



## A Lady's Guide to Etiquette and Murder

*Dianne Freeman*

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*In this exciting historical mystery debut set in Victorian England, a wealthy young widow encounters the pleasures—and scandalous pitfalls—of a London social season . . .*

Frances Wynn, the American-born Countess of Harleigh, enjoys more freedom as a widow than she did as a wife. After an obligatory year spent mourning her philandering husband, Reggie, she puts aside her drab black gowns, leaving the countryside and her money-grubbing in-laws behind. With her young daughter in tow, Frances rents a home in Belgravia and prepares to welcome her sister, Lily, arriving from New York—for her first London season.

No sooner has Frances begun her new life than the ghosts of her old one make an unwelcome appearance. The Metropolitan police receive an anonymous letter implicating Frances in her husband's death. Frances assures Inspector Delaney of her innocence, but she's also keen to keep him from learning the scandalous circumstances of Reggie's demise. As fate would have it, her dashing new neighbor, George Hazelton, is one of only two other people aware of the full story.

While busy with social engagements on Lily's behalf, and worrying if Reggie really *was* murdered, Frances learns of mysterious burglaries plaguing London's elite. The investigation brings death to her doorstep, and Frances rallies her wits, a circle of gossips, and the ever-chivalrous Mr. Hazelton to uncover the truth. A killer is in their midst, perhaps even among her sister's suitors. And Frances must unmask the villain before Lily's season—and their lives—come to a most unseemly end . . .

## A Lady's Guide to Etiquette and Murder Details

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Author : Dianne Freeman

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## **From Reader Review A Lady's Guide to Etiquette and Murder for online ebook**

### **Yasmyne says**

As soon as I started "A Lady's Guide," I knew it was right up my alley. If you're a fan of Tasha Alexander's Lady Emily series or Anna Lee Huber's Lady Darby mysteries, you will love this as much as I did. Personally, I'm always looking for more series in this vein, and many of the others I've read tend to fall short. But Dianne Freeman brings Victorian London to life with her delightful prose. I also loved that her clever heroine happens to be an American who married into the aristocracy, which felt like a nice twist on the genre while still being completely historically accurate. I can't wait for book two!

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### **Mary Keliikoa says**

I loved this book on so many levels. I have not been a huge historical mystery reader, but this book has changed my view. I fell in love with the Victorian time period, and with Frances--who is a woman with a mind of her own. Her personality and wit shines throughout. There were moments I was laughing out loud and others where the writer had me concerned about the welfare of the characters I had come to love. The mystery was so well-plotted, I didn't know until the final reveal who was guilty, and was pleased at the outcome. This is a must read for any mystery lover and I'm anxiously awaiting Frances' next adventure.

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### **Lana Pattinson says**

I read a pre-published copy.

If you like the Victorian era, laughing, and headstrong heroines, this book is for you.

It's a tightly plotted romp of a mystery that will keep you guessing to the end!

Can't wait for a second book from Dianne Freeman.

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### **JoAn says**

A Lady's Guide to Etiquette and Murder by Dianne Freeman was an excellent start to what I hope will be a long running historical cozy mystery series.

Ms. Freeman introduces us to the recently widowed Countess of Harleigh, Frances Wynn. She is a surprisingly strong young woman for Victorian times who has come into her own now that she is a widow and intends to enjoy her life with her daughter. The descriptive writing of London and the characters made me feel like I was there with Frances as she introduces her sister, Lily, into London society during her first season. She also begins her amateur sleuthing as there has been a rash of thefts at homes nearby, a man is found killed in her back garden, and there is an attempt on her life right on the streets of London. Suspense,

subtle humor, only a few suspects, twists that had me confused and a startling reveal kept me turning the pages. I am already looking forward to the next one in the series.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book from Kensington via NetGalley. All of the above opinions are my own.

