



The Inspector and Mrs. Jeffries

Emily Brightwell

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More information to be announced soon on this forthcoming title from Penguin USA

The Inspector and Mrs. Jeffries Details

Date : Published February 1st 1993 by Berkley

ISBN :

Author : Emily Brightwell

Format : Kindle Edition 196 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Historical Mystery

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From Reader Review The Inspector and Mrs. Jeffries for online ebook

Carol says

What a delightful story this was, and I actually got a book #1. Emily Brightwell, author, presents her first novel in a most delightful mystery series set in Victorian England, featuring one of the most charming characters to ever crack a case. Mrs. Jeffries is so likable, and those with her really like to work with her. She is a terrific leader.

Inspector Witherspoon is a kind man, shy with women, and good to his servants. When he inherited a house and fortune from his aunt, he kept on the staff even when he didn't need to and thus earned their loyalty. His housekeeper is Mrs. Jeffries, a fifty-something widow of a copper who has a quick intelligent mind, a passion for solving mysteries and a need to mother everyone.

Dr. Slocum is found slumped over his lunch, obviously murdered. An unlikable man while alive, the Inspector works to solve the case aided by his Constable and criticized by another inspector. Subtly Mrs. Jeffries asks the right questions, deploys the rest of the staff to seek out more clues, and eventually solves the case.

Good mystery and a nice cast of characters. Very enjoyable book. I hear that there are 36 books in her series. I think that will be a fun series to read. Recommend

Kristi says

This was an interesting premise for a period cozy. Mrs. Jeffries is the housemaid for Scotland Yard Inspector Witherspoon. She and the rest of her crew solve one of the Inspector's cases for him without his knowing.

While credited as the first in the series I kept feeling as though I had missed something from a previous book. In some ways this is a credit to the author that she really developed her characters and their relations to each other. But at the same time I kept questioning whether this was really the first book.

While I wasn't totally sucked into this first installment in the series I think I shall give a few more a chance before ruling this series one to continue reading.

Dharia Scarab says

Such a fun series, I had to read this one again,

Since I don't normally write reviews unless I have something specific to say, here's the break down of how I rate my books...

1 star... This book was bad, so bad I may have given up and skipped to the end. I will avoid this author like

the plague in the future.

2 stars... This book was not very good, and I won't be reading any more from the author.

3 stars... This book was ok, but I won't go out of my way to read more, But if I find another book by the author for under a dollar I'd pick it up.

4 stars... I really enjoyed this book and will definitely be on the look out to pick up more from the series/author.

5 stars... I loved this book! It has earned a permanent home in my collection and I'll be picking up the rest of the series and other books from the author ASAP.

Susan says

This is a FUN well written mystery that gets the whole household involved. I really enjoyed how Mr. Jeffries "helps" the Inspector solve they mystery.

Unfolds at a good pace and is just good clean and interesting.

Erin ? *Proud Book Hoarder* says

Cozy mysteries can be such fun, and this one especially looked so by the blurb and cover – a maid and other household help assist an investigator without his knowledge to solve crimes. It's set in Victorian times with afternoon teas, proper society regulations on etiquette, and the infamous Scotland Yard. When looking at this series, I'm surprised to find there is over thirty books in it. Wow. I plan to get more of the series but not sure I'll ever be able to get and read all of them.

The book starts out as suggested: cute, quirky, and intriguing. Immediately I liked Mrs. Jeffries. She's sweet, clever, supportive. I didn't know the other help had such a large role in solving the crimes, but delightfully they do, all bringing their individual traits to the table. The detective is subpar with his investigative technique and confidence, previously having been in the filing room for the majority of his career, but this only brings more charm to the story. The guilty party at the end doesn't stand out much in personality; I wouldn't have guessed them to be the killer, and motivation came toward the end anyway.

Ultimately it wasn't a mystery easy to guess, the clues were leading on many paths and pointing fingers everywhere. Plenty of red herrings helped cloak the genuine culprit. The road to solving it wasn't paved with anything obvious. Sometimes it's cheating not to give enough clues for the reader to really guess, and sometimes it's overwhelming to have so many suspects in the pot and little of them explored, but the point of this story seems to be the path to investigating and the enjoyment of observing the process with the cast and crew, not the ultimate outcome itself.

Emily Brightwell pleased me by keeping action consistent, injecting cuteness when it's needed while holding true to the British type of mystery novel it's intended to be. Overall this one was fun to read, light in tone and mood and outcome, being an enjoyable cute, cozy mystery that's easy to pick up and keep reading. It doesn't leave a lasting impression on the heart as something you can't live without, however, so I do hope the next

books in the series bring more individual stake for the detective and other main players. More excitement would flourish that way.

