



*Strong Poison*

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*Dorothy L. Sayers*

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Mystery novelist Harriet Vane knew all about poisons, and when her former lover died in the manner prescribed in one of her books, a jury of her peers had a hangman's noose in mind. But Lord Peter Wimsey was determined to find her innocent.

## Strong Poison Details

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Author : Dorothy L. Sayers

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## From Reader Review Strong Poison for online ebook

### ? Irena ? says

3.5

So far the only Wimsey book I didn't like was *Unnatural Death* and that's because there was no Wimsey. He appears in a couple of scenes but the majority of the book is a woman he hired to investigate for him. Well, that was one of the main reasons.

The reason I mention *Unnatural death* is that here too Miss Climpson is sent to investigate something but in *Strong Poison* it wasn't too much and she actually does interesting things trying to find the item she came for. She isn't just talking to people. I liked it.

As for Wimsey, he is all over this case because he kind of falls in love with the accused. I loved his attitude towards her, towards marriage in general. He works slower here because this time he has something to lose (no, his brother's problem from one of the previous books is not the same).

The case is not that interesting and there are so few suspects that there is no real surprise in the end, but the way Lord Wimsey, Miss Climpson, the typist who works for her, and many, many others mobilise to solve the case is lovely.

There are, of course, a lot of contemporary issues sprinkled throughout the book (spiritualist and inevitable frauds, communists and artists, feminists and such) and they make this story very colourful.

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### BrokenTune says

4.5\*

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### Nikki says

You would think that having read Strong Poison once, listened to the Ian Carmichael audiobook, and watched the Edward Petherbridge tv adaptation *twice*, I wouldn't be still at the point of giggling every few pages or staying up all night to finish it. You'd definitely be wrong.

It's so good coming back to these characters and learning more about them, and having the fondness about them, and not having my mind occupied with trying to figure out the mystery. Miss Murchison! Miss Climpson! Bunter! Parker! The whole Victorian asking of intentions bit!

I think one of my favourite moments, oddly, was the moment in which Peter is thinking crossly about suicides and how they should leave a note, just to avoid all the mess. And he thinks about how he should do it, not in terms of "if", but in terms of "when". Such a chillingly telling moment, and dropped in at the end of a chapter, and never returned to -- how typical of Peter's character, for something so serious to be only glanced across. And it's one of those moments that you see Peter very clearly as more than a silly ass, instead of just having to take that on faith. I don't know if I'm explaining it very well -- and this is an extraordinary

amount of my review to devote to what was really a tiny detail -- but the moment really caught my attention.

So yes. Still toe-curlingly squee worthy, even on a fifth go at the plot.

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### **Jaline says**

Lord Peter Wimsey meets the love of his life – finally – and decides then and there he is going to marry her. Unfortunately, Harriet Vane, the source of Lord Peter's willingness to forgo the bachelor life for a house and family, is not in a position to accept.

Harriet Vane is in the prisoner's dock of the court, charged with the murder of her previous lover. If convicted, she will hang. Instead, there is a hung jury and a second trial due to be opened in a month. Lord Peter has only that short time to figure out how to save this young woman – and the only way he can do that is to produce the real culprit.

Fairly early on, we are given some indication of who the real culprit is. But there is the question of motive – nothing fits. There is also the question of how the murder was done. From the title, we know it was poison, but how was the poison administered and when? More significantly, will the information they need come to light in time to save Harriet Vane?

Once again, Dorothy Sayers spins out a great mystery and some fascinating and clever sleuth-work on the part of Lord Peter and his friends and associates. And there is more than one romance in the works during this brim-full novel. It took all my willpower not to jump straight into #7 of this series (The Five Red Herrings) to find out what happens next!

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### **Sharon Ervin says**

Sayers wrote many novels. Four feature Lord Peter Wimsey and love interest Harriet Vane. Those are my favorites: STRONG POISON, HAVE HIS CARCASE, GAUDY NIGHT and BUSMAN'S HONEYMOON.

There is something about Sayers' writing that conveys images, humor, characters, etc., from her brain to mine. GAUDY NIGHT actually is my all-time favorite book. I've recommended it to avid reader friends, many of whom could "not get into it."

