

BOOK REVIEW

The Thursday Murder Club

by Richard Osman

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I love a good murder mystery. The mystery and intrigue, the clues and motives and the clever twists in the plot, until the answers are revealed. You can then be stunned by how it tricked you, or alternately, satisfied that the guess you made, and your sharp observation skills led you to the right answers. Or something in between.

However, I like my murder mysteries to be something I can read in bed and afterwards turn off the light and go to sleep. It may sound like an oxymoron, but, I don't like too dark a tone or too much nastiness or evil.

Prior to this I found three great murder mysteries written by Robert Galbraith (another name for JK Rowling, post Harry Potter) that were set in England and starred Cormoron Strike, a far from perfect but loveable ex-army amputee. He is a private detective, and with his super savvy Secretary cum Assistant Robin, solves murder mysteries. Lots of plot twists and interesting scenes, like the inside of the British parliament building and many sub plots, making the characters absolutely realistic.

Superb.

Following that, many similar thrillers seem too savage and terrifying. There is enough blood and gore in our daily lives as surgeons. But the Thursday Murder Club is a great find. A very unlikely place to find a group of amateur sleuths, it is set in an ideal old age facility with four elderly friends as the detectives. It is, in a way, endearing. It has all the trademarks of a good thriller but also has a great sense of humour and a sense of justice and fair play and is described as "achingly English". The characters are distinctive and recognisable in our daily lives.

As we are confined to our homes more and more, we need a good book to curl up with. I would highly recommend this one.

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