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### **Sheri says**

What a wonderfully fun read! I love historical mysteries and this one was just great. The protagonist, a recently widowed member of the aristocracy (an American, at that!), who lives in the very late 19th century, in England, finds herself embroiled in not one, but several mysteries. The author does an excellent job of character and plot development. I had no problem getting into the story. I love that you don't necessarily know the culprits. You're discovering things right along with Frances. The secondary characters of her aunt and sister show promise - I can't wait to read their further adventures as well.

\*I would like to thank the author/publisher/NetGalley for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for a fair and honest review\*

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### **Suanne says**

Dianne Freeman's debut novel, *A Lady's Guide to Etiquette and Murder*, is a witty romp of a Victorian mystery. The heroine, Frances, is a recently widowed and coming out of mourning for her dead rake-of-husband. She is surprisingly perspicacious and her struggles with propriety and her journey to independence is delightful. There is an understated chemistry between her and the hero, that is smoldering before bursting into flame. The mystery is well-plotted and full of twists. Freeman does an excellent job of capturing London in the heyday of the late nineteenth century with its culturally ingrained social mores.

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### **Carrie says**

*A Lady's Guide to Etiquette and Murder* by Dianne Freeman is the first book in the *A Countess of Harleigh Mystery* series. This series is a bit of a different take on the average cozy mystery in that it has a historical setting mixing both genres wonderfully.

Frances Wynn is an American that was born to a wealthy family that found herself in an arranged marriage to her husband, Reggie, that brought Frances the title of the Countess of Harleigh and her husband access to her family funds. In the beginning Frances thought she could learn to love her husband but as time went on she began to see the man he truly was.

One night Frances was awakened by a house guest who seemed to be extremely upset, it seems that Frances' husband Reggie had been in the lady's bed and passed from a heart attack. To save them all scandal Reggie's body had been moved back to his own room, the doctor called to pronounce his departure and Reggie buried putting Frances into a season of mourning.

Now that Frances' mourning season is coming to an end a year later she finds that she finally feels free of her

philandering husband and his money hungry family. Frances purchases her own home where she's invited her younger sister Lily to prepare for her first London season. However, before Frances really gets settled she gets a visit from the law claiming they have reason to look into Reggie's death as a possible homicide leaving Frances to set about finding out what really happened before she's accused of a crime.

Taking a cozy mystery into the past giving it a historical setting had *A Lady's Guide to Etiquette and Murder* a fun read right from the start. I wasn't sure how the historical side would mix with the leading lady going about investigating on her own but the author worked it all into the mix quite nicely keeping the feel of those times. With this being the first of a new series I'm really excited to see what happened next for Frances and the rest of the characters.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more review please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

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### **Caroline says**

This book was amazing. A rule-following, yet feisty heroine who discovers her own strength and sense of purpose as shocking events unfold all around her. Plus an excessively charming next door neighbor leaves plenty of opportunity in the future. I was thoroughly engaged in this one, and sincerely hope there is indeed a 2nd Lady Harleigh mystery!

I received a copy of this book from Kensington through NetGalley. All opinions are my own.

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### **Nicki K. says**

I received an advanced copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

After enduring a year-long mourning period with her gold-digging in-laws, Frances Wynn is eager to make her way to London with her seven-year-old daughter and settle down. Within a week she faces an accusatory inspector, the unexpected arrival of her sister's first Season, and the news of a series of home break-ins. To top it off, she finds out her new neighbor is the handsome George Hazelton, someone with whom she shares a complicated, dark secret. . .

As a new fan to historical mysteries, especially novels set in Victorian England, I was thrilled to be approved by Kensington and NetGalley to read this intriguing new novel. The cover is super cute, and the concept was innovative and fun. I'm happy to say the result was an exciting read, with compelling characters, and a surprise at every turn. I love that the author didn't make the romance the focal point of the story, and am excited to read book two to see where she takes us.

*A Lady's Guide to Etiquette and Murder* is a hilarious and absorbing cozy mystery, and I'd highly recommend it to fans of anything from engrossing historical mysteries to light, sweet romances. A great read!