An Odd1 says

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show... re-read>

Scotland Yard's mild Gerald Witherspoon, recently promoted from the records division, inherited his aunt Euphemia's household and rescued other employees from destitution. Grateful for their light duties and generous employer, housekeeper Hepzibah, widow of country copper, supervises investigators: kind burly coachman Smythe, abandoned housemaid Betsy, slow of wits but quick to spot a pretty face footman Wiggins, and elsewhere-unemployable arthritic cook Mrs Goodge, who never leaves the kitchen, but invites sources, a disreputable assortment of Victorian London, to share their bounty.

Wealthy elderly American Mrs Luty Bell Crookshank (brings case for Epilogue and sequel) announced the presence of poisonous mushrooms in the street's communal garden to her garden party guests, but only blackmailer Dr Bartholomew Slocum expires with one in his lunch soup. Nobody liked the stingy incompetent, neither servants, neighbors, nor patients drugged into signing indiscreet confessions. Cook Effie Beals did not leave her former employer the Duke willingly. Joshua, soon to be disinherited nephew, was stealing small household bric-a-brac.

Married Dr Sebastian Hightower, canoodling lovely widowed Catherine Leslie, found the contorted body within minutes of his noon death, but Luty Bell has nursed cases, they take days. Colonel Seaward, only survivor and hero from African disaster, and enthusiastic naturalist, is up for a colonial ambassador appointment by the Queen. Close physical examination of the premises elicits minute evidence Mrs Jeffries draws to the Inspector's attention, and she patiently points his direction effectively.

Typo?

p73 "plump material figure" for maternal?

Amy says

More cozy than mystery. Wooza is it historically inaccurate! Still pretty fun to read though. I'll at least read the next one because there is a certain charm in them.

Fiona MacDonald says

Amusing and highly enjoyable. Very well written, and a better quality of story than the last 'Mrs Jeffries' book I read! These are really worth reading, they are perfect 'cosy mysteries' to curl up with by the fire.

Juli says

There are a whopping 34 books in the Mrs. Jeffries Mystery series. 34! But, I can say with no reservations, that book #1 was delightful! If all of the stories in this series are such fun reads, then I can see how the stack of published Mrs. Jeffries novels has grown to 34 books!

The plot in a nutshell: Mrs. Jeffries is the housekeeper for Inspector Gerald Witherspoon. Witherspoon received a promotion after helping solve a rash of horrible murders. He used to be a records clerk for Scotland Yard, but now is an inspector who investigates and solves major crimes. Behind the scenes, Witherspoon is assisted by his staff of servants, headed by Mrs. Jeffries. The assistance with his cases is done in secret, of course, because they don't want to hurt Witherspoon's feelings. But, he can be absent minded at times and most of the time his investigations just need a nudge in the right direction. While he isn't the best investigator, Witherspoon is a very kind and generous employer. So his servants don't mind sneaking about to help him solve complicated cases. In the end, he believes he solved the cases himself, and his staff knows that they helped him maintain his reputation as one of the greatest investigators at Scotland Yard.

This book was a short, fun, read. A real Victorian cozy mystery romp. It had humor, suspense and just the right peppering of villainy. It didn't get bogged down in explaining past history of the characters, but gave enough information during progression of the plot to bring readers up to speed. That kept the pacing of the mystery going, without slowing down to explain minutiae that had nothing to do with the present story. The book is not complex, but a quick, simple afternoon read. As a cozy mystery lover, this book really hit the spot for me.

I don't know if I will be able to find the other 33 books in the series, but I'm certainly going to read a great number of them! This book was well-written and witty. Mrs. Jeffries and the other servants in the house are likable characters, and readers will find themselves loving the bumbling Witherspoon just as much as they do.

My rating: 8/10

Ages: 10+

George says

Set in the 19th century, the story involves Mrs. Jeffries, house keeper for Scotland Yard inspector Witherspoon, who helps him solve mysteries without his being aware. Mrs. Jeffries, widow of policeman, is an intelligent woman who helps, along with the various house hold staff of the inspector, the inspector solve his criminal cases. He is slow moving and not quick to grasp things so she works to encourage and guide him along the way.

This is the first in the Mrs. Jeffries series.

Gail says

Inspector Witherspoon is a kind man, shy with women, and good to his servants. When he inherited a house

and fortune from his aunt, he kept on the staff even when he didn't need to and thus earned their loyalty. His housekeeper is Mrs. Jeffries, a fifty-something widow of a copper who has a quick intelligent mind, a passion for solving mysteries and a need to mother everyone.

