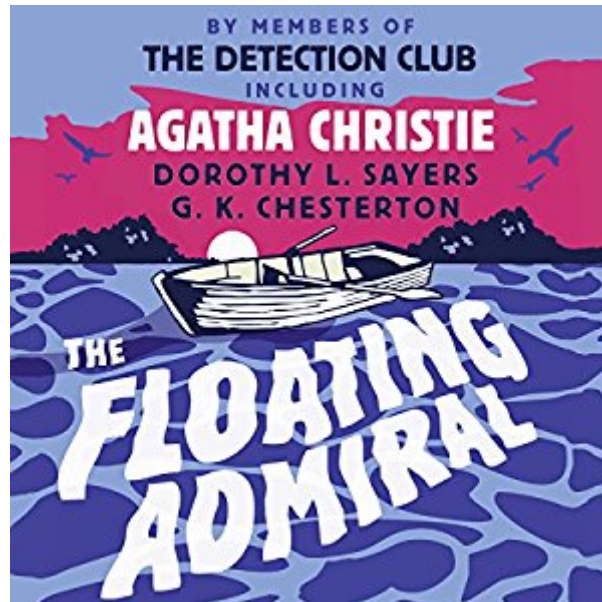




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The Floating Admiral



Synopsis

Inspector Rudge does not encounter many cases of murder in the sleepy seaside town of Whynmouth. But when an old sailor lands a rowing boat containing a fresh corpse with a stab wound to the chest, the Inspector's investigation immediately comes up against several obstacles. The vicar, whose boat the body was found in, is clearly withholding information, and the victim's niece has disappeared. There is clearly more to this case than meets the eye - even the identity of the victim is called into doubt. Inspector Rudge begins to wonder just how many people have contributed to this extraordinary crime and whether he will ever unravel it.... In 1931 Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers and 10 other crime writers from the newly formed Detection Club collaborated in publishing a unique crime novel. In a literary game of consequences, each author would write one chapter, leaving G. K. Chesterton to write a typically paradoxical prologue and Anthony Berkeley to tie up all the loose ends. In addition, all of the authors provided their own solutions in sealed envelopes, all of which appeared at the end of the book, with Agatha Christie's ingenious conclusion acknowledged at the time to be 'enough to make the book worth buying on its own'. The authors of this novel are G. K. Chesterton, Canon Victor Whitechurch, G. D. H. Cole and Margaret Cole, Henry Wade, Agatha Christie, John Rhode, Milward Kennedy, Dorothy L. Sayers, Ronald Knox, Freeman Wills Crofts, Edgar Jepson, Clemence Dane and Anthony Berkeley.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I thoroughly enjoyed this mystery. Didn't know what to expect with all these authors participating, but it was well written. The story concerns finding the body of a retired English navy admiral floating

down a river in the bottom of a boat. It was really meticulously written since each author had to write his or her chapter making certain it connected correctly with the previous chapters. Must have been somewhat difficult by the time the story reached later chapters. Interesting (to me) to note that Agatha Christie is listed as the first author because her chapter was only 8 pages. Of course, her chapter covered the local non-stop talking village gossip and it was typical Christie. The final chapter, some 63 pages and written by Anthony Berkeley, solves the mystery. Correct? Sort of. We then come to the appendix which is a book in itself. The other authors offer their solutions, Christie tongue in cheek, I think. Try this book if you love English mysteries.

Agatha Christie what more needs to be said

Sayer did say in her introduction that it was sort of game between the other members, that it was some of who added more and more elements in their chapter that could possibly be blended in a good story. It just seemed that some of the writers were just writing as if to say "see how you can get out of that one". Of course this book was never written with the mind to publish but as sharpening of the brain, according to Sayer, it was not enjoyable reading. At the end the book did let the reader into the mind of some of the writer's thinking processes and their storyline which WAS very enlightening in more ways than one. I have read other compilations with other authors which flowed really well. But this was a mess although some did take the task seriously it was lost by others.

Great fun and a must read for any fans of the Golden Age of Detective Fiction. It's fascinating comparing the writing styles of such crime fiction heavyweights as Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers and Anthony Berkeley (Francis Iles), to name a few. The only part of the book I wasn't fussed over was the revelation of all the contributing writers' proposed solutions at the end of the book after Anthony Berkeley had just tied up all the loose ends. Still, it's a great example of a style of writing that's long since gone out of vogue, with contributors as diverse as G.D.H. & Margaret Cole and Ronald A. Knox to enjoy!

Sounds like a clever idea: get the best living detective writers all together, and let each one write one chapter of a mystery book. However, it turns out to be (not particularly unexpectedly) a big, confusing mish-mash. Some of the characters are interesting. But they get jostled around so much from one author to the next that I should think they must have developed seasickness, jet lag, or

something of that sort. Unwieldy. The best part was (unsurprisingly) Agatha Christie's chapter which was filled with real characters talking real talk. (How I wished I hadn't finished reading all of her books by age 10! She was so wonderful.)

The story flowed well considering the number of people contributing to it.

The mystery itself is reasonably satisfying, but this book is most interesting for the insights offered on the styles and methods of mystery and detective fiction writers.

I liked most of these "Detection Club" presentations, but this one seemed to just ramble on and on and on and....Zzzzzzz.

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