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### **Jennifer Klepper says**

I've missed Downton Abbey so very much. Thankfully, the witty and fast-paced "A Lady's Guide to Etiquette and Murder" has helped fill the aching void. When American heiress Frances Wynn becomes a widow in 1899 after the death of her philandering Earl of a husband, she decides to risk British society gossip by living independent of her dead husband's money-grubbing family. Deception, romance, and scandal ensue, keeping this reader enthralled until the very end. This smart, tightly-written mystery kicks off what is sure to be a winning series.

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### **Melissa17 says**

This book is the mysterious historical romp of your dreams! Frances is just starting to come into her own as an independent woman, so her push/pull of propriety v. independence is a joy to behold. The mystery is well plotted and paced and the descriptions of Victorian fashion in this novel are to die for. (Pun intended.) This is the start of an incredible series!

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### **Cheryl says**

I knew this story would be the perfect fun read as soon as I saw the books cover. What an eye catcher :) From the minute I started this book, Dianne Freemans storyline left me wanting the book to never end! I loved Francis...she is the perfect heroine; funny, witty, independent. Her adventures when she reaches London (and in the time of her cheating husbands death) are written with wit and made me laugh more than once.

The characters are well developed, and the story has everything you could want to curl up with; mystery, glamour, the 'evil' brother in law, romance. What's not to love :)

I liked the mystery as the main story with a slice of romance for flavor. I can't wait for the next book in the series to come out.

Thank you to Kensington Publishing and NetGalley for approving my request to read this book. Thank you to Dianne Freeman for an enjoyable escape into historical fun!! I am a dedicated fan :)

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### **Umut Rados says**

I can describe this book very shortly, it's like Downton Abbey in a book :) I'm a fan of Downton Abbey and it certainly reminded me of the setting, characters and life style I was watching there. Even some details were the same, so I'm wondering if the writer took 'inspiration' from there.

It was a really cute, cozy mystery set in London. Our protagonist is the Countess of Harleigh. She's an American, who married into British aristocracy bringing her father's money into the family. Suddenly one night her husband dies of heart attack while he was with another woman, and our story unfolds from there. Lady Harleigh moves to London to her own house, after a year's mourning. Her sister comes from America to be introduced in the London season. But, weird things start to happen like stolen jewellery, etc. our characters try to unlock the mystery behind these all, while we continue to enjoy the cute, easy and

enchanting writing of Freeman.

It's a perfect summer cozy mystery book that I enjoyed a lot. The mystery also tied up very well in the end. I thought it was very well thought of. I'm pleasantly surprised with this book. Definitely recommended.

I gave it 4 stars instead of 5, because I thought Freeman took a bit of time from the beginning to the point she started to put clues and tension into the mystery. I wish that time was shorter.

But, all in all, I enjoyed it and would read from her again.

Thanks a lot to NetGalley and the publisher for granting a free copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Kester Grant says**

The first in a start to a fantastic mystery series, starring the delightfully acid witted Frances - exactly the type of heroine I adore. By turns hilarious and swoon-worthy and constantly keeping you guessing, I can't wait to read the sequel!

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### **Bethany Swafford says**

Frances, Countess of Harleigh, moves her small household to London to escape the demands of her in-laws. Almost immediately, her life gets turned upside down when police approach her with questions about how her husband died, her younger sister arrives to be launched into society, her bank account is frozen from her brother-in-law attempting to claim her money, and a string of jewelry thefts happening all over society.

I absolutely adored Frances. Her practical attitude in spite of whatever she faced won me over from the start. She took action for what she thought was right but accepted the advice of those closest to her.

The plot moved at a good pace, and the supporting characters were excellent at just that: supporting. I learned just enough of each one that I look forward to seeing each of them in future adventures of Frances...and a handsome, charming neighbor.

This is an exceptional historical mystery, and I would recommend it to any reader.

I received a free copy through NetGalley for reviewing purposes.

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