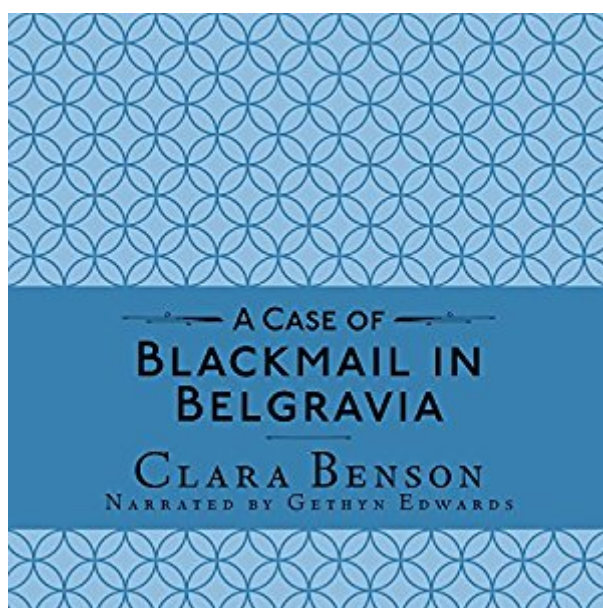


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A Case Of Blackmail In Belgravia: A Freddy Pilkington-Soames Adventure, Book 1



Synopsis

It's 1929, and Ticky Maltravers is the toast of London high society, adored by everyone - or so it seems, until somebody poisons him over dinner. Now it turns out that numerous people with secrets to hide had every reason to wish him dead. But which of them murdered him? For Freddy Pilkington-Soames, newspaper reporter and man-about-town, the question hits a little too close to home, thanks to an unfortunate drunken encounter with Ticky's corpse which he'd much rather the police didn't find out about - and thanks also to his exasperating mother Cynthia's seeming determination to get herself arrested by tampering with the evidence. But a pretty girl with big blue eyes is demanding his help in solving the mystery, so what can he do but agree? Now all he has to do is hide the wrong clues, find the right ones, and unmask the murderer before the police discover what's really been going on. That ought to be easy enough. If only people didn't keep getting killed....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'll be honest, this book will not win a Pulitzer, but it is an entertaining read. As a fan of the Angela Marchmont series, I was sad to finish the last book. I was very happy to hear that a new series starring Freddy, one of my favorites from the AM series, was being written. I was not let down. This book ticks the boxes that I enjoyed about the AM series. It is great light reading. If you liked Angela Marchmont, and enjoyed Freddy's character, then this book will be right up your alley.

I really enjoyed the Angela Marchmont series, so I was excited to see part of it continue through Freddy. This book was a fun read, but I didn't like it as much as the Angela stories. Freddy and most of his friends and relations are a little silly. That worked well as a foil to Angela, but now that she's not in the picture and there's less to balance them out, it makes for a book that's less interesting and dynamic. The plot also seemed a bit less developed than I was used to with the Angela stories. I will still happily continue with the series, and I wouldn't like to see Freddy take a turn for the overly serious, a la Campion. I just hope that future offerings will include a bit more in the way of plot and better developed serious characters for Freddy to play off of.

This is the first I've read by this author. She has a fun style (that often had me chuckling a bit), and she paints the era and atmosphere very nicely. It feels like a good, old-fashioned mystery with quirky characters, witty dialogue, and a storyline that never drags or is tedious. It's hard to say why without giving it away (and I don't like spoilers), but the culprit was obvious to me early on (not because I'm particularly bright but for a reason that I've sometimes encountered in other books that makes it too obvious). I kept hoping it wasn't as clear as it seemed then found that it was. I don't expect to always be completely stumped, but do like a sufficiently sophisticated presentation that it's at least a challenge (not to say that the author lacks any sophistication of style). Still, the read was fun, and there were a few unexpected surprises in addition to the murders that made it more interesting. The style is so delightful, I'm going to give the next in the series a try. It's stormy out and feels like just the sort of day to curl up with hot cocoa and a murder mystery like this. I hope to give the next 5 stars!

I was delightfully surprised by this book. So many mysteries I have read recently are poorly written, lack any real surprises, and are short on quality in most areas. THIS one however is delightful, and while I did guess 'who dun' it' before the end, I wasn't sure, and enjoyed the ending. Now I am off to buy another of her books and hope I will enjoy them as much as following Freddy around London, moving bodies and hunting murderers!

Bertie Wooster comes to life again, but without Jeeves. Another light-hearted book, with some mystery, although I had figured out the villain well before the end, but the characters are well done and their antics are amusing at times. Clara Benson has a talent for getting the age/era and style of her stories and characters exactly right.

Working for a newspaper transports the gossip of London's upperclass, gets him where the action is. He becomes embroiled in a murder due to his mother's fondness for gambling. Fun characters.

Very Very Good Mystery!!! Clara Benson has a great writing technique and in this series brings a little humor to the story, with her sleuth, Freddy Pilkington. Not too much humor, but just enough to bring a smile to the reader occasionally. The grammar, punctuation, and story line are very good and enough clues are given (if one is attentive) for the reader to solve the mystery. I am looking forward to reading the next in the series, "A Case of Murder in Mayfair".

Enjoyed the light reading. Interesting with well developed characters. Would like to see sequels

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