Her murderers, motives and methods delight me. She simply writes marvelous mysteries.

I actually read THE NINE TAILORS first, which only whetted my appetite for her voice.

Sayers died in 1957. A Brit, she was terribly remote to me yet, as an author, she and I are in sync.

I do not let my Sayers books out of my house.

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## Brenda H says

Strong Poison by Dorothy L. Sayers is the fifth featuring Lord Peter Wimsey, a nobleman and an amateur detective.

The story takes place in 1930 London. Mystery author Harriet Vane is on trial for the murder of her lover, Philip Boyes. The trial ends with a hung jury and is scheduled to be heard again in a month. Following the trial, Lord Peter visits Harriet in prison and declares his belief in her innocence and promises to catch the real murderer. He also announces his intention to marry her - which she rejects. Lord Peter enlists his friends and associates in his endeavor - DI Charles Parker, Hon. Freddy Arbuthnot and a highly entertaining "spy", Miss Murchison.

To be honest, it took me a bit to get into the book. The original crime is presented by the judge at the trial summarizing the case before sending the jury out for deliberation. In both book and audio format, this setup was slow and ponderous. However, once Wimsey starts investigating the crime, the pace picks up and the story becomes more interesting. There is a seance scene with Miss Murchison which is laugh-out-loud in parts. The crime is, of course, solved.

Rating: 4 stars.

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## Madeline says

I'm sorry, Hercule Poirot. There's a new literary detective in my life, and while I will always cherish your silly Belgian antics, Lord Peter Wimsey just understands my *needs* better - he makes me laugh so much more than you do, and he has that sincerity that you lack.

Now don't cry, Hercule. It's not your fault; the fact is that Lord Peter is just...well, truth be told he's a better man than you. *You* take cases more out of boredom, and also because the police tend to beg for your help. Lord Peter Wimsey seems to care so much more than you - when Harriet Vane was accused of poisoning her former lover, Lord Peter knew she didn't do it, and he decided to take her case because he genuinely cared about her, and this led to a delightful scene where he proposes marriage to her in prison. He's such a better speaker than you - he talks like Oscar Wilde wrote all his lines but decided to be sincere about them for a change. All I can do to prove my point is quote directly from his conversation with Harriet after he proposes:

"No - dash it all, I seem to be saying all the wrong things today. I was absolutely stunned that first day in court, and I rushed off to my mater, who's an absolute dear, and the kind of person who really understands things, and I said, "Look here! here's the absolutely one and only woman, and she's being put through a simply ghastly awful business and for God's sake come and hold my hand!" You simply don't know how foul it was.'

'That does sound rather rotten. I'm sorry I was brutal. But, by the way, you're bearing in mind, aren't you, that I've had a lover?'

'Oh, yes. So have I, if it comes to that. In fact, several. It's the sort of thing that might happen to anybody. I

can produce quite good testimonials. I'm told I make love rather nicely - only I'm at a disadvantage at the moment. One can't be very convincing at the other end of a table with a bloke looking through the door."

Also, and I know I've mentioned this before, you don't really share things with your readers, Hercule, or even the other characters in your stories. You have a tendency to discover Very Important Clues and then not mention them to anyone, just so you can reveal them at the most dramatic moment possible. There's just no communication. Lord Peter is different - not only did I know every detail of the case as he discovered it, but he even shared the investigation with other characters in the book! He has a veritable army of smart spinsters who do investigation work for him, and he dispatched two of them to help with the Vane case. This resulting in two wonderful scenes, where one woman learns how to pick locks from a born-again thief, and another where a Miss Murchinson uses fake Spiritualism to convince someone to search for a hidden will. It's all fascinating and funny and very educational, especially the Spiritualism stuff.

So I'm sorry to say that Lord Peter Wimsey is now my favorite detective\* at the moment, and that I think it's time we took a break while I explore this. I'll return to your stories again some day, but for now I want to focus on spending more time with Lord Peter.

Thank you for understanding, and I hope we can still be friends.

