyton Hall in Virginia. Who can resist?

Storyton Hall is home to widow Jane Steward, her six-year-old twin sons, Hem and Fitz, and her great-uncle and great-aunt. Jane's the general manager of the resort for book lovers, a place where people can escape to

be pampered by a butler, librarian, chauffeur, and all the staff needed to run a high-class resort hotel. But, Jane knows even a high-class resort needs to repair a roof and pay the staff, so she suggests a Murder and Mayhem Week so that mystery fans can dress as their favorite literary detective, participate in mystery scavenger hunts, enjoy the delectable food, and relax and read. But, before the week even gets underway, a runaway horse on the streets of Storyton Village leads to death. And, when one of the participants in the week's scavenger hunt is murdered, Jane thinks her mystery week may end in horror.

With each new series, the versatile Adams, author of the Books by the Bay series and the Charmed Pie Shoppe mysteries, manages to create a new world and a cast of charming characters. *Murder in the Mystery Suite* brings readers into a fascinating world of books and secrets, literary secrets known only to a select few. There's an entertaining group of merchants who form a book club, the Cover Girls. And, the members of the support staff at Storyton Hall are intriguing, with their own secrets.

What librarian can resist this resort, and Jane Steward's respect for books and all the libraries in Storyton Hall? Jane tells Mr. Sinclair, the librarian there, "You're a librarian. To me, that makes you a bigger hero than Saint George, Sir William Wallace, and all the Knights of the Round Table put together." There may be *Murder in the Mystery Suite*, but Ellery Adams and Jane Steward manage to welcome readers into their world. It's a world of books, wonderful characters, and secrets.

Ellery Adams' website is www.elleryadamsmysteries.com

Lisa Ks Book Reviews says

MUDER IN THE MYSTERY SUITE

by Ellery Adams

Book One in the Book Retreat Mystery series

A few chapters into this first book in the Book Retreat Mystery series, I was already enjoying what I thought to be another sweet, cozy mystery series. By chapter five I had the feeling of reading a Nancy Drew story in which Nancy was now a grown woman. This of course thrilled me to no end. However, it felt as though I was also in a modern day Agatha Christie novel. Until chapter eight when Nancy and Agatha combined with Ian Fleming and my mind was blown!

Do you know how wonderful a book has to be to be compared to those three greats? Indeed, Ms. Adams has turned the modern day cozy into the very best of mysteries past, present, and I dare say future. There is so much I want to say about this book, but have to hold myself back from doing so in order not to ruin the joy of discovery for other readers.

What I can say is, Ellery Adams has delivered a story with delightful characters, beautiful surroundings, as well mystery and intrigue unlike anything I've ever read. She has insured that this first book will morph into a long running series.

That being said, do yourself the biggest favor of the year and read *MURDER IN THE MYSTERY SUITE*. Purchase a few extra copies (e-readers, get yourself a print copy), two for yourself and a few for your friends. You're going to want to keep a mint copy of this first edition hidden away so in the next twenty years or so people will be jealous of your treasure!

MURDER IN THE MYSTERY SUITE well release on August 5th. Don't wait...Pre-order your copy/copies now!

Note: The copy I read was an Advanced Reader's Copy (ARC) they I was lucky enough to win from the author. The best prize I've won all year! (Since it was a prize in a giveaway, I had no obligation to leave a review. But there was no way I wasn't going to share my love of this story!) I will still be pre-ordering copies for myself in order to have both wonderful editions!

Laura says

Couldn't finish this one although I tried. I kept thinking it would get better. But first off this is supposed to be Virginia in modern day. Who today names children Edwin and Eloise or Mabel? I know old fashioned names have made a recent comeback but those children are currently under 4 yrs. Who in American calls the owner of a restaurant a publican? It was like the author was trying so hard to create a small English town atmosphere that she used every word/name she could to evoke the traditional English cozy image. I suppose she thought it would help also help to create the traditional cozy atmosphere to use literary type names for the employees at Storyton Manor, like Sterling, Pimpernel, Sinclair, Hubbard, Butterworth, and guest names like Desmond, Moira, Felix, but all that did for me was take me right out of the story. I did so much eye rolling during the 68% of it that I read, that it is a wonder I didn't get a migraine. Six year olds in America do not have "periods" in elementary school anywhere that I know of, and I am an educator in America! In most states, six year olds are in kindergarten. Would I allow my six year old to shoot a real bow and arrow? Oh, sure! I got the impression based on Ms. Adams depiction of the twins Hem and Fitz that she hasn't been around too many six year olds. Their vocabulary, even if exceptionally bright, as they've been raised around booklovers, was still way too advanced for six. They always seemed to be unsupervised too!

