



The Allingham Case-Book

Margery Allingham

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This posthumous collection of short stories contains eighteen stories, half of them about Albert Campion or Charlie Luke.

Contents

Tall Story

Three is a Lucky Number

The Villa Maria Celeste

The Psychologist

Little Miss Know-All

One Morning They'll Hang Him

The Lieabout

Face Value

Evidence in Camera

Joke Over

The Lying-In-State

The Pro and the Con

Is There a Doctor in the House?

The Borderline Case

They Never Get Caught

The Mind's Eye Mystery

Mum Knows Best

The Snapdragon and the C.I.D.

The Allingham Case-Book Details

Date : Published August 1st 1998 by Yestermorrow (first published 1969)

ISBN : 9781567230000

Author : Margery Allingham

Format : Hardcover 224 pages

Genre : Mystery, Short Stories, Fiction, European Literature, British Literature, Golden Age Mystery

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From Reader Review The Allingham Case-Book for online ebook

Miriam says

- 1) Tall Story: **
- 2) Three is a lucky number: ****
- 3) The Villa Marie Celeste: ***
- 4) The Psychologist: *****
- 5) Little Miss Know-All: ***
- 6) One morning they'll hang him: ****
- 7) The Lieabout: ***
- 8) Face Value: ***
- 9) Evidence in camera: **
- 10) Joke over: **
- 11) The Lying-in-state: ***
- 12) The Pro and the Con: ***
- 13) Is there a doctor in the house?: ***
- 14) The Borderline Case: **
- 15) They never get caught: ****
- 16) The Mind's eye mystery: ***
- 17) Mum knows best: ***
- 18) The Snapdragon and the C.I.D.: ***

An enjoyable collection of short stories for all lovers of classical crime.

Judy Lesley says

I received an e-ARC of this collection of short stories through NetGalley and Ipso Books. Thank you.

I seem to be reading a lot of short stories lately. Quite often they just don't measure up. That's why it was such a delight to read the 18 stories included in this collection and to be so satisfied with the whole thing when I finished reading. I could sit down and read one or several of the stories at my leisure and look forward to getting back to the book as soon as possible. The biography included in this book states that Allingham wrote over 20 short stories so most of them are included in this volume. I didn't keep precise count, but it seems to me that approximately half the stories include Campion and either Inspector Charlie Luke or Superintendent Stanislaus Oates. Allingham doesn't always give a precise ending to a story, instead allowing the reader to think for a moment before having that "Oh, now I get it" moment. One story I still haven't quite figured out even though I read it twice.

Margery Allingham has always been one of my favorite mystery novel authors because she makes her characters possess not just intelligence, but also wit and charm. This was a thoroughly enjoyable collection of entertaining short stories. At the end of the stories there is a sample of the Allingham novel Traitor's Purse. There is something here for readers who are already firm fans of this author plus intriguing glimpses into the high quality of the writing you will find if you read the full length novels. Try this sampler then go for the main course. You almost can't go wrong with any book you pick. Super sleuth Albert Campion made his first appearance in "The Crime at Black Dudley" (not his best showing according to me) and became the

main character of the Allingham books in "Mystery Mile".

Gregory Strong says

Quite enjoyable! In these short stories, Margery Allingham created interesting characters and clever situations and puzzles. In more than one story, I had to go back and scan the story to be sure I had read what I thought I was reading on the first pass through the story; this because of the intelligence in her writing.

Christopher Taylor says

A fun collection of various tales, mostly mystery or crime type tales. Some involve Allingham's main characters Campion and Luke, others have different characters. Campion is a main character in only a couple of tales.

There are some funny stories, some thoughtful ones, and all of them cleverly done. A few even have a touch of noir hardboiled language, which was interesting to read from a more contemporary female British author.

Marilyn Watson says

I am a big fan of Margery Allingham's work. Her plots are always a little bit thought provoking and with a twist. Sometimes the plot is slightly macabre and often has a surprise ending. But the Era that she wrote in, what we refer to as the Golden Age of Mysteries, produced such works and thankfully are around today. I have not read a book of hers that I did not enjoy immensely. The language of the book invokes an old fashioned "who dunnit it" spread among the delightful background of England in the 1930's and 1940's.

The Allingham Casebook is a jewel of a Book filled with such short stories. Each one of these allow the words of a master storyteller to entertain you. The Reader, lulled into a London of many years ago, will find the plots and stories are excellent. I particularly like the way Allingham sets up her characters. Some are cockney, with a dialogue of London like this one, "cold and thick as a Landlady's kiss."

Many, include a quiet, fair man in horn- rims who belongs to an aristocratic family, Mr. Albert Campion. In him I have found a favorite character. I hope as you read these short stories you will too

Eric says

Thank you to the Allingham Estate for my review copy.

There are eighteen witty short stories in this Casebook. They do not represent Allingham at her very best, since the form does not really allow for the multi-layered plotting at which she excelled, but are still well-worth-reading.

The Margery Allingham favourites, Campion, Oates and Luke, all feature, appearing in just over half of the

tales.

There is something to enjoy in all of them : the amusing tale of how Charles Luke got his start in the CID, the clever take on the “brides in the bath” story, the mysterious disappearance of a couple, the man with money to burn. There are con men conned, jewels stolen and recovered, the tables turned on would-be murderers. There are photographs, paintings, mink coats, alibis and disguises, a great potpourri of crimes to savour.

This was an enjoyable and relatively untaxing read, a book which would make a good Christmas gift for a lover of Classic Crime.

