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A Quiet Life In The Country (A Lady Hardcastle Mystery Book 1)



Synopsis

Lady Emily Hardcastle is an eccentric widow with a secret past. Florence Armstrong, her maid and confidante, is an expert in martial arts. The year is 1908 and they've just moved from London to the country, hoping for a quiet life. But it is not long before Lady Hardcastle is forced out of her self-imposed retirement. There's a dead body in the woods, and the police are on the wrong scent. Lady Hardcastle makes some enquiries of her own, and it seems she knows a surprising amount about crime investigation. As Lady Hardcastle and Flo delve deeper into rural rivalries and resentment, they uncover a web of intrigue that extends far beyond the village. With almost no one free from suspicion, they can be certain of only one fact: there is no such thing as a quiet life in the country. Revised edition: This edition of *A Quiet Life In The Country* includes editorial revisions.

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Customer Reviews

When led to this page for my review I found a series of leading questions which I found quite offensive. Don't put words in my mouth. I'm quite capable of giving my own ideas and views! For instance instead of the above four one word clap trap, I give you my review: "Full of surprises"

indeed! That being said, I absolutely adored "A Quiet Life In The Country". I take full advantage to read for free lots of books through Prime, but most of it is schlock. This is the gold piece found buried deep, and worth the search. It's fun and frothy reading at the level of P. G. Wodehouse and Georgette Heyer. I echo a hearty Amen! to those who found Flo and Lady Hardcastle the most diverting sleuthing duo to come along in ages. I want much much more! Well researched too, as I learned who in the upper crust sails (as in Ladyship) and an assortment of early 20th century sports figures like W. G. Grace and Jack Hobbs, and after googling pictures of same, got quite a giggle out of Grace being portrayed as Oscar Wilde. This is actually my second read of this series, and it is even better than I remembered. In the second one you get even more behind the scenes with Lady H and Flo and it is a wild ride. These are first class offerings and I'm actually buying them all and can't wait until the newest comes out next June (2017)!

I'm not quite sure what I expected when I plunked down my money and downloaded A Quiet Life in the Country. A modern variation of the Golden Age country house mystery? If that was it, I didn't get it. What I did wind up getting was a whole lot more. I will warn you ahead of time: if you are a fan of those classic mysteries, T.E. Kinsey's book may not be your cup of tea, and now I'll set about telling you why. Kinsey has written a good, puzzling, multi-layered mystery that gives you a real feel for village life out in the English countryside at the turn of the last century. While the plot and the setting are first-rate, it's Kinsey's characters that make this book shine-- and what makes the book turn away from those classic mysteries. Inspector Sunderland moves from being a stereotype to being someone rather special, which I always love to see (being sick to death of incompetent policemen in the books I read). Lady Emily Hardcastle's background is very mysterious indeed, and I hope it takes several books to have all the details teased out for us to see. However, it is the relationship between Lady Emily and Florence that is the pièce de résistance of A Quiet Life in the Country. Their dialogue is so full of mutual admiration, wit, and humor that it is, quite simply, a delight to read. As Sunderland witnesses one such conversation, he asks, "Are you two a music hall act?" and you have to admit that he has a point. (If they were a music hall act, I'd pay to see them.) If you're in the mood for something that's light and fun, something that teases your brain, takes you to the English countryside of a century ago, and makes you laugh, have I got a recommendation for you: T.E. Kinsey's A Quiet Life in the Country. I'm on to the second book!

I read a lot. I purchase a lot of cheaper Kindle books and then suffer through grammatical errors, errors in punctuation, and other mistakes that arrive with poorly edited books. I was so delighted to

realize there were none of these 'halts' to my reading rhythm here. My delight grew as I found the gentle, typically British humor and I was entranced by the glimpses of the history these two women had shared. I made myself read more slowly than normal, so I could enjoy the book longer. And I said to myself "I want more from this author. This person can write!" I recommend this book highly.

Lady Hardcastle and her servant, Armstrong, are quite a pair. They have an interesting relationship and many of their interactions are comic. They do have good instincts and the ability to solve mysteries and crimes, so the books in the series show off their many talents in an enjoyable way. They have a very colorful background as spys for the British government, but details of this only come out gradually in the course of their new life in the country. Very well done. I like the setting and all the interesting characters in and around the small village where Lady H and Flo have recently moved. Altogether, I would recommend this whole series

Enjoyable. The writing is a little predictable but its a book you can read and enjoy and not have to really pay attention to plot. Very light reading but fun.

Murder mysteries are not my normal reading material, but I thoroughly enjoyed the wit and banter of the two main characters. The stage is set in 1908 England and as we fly through the pages of this easy read we are treated to a genuine good time. The plot keeps you guessing yet makes you feel like you have a handle on who the murderer is only to find a twist that heads you in another direction. I recommend this and T.E. Kinsey's other 2 books in this series. I actually laughed out loud, which I almost never do.

This is a terrific new series. This first book includes several complete stories. The narrator is the Lady's maid, quite a personality herself. The writing is quick, clever, intelligent and still easily read. Although the stories are complete in themselves, there is the life thread of the two women that runs throughout allowing for uninterrupted narrative. Even as the present (1908) unfolds, the history of the women is revealed in easy and meaningful ways so that we slowly learn what has brought them to this place in their personal history. I am looking forward to the second book in the series and I will definitely read this one again. A Quiet Life in the Country is storytelling at its best.

What a delightful story. I am reading more so PLEASE keep them coming. I could see this as a Most Entertaining light-hearted mystery series. But I will content to read the adventures of Lady

Hardcastle and her companion. They are very intuitive, knowledgeable, clever, etc etc etc. I love these gals.... They have had some amazing adventures in the past and most certainly in the future time of the stories as you tell them to us T.E. Kinsey!!!!

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