

Death is No Sportsman

Cyril Hare

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In the pastoral setting of Didford Parva and Didford Magna, four businessmen have bought the fishing rights of a reach of the River Didder and spend time at the Polworthy Arms. Against the idyllic backdrop however run local passions, rivalries and then murder. It is up to Inspector Mallet to draw upon his fishing knowledge to resolve the case.

Death is No Sportsman Details


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Author : Cyril Hare

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Bill says

A nice comfortable British mystery. Originally published in 1938, it features Scotland Yard Inspector Mallett, who coolly investigates, analyzes and solves the mystery of the murder of Sir Peter Packer. Many suspects, mainly centering around a fishing syndicate, a well-devised timeline and still a nice surprise (for me anyway) ending. Very enjoyable, easy to read, well-paced mystery. This is the second Cyril Hare mystery I've read and I've enjoyed both very much.

Kate says

For my full review click on the link below:
<https://crossexaminingcrime.wordpress...>

Emily says

Not the strongest mystery plot ever, and the solution was pretty weak. But still, Hare writes well enough to make the series worth pursuing.

Polly says

An Inspector Mallet mystery without Pettigrew--they more often feature together--but a pleasant English countryside mystery without anything too dreadfully cozy about it.

Berry says

Not the best Hare I've read, honestly, but still I give it a 4.5. The beginning is very dry but once things kick off it's a pretty fun read.

I was expecting more, I must say. It sort of feels like an Agatha Christie written by her rather staid guy friend. Which is probably close to the mark. Other Hares didn't feel this way to me--maybe it's the setting. There is some solid prose and great characters here but in my opinion the mystery is a little too dependent on timetables and maps instead of characters and plot.

If you like fly fishing or if you're curious about fly fishing, and if you like whodunits not just with maps but with a map you will reference about fifty times, then this book's for you. If you love Golden Age mysteries, this book's for you.

Leslie says

While I figured out a few aspects of the case early on, the actual solution was a surprise since my 'deductions' (really guesses) turned out to be misleading!

I am glad that there was a map of the area at the beginning of the book, as I referred to it several times while reading. Also, it was nice that Inspector Mallett, being a Londoner, needed to have some aspects of fly fishing explained to him so that I the reader could learn them too.

Susan says

The four men have clubbed together to purchase fishing rights for a stretch of the famous Diddier River, despite bad relations with the local landowner. But when he's found shot to death, they all come under suspicion. The fishing lore comes at the reader hot and heavy (wet and muddy?), but fortunately Inspector Mallett is only interested in catching a murderer.

Miriam says

This was an odd book for me because every time I picked it up I found it well-written and interesting, but it took me quite a while to finish it. Maybe it is because I don't know much about fishing. I did feel like the pace picked up once the police showed up on the scene, and some of the characters were very funny. I didn't like it as much as *An English Murder*, but I am still planning on reading more of Hare's books.