Yours truly,  
Madeline

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\*Sherlock, sweetie, don't you even worry. You're still my Number One and always will be.

### **Lotte says**

I listened to this on audiobook and completely forgot to add it to my Goodreads challenge. Dorothy L. Sayers is now officially my no. 1 Agatha Christie substitute. If you like Agatha Christie, I can only recommend checking out one of the Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries! They have a very similar feel to them and they're always very satirical and funny.

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### **Carol ?? says**

I think this may be the Sayers I read in my younger years & didn't much care for.

I can appreciate Sayers' ability more now.

I did enjoy this title very much, but not quite a perfect read for me. There was quite a bit of filler & not many suspects. But the murder method was ingenious & this is enough to make this title a most satisfying read.

Good stuff!

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## **Luce says**

5 Stars for the audiobook

First off - narrator is the actor Ian Carmichael who is excellent. He narrated a few in this series and also was in a full cast recording by BBC (abridged dramatizations) and he also played Lord Peter Wimsey on TV. I remember seeing a BBC Wimsey series with a different actor, which turned me on to reading the books in the 80's or it may have been the other way around.

This is the 5th book in the series which takes place in the 1920s, England. I started here because it introduces my favorite character, Harriet Vane, a mystery novelist. Harriet is accused of murdering her ex-lover by poison. Wimsey falls in love at first sight with Harriet and proposes to her when he meets her face to face for the first time - while she is a prisoner awaiting trial! She turns him down and he vows to prove her innocent. I especially love their clever banter.

I love this series. Wimsey is not the eldest son, so he is able to be a detective without family duties hindering his efforts. Through the years of detecting he has made many friends on both sides of the law and often asks favors of both. To get Harriet free he uses all his resources - especially from a secretary agency he funds which he will use to be his eyes and ears for where they can go and he can't. They actually do much of the actual clue gathering in this book.

It looks like I'll have to re-read most of this series myself as the majority of the audio books are abridged. Too many books, too little time!

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## **Jeanette says**

This one is the introduction of Harriet to the mix.

It's nearly a 5, but just short. It misses a bit on the nuance that will build between Lord Peter and herself- but which hasn't risen to its zenith yet. But Miss Climpson makes up for it- she's 5 star in this novel. I sure hope Lord Peter pays her an exorbitant salary.

It's dire circumstances for the ending of Harriet's former relationship. And our hero Peter declares himself almost immediately when he views her verve within her own situation. That truly surprised me as I've read many of these but not their meeting phases nor the style of their banter becoming established as it becomes.

Lots of details and lots of sleuthing and some of it is on the continent. Early airplane travel involved and Bunter assists. We have some high, high tone clubs and clubs that are merely "the high". And also some very traditional changes for both Mary and our favorite police inspector give Lord Peter a new possible brother-in-law, and thanks to his "help" too.

There's tons of dialect and the reading with allusions and era referencing quite difficult. But Dorothy Sayers doesn't pander down- you need to rise to it.

I love the style of humor and its absolutely classic and unique wit.

On to all the others I have not read. Kudos Dorothy!

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### **Sandy \*The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice\* says**

I enjoy every Lord Peter Wimsey novel more than the last! With each book we learn a little more about Lord Peter and his personality blooms. He is not so much the 'buffoon' in this book, and we see another side to him - stricken with love.

In Strong Poison Harriet Vane, a novelist, is on trial for the murder by arsenic of her lover, also a novelist. Lord Peter's man Bunter, his friend Charles Parker, and Miss Climpson who runs his typing agency (a.k.a. 'The Cattery' a front for other things revealed in this book) are joined by Miss Murchison in aiding Lord Peter to prove the innocence of Miss Vane, for whom he has taken a particular fancy and has decided to marry.

The problem is, Miss Vane's latest novel details a murder very similar to that of which she stands accused, and she can be proved to have had quantities of arsenic in her possession.

Another cracking good read from Dorothy L Sayers.

