



Weycombe

G.M. Malliet

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From award winner G.M. Malliet, a tale of murder in the haunts of England's privileged

Weycombe is the chocolate-box village of everyone's dreams. For American Jillian White, a gated life of pleasure and comfort with her titled English husband was a fantasy come true.

But the murder of a local estate agent mars the village's so-pretty surface. Are people actually dying to live in Weycombe? Jill investigates, piecing together clues along the snaking paths and winding lanes of her adopted village. She knows truth has many versions, depending on who is doing the telling. And that few can be trusted in Weycombe, where nothing is as perfect as it seems.

Weycombe Details

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Author : G.M. Malliet

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From Reader Review Weycombe for online ebook

Minty McBunny says

There are plausible mysteries, there are mysteries where I am willing to suspend belief for a good story, then there are mysteries like this book. Ridiculous.

Ange H says

Jillian is an American living in a charming English village with her husband Will, a minor aristocrat. Taking her morning walk one day, she comes upon the dead body of their neighbor, Anna. Murder most foul. Jillian, who has recently lost her job at the BBC and has time on her hands, decides to help the police solve the crime.

This novel won't work for everyone. It moves at a somewhat sluggish pace and Jill is frankly unlikeable. But as she conducts her investigation and interviews various people in the village, layers of secrets and lies start to reveal themselves and I found myself drawn in. Even though I figured out pretty early on who did the dirty deed, I really enjoyed picking up on all the meticulously placed clues that tied everything together at the end. Minor spoiler: (view spoiler)

A note about the audio book: one thing that I found unintentionally entertaining was listening to the narrator struggle - largely unsuccessfully - to conceal her Irish brogue and speak like an American, using a bizarre speech pattern that I suspect she learned from studying the Pink Ladies in "Grease." Several times in the novel the importance of accents in establishing one's place in society is discussed; and at one point British actors who had used bad American accents in films were mocked.

Annie says

First published on my blog: Nonstop Reader.

Weycombe, a new standalone suspense novel by G. M. Malliet from Midnight Ink was released 8th Oct. The author, who has written the well loved Max Tudor series about an MI5 agent turned village vicar, is a dependable 'writerly' writer, technically adept with plotting, dialogue and action. Her books are readable and very enjoyable. I have really enjoyed both the Max Tudor cozies and her St. Just series, a period cozy series.

This book is emphatically not written in the same comfortable mold as her other books. Whilst her other books have had (for me) laugh out loud moments, this one was full of sharply funny moments, quite a few of which surprised me into laughter, sometimes uncomfortable. Written in first person, the narration is wickedly sarcastic to a razor's edge.

Narrated from the viewpoint of an outsider, the story often lampoons (or laments) the cultural disorientation that arises from being an expat American living in England, and married to an upper class scion of the minor nobility.

The murder of the local estate agent has the village in an uproar. Anna, the victim, is found by the narrator on a nearby walking path. Jillian White's, the narrator's, interactions with the investigation and her decision

to investigate on her own provide point and counterpoint to her interactions with her wealthy friends and neighbors.

I read and review mostly high fantasy and cozy mysteries. I enjoyed this novel very much and sometimes an ascerbic wit-filled slightly gritty mystery is exactly perfect for clearing the palate and resetting my reading taste-buds for the next cat cozy or dragon filled high fantasy.

It is worth noting that the author has earmarked 10% of the royalties from her published for Weycombe to hurricane relief, a worthy cause. For this reason, I will also be buying a copy of this book, despite having recieved an e-ARC gratis from the publisher for review purposes.

A note from the author: My book WEYCOMBE comes out October 8. I am donating 10% of the royalties I receive from my publisher on this standalone suspense novel, up to \$5000, to @RedCrossHouston relief efforts for those affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Five stars. Enjoyable and surprisingly witty.

Disclosure: I received an ARC at no cost from the author/publisher.

Amalia Gavea says

“One does see so much evil in a village.”

