



Mrs. Pargeter's Plot

Simon Brett

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Mrs. Pargeter's Plot Details

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Author : Simon Brett

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From Reader Review Mrs. Pargeter's Plot for online ebook

Kate says

"Construction on Mrs. Pargeter's new country home comes to an unfortunate halt when a corpse is discovered in the wine cellar.

"The accused is Concrete Jacket, a mate of her late, lamented husband, who made a living in discreetly nefarious ways. While Concrete has a history of untimely incarceration, Mrs. P is not about to let prison come between her and her dream home. Concrete may be a scoundrel, but he's no killer.

"The strange arrival of an irascible monkey, an ex-con determined to make 'restitooshun' and assorted good-natured crooks add to the mayhem as the unflappable Mrs. P. tackles murder, mystery and the peccadilloes of the construction world with all the enviable panache bestowed upon her by her inimitable creator ..."
~~back cover

This book seemed a bit of a stretch as far as plot goes, and seemed rather formulaic and stale. I wouldn't recommend it, and I returned the last book in the series to the library unread.

Cindy says

Mrs. Pargeter is finally getting that cottage in the country she and her late husband always talked about. Unfortunately, construction hits a snag when her builder is arrested for murder and the corpse is found on the construction site. Mrs. Pargeter is sure that her builder, with the interesting nickname of Concrete Jacket, is innocent. She pulls out her notebooks of helpful names left to her by her late husband (who had some rather, well, UNUSUAL friends) and sets to work clearing Jacket's name.

I love Mrs. Pargeter! This series is just so much fun. I wish Brett had written more in the series.

Imjussayin says

Mrs. Pargeter's Plot: Mrs Pargeter Series Book 5

The Plot: Mrs Pargeter is visiting the site of her new home with her builder 'Concrete Jacket'. Concrete is a former associate of the late Mr Pargeter. On inspecting the wine cellar they discover a corpse....

Mrs Melitta Pargeter is the widow of the late Mr Pargeter, who left her well off. Mrs P is not upper class, but she is respectable. Mrs P also inherited his little black book [LBB]. Mr Pargeter kept his business below the radar. Whenever Mrs Pargeter has an inquiry, she uses the LBB to contact the best ~~criminals~~ people with the relevant expertise for help.

The Mrs Pargeter series is a literary divertissement and should be read at that light. The enjoyment lies in the reading of the story and not solely the plot.

It is a well-written book with a different type of 'Holmes and Watson'. It is a quick and easy cosy read.

Book Rating

Sexual Content: U

Language: U

Violent: U

Would I read the next one ~~or reread~~?: Yes

My rating system (* = star)

0* Could not finish this book (waste of time)

1* Finished the book but didn't like it.

2* Finished the book it was okay.

3* A good read worth your time.

4* An excellent read often with a novel concept or unusual plot.

5* A magnificent read. A prominent example of the genre.

AngryGreyCat says

Mrs. Pargeter is a wonderful sleuth and the cast is fleshed out by a colorful, fascinating cast of characters, such as Gary the driver, Concrete Jacket the builder and his wife Tracy, Truffler the detective, Hedge clipper Clinton, Keyhole Crabbe – lock pick extraordinaire, and Fossilface. Mr. Brett's trademark sly social humor is threaded throughout. The mystery resolves quite satisfactorily through Mrs. Pargeter's sleuthing with the help of her deceased husband's cohorts.

Carol says

Mrs Pargeter is up to her neck in reformed criminals - and some who are not so reformed! These men and women love her and will do anything to make her happy because her late husband was their boss and they absolutely loved him. This time the plot is 2 fold - Fossil Face is out of jail and trying to make up for all his bad deeds by making restitution. Which is worse than the bad deeds he did because his brain doesn't work in quite the same way as regular people's. She is also trying to figure out the scam that is being perpetrated on men who are still in jail and their families. The story is funny and sweet at the same time. And best of all no language or sex!!

Anne Seebach says

I unexpectedly found this on my bookshelf last night, and don't ever remember having read it before. One of those acquisitions on a whim presumably, which I'd put aside and forgotten about. What a find! I have a soft spot for cozies but there are so many out there now, they can become tediously similar and 'blah' (ie. uninspired and uninspiring). Refreshingly, I found Mrs Pargeter and her posse of reformed (mostly) ex-cons were consistently delightful. So the characters were a bit unrealistic and their actions fairly predictable - it

didn't matter because they were also drawn lightly and with wit. My favourite character Fossilface was actually offstage most of the time, but provided an entertaining periodic diversion from the main plot as he quested to learn humour so he could make people smile as he delivered his unintentionally disastrous "restitooshun" to his previously wronged comrades in crime.

This was not a murder/crime mystery for readers who like to test their wits in gritty reality, but it was an intelligently written, and very enjoyable larger than life romp. I look forward to reading more of Mrs Pargeter's adventures, and hope I will continue to feel the same way I felt on first read. For now I'm going with four stars.