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### **mark monday says**

introducing harriet vane! she's a loveable heroine and lord peter wimsey practically becomes a walking boner as soon as she arrives on the scene. dorothy sayers is one of the most elegant of writers and her super-detective peter wimsey is one of literature's most elegant creations. he's a semi-tragic war hero, he's brave & strong & fast & loyal, he's kind to service staff, he's a defender of the innocent...and all his heroic attributes would grow quickly obnoxious except that sayers places them in the persona of an effete, often snobby, often condescending dandy, a straight oscar wilde who can kick your ass if you get too rude. this kind of character has reappeared in many places over time, but this is my favorite incarnation of the type.

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### **Manny says**

In 1847, the average woman who read novels apparently wanted Mr Rochester. In 1930, she wanted Lord Peter Wimsey. And in 2015, she wants Christian Grey.

This is called progress.

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### **Kelly says**

This review originally appeared on my blog, Shoulda Coulda Woulda Books.

Dorothy Sayers has been a popular mystery writer for at least eighty years. She was writing books in the twenties and thirties and they, despite the competition of Agatha Christie and everyone else writing similarly mannered mystery puzzles and polite comedies of manners (which category her books also fall into), have lasted until now, which means they've come through at least three generations of fans. And it isn't hard to see why.

Her most famous character (and deservedly) is Lord Peter Wimsey. He is the younger son and brother of a Duke in the interwar era who takes up "sleuthing" as his hobby. It's like if Bertie Wooster decided to be Sherlock Holmes one day, plus about 100 IQ points and deeper heart and ironic self-awareness, but also retaining his faithful Jeeves (called Bunter in this series). His other hobby is reading, and his speech is a patchwork of classical, biblical and artistic references, often stopping and starting in the middle of thoughts, or making comments ten steps ahead of the conversation in the appealing manner of the incredibly smart and verbally gifted. His charm is undeniable- you smile because you've met him before, and then laugh because you haven't, not really. He constantly surprises with his intelligence and insight, which leap all unexpected out of the apparently harmless "buffoonery" others identify him with and is all the more searing because of it.

In *Strong Poison*, this appealing charm is only added to by the fact that Peter is, at seemingly long last, showing his vulnerability and humanity beneath the clownish exterior, and he does it by falling deeply in love with an accused murderer, Harriet Vane. She is accused of murdering her former lover with arsenic, and as the story opens seems to be about a hairsbreadth from being convicted with pretty convincing evidence. But Peter Wimsey doesn't believe it for a second! A hung jury allows for a second trial and a second chance for Peter to save her if he works fast- and that he most certainly does.

Surrounded by a cast of amusing and fully drawn supporting characters like the delightful clearly-recognizable-to-a-1930s-reading-public sweet old Miss Climpson, the Watson, of sorts, of the piece, the requisite actual near Bertie Wooster type, Freddy Arbuthnot- there clearly to highlight the difference, and the broadly drawn stereotype of a former lock picker Rumm, just to name a few, its hard not to get pulled along with and fall for this literarily inclined sitcom of a piece, packed with stand-alone comedy routines of episodes. (Indeed, I think Dorothy Sayers would have had a very good career as a staff writer on *Frasier* or *Gilmore Girls*, had she been born a few decades later.) Wimsey's orchestration of the madness has an appropriately light touch and, rarely for a detective main character, he doesn't hog the spotlight at all. Lots of characters get a chance to shine in this truly ensemble piece.

(Note: It was also a plus that the bothersomely insistent anti-Semitism I noticed in *Whose Body* (and I'm still unclear about whether it was editorial commentary or just on the part of characters who were unfortunately realistic for the time) isn't present here except for a stray remark or two, and not from characters I think we're meant to admire, so that was also a big step up.)

But I actually, for all my trying, could not jump into the waters and be swept along. The first major weakness is the mystery itself. I guessed all the twists chapters before the main characters did, to the point where I wanted to smack my forehead when they finally figured it out. I guessed the murderer a few chapters after they were first mentioned. The villain is unsatisfyingly stupid, to the point where even Sayers questions him, "Sooo... why didn't he just do this to cover himself?".. and essentially gives an answer of, "IDK, don't question it- good luck for our dashing main character!" Which I get, Peter is what we're here for for sure. But it made some of the machinations to figure out what happened feel longer than they would have without at least a little suspense. Partly I think this is not Sayers' fault- I am conditioned to figure out the murderer by who they are mentioned by, when they are mentioned, how much information gets repeated and by whom because I have read many of Sayers' descendants and I know the rules. Perhaps at the time it was written

people hadn't been trained enough to figure that out.