LeAnne says

I enjoyed reading these short stories by Margery Allingham on my Kindle, although there were two or three which left me a little puzzled and one that I actually thought that a page had been skipped. I've been reading mysteries for many, many years, but I didn't get it, even after reading it twice. In most of these stories, Campion comes along and points out the culprit or tells the Inspector what clue was missed. In some of them, Campion doesn't appear, but we are supposed to "get it" as we read the last page or paragraph. Most of those I got, but not one or two. I much prefer her full-length novels.

Crittermom says

Margery Allingham is one of the best early writers of crime fiction. Her stories have stood the test of time, and practically every mystery lover is familiar with her iconic detective - Albert Campion. I was delighted to have the opportunity to review this anthology. It more than lived up to my expectations.

Readers feast on an assortment of short stories, all unique. What they do have in common is how clever they are. Often there is a seemingly insurmountable puzzle, the unraveling of which is a delight. Many, but not all feature Albert Campion. More than a few throw in a dash of humor. Allingham is a consummate storyteller, able to bring vastly different characters to vibrant life and never using the same plot twice. These stories satisfy, not only because the puzzles are clever but also because justice is done. There is murder, but there is no graphic violence. These stories challenge the intellect but comfortably provide an understandable resolution. I absolutely adore this collection of Allingham's short works. I recommend it to anyone who enjoys classic mysteries, challenging puzzles or who is looking for a light satisfying read that is a departure from the norm.

5 / 5

I received a copy of The Allingham Case-book from the publisher and Netgalley.com in exchange for an honest review.

--Crittermom

Krystyna says

A favourite of Agatha Christie and J K Rowling

Wonderful mix of bite size puzzles that you can develop into at your leisure. All different but all having a gentle charm and relating to a more gracious type of living just post war. A favourite of Agatha Christie and some of these are clear reminders of some plots that she used to great effect in her full length novels. No violence to speak of, so great for older children, but with a decided tendency to have us use the 'little grey cells'. A wonderful snapshot of the intricate plots that she woven into her full length novels and as shown she did have an influence on later great writers in the Golden Age of Crime that we know and love.

Edith says

3 1/2 stars. Enjoyable, lightweight, many with Allingham's sleuth, Albert Campion. (I've come to prefer him to Lord Peter Wimsey, to whom he bears more than a passing resemblance. He's from the same era and social class [his mother is whispered to be a member of the royal family], but he is a bit more human.) Particularly charming is a story in which Allingham is a character. The mysteries are not very hard to solve, but the writing is (mostly) very good, and they are such a picture of their day. Worth reading if you are fond of Golden Age mysteries or Albert Campion.

Kirsty says

The Allingham Casebook consists of eighteen mystery- and crime-based stories. I was really looking forward to dipping in; Allingham is a great author, just as good as Agatha Christie, I feel, and she deserves to be read more widely. I found some of the inclusions in this collection to be far more clever and surprising than others. It is certainly a varied collection, in spite of its common theme. Some of the stories here did not really grab my attention, but others proved gripping and memorable. Whilst *The Allingham Casebook* was an interesting read on many levels, it did not quite have the wit and consistency which I was expecting. Allingham really flourishes in her full-length work, where she has more space and time in which to craft characters and create more intricate plots.

Merrilee Gibson says

I am a long-time admirer of Margery Allingham's work, so when we were asked to view this book by Camilla of the Allingham Society, I was pleased to do so.

This is a collection of short stories, many, but not all, featuring Albert Campion. Of necessity, they must make their point quickly, presenting the case as economically as possible. One must be quick to catch the essentials of each story--to try to discover the clues to the solution. The Allingham qualities I like most, the vibrant descriptions, discovering the dimensions of some very intriguing characters, are best suited to full-length novels, I think.

I liked the first offering "Tall Story", that gave us a chance to observe Charles Luke and Albert Campion

working in tandem. "Three is a Lucky Number" was amusing, as was "Little Miss Know-All" with its luxurious sapphire mink. "The Lieabout" was narrated by a person who remained unnamed throughout, a device that I thought matched well with the enigmatic character of the story itself. In all, there are 18 stories to enjoy, ending with "The Snapdragon and the C.I.D." which offers Albert Campion and Stanislaus Oates in a Christmas Day story featuring discovery of a body partially covered in mistletoe.

Short stories need to be clever, and these certainly are--as ingeniously constructed as anything Christie wrote. The cleverness extends to the titles, for those paying attention. Allingham excels at these stories, as she does in everything she writes. But I did not enjoy reading them as much as I do her full-length works. Still, this is a fetching array of intriguing treats. As a parting gift the book concludes with the first chapter of Traitor's Purse.

My thanks to the Allingham Society for providing an advance copy of these delightful stories.

Pouting Always says

A book of eighteen short mysteries and I don't want to go on and on in this review. I just didn't enjoy any of the stories, maybe like two or three were bearable but that's about it. They just didn't hold my interest and some of them felt quite obvious. I don't think I've read anything by Margery Allingham in the past so maybe I'm missing something and this is just her writing style? Not quite sure. There just wasn't much substance wise to most of the stories and the mysteries tended not to make up for it because they felt contrived.

Richard Howard says

This is the first book of Margery Allingham I have read and I feel ashamed that it has taken me so long to discover surely the most literary of the 'Big Four' Queens of Detective Fiction. There is something almost Runyonesque about her cops and crooks and her dialogue is a joy to read. Her cast of characters cross class lines and her nuanced observations are delivered with wit. Each short story is a little gem and I look forward to reading her longer works next.

Deborah Replogle says

I'm a big fan of Margery Allingham. This volume is a collection of many of her short stories, some with her famous detective Albert Campion. While I'm no authority on the subject this would be among those of reader os Dorothy Sayer's Lord Peter Wimsey. Similar but not the same. It was an entertaining read, but sometimes the plot lines were simplistic and the reader could see where it was heading. But I'm glad it was available to read, and will fit in with one's full Allingham novel collection.
