



Murder on the Caronia

Conrad Allen

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Genevieve Masfield and George Porter Dillman have met all kinds of people while sailing as ship detectives for the Cunard Line. But as they prepare to embark on yet another Atlantic crossing, this time aboard the famous Caronia, they encounter an entirely new circumstance: two men brandishing shotguns herd a man and a woman aboard ship in shackles, right in front of scores of baffled passengers.

Curious, the two detectives come to find out that the young couple have been captured in New York by Scotland Yard and are being transported back to England to stand trial for murder. Before long, George and Genevieve have a chance to talk to the Scotland Yard officers, and come away far less than convinced that the captured couple are the vicious criminals they're thought to be.

Of course, no matter how much they'd like to follow up on the hunch that the two may not be guilty, they've got a ship full of their standard responsibilities: purse-snatching passengers, stateroom burglars, professional poker cheats, and, of course, drug traffickers posing as high-class travelers. But the hunch just won't go away, and George knows he'll just have to find time to check into the situation. All in all, it's another hugely fun romp on the high seas for two detectives rapidly becoming fan favorites in Conrad Allen's inventive historical series.

Murder on the Caronia Details

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Author : Conrad Allen

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From Reader Review Murder on the Caronia for online ebook

Jharper2 says

I enjoy the Dillman/Masefield books, but this one was spoiled a bit by having a plot based on the smuggling of opiates, which were, with the exception of opium for smoking in the United States, entirely legal and generally sold through pharmacies.

That quibble aside, it was a complex and well - plotted mystery, with several sub-plots and crimes to solve.

The writing was the best of the Dillman/Masefield books so far, the author is really hitting his stride with this duo. The period atmosphere is generally well summoned and used. The romance of travel, when the Atlantic liner were the only way to cross the ocean are well explored.

This is not entirely cozy, the crimes and violence are real, and the detection is more than an intellectual exercise.

I recommend this book, the fault that I know too much history and cannot suspend for time my critical facility is mine.

Lynn says

Read: March 31, 2004

Re-Read: March 17-28, 2016

Cathy Houston says

Cleverly plotted mystery; kept me guessing to the very end

Laurie says

Very well written. Story more of the murder on board as well as the passengers and life on board. Didn't get bogged down with mechanics of ship! Good read!

Laura Edwards says

A three. Barely. The allure of Genevieve Masefield's beauty came off a little heavy-handed in this one. The way so many men were talking about her, with some even falling in love and wanting to marry her after a few brief conversations was ridiculous. You'd think she was Helen of Troy or something. And I really didn't care for the murder case brought onto the ship as opposed to the main crime happening during the voyage. And I still see very little clues which pointed to Stanley Chase as the smuggler. The drug smuggling aspect of the mystery was just wrapped up a little too quickly and unsatisfactorily. The best part was the interplay between Isadora and Theo. Too bad Theo was infatuated with Genevieve for most of the trip when seeing him with Isadora would have been much more enjoyable.

Samantha says

Fluffy, fast read. Entertaining, but somewhat predictable. That being said, it nicely rounded out my 'theme reading' project for that particular cruise vacation.

Diane Heath says

This is one of the earlier books in this series. It is the second one I have read and I do think it is prior to the marriage of the two detectives. On this trip to England, George and Genevieve have the usual crimes to solve (pickpockets) as well as searching for a drug smuggling group. They have competition in the way of two Scotland Yard detectives who have arrested two suspects for murder back in England. When another murder occurs (and again someone sees a body dumped overboard) George and Genevieve have a plethora of suspects to investigate.

Bonnie says

I like these 'ocean liner mysteries' (my term) that Conrad Allen has written. Each one gives a good picture of the people and society of the times, as well as detailed descriptions and comparisons of the different ships. And always an interesting mystery or two to solve.

Adam Walker says

A fun easy read. This shipboard cozy is filled with fun, quirky characters. Just wait till you meet Mrs. Anstruther!

Bev says

Wonderful period mystery series. Can't resist the charm of the ocean liner era.

Saleh MoonWalker says

Onvan : Murder on the Caronia (George Porter Dillman & Genevieve Masefield, #4) - Nevisande : Conrad Allen - ISBN : 312280912 - ISBN13 : 9780312280918 - Dar 336 Safhe - Saal e Chap : 2003

Mark Macatee says

Very enjoyable.

