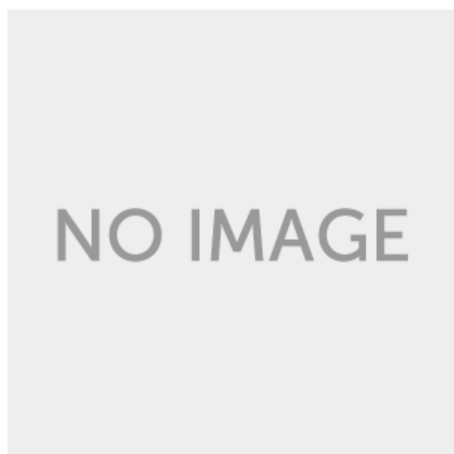


Death At The President's Lodging (U) by Michael Innes



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Inspector Appleby of Scotland Yard investigates the murder of the President of St. Anthony's university



Reviews of the Death At The President's Lodging (U) by Michael Innes

Frosha

While I enjoy reading good descriptive prose, Mr. Innes' use of archaic and pedantic language, as well as extremely verbose descriptions unfortunately bored me. I read the entire book because I wanted to know which person was the murderer. I pride myself somewhat on having a large vocabulary and read voraciously, but I constantly read words in this story that I've never read in 60 years. About two thirds through the book, editing failed for several sentences, including Appleby's name. By the end of the book when Appleby was revealing the murderer, I found myself skipping page after page of over-description. I dislike writing critical reviews but felt it necessary here, because the mystery itself is interesting.

Shakataxe

This was definitely the most hilariously convoluted mystery I ever read. It is a must-read for anyone who has spent any time at all in academia. The preciousness of academic types, the backbiting, the mutual loathing--it's all here. And Innes' writing is very, very elevated. Here we have exquisitely crafted sentences which actually required me to haul out my dictionary a number of times. If you want a respite from idiocy and vulgarity, Innes is it.

By the author of "It All Started with a Bicycle"

BlackBerry

Not for everyone. Very British. Writing very high level, plots very intellectual and complex, Vocabulary very high.

Innes is a great writer. I enjoyed the complexity. Some may not like the detail and find it pedantic.

If you like intelligent British mysteries, you will enjoy.

Main inspector very intelligent and witty

Cordanara

The best part of the book was in the first or so half. It felt like taking a ride in the narrator's brain. Then my brain became scrambled trying to keep track with all the times and characters whereabouts. The later part of the read seemed less intimate but necessary. Still in general it was a bit of a let down.

Jonariara

My favorite Inspector Appleby mysteries take place in an academic setting. This subset of his mystery novels is undoubtedly a byproduct of the many years that Michael Innes (whose real name was John Innes Mackintosh Stewart) spent laboring in the halls of academia. Among the seats of learning where he taught are Queen's University in Belfast, and the universities of Oxford, Adelaide, and Leeds.

The author could not help but involve a legion of eccentric, pompous, and even murderous professors in the death of the president of St. Anthony's College (modeled after the colleges at Oxford University). Their academic spats and bumbings are a good part of what makes this book readable. Innes is wickedly funny when it comes to poking fun at the habits of his donnish colleagues and undergraduates.

"Death at the President's Lodging" starts out as a locked room mystery where the only suspects are locked into the college grounds for the night. The president's body is found in his own library, but we gradually learn that the corpse was subject to a great deal of postmortem perambulation as his colleagues try to establish their own alibis and manufacture evidence that points to their academic enemies. Nothing is as it first seems, not even time of death.

A trio of undergraduates provides the comic relief as they chase one of the suspects (supposedly at an archeological dig in the Middle East) across the English countryside and finally deliver him to Inspector Appleby in a large wicker clothes basket (shades of Falstaff!).

As Inspector Appleby winds his way through the skeins of plot and counter-plot created by great intellects gone murderously askew, his intuition is played off against the rather unimaginative plodding of local Constable Dodd. Dodd is a bit of a dry stick compared to the irrepressible Appleby, who in his very first appearance in this mystery (published in 1936), is already showing signs of what his successor at Scotland Yard refers to as his 'waywardness.'

Enjoy Inspector John Appleby's literary debut for the hijinks of the undergraduates, the plots and counter-plots of their devious professors, and the erudite style of their donnish creator. The plot is overly complex, but it is brilliantly resolved and a lot of fun to read.

Coiriel

This one was a bit deceptive because I thought it was about murder in the White House. Nope. It's about the President of a British University - in a supposedly locked room. Gets a bit stodgy.

anonymous

Great read. Not a cozy mystery. A convoluted one!

Written in Agatha Christie's time but still entertaining today.

Interesting look at the English college system.

Excellent reader, very complex plotting which was somewhat difficult to follow at times. I'm happy I read it and felt disappointed it wasn't "a Classic" as it was extremely well written.

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