When I read a mystery (even a cozy style one), I want to transported into that world. I don't want to be eye rolling and being constantly taken out of the story by thinking "who would say that?" Then there is the contradiction of how they are strapped for cash and trying to get more business for the hotel, which is why Jane comes up with the idea for a booklovers retreat in the first place, but yet, they have a large staff and a couple of Rolls Royces. Just preposterous. I always like to finish a book that I start, but I just couldn't get through this one.

Erin ? *Proud Book Hoarder* says

"These people are mystery fans. Readers. Bibliophiles. They're far too refined to resort to violence."

I loved the enthusiasm aimed toward books and reading, especially with the themed murder mystery week and the celebration of various literary detectives. It was nerd city for me, trust me. Being with the guests when they visited various rooms such as the Green Gables Gazebo and Agatha Christie Teamroom. Having meals catered to novel names and characters? Yep, a bookworm's dream: Julius Caesar salads, Herman Melville chowder, Homer's pulled pork sandwiches in the Kipling's cafe.

The concept of the murder mystery week, costume contests, treasure hunt and various things was fun. Unfortunately the book lost me a great bit around 40-50% into it. The author decided to enter in a large,

outlandish subplot that completely changed the tone of the novel and subsequently the rest of the series. It was a surprise and twist that I didn't like. Sure it was clever and unique and added a completely new dimension....but to me it made a fun cozy into an comedic action-adventure with almost James Bondish staff. The plausibility of some of the stuff was so over the top it just left me behind. My interest waned due to this sadly -- if it had stayed just a book resort with a mystery, I think it would have held a higher star appeal in the end.

The characters are intriguing enough, but none stand out much. The protagonist is a single widow with two twin boys, a sarcastic and overweight aunt who gets into health crisis, an adoring uncle, and tons of devoted staff. That changes into something much more later.

One thing that bugged me was banning all electronic devices at the resort. This included phones and e-readers. I'm all for actual books and they're still my favorites, but I found it a little irritating that people couldn't read e-books or listen to audiobooks at a reading retreat. And sorry, but must use Goodreads on the phone or laptop to update =)

Meg says

A compelling start to a new-to-me series. The setting of a book- themed resort bursting with books and a huge literary secret was exciting. A repeated error with a secondary character's name during an important discussion threw me out of the story but, otherwise, this was a good, easy read. Looking forward to reading the next in the series.

Book Hunter says

This cozy-mystery is set at a resort for book lovers, on the murder mystery weekend where an actual murder takes place. It could have been a lot of fun, but it really wasn't. The author had too many ideas for one book. It went a little overboard with lots of the side stories. I didn't get much into the book and then when the family secret came out - totally unbelievable - it lost me.

Gary Sundell says

This book was an enjoyable read. What's not to like? Dead bodies, secret passages, fun characters, literary references galore, a grumpy tuxedo cat; my kind of book. I'll be reading the next books in the series as soon as possible.

Vivian says

I wanted to like this book as I enjoy the author's "Books by the Bay" series, but sadly I did not - in fact, I

didn't even finish it - I found it slow, boring and utterly forgettable. So many contradictions - the need for a themed mystery weekend to generate revenue, yet they have a fleet of Rolls Royces to pick up guests for transport to the hotel? The hotel holds a scavenger hunt using the entire grounds which are said to be in major disrepair? Lavish food displays for teas and restaurants in the hotel - can't be in that bad of shape financially. And then came the secret library with unpublished plays by a famous playwright - if the property is in disrepair why weren't those sold long ago? I also couldn't figure out if I was in modern day Virginia or olden days England. I just didn't get the concept, I guess.
