



They Found Him Dead

Georgette Heyer

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It is the morning after wealthy Silas Kane's sixtieth birthday party - a celebration that brings to light a number of familial controversies. When Kane is found dead at the foot of a cliff, the assumption is that he simply lost his way in the fog and fell by accident. But the subsequent death of his nephew and heir and threats on the life of the third Kane, the newest heir, raises obvious suspicion, and the redoubtable investigative skills of Superintendent Hannasyde prove critical once again.

They Found Him Dead Details

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From Reader Review They Found Him Dead for online ebook

Kathryn says

They Found Him Dead is another Heyer mystery. Like the others I've read so far, it was an English country house murder mystery, in which there's a relatively small number of suspects, and the characters are likeable. Hannasyde and Hemingway are the detectives in this one.

I got suspicious of the culprit long before any of the characters, and spent the last third of the book yelling "WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO SUSPECTS THIS GUY?!?" I was a little disappointed that I was so far ahead of the characters - usually, I'm slightly ahead, right there with them, or behind (I'm not particularly good at figuring out whodunits).

Overall, another decent whodunit. Not an exemplar of the genre, by any means, but not bad, either.

Sophia says

Slowly, but surely I've been making my way through Heyer's mysteries. Earlier this year, I read *Duplicate Death* and encountered Jim and Pat Kane along with Jim's half-brother, Timothy Harte. Chief Inspector Hemingway indicates that he had earlier dealings with the family. I was tickled to discover that *They Found Him Dead* was the story of those dealings.

While many of the author's mysteries lean more toward solving the case, this one read almost like one of her light and sparkling Regency Romance Comedies. The family members are colorful and eccentric and the story of their doings seems more focal than the investigation. This became especially true when Jim Kane's step father and mother made an appearance (they turned out to be my favorite characters in the story).

Though, that said, the murders are definitely on everyone's mind including the police. I admit to spending most of the book wondering if the first murder was even a murder at all. And, the truth is that everyone either had motive or opportunity or both.

I feel like the cat that got into the cream because this was one I had no trouble fingering the killer, the motive, and the method right away (it's all that Agatha Christie reading). This took a bit of the shine off the story, but not much.

And, I don't mean to sound disloyal here, but between having Superintendent Hannasyde or Chief Inspector Hemingway as the leads for the police investigation, I think I prefer Hemingway. This is mostly because he cracks me up and seems more present. He was Hannasyde's sergeant in this one and his 'psychology' remarks had me smiling.

All in all, it was a moderately good outing and I had a good time slipping into an English Country House Murder set in the 30's, I think. The author never fails to pull me in with her overall storytelling or her characters.

Tweety says

This kept me guessing!

One of Heyer's better mysteries IMO, the characters are enjoyable if not all likable and the plot clips along at a good pace. I did have pretty good idea as to who the murderer was, but it didn't spoil the story for me.

The romance was rather sudden starting in chapter one, but it worked and I liked the two of them. I really did enjoy this and you can't beat the imp Terrible Timothy, who goes about getting into mischief and helping the detectives solve the case.

Recommend if you like cozy mysteries that don't leave you confused if you need to put it down for other things.

G A few swears, murder and that's about it.

Storm Reads says

Silas Kane just turned sixty and everyone has gathered for the occasion. The party is not going so well as it is marred with arguments. When money is involved nothing can ever go well. Silas decides to go for a walk in the fog and the next morning he is found dead. Everyone thinks it was just an accident, that he slipped and fell of the cliff in the fog, but then someone shoots Clement, the hier.

Now we can tell that this murder mystery is all about who will inherit, Silas Kane's money and who has the greatest motive to kill. Everyone is a suspect, Mrs. Kane didn't even shed a tear when she heard her husband was dead. Rosemary couldn't wait to move into the bigger house and get more money. Mr. Harte was always saying something about knowing that the night looked like a great time for a murder. Joe Mansell was mad because Silas wouldn't expand the firm like he and his partners wanted. Everyone has a motive for murder, but who is the real killer and why?

Talk about your big whodunit, Georgette Heyer lays out a great murder mystery in her book They Found Him Dead. This one the first book I have ever read by this author and its a classic (1937) I wish I could say that I had some great authors to compare her too from these early era's but I am sorry to say I have not read as much of the classics as I would like too. Shame on me I know, but I have never even read a Agatha Christy novel, but I am sure Georgette Heyer would rank up there with her in great murder mystery authors.

It was a little hard for me to read about times, but most classics are if you are not use to them. Books from different time era's just read different. That doesn't mean that she couldn't deliver a great book. I always thought I might have guessed who had done it, but I was a bit surprised at the ending.

