



Murder at Rudhall Manor

Anya Wylde

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A murder and a theft have been committed at Rudhall Manor. A box of jewels has vanished and Lord Sedley, a lusty old aristocrat, has been stabbed six times in the chest.

It is all very mysterious, and the Sedley family and the servants have decided that Miss Lucy Anne Trotter, a recently employed governess, is to blame for the unfortunate events.

The legendary and wickedly handsome Marquis, Lord William Adair, learns of the matter and decides to uncover the truth.

Lucy, however, has little faith in blue blooded creatures—even if they possess dashing good looks—and, accompanied by two naughty pugs and a moody raven, decides to investigate and unmask the killer herself.

But the hunt for the killer turns out to be far more complicated than she anticipates—what with snooty servants, warts in odd places, mixed up love affairs, agitated chickens and dreadful disguises ruining her plans.

Soon she begins to wonder if, for once, she is in over her head...

Murder at Rudhall Manor Details

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Author : Anya Wylde

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From Reader Review Murder at Rudhall Manor for online ebook

Liz says

While I liked the romance novels this author has written, I'm now starting to see a pattern where the only way to make something humorous in her historical fiction is to make the main character quirky.

Lucy is bright and witty, but not conventional and that's supposed to carry the humor here. We learn a little more about Lord Adair and I'd like to see more about him in the future. The relationship with Lucy is interesting.

Warning: there is NO ROMANCE here.

Natalie says

I've been lucky enough to read all of Anya Wylde's books. They have never disappointed me. When Anya offered me a copy of her newest book to read and review I jumped at the chance. I truly enjoyed this funny Regency murder mystery. Lucy was very entertaining, and slightly crazy. All the secondary characters were fun in a great over the top way. I would love to read more about Lord Adair. The mystery kept me guessing and managed to surprise me in the end. My only complaint is the end. What will Lucy's life be like in the future? I want more of Lucy's adventures.

I highly recommend this quick fun book. It is an excellent addition to Ms. Wylde's novels.

Wealhtheow says

Lucy Trotter has just left the orphanage to become a governess when a bunch of random stuff happens. Everything is described in such convoluted ways that I was never sure what exactly was happening (a balloon lands? maybe?) and Lucy was such an unlikely character that I didn't care what she discovered or did.

? Gramy ? says

.
This book definitely was not my cup of tea, even though I thoroughly enjoyed the book entitled 'Penelope' by the same author.

Author's imagination went waaaay below my tolerance level. The attempt at quirkiness delved into the ridiculous over and over and over again. I was so tempted not to complete my reading of it. However, I trudged my way through and was left wondering why I even bothered.

Would not recommend.

Stacy Goodworth says

Funny mystery, though I had it figured out pretty early. The main character was a bit unbelievable, and annoying, but her antics were comedic, even if a bit useless. I prefer a bit more mystery in my mystery, but as a comedy, it was just fine.

Joyce says

A complete waste of time! This deserves a -1 rating.

Brenda says

2.5★s

Miss Lucy Anne Trotter was finally leaving the orphanage and she was ecstatic to be going into the employ of Lord Sedley of Rudhall Manor to be the governess for the two young children there. The day Lucy was among the crowd of onlookers to spy a hot air balloon descending with Lord William Adair on board was the day her life changed once again.

Returning to the Manor she was struck by the fuss and chaos of the inhabitants – and when she spied Lord Adair in the parlour as well, she was almost struck dumb. With the jewellery having been stolen and Lord Sedley murdered, the household immediately decided Lucy was the person who had both murdered and stolen – never mind why she would return after a day out...

Though Lord Adair had said he would uncover the truth, Lucy decided she would clear her name by herself. But the mixture of a resident ghost, some pugs as well as various other animals and the animosity of the household; both staff and residents – Lucy was sure she was in over her head. What was she to do?