Agatha Christie

To use a quote of the Queen of Crime, spoken by the exquisite Miss Marple, in a review about a book that was mediocre at its best moments is almost a sacrilege. And yet, I confess I was fooled, because my expectations were quite high.

Jill, the main protagonist of the novel, discovers a dead woman, one of the most prominent members of Weycombe, and starts a personal investigation to find the solution to the crime, Perhaps, as a distraction to her own unhappy life and her problematic relationship with her husband. Who knows? And to be honest and forward, with such bad writing, who cares? The way the story unfolded made me lose all interest.

The start was more than promising, it was exciting and the first 100 pages just flew by. And then, it was a disaster. Endless pages full of uninspired descriptions of the hypocritical posh village residents, countless paragraphs about cosmetic products -which I really like, but not when I am reading a book that desires to be called a ‘mystery’- and dialogues that sounded like a bad American sit-com. The only redeeming qualities were Jill, who was quite a sympathetic and realistic character, and the crime itself which was well-composed and with a few interesting twists. I didn’t get the feeling of a ‘cozy’ mystery, the atmosphere was dark, but badly depicted. In my opinion, the execution was very inadequate, the writing was simply not there.

Perhaps, many will succeed in overlooking the plethora of pages about rich and famous that had nothing to do with the mystery itself and enjoy the book much more than I did. For me, even finishing it was a struggle.

Many thanks to Midnight Ink and NetGalley for providing me with an ARC in exchange for an honest

review.

Ivonne Rovira says

I like G.M. Malliet's series featuring Detective Chief Inspector Arthur St. Just and Sergeant Garwin Fear, and I absolutely adore her other series featuring Anglican priest Max Tudor, who left MI5 to become a vicar. Therefore, I naturally couldn't wait to read Malliet's newest book, *Weycombe*.

The eponymous Weycombe is an idyllic English village, the posh home of American Jillian White; she's in a crumbling marriage with a handsome, once-charming aristocrat. Out of work for nine months, Jillian has plenty of time to poke into the murder of her next-door neighbor, the gorgeous, Rubenesque estate agent (real-estate agent for you Americans) Anna Monroe. Married to an invalid, Anna had a wandering eye and a great many secrets — one of which has clearly come home to roost.

Malliet had me from the first page. I didn't think I could possibly like this book more than the ones with Father Max, but I was so very wrong. Jillian turns out to be clever and irreverent, and the suspenseful ending hit me in the solar plexus. This is, by far, my favorite book by Mailliet. Which is very, very high praise, indeed!

In the interest of full disclosure, I received this book from NetGalley and Midnight Ink in exchange for an honest review.

Linda Baker says

All should be perfect in the chocolate box pretty village of Weycombe where transplanted American, Jillian White, lives with her titled husband in an upscale gated community. There are cracks though, both in the marriage and the village. Jillian was "made redundant" (a kind euphemism for laid-off) nine months earlier from her job at the BBC, and her marriage to Will White is falling apart. But when Jillian discovers the dead body of Anna Monroe, local real estate agent and femme fatale, on a walking path next to the river, all the pettiness, secrets and evil in Weycombe begin to rise to the surface of this tranquil pond. Anna has always wanted to write a novel, so she begins to investigate the murder on her own, with an eye to using the case as a basis. There are consequences for everyone involved.

It's a challenge to review *Weycombe* without giving anything away. I have enjoyed Malliet's previous books, but this stand-alone novel is entirely different. I was immediately captured by Jillian's acid voice: she is not someone that I would like, but I wanted to listen to what she had to say. It's not often that I can't put down a book, but I stayed up late just to find out what came next. I began to get the feeling early on that Jillian was a far from reliable narrator, but the extent of her unreliability was stunning. The twists and turns in the plotting kept me intrigued until the end. I highly recommend *Weycombe* for fans of psychological suspense with a dark edge.