George says

#5 in the Mrs. Pargeter English mystery series. Construction on Mrs. Pargeter's new country home comes to an unfortunate halt when a corpse is discovered in the wine cellar. The accused is Concrete Jacket, an associate of her late. Mrs. P is not about to let prison come between her and her dream home. Working with several of her husband's associates, she works to clear Concrete.

This is a light mystery with a good amount of humor along with characters with interesting names linked to their past behavior. Most interesting secondary character is Fossilface O'Donahue who adds humor and endless complications to Mrs. P's efforts. Then there is the monkey!

Linda says

I dearly love love this book....it is so very good. I love Simon Brett Books - he is a really good Mystery Author.

I highly recommend this book to anybody that loves to read Mysteries! I give this book 5/5 Stars here on Goodreads.

Julianne says

It's just plain fun to read the Mrs. Pargeter books! Starting with the premise. Mrs. Pargeter is a middle-aged lady in England who still doesn't want to know exactly what her late husband did for a living, but she enjoys the lifestyle he created for her, and she calls on all his former business associates to help her solve little problems that come up. Like why is there a dead body in the wine cellar?

She's having the home of her dreams built, but when she goes to inspect it, there's this body in the wine cellar. Evidence points to her construction foreman as the killer. She knows that's not right, but he's not talking. What to do?

This story includes a vintage Rolls Royce, a crazy monkey, a prisoner who goes out at night to visit other prisoners across town but is back in his own cell in the morning, an out-of-control joker, a villa in Brazil, and a wild ride on a small red tractor across several fields. Mrs. Pargeter gets involved with men named Hedgeclipper, Stan the Orang-Utan, Fossilface, Concrete, Keyhole, Chainsaw, Blunt, Clickety Clark and

Gary.

Read about Mrs Pargeter. You'll have a great time!

Lorraine says

Cheeky and fun.

Mary says

It took me a while to warm up to the characters in this series, but now that I've read (actually, listened to) three books in the series I really like them. The characters are well developed and striking in their uniqueness.

Jacqueline O. says

Mrs. Pargeter's Plot is a very amusing British Cozy-style mystery (set in the modern day). Mrs. Pargeter is a widow whose deceased husband ran a gang of thieves and troublemakers, who also sponsored ex-thieves into more legitimate professions that were related to their life in crime (such as the ex-getaway driver who now owns his own limo service), but Mrs. Pargeter doesn't know any of the details of her former husband's life, nor does she know the source of her considerable income. She simply has her dead husband's address book of people to call in case of trouble.

This book is part of a series, but it's the only volume I've read - and it was a quick read. The story begins with Mrs. Pargeter traveling out to a plot of land she inherited from her husband that she is having her dream home built on. Her builder is Concrete Jacket, one of her husband's old friends who has gone straight. Unfortunately, before he can tour the foundations with Mrs. Pargeter, he shows her his surprise: a built-in wine cellar. Which, it turns out, is occupied with a corpse. The police arrive immediately, and Mr. Jacket is arrested. Mrs. Pargeter becomes determined to prove he didn't do it, even though the corpse, Willie Cass, had been heard threatening Mr. Jacket earlier.

Mrs. Pargeter works with a PI, named Truffler Mason and her husband's "associates" to solve the case.

But throwing a monkey in the works is "Fossilface" O'Donahue - a former member of the gang known for both his bad luck, and being, well, an idiot that caused several members of the gang to spend time in jail - O'Donahue is back. He, however, has had a jailhouse conversion, and is determined to make "restitooshun" as he calls it for Mrs. Pargeter and the entire gang. He's also determined to show that he's developed a sense of humor. O'Donahue's fiercely unhelpful activities liven up this book with both humor and surprises.

Overall, *Mrs. Pargeter's Plot* was a fun British cozy. It had some interesting characters (all with improbable names), a straightforward plot, and it was very short. I enjoyed the book, and would recommend it to fans of the modern cozy. I'd also buy another book in the series. Enjoyable and fun!

Orinoco Womble (tidy bag and all) says

Even for Simon Brett, this was pretty darn unsubstantial. Not a lot happens unless you count driving around

and drinking. La Pargeter is more ham-handed than usual, and even more judgemental than usual. And just how many millions did she inherit? The ending is just silly. But if you don't mind, I don't. Mr Brett wrote a great deal for the BBC...is this his estimation of his audience's intelligence? I really couldn't give a monkey's--not even a marmoset's.

B. says

3.5 stars

Alonzo Church says

A better than average series mystery that aims for comedy rather than thrills. The big reveal isn't a surprise but the progression of the running gag that triggers most of the book's actual action is beautifully done. It's all terribly British and this one would make a nice gentle Ealing Studios comedy. This is best Brett I have sampled thus far, for the simple reason that it is by far the funniest, and the characterizations are quite strong.

Having read a number of Brett's books in a row, I notice that he has a habit of making sure his amateur detectives don't really solve the mystery. This a very odd authorial trademark, and if they are all like this, it is surprising the amateur detective was not killed in the middle of book two.