Murder at Rudhall Manor by Anya Wylde is both absurd and humorous. Light hearted and at times quite ridiculous, the characters that surrounded Lucy had little to no sense whatsoever. Peter seemed quite apart from the rest of his family; gentle and kind, but looked down on by everyone around him. I had thought *Murder at Rudhall Manor* would be similar to the author's previous work I've read and enjoyed – The Fairweather Sisters series (starting with *Penelope*); The Wicked Wager – but it's completely different. A light, cosy mystery which will be enjoyed by lovers of that particular genre.

With thanks to the author for my digital copy to read and review.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

Synopsis

Two years after Lucy Trotter leaves the loveless but familiar confines of Brooding Cranesbill (the orphanage and school for underprivileged girls where she was raised), and takes employment as the nanny to the aristocratic Sedley family, Lucy is accused of murdering Lord Sedley, mainly because she is poor and without family. Lady Sedley calls upon the national hero, Lord Adair to solve the crime and prove that Lucy is the murderer, along with finding a set of family jewels that disappeared around the same time. Lucy is mesmerized by the unearthly beauty of Lord Adair, however, she knows that if she doesn't give him a helping hand solving the murder, there's a real chance she will end up hanging for a crime she didn't commit, while the real culprit walks away a free person. Lord Adair has his hands full solving a crime in a house full of strange characters, including a ghost, an animal obsessed male heir, and an amorous valet having an affair with the lady of the house.

Review

Anya Wylde has written another novel chock full of puns and slapstick humor that will make even the most hardened reader chuckle. Her heroine, Lucy is very lovable, because of her indomitable spirit and her atypical view of the world. Every character in this book is weird, which makes the distinguished recurring character of Lord Adair feel almost normal. The mystery was well done, and actually was a complete surprise to me.

While I enjoyed this book, I didn't find it as hilariously funny as her previous books. Sometimes, it even felt like Wylde was trying too hard to get laughs. There were a few odd moments that seemed so random; it was hard to be convinced they were being played for laughs. For some reason, the writing feels less cohesive. The story, while a shorter length novel, tends to meander a bit, prompting me to wonder when it would get to the climax.

It was a very pleasant surprise to see the character of Lord Adair again. His presence in previous books has endeared this reader and no doubt all of Wylde's other readers. I would have liked to see more chemistry between him and Lucy, although I am not sure this novel is meant to be a romance. It seems as though Lucy's attraction to him was one-sided, despite Lucy being highly endearing. This seemed like a missed romantic opportunity for Lord Adair's lonely character.

Lucy will appeal to readers who love characters like Bronte's Jane Eyre. She is a strong-minded, vibrant, unique and indefatigable young woman who deserves a happy ending, and no doubt readers will root for her. Her poor treatment by the family and servants alike inspired pathos in me as I read, and her antics made me laugh.

Overall, Murder at Rudhall Manor is a good book. The humor is quirky and entertaining, and the touch of the supernatural, teamed with a mystery that the readers have to work to solve, makes for a diverting read overall. A more cohesive storyline and a plot with greater momentum would have made this a close to flawless book. But even with its flaws, this was a fun read.

Overall rating: **3.5/5.0 stars**

Reviewed for The Hope Chest Reviews: <http://www.thcreviews.com/cgi-bin/vts...>

Tina says

Protagonist: 5/5

Secondary Characters: 5/5

Mystery: 5/5

Humor/Fun: 5/5

Pace: 5/5

Ebook provided to me in exchange for my honest review

I just love Ms Wylde's stories! And *Murder At Rudhall Manor* is no exception. It was a little outrageous, a little absurd and a little over-the-top, but a whole lot of fun. The dialog, the characters, the comical situations that Lucy found herself in, flow of the story, and the excellent mystery... I enjoyed it all completely. Another book for my Favorites Shelf! I highly, highly recommend this book, and any of Anya Wylde's earlier books. They never fail to renew my love of reading and bring me so much joy and happiness.

