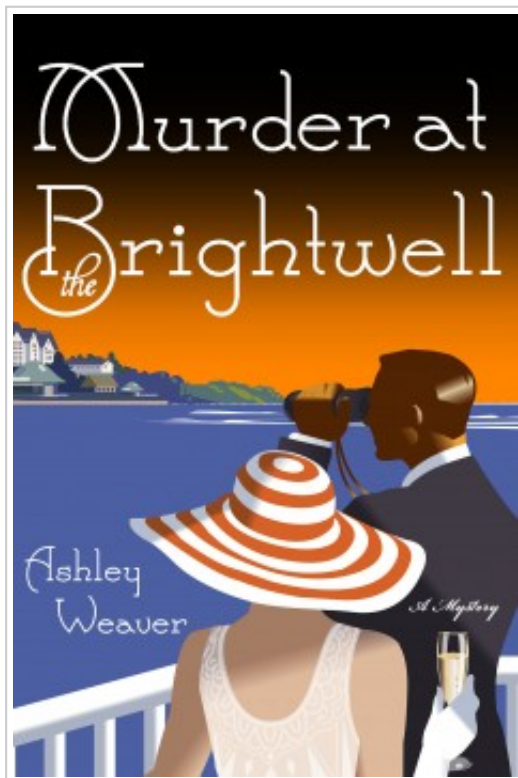


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Murder at the Brightwell

by Ashley Weaver

Price: \$24.99(Hardcover)

Published: October 14, 2014

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher:

Amory Ames is a wealthy young woman who questions her marriage to her notoriously charming playboy husband, Milo. Looking for a change, she accepts a request for help from her former fiancé, Gil Trent, not knowing that she'll soon become embroiled in a murder investigation that will test not only her friendship with Gil, but will upset the status quo with her husband.

Amory accompanies Gil to the luxurious Brightwell Hotel in an attempt to circumvent the marriage of his sister, Emmeline, to Rupert Howe, a disreputable ladies' man. Amory sees in the situation a grim reflection of her own floundering marriage. There is more than her happiness at stake, however, when Rupert is murdered and Gil is arrested for the crime. Amory is determined to prove his innocence and find the real killer, despite attempted dissuasion from the disapproving police...

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What We Say

This frivolous mystery is good fun for anyone who likes their Agatha Christie or tales of murder among the upper crust in 1930s England. Author Ashley Weaver's debut is an amusing bit of frippery that is strongest on the bantering relationship between our heroine Amory Ames and her wayward but admittedly dashing husband Milo. The cad is charmingly undependable, so when Amory's first love Gil (a man she jilted for the heart-racingly handsome Milo) asks her to join him at the Brightwell hotel and pretend to be her lover she gamely jumps at the chance to tease her husband, explore what might have been with Gil and in the bargain perhaps keep Gil's sister from making a poor match with the similarly handsome and untrustworthy Rupert. All is fine until...murder is afoot! Since the body is that of Rupert, a man Gil openly loathed, suspicion falls on him. Amory is determined to clear the name of her one-time love while trying to clear up exactly how she feels about him and her actual husband. It doesn't help that Milo is soon underfoot, proving despicably charming and eager to help in Amory's amateur sleuthing. It's all rather silly with a classic finale where the killer holds our heroine at bay and patiently explains all. But the setting is glamorous, the dialogue pretty sharp and the back and forth between Amory and Milo genuinely fun and far more suspenseful than figuring out whodunit. The mystery needs to be sharpened in future episodes but the team of Amory and Milo is an appealing one. -- Michael Giltz

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What Others Say

"This debut novel by a librarian lays the foundation for a stylish series with Milo and Amory channeling Nick and Nora Charles."—Booklist

"Fans of plucky female amateur sleuths will welcome Amory Ames, the heroine of Weaver's pleasing debut set in 1932 England... the affable Amory could carry a series."—Publishers Weekly

"A spunky heroine, a tense romance and red herrings galore make Weaver's debut a pleasant read for nostalgia buffs who miss Agatha Christie."—Kirkus Reviews

"Lovers of Agatha Christie and Jacqueline Winspear will enjoy this elegant murder mystery set on holiday at the English seaside. What starts out as a lark, intended to make Amory Ames's misbehaving-but-oh-so-delicious husband jealous, turns into a dangerous and deadly game of whodunit for Amory and her friends. Love, jealousy, and revenge are tangled together in this smart and sophisticated British mystery reminiscent of the genre's golden age."—October 2014 LibraryReads List

"Murder at the Brightwell is an elegant Christie-esque 1930s romp that will delight fans of Rhys Bowen's Lady Georgie series with its wit, charm, and strong independent heroine...."

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