Secondly, I found Harriet Vane underwhelming- I was promised someone awesome, and I think she just didn't get enough screen time to show it. Oh, she was cool when we saw her, but it was in two to five page spurts every fifty pages or so. I gathered from the testimony of others definitely a strong, independent woman with an unconventional life and a lot of integrity, which was amazing, especially in an older book, but again, no chance to show it- she only appeared in spurts of two to five pages every four or five chapters. I also thought that Peter's relationship with her during this time was much less charming than I think he meant it to be- a lot of it was an uncomfortable example of a man exerting power over a woman who has no choice but to play to him, whether she honestly likes him or not. And even if she does, it'll maybe never be totally clear. It all ended up all right and I approve of where Sayers took it and I'd be interested to see what a Harriet Vane not currently under arrest for murder would be like as a character, but she didn't show to her best advantage here.

Thirdly, I really wish the book had spent more time on letting us glimpse beneath Peter's lighthearted nature- the few scenes where he playfully-but-not-playfully took people to task for getting upset with him for showing his humanity, rather than just being a delightful, dumb jester all the time that others could use to lighten their mood (using Jon Stewart's Crossfire "monkey" line centuries before it became famous to contemporary people). It was affecting- I get that part of its power was being used sparingly and too much might put off an audience who also loves him the way he is, but I guess Sayers was just too good at these parts. I really loved Georgette Heyer's *Cotillion*, which does kind of a similar thing and sets up a "buffoon" as the romantic hero, defending him and all his virtues the whole while against the more popular Byronic type. Sayers had more to work with in her secretly-actually-smart hero and I wish she'd done it. Just my personal preference for seeing people in layers, I guess. I get that this is a polite mystery from the 1930s and what I'm talking about is a modern thing. New fanfiction idea!

If I read another Sayers I think I'll try *Have his Carcase* or *Gaudy Night*, both of which are supposed to have a strong Harriet Vane appearance. Sayers seems worth at least one more shot. I like this sort of thing and there aren't many playing at this level in the game.

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### **Olga Godim says**

This was a very good book. In it, Peter Wimsey first meets the love of his life, Harriet Vane, a writer of mystery novels. She is accused of murdering her former lover with arsenic, and Peter sets out to prove she didn't commit the murder. His clock is ticking too – he has only one month to collect his evidence and find the real killer before the woman he loves is convicted and hanged.

The plot is fairly simple, but the characters are what makes the story shine, especially Peter. I've been re-reading this series chronologically in the order of publication, and in this book Peter is coming to life more than in any of the previous novels. We see him upset. We see him despairing. We see him unsure of himself, this super-clever man who could solve any puzzle and unravel any mystery. We see him so full of love, he is bursting with it. And we see and hear him babble delightfully.

**'If anybody ever marries you, it will be for the pleasure of hearing you talk piffle,' said Harriet, severely.**

And yet, behind all his prattle on wide-ranging topics, seemingly unconnected and airy like soap bubbles, there is a keen mind at work, linking the dots, discovering the anomalies, establishing deep patterns. Sometimes, he pretends and camouflages like a chameleon to flush out his quarry, but more often he

expresses himself truthfully, even though his opinion are not always conventional. Here is a snatch of Peter's conversation with another character about an old lady:

**'... She's been quite childish, poor old lady, for the last five years or so. A wretched life – dragging on like that, a misery to herself and everybody else. It always seems to me a cruel thing that one may not put these poor old people out of the way, as one would a favorable animal – but the law will not let us be so merciful.'**

**'Yes, we'd be hauled over the coals by the N.S.P.C.A. if we let a cat linger on in misery,'** said Wimsey. **'Silly isn't it? But it's all of a piece with the people who write to the papers about keeping dogs in draughty kennels and don't give a hoot – or a penny – to stop landlords allowing a family of thirteen to sleep in an undrained cellar with no glass in the windows and no windows to put it in. It really makes me quite cross, sometimes...'**

Some might not agree with Peter's position here, but I see a man with profound respect for his fellow humans. I agree with him. The situation 'animals vs. humans' hasn't changed much since 1930, the first publication of this novel. I wish it had. I wish Peter's compassion for human beings would triumph in real life, just as his detective skills do in fiction. In Sayers' novels, he always finds his prey, no matter how clever they hide their trails.