Alice says

Mysterious Mayham

This is the Walter Mitty of heroines. After falling under suspicion of murder, Lucy the orphan turned governess decides to investigate and solve the mystery herself. The only problem is that she fantasizes over every clue and continually makes matters worse for herself. In addition the most handsome, heroic, famous Lord Adair is also present working on the crime.

Some very funny moments, but also some that seemed forced. Actually Lord Adair comes off much better than the frazzled and frantic Lucy who continues to blunder throughout.

Sherri Bryant says

Though quite silly, I found *Murder At Rudhall Manor* to be a good and entertaining story. There's a murderer on the loose at Rudhall Manor but it's nearly impossible to take any of it seriously with the over the top goings on. Naturally, the dysfunctional Sedley family is quick to blame our charming governess, Miss Lucy Trotter, though they have not one shred of proof, other than their obvious dislike and prejudice against the hired help, though she has yet to be paid for her work. Unfortunately for Miss Trotter, the rest of the household staff soon begins to believe she is the culprit and go out of their way to make her feel alone and without any allies. The arrival of Lord Adair does not seem to be of any help either as his investigation does not expose the killer either. Lucy starts to seriously fear that her neck will soon be in a noose. The arrival of Aunt Sedley provides a welcome distraction and Lucy agrees to look into the murder to find the real killer, but Aunt Sedley is not much help, being dead herself and a ghost. Lucy embarks on a madcap chase through the house and grounds looking for clues that will reveal the true identity of the killer before she runs out of time.

I enjoyed meeting Lucy and found her to be very brave and full of spunk, which is a rarity for women in this time period. Growing up in an orphanage has taught Lucy to rely on her own wits and intelligence to get through life. When she takes up the post of governess at Rudhall Manor, she has no idea that her wits and intelligence is what she has most going for her to keep her out of the hangman's noose. I admired her

tenacity to investigate the murder while facing animosity and opposition from everyone else around her. I found Lord Adair to be a very strange character, starting with his bizarre entrance by hot air balloon into the story. He's quite eccentric and I suspect a little bit insane, but he and Lucy make a great, though odd, couple. What I found interesting was though Lucy found him to be very attractive, there was absolutely no hint of romance between them. This will make sense if you have read *Penelope*, though I am curious to see what they get up to next. I did not care for the living members of the Sedley family. Though she wasn't much help to Lucy in her investigations, I thought Aunt Sedley was very entertaining. It's too bad the rest of the family wasn't as likable.

The story moves at a very good pace, keeping me engaged and interested in the story enough to want to know what happens next. A major twist at the end of the book with the reveal of the villain, which took me completely by surprise, which shouldn't have come as a surprise since this story doesn't follow the expected direction at any time.

My Final Verdict: *Murder At Rudhall Manor* will appeal to fans of light mysteries or quirky storylines and characters. Overall, this is an enjoyable story that will keep the reader entertained for several hours.

Disclaimer: I received a complimentary copy of *Murder At Rudhall Manor* from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Ririn says

Got the ebook from the writer herself. Yeay! Thanks Anya. I fell in love with her writing since *Penelope* and of course I jumped with excitement when she offered me the chance to read her newest book.

When I first saw the name Lord Adair as the main character, I was so excited... haha. Well, he has played quite a prominent role since *Penelope*, so no wonder if we want to know who will end up with the most dashing Lord Adair.

But, as it turned out, this story was purely about the murder mystery and not a love story with some mysteries. Lord Adair was invited by the younger son of the family to search for the murderer of his father Lord Sedley who was stabbed while taking his afternoon nap and the missing jewels.

Miss Lucy Trotter, the new governess was accused as the thief and also the murderer since she was the outsider and had only been at Rudhall Manor for three months. And everyone seemed to witness something or other which point out she as the most logical person to be the murderer.

Surprisingly, Lord Adair believed in her and asked her to believe in him to solve the mystery. Lucy wanted to believe in him, but seeing that no obvious action was taken by the lord, she decided to investigate the matters by herself. It was her very own life at the stake, after all.

