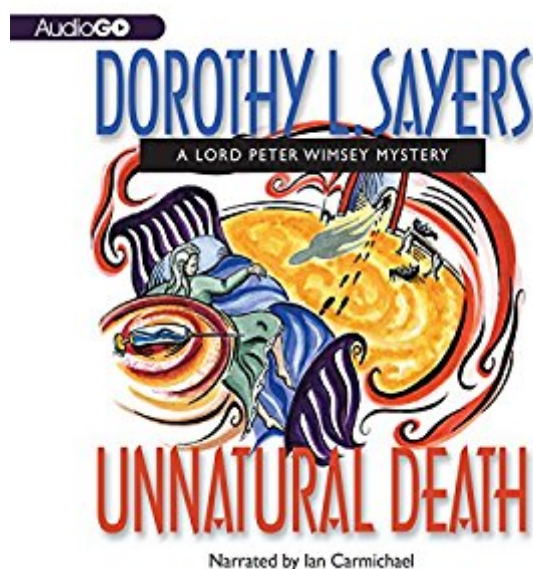


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Unnatural Death: A Lord Peter Wimsey Mystery, Book 3



Synopsis

The wealthy Agatha Dawson is dead and there are no apparent signs of foul play. Lord Peter Wimsey, however, senses that something is amiss and he refuses to let the case rest - even without any clues or leads. Suddenly, he is faced with another murder - Agatha's maid. Can super-sleuth Wimsey find the murderer and solve the case before he becomes the killer's next victim?

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

Dorothy L. Sayers' 1927 book, "Unnatural Death," is the third in her Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries. I haven't read the whole series yet, but this one's the best of the first three. As usual for Sayers, the writing is excellent. It's so good and so modernly written, that you forget that the book is 87 years old (that is, until you hit the occasional change to social mores or the technological chasms that have sprung up since then). But that just makes the book more amazing. Compared to the first two books, I'm much happier with Wimsey's speech and behavior than the first, and the pacing is much better than the second. My only issue with the story is how Sayers wants us to misconstrue the relationship between two of the characters when it's extremely obvious that it's not what she wants us to believe. But, that's fairly minor. So, I'm very happy to rate the book at a Very Good 4 stars out of 5.

The novels in the Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries are:

1. Whose Body?
2. Clouds of Witness
3. Unnatural Death
4. The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club (The Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries, 5)
5. Strong Poison (The Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries, 6)
6. The Five Red Herrings (The Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries, 7)
7. Have His Carcase (The Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries,

8)8.Â Murder Must Advertise (The Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries, 10)9.Â The Nine Tailors (The Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries, 11)10.Â Gaudy Night (The Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries, 12)11. Busman's Honeymoon (The Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries, 13)Note: my numbering differs from 's because they include collections of short stories whereas my list is just of novels. Also, I can only include 10 links in the review, so the 11th Wimsey book is just a title.

Dorothy L. Sayers is one of my favorite authors. I have read every one of her novels about Lord Peter Wimsey several times, and I never fail to be delighted. Some of her mysteries are simple, some are wickedly complex, but all are entertaining and just plain fun to read! Her slow development of the romance between Lord Peter and Harriet Vane is from another time, when love took time to grow and patience was a primary virtue. This novel is third in the series, before the entry of Harriet Vane, so the focus is on Lord Peter and Bunter, his wonderful valet. The mystery builds around the unexpected, and possibly suspicious death of an elderly cancer patient. There is some violence in this novel, but in the manner of Greek plays it happens off-stage and we are left to deal with the consequences. It isn't necessary to read the Lord Peter Wimsey novels in sequence, but doing so affords the reader the pleasure of watching the author and the characters develop their many talents.

Dorothy Sayers' well-plotted mysteries were written in a time before electronic surveillance and cell phones. Lord Peter Wimsey, her main character, logically solves murders in England of the 1920's, '30s, and so on. I don't try to 'solve' murders before the end of the book because I love watching the process of the solution. Dorothy Sayers' writing is classic in its incisive wit and description. I've been a fan since one of my college English teachers mentioned this artist. The fact that they're now available on Kindle is a real treat. That means I no longer have to keep track of where her books are on a crowded bookshelf. Enjoy this book and try the other mysteries she's written.

It's a well-written and engaging novel, but it's remarkable for introducing that talented and intrepid spinster, Miss Climpson. In this novel she places herself in REAL JEOPARDY by going undercover in a small village to dig up the truth about a possible MURDER. Really, it was MOST exciting, and she nearly GETS KILLED!The writing is sharp and often witty, with Bunter and Lord Peter uttering some highlight-worthy quips. I definitely recommend this to anyone who loves Golden Age mysteries.

I am re-reading the Lord Peter Wimsey books on my kindle, having read them all thirty years ago. I am struck by how fresh they remain. Sayers was a terrific writer and her stories stand up whereas other writers (such as Christie) seem antiquated today. The story becomes more complicated as it progresses and the answers do not come as easily as one might have imagined from the first chapter. There are some unfortunate racist comments made by several characters in the book. They are not to be forgiven but some understanding has to be allowed for considering the time in which the book was written. I look forward to re-reading all of Sayers.

BUT PLEASE SPELL THE AUTHOR'S NAME CORRECTLY ON THE TITLE PAGE! Not SAWYERS! Pay more attention to detail, Hachette! We pay good money for these ebooks and we don't expect shoddiness!

Love Lord Peter. Character develops with each book

Dorothy Sayers once described Peter Wimsey as a cross between Fred Astaire and Bertie Wooster, and I think that captures the character perfectly -- just the right mix of dashing, erudite and silly. Like all Dorothy Sayers's mystery work, "Unnatural Death" is charming, funny and highly readable. However, the actual mystery here is a little convoluted and the smoking gun a little less evident, which sometimes makes the plot feel like it's wandering. Still, if you're a devoted fan, you'll find all the things you love in these books. The dialogue is always witty and the characters engaging. On the other hand, if this is your first Peter Wimsey experience, I would recommend starting with one of the two earlier books that have more concrete "sleuthin'," as Lord Wimsey would say, to get a feel for the Wimsey style and the little ensemble that make up his circle.

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Gaudy Night (The Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries Book 12)
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