I enjoyed this book from the first to the last page and I'm head over heels in love with Peter Wimsey. I want to hear his 'piffle'.

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### **Susan says**

Published in 1930, this is the sixth book to feature Lord Peter Wimsey and the first to feature Harriet Vane. When we are introduced to Harriet, she is a prisoner in the dock; on trial for killing her lover, Philip Boyes. Lord Peter is convinced of her innocence and instantly smitten. However, the case against her looks pretty convincing at first glance. Miss Vane had left Mr Boyes, after an attempt at 'free love' had fallen apart. A writer of detective fiction, Harriet had been investigating death by arsenic poisoning and had purchased arsenic under false names. When Philip Boyes is poisoned, it looks as though Harriet is the obvious person to accuse.

In a race against time, Lord Peter is determined to find the real murderer and so we set off on an exciting adventure, including false wills, mediums, notorious great-aunts and the glorious Miss Climpson who, against her moral scruples, is sent by Lord Peter to help solve the crime.

This is a delightful mystery, with wonderful characters, lots of humour, a great plot and a real sense of danger – as Lord Peter has to solve the crime and rescue Harriet. There is also a lot of romance in the air, with Parker still mooning over Peter's sister, Mary and Freddy Arbuthnot about to tie the knot with Rachel Levy (who was mentioned in the first ever Wimsey novel, "Whose Body?"). This is one of the most enjoyable in the series which I have read so far and I recommend the entire, classic, Golden Age series highly.

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## **Jason Koivu says**

I was reading this, feeling a whole lotta deja vu and just wondering which came first, Dorothy Sayers' Lord Peter Wimsey series or PG Wodehouse's Wooster/Jeeves series, when out of the blue one of Sayers' characters name-drops Jeeves!

For me and the sort of reading I enjoy, this hit the spot! It was like reading a murder mystery penned by Wodehouse. And if you're been reading my reviews, you know he's one of my favorite authors. There's something very Wooster-like about the foppish Wimsey. The style, language and flippancy of '20s/'30s England mirror Wodehouse almost to a tee.

The major difference is in the slightly more serious tone. This is about a murder trial, after all. It's not the most devilishly clever of murder mysteries, but it's good reading and I will definitely pick up another in the Wimsey series!

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**Rating Note: This was a strong 3.5 stars. I'll give it 4 stars for sheer enjoyment over any sense of writing quality.**

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## **Ali says**

I am a big fan of what are often referred to as the “golden age of crime” novels especially those of Agatha Christie, Dorothy L Sayers and Ngaio Marsh. Strong Poison is one I had wanted to read for some time but though I have spotted her novels in charity shops and on book laden tables during bookcrossing meet ups – never seem to come across this particular novel. So I gave in recently and downloaded it to my kindle at a cost of £4 or £5 – I think it was worth it. Having stumped up the cash – so to speak, for ‘Strong Poison’ I was chuffed therefore, when I found another Dorothy L Sayers novel ‘Whose Body’ - the first Lord Peter Wimsey novel published in 1923 - available for free ([girlebooks.com](http://girlebooks.com)).

