

# **The Enigmatic Christmas Murder Mystery at the British Library Crime Classics**

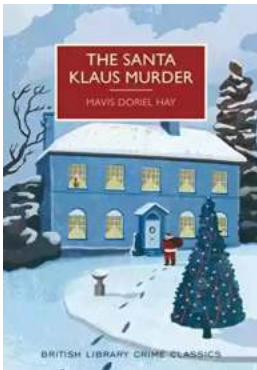
As the festive season approaches, many people are on the lookout for thrilling and captivating stories to indulge in during the cozy evenings by the fireplace. For mystery lovers, the British Library Crime Classics series provides an array of enchanting tales to satisfy their cravings. From the classic detective stories of authors like Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle to lesser-known but equally enthralling mysteries, the British Library offers readers a chance to immerse themselves in the devious world of crime and puzzles. This Christmas, explore the chilling and thought-provoking murder mysteries carefully selected by the British Library.

## **The Allure of British Library Crime Classics**

The British Library Crime Classics series has gained a large following over the years due to its unique selection of overlooked works, offering readers a glimpse into the forgotten gems of the mystery genre. With meticulous editing and careful curation, the British Library has revived previously out-of-print detective stories from the Golden Age of Crime, reintroducing readers to beloved authors and introducing new readers to a world filled with suspense, intrigue, and brilliant detective work.

One of the standout features of this series is its ability to transport readers to a different time and place, evoking the nostalgia of the early 20th century. The stories capture the essence of a bygone era, complete with charming settings, intricate plots, and unforgettable characters. From cozy country villages to bustling city streets, the authors in the British Library Crime Classics series have

crafted immersive worlds that draw readers in and keep them guessing until the very end.



## The Santa Klaus Murder: A Christmas Murder Mystery (British Library Crime Classics)

by Constance Gillam (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 969 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 253 pages



### A Christmas Murder Mystery Extravaganza

Within the extensive collection of British Library Crime Classics, there are a few exceptional murder mysteries that perfectly capture the spirit of Christmas. These stories use the festive season as a backdrop, incorporating traditions, seasonal cheer, and a twist of darkness to create a tantalizing blend of atmosphere and suspense.

#### "Death in White Pyjamas" by John Bude

Published in 1944, this gripping tale revolves around a house party at a snow-covered country estate. A diverse group of guests, unexpectedly trapped together due to an avalanche, soon finds themselves caught in a web of deception, jealousy, and, ultimately, murder. With a locked-room mystery, clever plot twists, and a touch of romance, "Death in White Pyjamas" is the perfect read for a cozy winter night.

## **"Silent Nights: Christmas Mysteries" edited by Martin Edwards**

This collection of short stories brings together a variety of renowned authors, from Conan Doyle to Margery Allingham, to celebrate the festive season in true crime style. From stolen jewels to unexplained disappearances, these Christmas-themed mysteries range from heartwarming to spine-chilling, ensuring there is something for everyone to enjoy.

## **"Mystery in White" by J. Jefferson Farjeon**

Set on a snowbound train during Christmas Eve, this atmospheric novel explores the chilling experiences of a group of strangers trapped together in a snowdrift. As the passengers seek refuge in a nearby country house, tensions rise and secrets are unveiled, leading to a series of unexplained events. "Mystery in White" showcases Farjeon's skill in building suspense and creating a sense of unease, leaving readers engrossed until the final revelation.

## **Discovering More British Library Crime Classics**

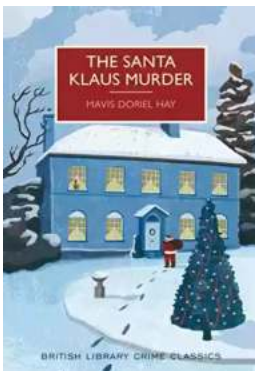
In addition to the Christmas-themed mysteries, the British Library Crime Classics series features an extensive selection of novels and short stories to cater to all tastes. Whether you prefer cozy village mysteries, locked-room puzzles, or psychological thrillers, there is a title waiting to captivate you in the British Library's collection.

Some notable titles in the series include "The Mystery of the Yellow Room" by Gaston Leroux, "The Sussex Downs Murder" by John Bude, and "Quick Curtain" by Alan Melville. These books, along with many others, showcase the diversity and depth of the series, ensuring that readers can always find a compelling mystery waiting to be explored.

## **The Perfect Gift for Mystery Enthusiasts**

With Christmas just around the corner, the British Library Crime Classics series also makes for a fantastic gift for mystery enthusiasts or anyone seeking an absorbing read. These meticulously curated editions, complete with eye-catching vintage cover designs, add a touch of elegance to any bookshelf. From seasoned fans of the genre to those discovering the delights of classic crime fiction for the first time, the British Library Crime Classics series offers a unique reading experience that will be treasured for years to come.

So, this Christmas, snuggle up with a cup of hot cocoa, dim the lights, and lose yourself in the enchanting world of the British Library Crime Classics. Unravel complex puzzles, follow clever detectives, and experience the thrill of catching a killer. Let the pages of these captivating mysteries transport you to a bygone era, where justice is sought, secrets are revealed, and the unexplained becomes clear.



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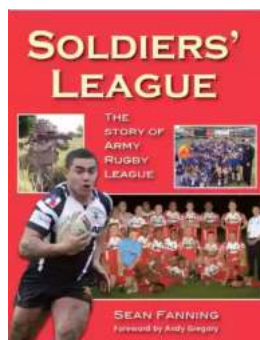
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Mystery crime fiction written in the Golden Age of Murder

"Despite its title, this British Library Crime Classics reissue of a 1936 novel isn't just an entertaining Christmas read. It's a fine example of the old-time country-house murder mystery, with loads of suspects, lots of period atmosphere, and much caustic wit." —Booklist

Aunt Mildred declared that no good could come of the Melbury family Christmas gatherings at their country residence Flaxmere. So when Sir Osmond Melbury, the family patriarch, is discovered—by a guest dressed as Santa Klaus—with a bullet in his head on Christmas Day, the festivities are plunged into chaos. Nearly every member of the party stands to reap some sort of benefit from Sir Osmond's death, but Santa Klaus, the one person who seems to have every opportunity to fire the shot, has no apparent motive. Various members of the family have their private suspicions about the identity of the murderer, and the Chief Constable of Haulmshire, who begins his investigations by saying that he knows the family too well and that is his difficulty, wishes before long that he understood them better. In the midst of mistrust, suspicion and hatred, it emerges that there was not one Santa Klaus, but two.



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