

***A Study in Murder* by Callie Hutton**

The first book in Hutton's Victorian Book Club Mystery series finds protagonist Lady Amy Lovell accused of the murder of her ex-fiancé. After receiving an anonymous letter letting her know that the man she is about to marry is involved in unscrupulous deeds, she breaks off their engagement. He then shows up at Lady Amy's home unannounced, and winds up being stabbed to death while left alone in the library. The local police have her in their sights as the prime suspect, so Lady Amy receives help from one of her fellow members in the Bath Mystery Book Club to try to clear her name. With Lord Wethington's assistance, she has to stay one step ahead of the murderer and the detectives on the case.

I really enjoyed this clever and entertaining historical cozy mystery! Lady Amy is secretly a mystery author herself, writing under a male pseudonym, so the interactions she has with the members of her book club about her own books are a lot of fun. Her banter with Lord Wethington while they're off being amateur sleuths is tinged with a nice amount of flirtation. The mystery itself is well-crafted, and there are a good number of twists and turns. The reveal of the villain at the end is not entirely surprising, but it's still a pretty satisfying conclusion to the mystery. The novel ends on a bit of a cliffhanger setting up the next book in the series, so I'm definitely looking forward to reading more of Lady Amy's adventures!

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