Dr. Slocum is found slumped over his lunch, obviously murdered. An unlikeable man while alive, the Inspector works to solve the case aided by his Constable and critized by another inspector. Subtly Mrs. Jeffries asks the right questions, deploys the rest of the staff to seek out more clues, and eventually solves the case.

Good mystery and a nice cast of characters. Very enjoyable book.

Suranjana says

4 and a half stars from me.

The timid inspector Witherspoon knows he is in dire need of help when Dr. Bartholomew Slocum gets murdered at his surgery. He hasn't got a clue how to proceed. Though someone is thrilled at the misery of the good inspector.

"Poor Inspector Witherspoon had been given another baffling case. Mrs. Jeffries's spirits soared." The housekeeper had helped her employer in a previous case but somehow she knows this one is gonna be tougher. But Mrs Jeffries is not afraid to tread murky waters because she has her secret weapons - the daredevil coachman Smythe, the curious maid Betsy, the informant (read gossip) cook Mrs Goodge and the young footman Wiggins. Adding her own mystery solving skills to their help, Mrs Jeffries reveals the true character of the dead doctor. Turns out he was a ripe candidate for murder - a rather shady character, blackmailer and all that. The inspector is convinced that the cook of Dr. Slocum is the murderer whereas Mrs Jeffries knows the poor woman is innocent. Dr. Slocum's good neighbours belong to the category of possible murderers too. Now, she has got to solve this case without making the Inspector aware of his shortcomings as a detective.

This book has given me a new appreciation of the word "manipulation". Mrs. Jeffries is a master in the *subtle* art of manipulation (the emphasis is on subtle). Besides being the housekeeper to Inspector Witherspoon Mrs Jeffries has another duty - solving the cases of the inspector and nudging him in the right direction so that he thinks he had solved the case all by himself. She leads the inspector all along to the major clues and suggests the strategies of investigation. But she pretends the inspector has been the one who came up with every idea. Talk about spoon feeding!

Mrs Jeffries is an unusual character for Victorian housekeeper. She has an open, astute mind, she likes Walt Whitman's poems, she doesn't think the people of colour are heathen. She is essentially a mother hen tending to Inspector Witherspoon who gets squeamish around corpses (No wonder he can't solve crimes! ?). She is firm but loving with younger servants and caring to the older ones. She is a good thinker and analyst. All in all she makes a great detective. Alas we are in Victorian period. Women are not capable for that sort of work or any good work for that matter. The story has subversive nuances and sometimes I felt the narrator speaks in a sneaky satiric tone.

I have a feeling I will enjoy the other mysteries of the series. I have always liked unusual women characters in historical fiction. I would recommend this book to cozy mystery lovers and historical fiction readers. ?

P.S. Please forgive my grammatical errors and typos. ?

Susan says

I've been intrigued by this series for quite a while and am thankful I finally started listening to it. This is going to be an excellent series, very British. Mrs. Jeffries and her staff are fun characters as well as the inspector. Looking forward to the next in the series. Outstanding narration.

Ivonne Rovira says

Imagine that the great Sherlock Holmes were a bumbling buffoon — an investigator so incompetent that, despite 20 years' experience, he were incapable of conducting even the simplest interrogation of witnesses and needs reminding to search the murder scene. What you'd have is Inspector Gerald Witherspoon.

Now imagine that Holmes' housekeeper Mrs. Hudson were the widow of a distinguished policeman and, having a quick mind, had absorbed the minutia of detective work and could advise her boss. You would have Witherspoon's housekeeper, the intrepid Mrs. Jeffries.

Now this upside-down scenario could have worked as a sly send-up of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's master work, but author Emily Brightwell tries to play it straight, and the novel just becomes silly and predictable.

Book Concierge says

2.5**

In Victorian London, Mrs Hepzibah Jeffries is the housekeeper for Inspector Witherspoon ... and his secret weapon. He may have the Scotland Yard credentials, but she, and the other household staff, keep the Inspector on his toes and subtly provide the brains behind the man's success. When Dr Bartholomew Slocum is found dead in his home, Inspector Witherspoon – and Mrs Jeffries – begins to investigate an apparent murder.

I like cozy mysteries ... they are my "comfort food" of reading. This is a decent example, though I found the Inspector a bit TOO clueless and bumbling. Still it's a decent opening gambit in a series that has had much success over the years. Brightwell gives us plenty of clues and red herrings; I did not figure it out much ahead of the Inspector. I previously read another in this series and enjoyed it, which led me to begin with the first book in the series.

Not great literature, but a fairly satisfying cozy.