The characters reminded me a bit of reading a Austen novel, the were funny and witty and loathed each other. It is always fun to read about rich families and how much they pretend to love each other as long as they get the money. Though sometimes the dialogue was hard for me to follow, it was fun and brought the characters to life.

I would recommend this book to anyone who is a fan of whodunits.

Sensitivemuse says

I find that when I read Georgette Heyer novels, I keep on thinking; "Okay this one was better than the last one I read..." then I read this one and it's like: "Okay nevermind, this one was THE BEST one I've read so far!" I have a feeling that's going to keep happening whenever I read one of her mysteries (I still have yet to try her regency ones). I absolutely loved this one and will put this one up as one of my favorite mysteries from Heyer as of yet.

As usual, there is a rather large list of suspects and everyone seems to have some sort of motive for the murder. However, what's different from this book and the others is, I found there was quite a bit more action and the characters in this book have much more personality and are "fleshed" out, and they have their own distinct personalities. The action added a lot more intrigue to the book and kept me interested. I had a hunch who was behind the plot, but because of the frequent twists and the suspicion being thrown all over the place I kept on second guessing myself. However, even though my first guess was right, the way it was solved was interesting and never the way I expected it to be. The plot was engaging and intriguing. It's not a thriller per se, but it's got the feel of a classic whodunit mystery which will keep the reader interested. There's a bit of comedy included, with witty backtalk and remarks that will induce a chuckle or two.

As I have mentioned previously, the characters in this book were one of the most interesting I've ever read from Heyer's works. Rosemary has to be one of the most annoying and most self absorbed I have ever read. Although she was extremely irritating, she also made me laugh the most because of her stupidities, and the fact that although other characters have told her to be quiet, it just doesn't faze her. I liked Lady Harte even though her arrival in the book is a little too late. She was sharp and the way she had spoken to Rosemary was funny and to the point (Eventually, I think Rosemary got the hint).

The only complaint I had with this book is, it got a little dry towards the end of the book. You don't literally find out who was behind the murders until the last few pages. It went in a mini circle for no reason. Otherwise, this is one of Heyer's better mysteries.

Overall, an enjoyable read filled with mystery and intrigue. Greatly recommended for Georgette Heyer mystery fans everywhere.

Pamela Shropshire says

This book is set in the Golden Age of British detective fiction: between the two world wars. The events occur at a country house of a solidly upper middle class family; at stake is a fortune of a quarter of a million pounds.

The head of the family dies in a presumed accident when he falls from a cliff path on a foggy night during his customary bedtime walk. A cursory investigation doesn't reveal any evidence of foul play; indeed, at the end of the story, we still don't know for certain that he was murdered.

His cousin is his heir and successor to the family business, and he is shot in his study only a few days later. The next in line is luckier - a couple of "accidents" do not result in his death.

Inspector Hannasyde and Sergeant Hemingway are on the case and of course, they eventually solve the case and bring the killer to justice.

One of Ms. Heyer's best detective stories. I will say a family tree would have been helpful to keep straight a rather daunting cast of characters, though. Not as witty as some of her works, but a better constructed whodunit. As usual, a couple of characters have a HEA ending.

Ivonne Rovira says

Silas Kane, the rich bachelor who heads the successful firm of Kane & Mansell, literally walks off a cliff during a walk on the foggy night of his 60th birthday party. Police rule the death a terrible accident — until, not a month later, Kane's great-nephew and heir is murdered. Who benefits from the deaths? And is the next heir the perpetrator? Or the next victim?

While *They Found Him Dead* is the third of the four novels Georgette Heyer's Hannasyde series, readers can enjoy the novel without reading earlier books. In fact, having read the novel immediately before this one, *Behold, Here's Poison*, I recommend skipping that stinker altogether. In contrast, *They Found Him Dead* is a breezy, fun read for fans of Dorothy L. Sayers or Patricia Wentworth. Sure, the characters here are somewhat less than believable, and readers will have figured out the culprit halfway through the novel; however, Heyer's novel still includes enough thrills and clever wordplay to make the ride worth taking.

Andrea says

One of Heyer's weakest mysteries, with the culprit painfully obvious from around a third of the way through. There is some leavening humour, from Timothy's exploits to Rosemary's incredible narcissism. The (already-settled) romantic relationship falls flat for me, since Jim switches from dismissing and not taking Patricia's concerns seriously to taking them seriously and trying to hide all developments from her. I really can't take "protect the fragile woman" stories.

