



# A Series of Murders

*Simon Brett*

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BBC Radio 4 Full Cast Drama starring Bill Nighy as Charles Paris and featuring Suzanne Burden as his estranged wife, Frances. On a TV detective series members of the cast and crew begin to meet mysterious ends. Actor cum amateur sleuth, Charles Paris, invistigates...

## A Series of Murders Details

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Author : Simon Brett

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## **From Reader Review A Series of Murders for online ebook**

### **Barbara says**

Great fun, wonderfully read by the author. An excellent afternoon's entertainment.

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### **Sheila says**

Dramaisation starring Bill Nighy - I could listen to that man's voice all day - he does asides so well. Story is a quaint one of a series of murders within the cast of the TV adaptation of a book from a series of forgotten novels by an elderly writer who can't cope with the modernisation of her characters.

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### **Sue says**

This was a BBC dramatisation of the book and the best thing about it by far was Bill Nighy's voice. I could listen to him all day. I also enjoyed the bitchy banter amongst the actors. I don't know if actors are really like that but it was fun to listen to. The actual murder mystery was a bit daft but, overall, I enjoyed this.

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### **Jim says**

This was an okay little story. The characters were sort of interesting and occasionally amusing. The mystery was pretty good, although I don't think it was possible to solve it from the information available. There was a little twist at the end. All-in-all, there was nothing wrong with the book but there was nothing compelling about it either.

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### **Rex says**

Love Brett's alcoholic burnt out actor detective.

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### **Lynn Pribus says**

Good old Charles Paris. Picked this aging paperback up from the swap table at the gym. I probably read it before, but still a pleasant, breezy read. Hadn't realized "twee" dated back to 1989. This was in the pre-cell-phone days of perforated-edge computer paper.

Brett also writes for TV and in this book Charles is a continuing character in a TV series of at least 6 episodes -- the best employment he's ever had as an actor. (In one of the first Charles Paris books I ever read, he was a bit part as a corpse that fell out of a closet in Act I. Not exactly a sinecure!)

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There is a real ring of behind-the-scenes TV studio authenticity. Fun read.

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### **Christine Cody says**

Charles Paris finally has a well-paying, steady gig: a featured role in a mystery series for West End Television...despite the fact that the star is an ego maniac who plays himself in every role, the starring actress is miscast and completely without talent, and the elderly author of the original books and her sister are on set daily, arguing with the director's decisions at every step. In other words, it's TV as usual. Charles quickly finds his drinking pals along with the best times to have his first Bells each day, so he quickly settles in. It doesn't take long before he also finds a dead body. While the police and everyone else think it was an accident, Charles is convinced it was murder. Thus, he begins his private investigation. Just when he thinks he knows who the murderer might be, that person (the assistant stage manager) turns up dead, after falling out of a window on location. Throughout all of it, Charles is hoping for rapprochement with Frances, who will consider it if he can remain celibate for a year before asking her again. Less than 24 hours later, Charles wakes in the bed of the talented young actress who replaced the murdered girl. However, when he asks if anything happened, her reply is, "Nope... Grandpa." While Charles suffers with a torturous hangover the next day, he tries to alleviate his guilt by wondering if he has to count his failure as having sex, since he didn't actually do it. In this novel, we learn that Charles' useless agent does have a purpose: he's a fantastic gossip and can find out anything. Calls to him help Charles home in on the murderer. For me at least, the denouement of this one was a total shock. Very enjoyable, as all the books in this series are.

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### **Marie says**

I predicted the murderer, but not other details revealed at the end. Not the most complicated of the Charles Paris novels, but good supporting characters.

I hope I'm not the only one cheering for Charles to FINALLY find some acting success! The poor guy. He tries so much. Although, I do love the hilarious regular insertions of his bad reviews in every book. Maybe in the series finale Brett will finally get Charles to do his Lear at the National Theatre. Dare to dream...

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### **Verity W says**

Charles has finally got a good job: he's been cast as the plodding police man in a new murder mystery drama. Yes he's constantly being outwitted by the upper class private detective, but the pay is good and its for a whole series - with an option on a second series! Then Charles finds a body on set and he starts to worry that it wasn't an accident after all.

This is another excellent installment in the series - although you do want Charles to get his act together a bit and keep it together enough to get Frances a bit back on side...

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### **Karen Barth says**

This is a short, but delightful "cozy" mystery involving a usually unemployed alcoholic actor who fancies himself an amateur sleuth. The writing is good and elicits quite a few laughs along the way. In this story, the main character, Charles Paris, is gainfully employed as a regular character actor in a TV production of a 1930's murder mystery. When real murders start to pile up, Charles begins his sleuthing. The ending was a surprise, but entirely plausible. This was my first Simon Brett novel and it was very enjoyable.

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### **Vivien says**

The main character was revolting - not a lovable rogue, just an arse.  
The story line was pretty rubbish, the best thing you could say about it was it was short.  
Another audio book.

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### **A.M. says**

Charles Paris is thrilled – he's landed a nice juicy part playing Sergeant Collins in the TV detective series, 'The Stanislaus Braid Mysteries', and his estranged wife Frances seems to be on the brink of taking him back. But filming turns out to be a tortuous process, with pompous star Russell Bentley demanding numerous retakes and irascible author Winifred Railton constantly interrupting. To cap it all, nubile actress Lisa Stokes is crushed to death on set – and Charles finds her body. It seems like a straightforward accident, but Charles can't shake the suspicion that she was murdered.

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Charles uses short cuts on the set and finds the body in the props room. Outside there is a nervous prop guy. They can't afford to replace the actress and start again as the 'star' demands so many retakes they are already several scenes behind.

Producer Rick was dating Lisa and the gossip mags are full of her meeting with the ex boy band and new actor costar but he denies everything, too.

This one is out chronological order; he and Frances have recently separated, their daughter is eighteen and he's got a bedsit of his own but it's book #13.

I was also confused as it's only one hour long when the other audio-books have been 2+ hours.

But it was amusing and funny. There just wasn't enough time spent on the mystery.

4 stars

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### **Sandi says**

Usually out of work actor Charles Paris has landed a plum role in an English mystery series but when another actor is found dead on the first day of filming he can't help but try to find out what really happened. The author has worked on many radio and TV productions so everything seemed pretty authentic and Charles is a winning leading man on the page.

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**J says**

Another great Simon Brett murder

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**Clare says**

Listened to in Audio format read by the excellent Bill Nighy and casT. This was only an hour long but I think it included the main storyline.

As Series of Murders is part of the Charles Paris mystery series. Charles Paris is an alcoholic, womanising, Jobing actor. After years of bit parts Charles has landed a TV role as Sgt Collins in the Stanislas Braid mysteries.

Charles finds Liza Stokes an actress on the show, murdered in the prop room. When Charles starts questioning the cast he finds out Liza only got the job because she was having an affair with Rick the producer. After the first episode another Director saw her acting and decided she would be written out and replaced with another girl. Charles tries to find out who murdered Lisa and why.

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