



The Santa Klaus Murder (British Library - British Library Crime Classics)

Mavis Doriel Hay

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When it comes to Christmas stories, one typically thinks of those that embody the spirit of the season, such as O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi" and Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. The Yuletide-themed murder mystery is not usually the first thing that comes to mind. But in 1936, Mavis Doriel Hay wrote *The Santa Klaus Murder*, one of three detective novels she published in the 1930s.

A classic country-house murder mystery, *The Santa Klaus Murder* begins with Aunt Mildred declaring that no good could come of the Melbury family Christmas gathering 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, but in the midst of mistrust, suspicion, and hatred, it emerges that there was not one Santa Klaus but two.

This new addition to the British Library Crime Classics series is a must-have for all fans of classic murder mystery and will delight anyone looking for a thrilling read during the holidays.

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