



Death around the Bend

T E Kinsey

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September 1909, and Lady Hardcastle and her maid, Florence, have been invited to Lord Riddlethorpe's country estate for a week of motor racing and parties. They both agree that it sounds like a perfectly charming holiday. But when one of the drivers dies in a crash during the very first race, they discover that what seemed like an uncharacteristic error in judgement may have a more sinister explanation...

Closer investigation reveals that the driver's car was sabotaged—and the driver murdered. The local constabulary are quick to dismiss the case, but Flo and Lady Hardcastle are determined to find out just who has committed this dastardly act, and why.

As the pair begin to make enquiries of Lord Riddlethorpe's servants and guests, it seems that, below stairs and above, there is more to this case than meets the eye. And, even in the quiet of the countryside, death is always just around the bend.

Death around the Bend Details

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Author : T E Kinsey

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From Reader Review Death around the Bend for online ebook

S Dizzy says

What a fun ride!

With each successive story I find that I laugh more at the dialogue between Lady Hardcastle and Flo. So much fun!

Luce says

4 STARS for the audiobook.

Book 3 of the Lady Hardcastle Mysteries. Our pair, Lady Emily Hardcastle and her ladies maid and best friend, Florence Armstrong are invited to a country estate where they hope to take part in motor racing. There is a fatal car crash and Emily and Flo suspect foul play.

This is probably the better written of the series so far and as in the previous audiobooks the narrator, Elizabeth Knowelden does an excellent job, especially considering the number of characters - both upstairs and downstairs. I did guess the culprit about two thirds of the way in - just not the total how and what fors.

What I also enjoyed is we got even more information about the past adventures of Emily and Florence. Because most of the "upstairs" guests are strangers to the two, Emily tells them of their past when they ask if what they heard was true. Although I don't think it is written, but I pictured Flo rolling her eyes when Lady Hardcastle tells the stories, she often embellishes them - "Lady Hardcastle steadfastly refused to remember this part, though, having honed her version of events over many retellings into a tale to make ladies shriek". Flo also recounted some of her past to her roommate, a fellow visiting ladies maid.

I'm looking forward to the next edition to this series. I hope its not too long of a wait!

Gina Boyd says

Are there more cheerful sleuths in all of murder mystery-dom? I don't think so.

Siv30 says

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Dawn Michelle says

What a delightful series this has been [so far], and I believe that this, the third book, is by far the best of the series. The writing is crisper, the story flows better and there are enough red herrings to keep you guessing until the very end [and was I surprised at the end - WHEW!].

The friendship and comradery between Lady Hardcastle and Miss Armstrong is still as strong as ever in this one, but you do get to see more of how the "downstairs" people fair in that world as they are visiting friends of Lady Hardcastle's [who don't all abide with the idea of the gentry and servants mixing, E V E R]. Most of them change their mind about that and about Miss Armstrong by the end of the book, but it is an interesting look at the servant life and just what was endured by people who entered service in that time period.

This was a most excellent read. I am hoping that the author writes a fourth book and will be first in line to read it should he decide to do so.

Ivonne Rovira says

There's no rest for retired spy Emily, Lady Hardcastle, and her intrepid, sassy maid Florence "Flo" Armstrong. The pair head to Codrington Hall in Gloucestershire in the fall of 1909 at the invitation of Lady Hardcastle's brother and his fast friend from his university days. The friend, Lord Riddlethorpe, rather put me in mind of Mr. Toad from *The Wind in the Willows*, and, like Mr. Toad, Lord Riddlethorpe has gone gaga for motorcars. Lord Riddlethorpe — who everyone calls Fishy — has gone so far as to build several racecars himself and set up a racetrack at his home.

Naturally, the respite doesn't last. Fishy's senior driver for Codrington Racing dies in an "accident" that turns out to be no such thing: the brakes were snipped. So Lady Hardcastle and Armstrong investigate. While not quite as amusing as the first book in the series, *A Quiet Life in the Country*, nor as suspenseful as the second, *A Market for Murder*, readers — whether loyal fans or newbies — will thoroughly enjoy *Murder Around the Bend*, a perfectly charming No. 3 in the series.

Clare O'Beara says

This turn of the century murder mystery involves those newfangled motor cars, races for them and even industrial espionage. Great fun for those who can afford cars. Lady Hardcastle, who drives herself, gets involved after a death on a motor trial race gets ascribed to sabotage.

As usual the retired Crown agent is accompanied by her accomplished Welsh lady's maid, who shows us a lot of the work carried out by the downstairs staff while the upstairs set are relaxing.

Well researched and written, this is another very enjoyable book by this author. I downloaded an ARC from Net Galley. This is an unbiased review.

Kirsty 📚📖♥? says

A fun period cosy crime book. This is the first I've read of this series and thoroughly enjoyed it. It's entertaining and kept me hooked throughout all of it. Enjoyed the characters. Will definitely have a look out for the rest of the series.

