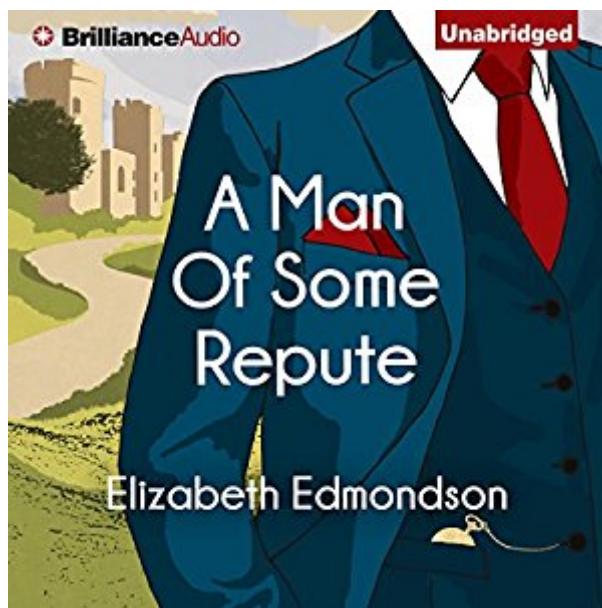


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A Man Of Some Repute: A Very English Mystery, Book 1



Synopsis

Truth is rarely pure and never simple... Selchester Castle in 1953 sits quiet and near-empty, its corridors echoing with glories of the past. Or so it seems to intelligence officer Hugo Hawksworth, wounded on a secret mission and now reluctantly assuming an altogether less perilous role at Selchester. The Castle's faded grandeur hides a web of secrets and scandals - the Earl has been missing for seven years, lost without a trace since the night he left his guests and walked out into a blizzard. When a skeleton is uncovered beneath the flagstones of the Old Chapel, the police produce a suspect and declare the case closed. Hugo is not convinced. With the help of the spirited Freya Wryton, the Earl's niece, he is drawn back into active service, and the ancient town of Selchester is dragged into the intrigues and conspiracies of the Cold War era. With a touch of Downton Abbey, a whisper of Agatha Christie and a nod to Le CarrÃ©, *A Man of Some Repute* is the first book in this delightfully classic and witty murder mystery series.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What a lovely surprise! I've been sampling mystery authors, looking for new, good writers to add to my old faithfules, and Edmondson is now on my list. The writing is graceful (and, hallelujah, grammar and punctuation are perfect), and the plot is indeed, as promised, Very English. It's the primary characters, of course, who ultimately make the book so satisfying. They are real and delightful. I can't wait for the next in the series.

A man of some repute starts out in a gentle, relaxing style. It seems to me to be a very good representation of post World War 2 England. There's still food and gas shortages, but our hero, Hugo, is traveling to the country estate of the missing Earl of Selchester. He's been injured doing some secret work for the British government, and is therefore banished to a desk job in the country. Traveling with him is his teenage orphaned sister, Georgia, who he barely knows. Upon arrival he meets the occupants of the estate, namely Freya, who is the missing Earl's niece. She is seemingly staying at the estate while researching and writing a history of the Selchester family tree. Gradually we come to know all the characters in greater depth. We also gather an understanding of how life is lived in rural England among the monied. Before very long a skeleton is discovered and the conclusion is that a murder has been committed. Hugo turns out to be intelligent, curious, and observant. He's a puzzle-solver. Before very long he and Freya, along with the surprisingly helpful sister Georgia, start investigating the murder. I like the book a lot, although I could have asked for a more detailed ending. Perhaps there is a sequel in the works. If there is, I definitely would buy it.

Brings back memories of curling up with a good Agatha Christie novel on a rainy afternoon, or watching the drama unfold in an old black and white movie from the 50s. Hugo Hawksworth, and his young sister, Georgia, are the newest temporary residents to the tiny hamlet of Selchester. Sustaining a disabling leg injury while performing his mysterious Â¢ÂœdutiesÂ¢Â• in service, Hugo is not looking forward to a new job behind a desk...if that's all it is. No one he meets seems to believe he's a glorified paper pusher. It's hilarious how the town residents not only have sized him up as a spy or covert operative, but are already discussing his possible Â¢ÂœbusinessÂ¢Â• in Selchester. Hugo quickly becomes old news, when the skeleton of Lord Selchester is found beneath the masonry of the castle chapel. The Earl of Selchester disappeared seven years earlier in the midst of a snowstorm, and was assumed the victim of the elements even though his body was never found. Now, finding the remains BURIED means a crime has been committed...murder. In a half-hearted attempt to actually solve the crime, the police conduct a quick, shoddy investigation, already determined to blame the murder on the Earl's now deceased son with whom he argued with that night. Hugo conducts his own investigation with the help of the late Earl's niece, Freya Â¢Â“ who was among the small group at the castle the night of the murder - and his ever precocious sister. During the course of the investigation, we get to meet what feels like the entire village Â¢Â“ a varied cast of characters who would do any tabloid proud! The exchanges with the town's residents may seem innocuous and 'gossipy', but laced together with a few details from Hugo's contacts, Freya's recollections, and Georgia's observances, a murderer is revealed. Can he be

caught before he kills again? Elizabeth Edmondson has delivered a first-rate murder mystery that will keep you guessing right up to the end. And while the ending is totally satisfying, I am anxiously awaiting book 2! I give *A Man of Some Repute* my highest recommendation! (I received an ARC through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.)

I really enjoyed this book and plan to read the next soon. I like English mysteries and this is also a period piece, though a more modern period. The main characters are engaging and some others not very likeable. Hugo was with the intelligence community and injured in the field so he is sent to a castle in the country that housed some top secret headquarters during WWII. His young teenage sister, Georgia, is with him. Both of their parents are dead and he and Georgia don't know each other well. Interesting child, very insightful. The body of the missing Lord of Selchester Manor is found and the solving of mystery begins by meeting and talking to all the people that were at the house the night he went missing. The relationships are good and in depth and the end leaves some loose ends that will hopefully be tied up in the next book, which I can't wait to read! Love the writing style.

Hugo is some sort of government Secret Service injured after the war in some sort of shoot out with the East Germans, but of course no one knows this. He is working a desk job at a secret site out in the country raising his sister who saw her mother die in the Blitz. Temporary accommodations are at the seat of a missing earl who turns up dead shortly after Hugo's arrival. Because of ties to government and his job of looking for signs of Russian spies, Hugo is set on the task of finding out what happened. The book is quite fun, but definite loose ends that I think are intentional for the series to tie up as it progresses. Really like his little sister and the dead earl's niece. House staff are also entertaining.

I loved the books in this series. Certainly any story taking place in a castle would intrigue me, but the fact that this was taking place in the late 40s in England added many more levels. It was a real stretch to believe that it was not written during those years. (This is of course from an American's perspective.) I have enjoyed more of her work under this name, but these are so far my favorites.

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