

Dorothy L. Sayers

Detective Novels Bibliography

Dorothy L. Sayers published twelve detective novels and several volumes of mystery short stories. Each of the following titles is by Sayers; the books are best read in sequence:

WHOSE BODY? (originally published in 1923) -- Set in London, this book introduces Sayers's aristocratic detective, Lord Peter Wimsey.

CLOUDS OF WITNESS (orig. pub. 1926) -- Lord Peter Wimsey investigates a murder in which his brother, the Duke of Denver, is implicated.

UNNATURAL DEATH (orig. pub. 1927) -- A mysterious death with no apparent clues involves Lord Peter once again.

THE UNPLEASANTNESS AT THE BELLONA CLUB (orig. pub. 1928) -- Lord Peter attempts to solve the mysterious death of an elderly general at a gentlemen's club in London.

THE DOCUMENTS IN THE CASE (orig. pub. 1930) -- Sayers presents a mystery, without Lord Peter, and through the means of love notes and letters.

MURDER MUST ADVERTISE (orig. pub. 1933) -- Based on Sayers's own experience as an advertising copy writer, this mystery requires Lord Peter to go undercover in a London advertising firm.

FIVE RED HERRINGS (orig. pub. 1931) -- Lord Peter travels to Scotland where he encounters a dead body and five suspicious artists. The real-life location for this mystery was Kirkcudbright, Scotland, a favorite vacation spot for Sayers and her husband.

***STRONG POISON** (orig. pub. 1930) -- Lord Peter meets mystery novelist, Harriet Vane, who is on trial for the murder of her lover. He, in turn, falls in love with her, but must solve the mystery to save her.

NINE TAILORS (orig. pub. 1934) -- Set in the English Fen country of East Anglia, this is thought by many to be Sayers's finest detective story. It sets Lord Peter Wimsey amongst country churches and the intriguing tradition of change-ringing. Sayers grew up in this locale, when her father became rector of a Fens church.

***HAVE HIS CARCASE** (orig. pub. 1932) -- The second of the Harriet Vane books. Lord Peter and Harriet join forces to solve a mystery when the body disappears. This novel is set along the coast of Devon.

***GAUDY NIGHT** (orig. pub. 1935) -- Harriet returns to her Oxford college to help solve a series of unpleasant incidents.

***BUSMAN'S HONEYMOON** (orig. pub. 1937) -- The fourth Harriet Vane and Lord Peter story opens with their wedding in Oxford. Unfortunately, their country honeymoon soon becomes the occasion for solving still one more murder mystery. (This novel originated as a play of the same title.)

*Indicates each of the four Harriet Vane novels.

By Marjorie Lamp Mead