Thus began the hilarious part when Lucy's trying to search for the murderer and the missing jewels. Disguising as a tree (complete with the branches and leaves!), hiding under the bed of Lady Sedley with the hope that she would reveal something to her lover and many others which usually ends up wrongly and she get caught spying, which deepened the household animosity towards her.

The (mis)adventures of Lucy were a little outrageous and over the top, but you couldn't help but to laugh out

loud. The story was told totally from Lucy's perspective, so we really have no idea what form of investigation Lord Adair was using. The revelation of the real murderer was a bit dramatic and quite unexpected (well...at least by me).

All in all, still a good read and could cheer me up (coincidentally, Ms Wylde's books came to me during a gloomy time, both times!). But I was a little distracted by Lucy's thoughts (which can go very far) and they did make the story go out of line. Maybe because Lucy was all alone, so she only have her own self (Aunt Sedley was not much help!) to rely on.

Hope that this series will continue with many other adventures. I am really looking forward to the odd pair's continuous mystery-solving adventures!

Sophia says

Hijinks for a young lady just out of the orphanage school room off to see the world and make her place in it. Who knew murder could make me snicker, laugh and snort like that? I swear if Alice's Wonderland got loose in an English country manor house then this story is what it would look like- insanely fun characters, situations, and exotic animals thrown in for bonus thrills. I thought this author's Madcap series was high amusement, but this latest release rivaled them. In fact, there was a cameo appearance of Philbert's poetry present.

The story opens with Miss Lucy Anne Trotter accepting the position as governess to the niece and nephew of Lord and Lady Sedley of Rudhall Manor. Just a few months in, Lucy is bored and wishes for something- anything- to happen, but what transpired next was not exactly her idea of pleasant excitement. After she watches the landing of a hot air balloon onto the village green operated by the famous Lord Adair in a shocking robe and slippers, she makes her way slowly back to the manor just knowing she would be scolded by Lady Sedley for being late. To her surprise, she is accused of stealing the Sedley jewels and if that were not enough she becomes the prime suspect in the murder of Lord Sedley. Lord Adair is asked to investigate with the priority being to find the jewels, but Lucy doesn't trust him so determines to do her own detecting since it is her neck in the noose.

So detect she does. Spying at keyholes, running about in disguise to stalk the family, ransacking rooms, avoiding Lord Peter's menagerie of pets, taking the accusing looks from the other servants and running across the suave, handsome Lord Adair at every turn when her detecting efforts get her in worse trouble reminding her that she can trust him. Maybe, but maybe not. There is still a murdering thief on the loose after all.

I found Lucy a splendid comic heroine and enjoyed getting the story narrated by her. She had this trick of blurting something off the wall out of her mouth when she wished for a subject change and she let her imagination run wild when she didn't want to hear someone prosing on in a boring fashion including the dashing yet enigmatic Lord Adair. For all the craziness going on, there was still a strong plot thread that kept moving through it all. It's not a terribly difficult murder mystery, but it offers a bit of a challenge with Lucy's own antics causing the distractions and the fact that pretty much everyone had motive and somewhat the opportunity. The other characters were so colorful and engaging too even the ones that weren't likeable. Lucy's detecting methods were off the hook. The only niggle I really had was that the story ended abruptly. It was finished in the sense that the case was over, but I guess I was waiting for a bit something more than what did finish the last page. Maybe there will be more installments as Lucy hones her detecting talents and I

would love more from the capable and charismatic Lord Adair.

All in all, it was a delight through and through. Those who enjoy their mysteries laced with humor and don't mind a historic backdrop should grab this one up for a light fun cozy mystery that will have you laughing in no time.

My thanks to the author for the opportunity to read this story in exchange for an honest review.

Exina says

A murder and a theft have been committed at Rudhall Manor. A box of jewels has vanished and Lord Sedley has been stabbed six times in the chest.