Ann says

This is a classic English mystery novel from 1937. Silas Kane, principal partner of a prosperous business, falls off a cliff and dies. Is it an accident or murder? Then a few weeks later, his heir is shot. So now the business changes hands once more, much to the consternation of the extended Kane and Mansell families. Then it becomes clear that there is more murderous intent floating around.

The strength of the book is in the characters. There's Emily Kane, a cantankerous but not stupid old lady, who looks upon the antics of her family and associates with an unsentimental eye. There's the young companion who tries to keep the household running, while still savoring her romance with a family member. There's Sir Harte, who takes remoteness to a whole new level, especially compared with his wife, who's been rampaging around Africa with a set of guns and a canvas tent. There's the lovely Rosemary, endlessly interested in her own emotional states, and divided between her instinct for gold digging and her love of emotional drama. Oh, and there's an overfond mother whose offspring can generally be relied on to disrupt any meal or gathering. And yes, there are tea-parties on the lawn! All good fun!

Jessica says

The only other Heyer mystery I've read (*No Wind of Blame*) reminded me of Wodehouse. This one made me want to read Wodehouse instead.

Ely says

Originally posted at <http://abooksofathomless.blogspot.com...>

I feel like Georgette Heyer is one of those authors that really isn't as popular as she should be. Most of her books (of which there are about fifty five or so) are regency romances a la Jane Austen, twelve of them, however, are crime/mystery novels. I love murder mystery novels, I honestly do- so it's no surprise to me that I adored this book.

Characters play a massive role in mystery novels, as does the plot- you may think this is the same for every genre of book, but I believe the emphasis is put on these two aspects in mystery novels more than any other genre. The characters within 'They Found Him Dead' were all brilliantly constructed- there are of course the characters you are made to love, the ones you hate and the ones you just can't seem to figure out.

The plot was also brilliant- the actual summary of this book does absolutely no justice to the actual plot. There are so many twists and turns and little details that make you wonder who the murderer is and whether other people might be protecting them. One of my favourite things about mystery novels is trying to work out who the murderer is going to be, and I especially enjoy it when I pick the completely wrong person. I admit, the murderer was not who I thought it was, but that just made the book even more interesting for me.

If you're a big fan of Agatha Christie like me or if you just like mystery novels, you should definitely give Georgette Heyer a go. And if mysteries aren't your thing but romances are, I would definitely suggest checking out of her regency novels.

Debbie says

"They Found Him Dead" is a mystery set in the 1930s in England. I think this is my favorite of the Heyer mysteries that I've read so far. The characters were nicer and less, um, neurotic, than normal, so I actually liked them rather than simply finding them interesting or amusing. The humor in this book was provided by Timothy's youthful ideas and antics regarding the murder. I found all of the characters complex and engaging.

As usual, Heyer introduced a large number of characters at the very beginning, many of whom had non-typical connections to each other. This made for a somewhat slow start as I tried to figure out all the "who is who," but the pacing picked up and was excellent after that.

The mystery was very clever. I did guess correctly who-did-it and why about halfway through, but only because I've read way too many mysteries. And I still thoroughly enjoyed discovering if each new clue supported my theory or not. One thing that I thought particularly clever was that Heyer had her Inspector go through all the possible culprits the same way the reader is so it's not simply a matter of picking the one suspect that no one is looking at closely.

There was very minimal bad language and no sex. Overall, I'd highly recommend this mystery as well-written and entertaining clean reading.

I received this book as a review copy from the publisher.

Jemma says

Pretty good, but I had it worked out quite early on.....

Hannah says

Another genuinely fun Golden Age mystery by Georgette Heyer.

On a foggy evening, conservative businessman Silas Kane irritably celebrates his 60th birthday with family and business associates and then proceeds to walk off a cliff - the apparent victim of an accidental fall. However, not 2 weeks later his heir, Clement Kane, is found shot through the head in his study. Afterwards, the 2nd heir to the Kane fortune, Jim Kane, is experiencing a series of misfortunes that may or may not be "accidents". Scotland Yard Superintendent Hannasyde arrives on the scene to determine what's going on in the Kane family that seems to be striking down each heir apparent. There's no shortage of suspects, and no solution within easy grasp. It takes the combined efforts of Hannasyde, Sargent Hemingway, and Jim Kane's prococious 15 year old step brother to solve the case and unmask the killer.

As usual, Heyer provides plenty of sparkling dialog and scatters enough red herrings within the plot to make this an enjoyable read.

Linda says

Two big biographies in one month required a frothy little read to cleanse the palate before I dig into the February titles. So I grabbed a Georgette Heyer mystery — "They Found Him Dead" — from a stack of them prominently displayed at the Meadowridge library. The placement and the luscious colors on the cover instantly hooked me.