Thanks to Midnight Ink and NetGalley for an advance digital copy. The opinions above are my own.

RATING- 5 Stars

Alexandra Zaytseva says

I love thrillers, I love crime-solving stories and I absolutely adore mysteries. «**Weycombe**» was all of that plus a huge family drama that started to unravel throughout the book. It had all the elements to be an amazing story and maybe some of you found it rather great.

I had only *ONE BIG ISSUE* - the timing of when certain facts were told to us.

We read the story as it is told to us by Jillian White, a woman from the neighbourhood. An American woman married to an upper-class British man, Will. They live in a perfect neighbourhood, in a perfect house, but as we know there are always troubles in paradise.

What I found odd was a mix of present and past events. At one point Jillian would be talking about Ann's murder and her thoughts about it, or maybe trying to get more information from her neighbours to solve the case, and then suddenly she would be remembering certain facts from the past that would take up pages and pages of text in between the events that are happening right now.

I can't say that it wasn't interesting, it just wasn't structured well enough and maybe a few cuts here and there would have made the book more perceptible to absorb all the information that was thrown at us.

Judy Lesley says

Thank you to NetGalley and Midnight Ink for an arc of this novel.

I think I've read every book G. M. Malliet has written, she is a real favorite of mine. When I saw this one was located in an English village and read in the descriptions all the comparisons to Agatha Christie I was looking forward to reading it. Unfortunately it was a big disappointment and the only comparisons made to Agatha Christie were the main character thinking she was following in the sleuthing footsteps of that great author. She was not!

Jillian White is the main character and the narrator of the story. She is an American who has lived in England for ten years and fell in love with and married a member of the British aristocracy - but of a rather minor sort so don't go getting all starry eyed over that connection. Jill finds the body of a woman, actually her next door neighbor, from the exclusive gated community in which they both live in the village of Weycombe. So far things seemed to be going well with the reading until all the unsettled atmosphere and dark psychological attitude began to intrude. The problem was that our main character was just not a nice person and she was carrying a ton of emotional baggage which she seemed almost content to hold on to. After reading almost half of the book I took notice of some rather unusual phrasing I was picking up on so decided to keep notes. Hmm, what I had was a roadmap to the guilty person. I kept on reading to the end because I wanted to see how Malliet would present the completion of the story.

This novel is one where it would be very easy to tell too much about the story and end up spoiling it for anyone who hasn't read the book. I don't want to do that so I'm just going to repeat that I was very disappointed. I didn't find anything that was good enough to compensate for the main character and the

overall plotting.

Christine says

American Jillian White has relocated to England and lives in the wealthy village of Weycombe with her titled husband. From the outside, everything is picture-perfect, but looks can be deceiving. Jill's world is turned upside-down when a local resident is murdered and Jill becomes involved in the investigation.

I have read a couple of this author's cozy mysteries and really enjoyed them. I wasn't sure what to expect from this standalone suspense novel, but I enjoyed it beyond my expectations. This book and her Max Tudor mysteries are equally well-written, but "Weycombe" is a true thriller as opposed to a clever cozy. The main character and English setting of "Weycombe" grabbed my attention from the very beginning and never left go. I couldn't wait to find out what would happen next and was completely surprised by the twists and turns the book took. I don't want to give away any of the surprises, but I truly enjoyed this thriller, which stands out from the pack from many of the recent books in this genre I have read.

I received this book from NetGalley through the courtesy of Midnight Ink. The book was provided to me in exchange for an honest review.

Midnight Ink

Elaine Tomasso says

I would like to thank NetGalley and Midnight Ink for an advance copy of Weycombe, a stand alone novel set in the fictional village of Weycombe in the Home Counties.

Jillian White, unemployed and unhappily married, is out walking when she stumbles across the body of her neighbour, Anna Monroe. With her husband on her back about finding a job, not easy for an American in London, she decides to conduct her own investigation into Anna's death with the vague thought of writing a book.

