



New York Nocturne: The Return of Miss Lizzie (Miss Lizzie, #2)

Walter Satterthwait

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Lizzie Borden and Amanda Burton reunite to solve the case of a grisly murder among Jazz Age New York's elite in this riveting mystery from bestselling author Walter Satterthwait. Sixteen-year-old Amanda is spending the summer with her suave and easygoing uncle John at the Dakota Apartments, opposite the green sprawl of New York's Central Park. When John isn't doing something mysterious with stocks and bonds, he and Amanda enjoy the very best the Roaring Twenties have to offer. However, in a single brutal night, everything changes. Suddenly Amanda is alone, far from home, and fighting for her life in a city that has abandoned her. Fortunately, there's one person Amanda can trust: Miss Lizzie Borden. Together, they'll manage to work out a twisted passage toward what might be survival through the narrow streets of nighttime New York.

New York Nocturne: The Return of Miss Lizzie (Miss Lizzie, #2) Details

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From Reader Review New York Nocturne: The Return of Miss Lizzie (Miss Lizzie, #2) for online ebook

Jon says

You have to take this latest confection from Walter Satterthwait pretty much on its own terms. It's set in the same period as the Miss Fisher murder mysteries (1924) and is about as serious. I very much enjoyed Satterthwait's Joshua Croft series; but I thought his historical mysteries were a little less successful. Maybe I took them too seriously. The first *Miss Lizzie*, written some 27 years ago, involved young Amanda Burton, who in 1921 came downstairs from a nap to find her wicked stepmother chopped to bits on the kitchen floor. Of course their next door neighbor is a little old lady named Lizzie Borden, who becomes Amanda's closest friend. Together they solve the case. Here the now 16-year-old Amanda is involved in a similar incident in New York City. Miss Lizzie is around again, and again they, along with a mysterious Jack Reacher clone and (yes) a witty Dorothy Parker, solve the case. The local color, from Harlem and the Cotton Club to Park Avenue and the Algonquin, is vividly (and I guess accurately) described. In the denouement, Miss Lizzie (who is also incidentally a card sharp) gets in a poker game with Arnold Rothstein, the notorious head of organized crime, who invented the speakeasy and who fixed the 1919 World Series. She cheats successfully and cleans his clock. Mayhem ensues, but everything comes out all right. Like the first book, this one is written first-person by a much older Amanda, who has apparently spent her life as an adventuress finding excitement all over the world. Hints about her later exploits are dropped along the way, much like the Sherlock Holmes reference to the Giant Rat of Sumatra, "a story for which the world is not yet ready." I hope Satterthwait decides that the world is ready for more of hers.

Neil says

I've read all of Walter Satterthwait novels. They're excellently paced, surprising, insightful, irreverent... and worth every second. Every time I finish one, I feel that unique satisfaction of having just experienced a really good story.

Heather says

Really a 2.5. The beginning was entertaining, but I felt the story really lagged in the last half. The characters were fine, though it seemed like the most entertaining ones didn't get enough to do. The main character, Amanda, is fine. She's likable enough and believable as a teenage girl. My main problem with the characters was Miss Lizzie. It seemed utterly unnecessary to have Lizzie Borden in this. I know this is part of a series, but I feel it would have been better with a change of characters and made into a stand only book. If you are going to have such a recognizable person such as Borden, make it worth it. This book didn't do that. Lizzie was, dare I say it, boring.

One thing I felt was strange about the writing was that there was a *lot* of blatant foreshadowing. There was even foreshadowing about things that happened well into the character's lives (this is written as a memoir) that we read nothing about. Maybe they were set ups for upcoming books? I don't know. Considering GoodReads doesn't even list this as part of a series (though it is apparently a sequel to *Miss Lizzie*), it's hard to say. But I thought they were distracting and unnecessary.

I received this copy via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Mary (Biblophile) says

A delightful follow up to the first in the series. Miss Lizzie and Amanda team up to find the murderer of her uncle. You get the feel of the gritty Jazz Age in New York and the less than law abiding characters who reside there. I hope there are more in this series.