Over the summer, I read my first Heyer mystery, "Why Shoot a Butler," which I described as a "romp." But I have to admit that Heyer mysteries just don't have the same spark of life and liveliness as her Regency novels. Both mysteries I've read have the the same kind of broad age span and type of character, including a romantic pairing, as the novels, but none are as memorable.

The mystery is always plausible (though this time I figured out the killer quite early on) and they're never bloody, even when the victim is shot in the head, as is the case in this story of successive heirs to a fortune being murdered for reasons that aren't entirely clear til the end. I need to avert my eyes the next time I spy one of those seductive covers on a cold gray day. They're definitely more entertaining than what's between them.

Rebekah says

Enjoyed this very much on Audible. I had read this many years ago, and was reminded of who the murderer

was early on. Jim Kane's mother and stepfather were a hoot. Rosemary was a well drawn type and suitably contemptible. All the other characters, except "Terrible" Timothy were bland: vaguely likable or unlikable as the case maybe. I look forward to reading Duplicate Death with features an adult Tim as the lead.

Teri-K says

This book would be a good choice for those who want to make the transition from Heyer's romances to her mysteries, as it focuses on mostly likable people and has a fair amount of clever dialogue. Terrible Timothy and his parents provide nice comic relief, which some of her other mysteries lack. Plus there's a romance, charming though low key.

As a mystery goes there are plenty of suspects. The reader may hit on the culprit early, but plenty of red herrings keeps you guessing. I don't care, personally, if I figure it out (or remember) because I read these books more for the characters and dialogue than anything. But Heyer, like Christie, knows how to pack her stories with lots of potential murderers so you never find yourself thinking that there's really only one viable suspect. In fact, I'd rate this up with Christie's best as a puzzle.

The only weakness is that I felt the case was solved, not because of some event pushing the story to completion, but because it was time for it to end. So our detectives suddenly reasoned their way to the correct solution. The first time I listened to this - instead of reading it - I actually got my print copy and looked to see if I'd missed some clue as to why they solved it when they did. There was no clue, Hannasyde just suddenly knew where to look. That spoils the ending just a bit for me, as I like the detectives to use their brains to solve a case, not just finish running down all the possibilities. Still this is really fun to read and reread and over the decades has become a favorite of mine.

NB - You can see a grown-up Timothy in Duplicate Death, where his fiancé becomes a suspect and he decides to clear her name, meeting up with his old friend Hemmingway.

The audio version is all right, but not excellent. Unfortunately. The narrator does an adequate but not great job. She speaks so slowly I have to really speed it up a lot, and her men and women's voices can be hard to tell apart.

Amy says

Georgette Heyer is a reliable comfort read. Her books are breezy, light, and uncomplicated, typically featuring a murder in a country house. As usual, there are two completely different female characters: one practical and organized, and the other totally bananas; their respective love interests; a host of wacky characters/suspects; one completely nefarious character who is so terrible it's obvious that he is a red herring; and the sensible police detective. Everything gets tidied up in the end - the murder is solved, inheritances are rightly restored, and true love prevails.

Abigail Hartman says

I enjoyed *The Grand Sophy* so much that I keep returning to Heyer's novels, hoping for such another light,

fun read. So far - with *Regency Buck*, *Why Shoot a Butler?*, and now *They Found Him Dead* - I've been pretty disappointed. *The Grand Sophy* has brilliant characters, crackling wit, and just the kind of romance I enjoy; the others, especially the two mysteries, have either unlikeable or unremarkable characters and more banter than real wit. Jim Kane and Patricia Allison are nice enough, but since the narration moves around so much and is so omniscient, their characters are left one-dimensional and...well, average. I found that true of the mystery as a whole, especially compared to the psychological complexity of Agatha Christie or the deductive logic of Arthur Conan Doyle: *They Found Him Dead* is rather anticlimactic. (view spoiler) I probably shouldn't judge a book by something else the author wrote, or by other, very different books in the same genre; all the same, though, I got to the end and just thought, "Meh."

pinknantucket says

It pains me to give two stars to anything by Georgette Heyer but after an initial stab at it I did only find myself picking it up when I woke up too early and couldn't get back to sleep. It got better towards the end, but it wasn't very gripping. Heyer does really like to dwell on her characters foibles, often through long bits of dialogue, and it wasn't really doing it for me this time. Inspector Hannasyde felt like just one of a large cast, not anyone particularly compelling in his own right. Also I did start thinking about how all these Agatha Christie-era murder mysteries are always set within a certain CLASS of people...

But, you know, sometimes you might just be in the mood for this kind of thing.

My copy: bought new at the Book Grocer (cheap)