I enjoyed Weycombe. At first I was doubtful about it and thought about not finishing it as it is obvious from the start that the first person narrative does not hide an unreliable narrator and the novel is all about Jill, her emotions, experiences and history rather than the investigation I expected. I'm a bit unreliable narrated out but the novel soon took hold of me and I became fascinated with Jill and the secrets she uncovered.

I like the slow drip of information, Jill's reactions to it and the conclusions the reader draws from it. It is cleverly done although the net result is fairly obvious long before the conclusion with just the detail to be explained.

I wasn't so keen on the writing style. Although Jill is American and her language reflects this there are a fair few Americanisms in the mouths of the very British inhabitants of Weycombe which strike a jarring note. I also found some of her comments on the British clichéd and a bit strange. I did, however, enjoy the picture of the insular, privileged gated community of Weycombe Court with its petty jealousies and rivalries.

Jill is an unusual character. At first she is an unhappy woman, bored and probably depressed, and her investigation seems like a hobby or something to do but with no real reason behind it. Gradually as her past and her previous interactions with Anna and her neighbours are fleshed out you begin to realise that there is much more to her than first appears.

Weycombe is a good read which I can recommend.

Lipsy says

Originally posted @ <https://lipsy.wordpress.com>

I was completely in the mood for a nice cozy mystery in a luxurious setting when I picked up this book last weekend, and I got it in spades.

Weycombe is a place where people dream of living; a beautiful, idyllic village running along the river Thames where houses can only be afforded by the mega rich. It's also a place where everybody knows everybody's business, and if they don't, they do their best to find out! This turns out to be a bit of a problem when one of the villagers, the incomparable Anna is found lying dead in her brand new running shoes. Village gossip has just been kicked up a notch.

Our protagonist is Jillian, an American, the forever 'outsider', who is in a failing, loveless marriage and out of work. Jillian is the one who discovers the body, and needing something to occupy her, she takes it upon herself to find out as much as she can about Anna's secretive life, and the mystery of her death.

I really enjoyed this book, but it won't be for everyone. It's quite a traditional, 'old school' type mystery that unfolds very slowly. At first, I enjoyed the slow pace of it – perfect for a lazy Sunday afternoon – but at some points I did drift away from the story and wished there was more to keep me focused.

Weycombe is a good whodunnit. The large cast of characters are interesting, and all have different secrets and flaws. It kept me guessing just enough, but it was a bit of a struggle to get to the end to be honest.

The main thing I loved was the setting. I'm intrigued by the dynamics and social politics of village life, which always works great for a murky mystery.

The main thing that didn't work for me, however, was Jillian. I could relate to parts of her character, but I never fully warmed to her. And I thought the link between her being unhappy (and not having much going on in life at that moment) and her deciding to investigate a murder was a bit of a stretch. Her background of working in media seemed to be the author's reason behind her thinking she was qualified to act detective. Hmm. I know that regular folk sticking their noses into an investigation is a common thing in mysteries, but it didn't feel very genuine on this occasion.

Overall, Weycombe is a classic murder mystery with lots of intrigue. If you're looking for a gentle whodunnit to while away the weekend, give it a try!

Leith Devine says

Thanks to Midnight Ink and NetGalley for the ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

What a great book! Not what I expected from G.M. Malliet based on her past books, this is not a cozy mystery in any way. Weycombe is a fast moving suspenseful murder mystery with a twisted ending.

Jillian White is an American married to an English peer named Will, living in a beautiful house in a small village in England. The books begins with Jillian finding the body of her neighbor Anna, a married estate agent who was rumored to have had several affairs. Jillian was laid off from the BBC, where she worked on a program about true crime. She decides to use her knowledge to help the police solve the murder.

Jillian is an interesting character. Malliet explores her from all angles, so the reader really gets to know her. The other characters are also well drawn and very interesting, especially the murder victim, Anna.

The plot is very well done. It draws you in, and the book is nearly impossible to put down.