Lydia says

An extremely enjoyable follow-up (written more than 25 years later) to the murder mystery novel "Miss Lizzie", again featuring the infamous Lizzie Borden, and the fictional character Amanda Burton, now 16 years old, who narrates the story. The setting this time is New York City in 1924, and among various real life characters in the novel are Dorothy Parker and Mae West. Walter Satterthwait deals with the fact that in the previous book he'd written that Amanda and Lizzie didn't meet again after 1921, so that was an unwarranted concern. And any doubts about the characters seeming at all different, apart from being three years older, were immediately banished. I'm so glad that Mr. Satterthwait chose to write this book, and it definitely didn't disappoint.

Sue says

I liked this book. First it was a mystery and took place during the prohibition years and lastly it involves Lizzie Bordon which I didn't expect. Starts with a 16 yr. old girl coming to stay with her uncle in NYC because her parents were traveling. He introduces her to NY and then he is murdered! The rest of the book is finding out why and who. It is a good relatively quick read. I recommend to all who love mysteries.

Dgordon says

An entertaining murder mystery taking place in New York during the Roaring Twenties. Sixteen year old Amanda Burton is sent to visit her glamorous Uncle John when he is murdered and becomes the chief suspect. With a cast of characters that includes Amanda's friend Lizzie Borden, Dorothy Parker, and and a slew of other interesting people this book is a fun read.

I received this Book as an advanced reader from the publisher for an unbiased review.
DGordon

Amy says

This book is a sequel, although I was unaware of that when I began and feel it could certainly be read independent of the first book.

I loved this book from the first page to the last. Taking place in the Roaring Twenties, sixteen year old Amanda is sent to New York City to stay with her uncle, John Burton. Shortly after her arrival, John is found murdered in the apartment and Amanda becomes the prime suspect. Through police on the payroll of criminals, bootleg spirits, and jazz clubs rife with all that the era demands, this book was a page-turner. Now, I'm off to find the predecessor, Miss Lizzie. I'm smitten.

This book was received as a digital ARC through NetGalley in return for a fair and honest review.

Amethyst Shadow says

Miss Lizzie was published in 1989. It's a good thing I was never expecting a sequel. That would have been one hell of a wait.

This was a great story. I knew who the killer was... most of the time that is my problem with mysteries. However; I really enjoyed *Miss Lizzie* so there was no way that I was going to let this one slip by me. I would definitely recommend it... both of them even.

Tamara says

Please, please, please show us more of young Amanda's adventures!!!

Crittermom says

Jazz age New York City - a city of glamor, thrills, and murder

There is something about Jazz Age New York that captures the imagination - the glamorous allure of speakeasies, charming gangsters in sharp suits, high living and fast times. Decadence and corruption served up on a silver platter. It is not surprising that the reader, like 16 year old Amanda is quickly caught up in the allure of New York and the charm of her uncle John.

But when her uncle is found murdered, the glamor shatters. The police quickly target Amanda as a convenient suspect, easy to accuse as she has no nearby family to help her. The police do not count on one thing - Miss Lizzie Borden. Hearing of Amanda's arrest, she quickly comes to her aid, hiring both a skilled lawyer and a private investigator. John wasn't exactly the man Amanda believed him to be. Among his clients are rich, powerful criminals known to influence New York officials, including the police. Unless they find exactly who murdered John and why, Amanda may be convicted despite her innocence.

The colorful and diverse cast of characters adds to the allure of New York Nocturne - particularly the enigmatic Miss Lizzie and the darkly attractive Mr Cutter. Amanda's recollections wind throughout the narrative, offering tantalizing clues regarding Amanda's future career as an agent. Walter Satterthwait's New York glitters, but the reader is always aware of the threat of violence beneath the chic facade. I was enraptured by the depiction of the city and era, and thrilled by both the fast action and the larger than life characters.

Whether you like historical mysteries or are simply looking for an enticing jazz-era read, New York

Nocturne is a fabulous choice. I eagerly await Walter Satterthwait's next novel. I want to know what Amanda's next adventure will entail.

5/5

I received a copy of New York Nocturne from the publisher and Netgalley.com in exchange for an honest review.