Free arc from netgalley

FangirlNation says

In **Death around the Bend** by TE Kinsey, set in 1909, Lady Emily Hardcastle and her ladies' maid, Miss Florence Armstrong, indulge their love of the automobile by going to a week long party of car racing at Lord Riddlethorpe's estate. There are to be two races, one for men and one for women. But in the first race, the men's, as the cars go around the bend, the third car loses control and crashes, killing the driver. The police rule this a terrible accident, but the mechanic finds one of the brake cables cut. Someone has committed murder. So Lady Hardcastle and Flo get to work solving another murder.

Read the rest of this review, more reviews, and other wonderful, geeky articles on FangirlNation

Sophia says

Sparkling wit, upstairs/downstairs, motor racing, country house party, and a fantastic, unique female detecting pair to make Death Around the Bend a great listen.

This is my first encounter with the series though Death Around the Bend is book three. It can easily be read/listened to standalone or out of order. I had such a good time with it that I definitely plan to go back for the first pair.

Lady Hardcastle and her ladies' maid, Flo are a sparkling pair and I loved following along as they found their way to the solution in the country house party murder mystery. Even though this is the third book, there is a great backstory for this pair who have been together through thick and thin. Both have surprising talents that make them good detectives.

The book follows the usual style of introducing everybody, a murder, and then the slow working through to the solution. It was not a dramatic piece, but it did have the exciting climax point with a good denouement. There is also an adorable mini-mystery plot involving a ticklish problem for one of their neighbors that bookends the other mystery. Oh, and a bit of romance in the air for another side story for a few minor characters.

It was set in Edwardian Era England. I thought the story caught the tone of those times and balanced well, staying present enough to be noticed, but also not overtaking the other elements of the plot.

The cast of characters surrounding Lady Hardcastle and Flo were a great lot. There were the below stairs serving staff and the upstairs house party of the Earl and his guests.

Now the mystery itself was clever. I worked out the who and how and somewhat why out once I had enough clues, but there were a few parts that I had to wait to get until the solution was revealed.

I really only had one niggle and it was a teeny tiny one. 'What ho!' was often used by Lady Hardcastle so that I cringed each time Lady Hardcastle spotted Flo. I suspect its her signature greeting.

The narrator, Elizabeth Knowelden, was new to me. She had a great plummy English accent for the upper class characters and her voices for all the levels in the servant's hall was superbly done. She had a huge cast to read and they were all distinct and I could easily distinguish them. She added an extra layer of goodness to an already good book. I'm pretty sure that the series would lose a little shine if I didn't experience the rest of it with her narration.

So, all in all, this was an abso-fab story and I will definitely be getting the rest of the series. Historical mystery/cozy mystery fans should definitely give this book/series a go.

My thanks to Brilliance Audio for the opportunity to listen to this book in exchange for an honest review.

Cindy Rollins says

In its genre, this is at least 4 stars, but for my overall reading, it is a very solid 3. My husband gets this series on Audible and whenever I need a light mystery or diversion I read one. This one was quite good. I enjoyed the characters although it was a little tricky keeping up with all of them on audio.

Lisa says

This series is really growing on me! Lady Hardcastle and her Ladies maid Flo are great fun and rather good at solving mysteries.

If you want a funny and cosy murder mystery look no further!

Brenda says

Lady Hardcastle and her maid, and good friend, Florence Armstrong were looking forward to a week in the country at Lord Riddlethorpe's estate – Lady Hardcastle's brother Harry would be there and she hadn't seen him in awhile. The newly invented motor cars that were going to be making their debut on the estate's new racing track were the main draw for the friends who were all arriving – the accompanying parties were another enticement.

But when disaster struck the day of the first race, the initial thought of driver error was soon forgotten. Was

it murder? The police didn't believe so, which meant Lady Hardcastle and Flo set to work immediately to discover the culprit. As secrets came to light, it seemed there were sinister plans afoot. But would Lady Hardcastle and Flo find answers before it was too late?

Death Around the Bend by T E Kinsey is the 3rd in the Lady Hardcastle cosy mysteries, and my first by this author. I thoroughly enjoyed it – set in the early 1900s, it is highly entertaining with many laugh out loud moments. Lady Hardcastle and Flo are great characters with their dry wit and great camaraderie – I have no hesitation in recommending this cosy mystery; and I'll be looking at reading the two prior to this one as well.

Phrynn says

I am not much of a fan of the modern cosy mystery but I always enjoy these period ones. Death around the Bend is set in the early 1900's and has the upstairs /downstairs settings of the old English country house, horses and carts as well as the newly invented motor cars and lots of high teas and croquet on the lawn. Lovely!

I very much enjoyed the characters of Lady Hardcastle and her ladies maid, Florence Armstrong. They have a great relationship and exchange frequent, witty banter. Lady Hardcastle is quite forward thinking and treats Florence more like a friend than a servant but as they try to solve a variety of murders they find that having a 'spy' downstairs is very useful.

The mystery is cleverly constructed and I came nowhere near guessing the culprit although with hindsight it was pretty obvious. Nicely written and full of interesting vocabulary - I had to resort to the dictionary twice , once for bimble and once for jentacular. I don't think I will be using the latter but I just have to remember bimble for future use.

Highly recommended for anyone who enjoys a quality cosy mystery.

Meg says

Another delightful addition to the adventures of Lady Hardcastle and her sidekick, Flo, this one set at a friend's country estate during the early days of car racing.