It is in Strong Poison that we – and indeed Lord Peter – meet Harriet Vane – who is an important figure in some later Sayers novels. In this novel although she is at the centre of the story she doesn’t actually appear very often. Harriet is on trial for Murder; Lord Peter in the public gallery is convinced she is innocent. Thankfully Lord Peter’s employee Miss Climpson happens to be on the jury and although certainly not prompted by Lord Peter – she too believes the prisoner innocent and sticking to her guns throughout deliberations ensures that a verdict cannot be reached. Forcing the judge to order a new trial gives Lord Peter valuable time to investigate to truth of the matter. The problem though, is that the victim, Harriet Vane’s former lover, was poisoned – his last meal he shared with his cousin and the servants and they suffered no ill effects, but he was later taken ill shortly after drinking coffee with Harriet Vane in her flat. There are three possibilities, he was murdered by Harriet Vane – obviously not, he committed suicide, or was murdered by someone else, only how?

The plot is fairly ingenious I thought – although I did guess the whodunit – I think most readers will. In a way the who is less important in this novel and could be said to be pretty obvious – but it is the howdunit that kept me guessing. Ably assisted by the utterly marvellous Bunter, Miss Climpson and the ladies of The Cattery – a typing bureau that is really a bureau of investigation funded by Wimsey, Lord Peter sets out to prove Harriet Vane innocent. The fact that he has immediately fallen in love with her and proposes to her

upon first meeting her in prison adds a little flavour of romance to the story. The period of 1929/1930 – which of course is around the time the novel was written is beautifully portrayed – no doubt fairly seamlessly as Sayers was writing about her own era – but how wonderful for us now to have this period so humorously presented to us with its peculiarities of speech, social conventions and class snobberies.

I found this overall to be a thoroughly entertaining read, and for those readers new to Dorothy L Sayers it would make a pretty good one to start with.

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### **Tijana says**

Jednom je neko objašnjavao Edmundu Vilsonu kako je Doroti Sejers ozbiljan pisac a ne samo autorka krimi?a, i Vilson (koji se u slobodno vreme družio s Nabokovom dok nije krenuo da kritikuje Nabokovljeve prevode *s ruskog*) sedne i uzme da ?ita i naravno strašno se razo?ara i tom razo?aranju da oduška preko novina.

...

Jasno je na ?emu se zasnivaju argumenti i jedne i druge strane - Sejersova ima velike ambicije (pogledati kako iskusno i vešto gradi uvodnu scenu u *Strong Poison*) ali, s druge strane, drugi su imali i mnogo ve?e, a bolje ostvarene (sve je ovo pisano u doba visokog modernizma, na?ite primere sami). I sve do danas je ostalo malo onako nerazjašnjeno: da li je Doroti u stvari Agata Kristi za snobove ili nepriznati genije? Pa ne znam, bi?e da je negde izme?u. Na mnogo na?ina je beskrajno zabavnija od Agate - dijalog je duhovit i britak, poneke scene mala remekdela retorike, junaci se neprestano loptaju citatima u rasponu od Luisa Kerola preko renesansne poezije do Tomasa Lovela Bedousa (ne brinite, niko nije ?uo za njega), usred knjige ?e vas zate?i otrovna satira na ra?un boemskih krugova, spiritizma ili akademskog života, uvek zasnovana na zapažanjima iz prve ruke, moralni stav je beskompromisan i duboko proživljen (autorka je bila vatreno pobožna anglikanka) a ako lorda Pitera Vimzija upoznate u nežnim godinama, gotovi ste.

Sa druge strane, ove nabrojane vrline su nali?ja njenih mana - jer Doroti Sejers je bila strašan snob i to se jasno i na momente blamantno vidi, antisemitski momenti su dramati?ni i u pore?enju sa njenim savremenicima, kompozicija joj nije ja?a strana, a i zaplet ume da isklizne jer joj nije najvažniji kao Agati. A od moralizma ume da stane dah.

Tako da, ne znam. Sjajan comfort reading u svakom slu?aju. Meni je uglavnom beskrajno zabavna ?ak i dok prevr?em o?ima - i, nekako, vidi se da je mnogo više ulagala sebe u te knjige od prose?nog pa ?ak i natprose?nog krimi-autora. I ljubavna pri?a - koja zapo?inje u ovom romanu ali se posle mnogo nerazrešene seksualne tenzije razreši tek za nekoliko godina i tri-?etiri knjige - znatno je bolja od standardnih.

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