

***The Bodies in the Library* by Marty Wingate**

The first book in Marty Wingate's new cozy mystery series features Hayley Burke, who is just starting out in her role as curator of the First Edition Society Library in Bath, England. The late Lady Georgiana Fowling started the Society out of her love of the Golden Age of Mysteries and collected a vast number of first edition novels. While being curator of the Society is her dream job, Hayley isn't exactly qualified, as she's never actually read a mystery novel herself. As a way for the Society to be more visible and embraced in the community, Hayley allows the local Agatha Christie fan fiction writers to hold their meetings in the library. When the dead body of one of the members of the group winds up in the Society library, Hayley takes it upon herself to assist the police in capturing the culprit after finally reading a Christie novel and thinking about how Miss Marple would handle things.

The setting is lovely and historical, and the characters are interesting and fleshed-out, but this cozy mystery didn't immediately draw me in. It took me quite a while to finish reading, even though I did mostly enjoy it. The plot was a little bit muddled, what with introducing all of the characters and setting up a romance for Hayley, so the actual mystery often felt like it took a back seat. But I do feel like this can be forgiven since it is the first book in the series. I hope that the next entry is more cohesive, and that Hayley has read some more mysteries by then!