QNPoohBear says

3.5 stars

Dillman and Genevieve are back to sailing across the Atlantic for the Cunard Line. The crew has reason to believe someone is smuggling drugs on board the ship and need the expertise of our hero and heroine to find out who and where. This time there are two policemen on board guarding two notorious criminals, lovers who fled England for Ireland and then America after murdering the man's wife. Dillman offers his and Genevieve's help but the police feel they can handle it on their own. The female prisoner feels especially frightened of Sargent Mulcaster whose methods of interrogation are especially harsh. The prisoners maintain their innocence but the police insist they are guilty until proven otherwise. When Sargent Mulcaster goes missing, Inspector Redfern, the purser, Dillman and Genevieve are all puzzled. The ramblings of a drunk old man may crack the case or perhaps both cases, if he can be believed, or neither if he's imagining things. Genevieve's investigations are hampered by the adoring friendship of almost twenty-one-year-old Isadora Singleton, a dollar princess being brought to England to parade in front of titled gentlemen. Genevieve also has to put up with the amorous attentions of Theo Wright, a renowned American cyclist whose goal is to win the Bordeaux-to-Paris race. His trainer insists on early morning and late night practices on the boat deck and works hard to keep Theo in good condition and feels anything outside of training is a distraction. Will Genevieve be able to help Dillman find the drug smugglers? What will happen to the prisoners? Are they as innocent as they seem?

This book falls back on the old pattern with the focus on Genevieve, Dillman and jumping into the heads of other characters. I didn't like seeing what other characters were up to. It felt awkward and distracting after the smooth flow of the previous book. In fact, I'm revising my rating for that book. I found the characters in this story rather annoying. I'm sure there was an Edwardian version of *He's Just Not That Into You* I wish Genevieve had to give to her admirers. The brash Yorkshireman and the American antiques dealer were equally annoying in their own ways. The mystery of the drug smugglers was not at all easy to guess. I figured out something but was completely surprised. Someone is not mentioned in the book frequently enough for me to remember who they were. I also thought the story was rushed at the very end. The mystery of the dead wife was fascinating, especially since *Downton Abbey* had the same plot. The big twist at the end was a big surprise. The period details are a little less obvious in this book but they stopped blathering on about the ship's amenities. The ship is what it is and that's worked into the story. This isn't the most exciting book in the series but I don't think the writing has fallen off at all.

Cornelia says

It's 1908 and ship detectives, George Porter Dillman and Genevieve Masfield solve thefts and a murder on board the luxury passenger ship, the Caronia as it sails from New York to England. A man and a woman, John Heritage, a pharmacist, and Carrie Peterson, his assistant and mistress, are taken aboard in the custody of two Scotland Yard detectives both charged with murdering Mrs. Heritage, John's wife by poison. One of the Scotland Yard detectives soon goes missing and George Porter Dillman discovers he was actually murdered and thrown overboard.

As always interesting passengers, including a famous American cyclist, and a glimpse of life in first class on a lush passenger ship of days gone by. A charming, cozy mystery. I love this series.

Nancy Oakes says

This is the 4th installment of the series featuring the shipboard detective team of Dillman and Masefield. The year is 1908, and once again the crime-solving couple are back on the Cunard line, this time on the Caronia, which is sailing back to England. The last of the passengers to board are 2 men escorting a young man and young woman onto the ship, one of the men holding a shotgun. It turns out that they are both from Scotland Yard, and they are transporting the couple back to England to stand trial for the murder of the man's wife. He is a pharmacist by trade, his now deceased wife was somewhat of a shrew. However, both of these suspects insist that they are innocent of the crime. Meanwhile, Dillman and Masefield are alerted to the fact that the Caronia is being used to smuggle drugs into the UK by someone on this particular voyage, so they must keep eyes and ears open. Once again, as in each of these mysteries, there is a wealth of suspects. Things quickly turn for the worse as there is a murder on board.

So far this mystery series tends to follow the same pattern; I was actually hoping for something a wee bit different this time, but alas. It was not to be so. I think if you enjoy formulaic mysteries throughout an entire series, then you should really like this book. Others, such as myself, who like variety within a series, may be a bit disappointed that aside from the ship name and the crimes, things tend to remain the same as they have in the prior three novels. I think I'd recommend this one more to people who enjoy the "cozy" genre of mystery rather than those who are looking for a mystery in which to sink their teeth.

Ah well, onward in the series for me!

Cheryl says

More George Dillman and Genevieve Masefield fun!

Tomi says

Nice light mystery - I'm a sucker for anything on a ship!
