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The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place

by Julie Berry

Price: \$15.99(Hardcover)

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Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher:

There's a murderer on the loose—but that doesn't stop the girls of St. Etheldreda's from attempting to hide the death of their headmistress in this rollicking farce.

The students of St. Etheldreda's School for Girls face a bothersome dilemma. Their irascible headmistress, Mrs. Plackett, and her surly brother, Mr. Godding, have been most inconveniently poisoned at Sunday dinner. Now the school will almost certainly be closed and the girls sent home—unless these seven very proper young ladies can hide the murders and convince their neighbors that nothing is wrong.

Julie Berry's *The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place* is a smart, hilarious Victorian romp, full of outrageous plot twists, mistaken identities, and mysterious happenings.

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What We Say

Oh dear, the headmistress of St. Etheldreda's School For Girls is dead. Not that the seven young women dumped at this lesser finishing school in the late 1800s are terribly upset. The headmistress was the sort of person who fed her charges bread and butter while she dined on veal. So no great loss. But the seven young women -- all given identifying names like Clever Kitty and Stout Alice and Disgraceful Mary Ann (she's quite the flirt) -- are very fond of each other and know the minute word gets out the school will be disbanded and they'll all be sent home and never see each other again. So, naturally, they bury their headmistress in the garden and convince Stout Alice to imitate the old meanie when necessary. You won't be surprised that complications ensue, such as a stream of visitors and busybodies, the wooing of said headmistress by the kindly old Admiral, and most concerning of all the realization that the headmistress was in fact poisoned and the killer is prepared to strike again. Berry's novel plays like a British farce, with much of the action taking place over a very short span of time and the silly device of a teenager girl dressing up as a dowdy old woman. It's very amusing, from the clever introduction -- where we are told the various awful reasons why these delightful girls have been shipped off to this dire academy -- through the expected but still satisfying finale. While all the girls are "types" -- the one who loves science, the one who is dim, the one who is soft-hearted and sweet and so on -- they also manage to surprise themselves and each other (and us) with their versatility. It's all nonsense, thank goodness. And while one doesn't quite long for murder -- that would be improper -- one does imagine that these seven sisters will face other adventures in the future. -- Michael Giltz

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What Others Say

"Berry's prose is reminiscent of the dark comedy and melodrama of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "Sherlock Holmes" mysteries . . . This is a well-researched, clever, and deliciously dark comedy with an emphasis on female empowerment." - School Library Journal

"Immensely entertaining, smart, and frothy." - The Horn Book

"... beautifully written, with rich vocabulary, charming details, spunky dialogue, and plucky heroines . . . delightfully zany." - VOYA

**"Romance blooms in unexpected places, and danger lurks around every corner in this delightfully farcical tale, full of twists and turns." -Publisher's Weekly STARRED REVIEW

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