Miss Lucy Anne Trotter, a recently employed governess, is to blame for the unfortunate events.

The legendary and wickedly handsome Marquis, Lord William Adair, learns of the matter and decides to uncover the truth.

Lucy, however, has little faith in blue blooded creatures—even if they possess dashing good looks—and, accompanied by two naughty pugs and a moody raven, decides to investigate and unmask the killer herself.

But the hunt for the killer turns out to be far more complicated than she anticipates—what with snooty servants, warts in odd places, mixed up love affairs, agitated chickens and dreadful disguises ruining her plans.

Ms. Anya Wylde's new novel is **a historical mystery**, sadly without any romance, only something in prospect between Lucy and Lord Adair at the end.

Lucy is meddlesome, tends to embarrass herself, and easily gets into uncomfortable situations. The story is told from her viewpoint, and I often was lost in her rhapsodic, fragmented thoughts and observations.

Lord Adair is a key figure in Penelope too. He is my favorite character from Ms. Wylde books, and he doesn't disappoint here either. I would love to see him falling in love...

The story is great, though the plot has to fight a serious battle with the narration.

The situations are over-the-top comical, **sometimes too exaggerated** to enjoy them without raising an eyebrow.

My favorite book by the author is still Penelope, but *Murder At Rudhall Manor* could be very enjoyable too, if you are in the mood of **a historical comedy with a pretty good mystery**.

**I received a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review.*

? Irena ? says

3.5

A wonderfully ridiculous murder mystery. If Monty Python's Flying Circus had decided to write one, you would have ended up with something close to this. Every single character is exaggerated, their most prominent traits and faults put on display for all to see. Not one character is left alone. Don't approach this expecting it to be a usual historical murder mystery.

I might need a new shelf for this book. It isn't exactly historical fiction since there are precious few things that mark this as belonging to a certain period. There is no romance so it can't be a historical romance. It definitely is a *whodunnit* mystery.

The first chapter introduces you to Miss Lucy Anne Trotter just leaving an orphanage to work as a governess at Lord Sedley's manor. From her former teacher's comments one can see that Lucy is no ordinary girl.

'What else? Ah yes, do not rearrange Lord Sedley's library as you did for us when you were fifteen. It is not amusing. And don't even think of wriggling down a creeper.'

Lucy reminds me of another *hard to follow the rules* character, Penelope. Two characters from *Fairweather Sisters* series are mentioned too (Falcon and Philbert Woodbead).

The story then skips to three months later with Lucy being accused of theft of family jewels (*snicker*) and it takes two chapters for you to find out that Lord Sedley was murdered too. The Sedleys have issues with priorities.

Fortunately, a handsome and perfect Lord Adair agreed to investigate or simply agree that Lucy is guilty. Since she isn't someone who would just stand there and wait for the noose to tighten around her neck, Lucy decides to help herself and starts her own investigation, but unlike any other mystery so far, she messes everything up. Spectacularly, I might say.

The problem Lord Adair and Lucy have is that everyone hated the lusty old man. He hardly left his wife, daughter and two sons, even servants in sad tears.

'Along with his commanding voice he had also possessed a lusty temperament, a lineage that could be traced back a hundred years, and blood so blue that one was amazed to see his red cheeks. He also happened to have been four feet, eleven inches tall.'

One of Lucy's greatest problems is that she doesn't belong to either of the groups living in the manor. There is also a ghost in the manor ('Oh, smooth your hair. I don't like seeing it wave at the roof. It makes you look eerie.'), but if you think it would make much difference, you'd be mistaken. Apart from the two times the ghost helps her, Lucy has to help herself.

There are a couple of editing errors in the book, but not many ('Aunt Sedley shoved a finger in each ear and whizzed out of the room,'), but not as many to take you out of the story.

I started suspecting who the killer is early because it was already used in another very famous short story, but it suited this mystery's exaggerations well.

This can't be the end of Miss Lucy Anne Trotter's adventures. I hope this won't be the only book about her.