--Crittermom

Elizabeth Watkins says

I really liked this book. Wish I could have given it 3.5 stars. I enjoyed the characters and found it to be an entertaining, easy read. I enjoyed this authors writing style. Hard not to love Miss Lizzie Borden, need to go back now and read Miss Lizzie

Karen says

Once again, Lizzie Borden turns amateur detective to help Amanda Burton who is falsely accused of committing murder using a hatchet. Three years after the events of **Miss Lizzie** (1989), the now sixteen-year-old Amanda is delighted to be exploring New York's high life with her uncle John. But when John is murdered, Miss Lizzie arrives to prevent the overbearing police from scapegoating Amanda. The audiobook's opening jazz interlude invokes 1924 New York, whose landmarks and famous figures are scattered throughout this historical mystery. Lesa Lockford enlivens Prohibition-era Manhattan, skillfully using dialect to distinguish socioeconomic standing as the investigation leads into the underworld of contraband smugglers. Lockford authentically articulates the nuances of experience from the naïve Amanda to the astute Lizzie to the blasé Dorothy Parker. She also creates a sense of real affection between leads. While Amanda creates teen appeal, the secondary characters (and cameos) sparkle and captivate.

The improved review was published in *Booklist* Dec 15, 2016 issue.

Tracey says

Poor Lizzie Borden. Guilty or not, she went through at least a couple of flavors of hell in her life, and now she's fair game for any novelist who wants an added soupcon of a certain kind of badassery in their plot.

That being said, I quite enjoyed this. I'm not sure I loved it enough to go hunt down the first book or keep watch for the next one, but I did like it.

Amanda Burton is a teenaged girl who is sent off to spend the summer with her uncle in New York. He lives at the Dakota, and if you don't think "John Lennon" every time you read that, I have nothing else for you. And this opens the door for some nice snippets about New York in the 20's, like the origin for the term to "eighty-six" something and ... well, Dorothy Parker. I'm always leery of real people being drafted into people's fiction, but that's mostly because it's so often done badly. This wasn't done badly.

“Robert. My chauffeur. ... He packs a rod.”

“I’ll bet he does,” said Mrs. Parker. Mr. Lipkind turned to her. Innocently, she said, “I mean, you’d expect him to carry a gun, wouldn’t you?”

One more quote: "Brave?" Mrs. Parker laughed, sounding somewhat frayed. 'My sphincter was plucking buttons off the car seat.'" Heh.

There's another little cameo which was kind of sweet (as in sweeeeeet, not awwww) (view spoiler).

So the upshot is that Amanda and her young, handsome, and wealthy uncle basically paint the town red for a few days ... until she finds him murdered in his library. I have to say, this was actually hard to read, because I *liked* him. There was a little uneasiness about him taking a girl of her age to night clubs and speakeasies, and about her being allowed into said, and also about her wandering New York alone – but taking it at face value (nice young guy treating a niece he likes spending time with to a nice long good time, and New York City was probably in many ways safer for a girl to wander about in?), and the fact that Amanda and the reader meet Uncle John at the same time, means that she and the reader are gutted to much the same extent when he is brutally murdered.

And then the formidable Miss Lizzie ("Lizbeth, not Elizabeth") Borden comes swooping in to help, and the two of them – with the help of Miss Lizzie's lawyer and Mrs. Parker – get to work investigating the murder, because the corrupt (seriously nasty) police have decided to hang it on Amanda.

Some of the feats this team performs are a little improbable – but it works, because Miss Lizzie is, shall we say, badass. And Amanda isn't ... normal. Perhaps because she's gone through a number of tragedies already in her young life, or perhaps because of some chemical or hormonal lack in her, she is cool, logical, and much, much smarter than your average bear. They make a formidable team.

Maybe I will go look out that first book, after all.

The usual disclaimer: I received this book via Netgalley for review.

Sasha says

First I would like to state that I received this book through the Goodreads giveaway in exchange for an honest review. I would like to thank the author for giving me this opportunity and honor in being able to read this book. I enjoyed the characters in the book and the plot was interesting, I do think that reading the first novel in this series before this one would have shed a bit more light on Ms. Lizzie's personality. This was an entertaining murder mystery taking place in New York during the Roaring Twenties. Sixteen year old Amanda Burton has been sent to visit her glamorous Uncle. This has a cast of characters that includes Amanda's friend Lizzie Borden, Dorothy Parker, and a lot of other very interesting people. This was a very fun read. I think that anyone would enjoy reading this book.
