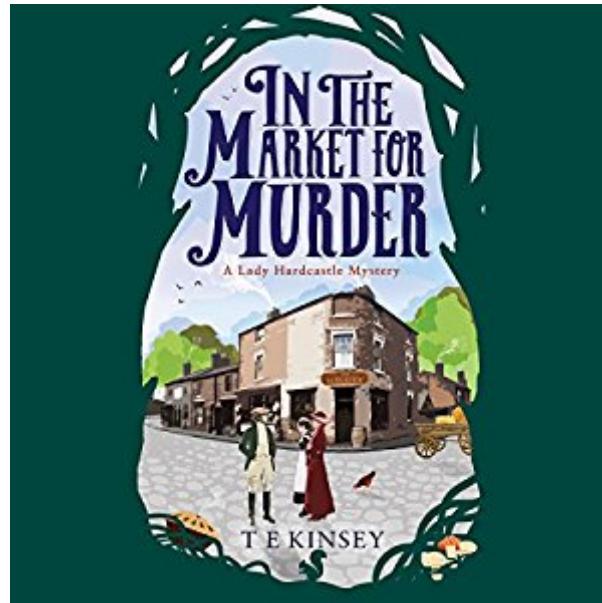




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In The Market For Murder: Lady Hardcastle, Book 2



Synopsis

Spring, 1909, and Lady Hardcastle, amateur sleuth and all-round eccentric, is enjoying a well-deserved rest. But a week after a trip to the cattle market, Spencer Caradine, a local farmer, turns up dead in the pub, face-down in his beef and mushroom pie. Once again, it is up to Lady Hardcastle and her maid, Florence, to solve the case. Armed with wit and whimsy, not to mention Florence's mean right hook, the pair set out to discover what really happened and why. Was it poison or just ill luck? As they delve further into their investigation, they encounter a theft where nothing is stolen, a séance with a troubled ghost and an ever-increasing number of Spencer's family and friends who might just have motive for murder. One thing's for sure: Lady Hardcastle has a mystery on her hands.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 8 hours and 5 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: December 20, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01MSLKJT1

Best Sellers Rank: #30 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > British

Detectives #216 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > British Detectives #768

in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Cozy

Customer Reviews

I want to add my grateful approbations to others in this review section. What wonderful books. Mr. Kinsey has a Facebook page, and there you can learn that what formerly were three (or four) books, have been rewritten (maybe refreshed is a better word) and are being published in hard cover. Just finished reading (again) the second of three (published) books in this series. Having found, and been very disappointed in, enough quickly written books in the slush/read-for-free piles to choke a horse, (as I think many other readers will agree) I understand that good books take time. There are of course the occasional gems, like these Edwardian mysteries,, which make me try over and over again. One thing I have learned though - if you get to the point where you want to fling (the

un-flingable) e-book across the room, even if it is in the first chapter, stop and go on to something else. With these books I knew I had found a winner in the first paragraph. If you like P. G. Wodehouse, Dorothy Sayers and perhaps Georgette Heyer (not her romantic side but the fun side) you will find this book delightful. There are scattered fluffy and bright conversations, and some zippy dialog (P.G.W.), good solid detecting, realistic crimes and crime scenes and a sense of place (D.S.). and a light touch (G.H.) you will rejoice in these books. When you add a well plotted and laid out story that keeps you reading, and characters that you grow to love, well voila! paragraph. A big Thank You to this author who gives us good value and then some, and I appreciate his hard work. A little example: at one point the ladies are picking mushrooms and I again wondered how one told the difference. Did you know there are You Tube videos that show exactly how to tell the difference? Of course some are better than others, but the point is I do love a book where I can learn something new!

Delightful characters with very unique talents! The stories are quick reads with just enough early 20th century British charm to twitch the proverbial upper lip.. Although the protagonists could have been banner-waving feminists, they have the best of all worlds: strength, creativity, independence, talent, attraction, and, of course, mystery, The author's quirky sense of humor keeps the stories lively and entertaining.

Fun little mystery. It has been a while since the first book and wounds have healed and life is slowly getting back to normal. When a local farmer drops dead in the pub on market day and the local doctor suspects but cannot prove poison, the inspector is busy and asks Lady Hardcastle and Flo to look into it. Soon other crimes are in their purview including a rugby trophy gone missing and a psychic. Somehow it all works out and great times are had. I did learn how old Lady Hardcastle is which I was confused about in the first book, but now it makes no sense that she met the neighbors when she was a child as friends with her parents given they just had a marriage age daughter and must be at least 60. Also there seems to be a missing installment between the first and second book with constant references to something happening in the autumn

The author adds more than one mystery that either ties in or is separately solved in the book by the characters. I liked the continued development of the characters and look forward to reading more about them. I enjoyed the book.

This is my second Lady Hardcastle novel, and I enjoyed it very much. I love cozy British mysteries, and this series is unique due to the two feisty female amateur detectives. One of these is an aristocratic lady, and the other is her maid. Their relationship is more friendly than the usual mistress-servant class divisions of that day. Each woman brings lots of experience, and special crime-solving abilities to help unravel village mysteries with lots of humor and skill. The dialogue is often playful, but don't be fooled: the mystery puzzle is first rate and a challenge to solve.

I purchased the book and companion audio. I did not read the book; what I really wanted was a clean audiobook mystery to listen to in the car with passengers. This book surprised me in how well it was researched (early 1900s era) and written, in its excellent humor, in its wonderful characters, and in a story worth listening to the very end. Grade = A The narration was superb = A+

I'm really enjoying this series. The first book caught my attention, and I loved this book. The author, and hence the characters, really find their voices in this book. Lady Hardcastle and Flo adjust to life in the country and spend more of their time on the case than learning the nuances of their new home. The author gives us plenty of clues, but none that are so over the top overt that it becomes clear from page 2 who the culprit is. Also, the mysteries don't just wrap up all nice and tidy; sometimes, even with the mystery solved, the characters acknowledge that presenting the case legally would be a challenging. A few good chuckles, lots of blowing-air-out-my-nose-slightly-faster amusement, and enough mystery to keep me guessing. The voice, the pace, and the plot really brought me in and held my attention in this book. Highly recommended.

Charming! Characters who are truly characters! Shenanigans, knavery, roguery and lawlessness are no match for The Lady Hardcastle and her lady's "maid", Dearest friend and comrade in arms Miss Florence Armstrong. This duo shares mysterious past, often referenced but not fully explained. The ladies were engaged in service to King and country by a shadowy government agency much interested in secrets held by agents of other governments that the Crown found objectionable to world order and peace. There are layers of mysteries, wonderfully quirky characters and the reader is invited to join in on the fun. I'm looking forward to the release of book three this summer.

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