I highly recommend this book!

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

EXCERPT: What happened to Anna could so easily have been an accident. She could have been running flat out on her chubby legs, minding her own business, when some solicitor speeding by on his way to his office in Walton-on-Thames, anonymous in his ventilated helmet and ubiquitous black bike shorts, pushed her off the path, sending her rolling downhill and breaking her neck. That time of year, the path could be slick with wet fallen leaves. She might simply have slipped and fallen on her head.

That is certainly how it could have happened. Except that of course she was murdered, dead before her body came to rest at the edge of the river.

THE BLURB: Weycombe is the chocolate-box village of everyone's dreams. For American Jillian White, a gated life of pleasure and comfort with her titled English husband was a fantasy come true.

But the murder of a local estate agent mars the village's so-pretty surface. Are people actually dying to live in Weycombe? Jill investigates, piecing together clues along the snaking paths and winding lanes of her adopted village. She knows truth has many versions, depending on who is doing the telling. And that few can be trusted in Weycombe, where nothing is as perfect as it seems.

MY THOUGHTS: After reading the synopsis, I thought I was in for a cosy Agatha Christie like read. But it seems G.M. Malliet is very clever. She has written a chameleon of a novel. To start with, she uses her acerbic wit to paint a portrait of life in an English village. Even at slightly over half way, I made the following comment- "This is so not about murder. It is an amusing, sometimes laugh out loud hilarious, tongue-in-cheek, slightly bitchy poke at life in an English village. The murder is merely the vehicle."

Yes, I was well and truly sucked in. For, almost without me noticing, the story turned in on itself in the second half and became something far more sinister. This was definitely not Christie!

This is a book that I read with a smile on my face, especially at the end. Although I picked up the odd hiccup with continuity, this was an uncorrected ARC and so I would expect these minor imperfections to have been corrected before Weycombe is unleashed on the public.

All in all, a very enjoyable read that kept my interest from the first page to the last. I have added all this authors other works to my reading list.

Thank you to Midnight Ink via Netgalley for providing a digital copy of Weycombe for review. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own. Please refer to my Goodreads.com profile page or the 'about' page on sandysbookaday.wordpress.com for an explanation of my rating system. This review and others are also published on my blog sandysbookaday.wordpress.com.

Clare O'Beara says

This is a crime story with a unlikeable and unreliable narrator. If that is what the author set out to create, she's done a good job. I didn't take to the narrator from the word go and disliked her more - and her feeling of smug smartness, as she is not nearly so smart as she'd like to think.

An American woman who has no job and resents her wealthy and titled husband - why? - lives in a gated enclave in an English village. I'd have bought a horse and taken up showjumping, or taken a degree. She goes to a gym, drinks and sulks about not writing, rather than write. This underachiever finds a book club friend dead on the road. Once official investigations are under way, the American deliberately sets out to be an amateur sleuth for her own amusement and perhaps gain.

The twist didn't surprise me and maybe we should read the book for culture clash and irony rather than for a crime story. Some chapters are bogged down with several pages in which nothing happens. I have not previously read anything by this author but I understand she normally writes police procedurals. Maybe she wrote this as a contract-breaking book. Of course, every reader is different, so some readers will enjoy this read more than I did.

I downloaded an ARC from Net Galley. This is an unbiased review.

Michelle Scott says

This book's blurb drew me in right away. From the start, I was interested in reading about a small community that looks perfect on the outside but, in truth, harbors dark secrets. Weycombe also started out great. The murder was front and center, and the main character established herself as a natural detective.

Unfortunately, I disliked the narrator almost immediately. I think the book was meant to be funny, but the narrator was so snarky, judgmental, and ill-tempered that I wished she'd been the one to be murdered at the start of the book.

Additionally, the book spent so much time on backstories that it hardly moved forward. There was no sense of danger and no exciting moments or suspense. I gave up reading about 50% of the way in.
