



## There Must Be Murder

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## **There Must Be Murder** Margaret C. Sullivan , Cassandra Chouinard (Illustrator)

Henry and Catherine Tilney are content with their married life: a comfortable parsonage, their dogs, and one another. The idea of returning to Bath a year after they first met there seems like it can only add to their happiness; but Catherine finds that Bath still carries social dangers that she must learn to navigate. What is the nature of Henry's past relationship with a beautiful young woman? Why is a rakish baronet paying Catherine such particular attention? Is General Tilney going to marry the woman known in Bath as The Merry Widow-and what did she have to do with her husband's death? And will Henry ever be able to keep his Newfoundland out of the river? Revisit the winter pleasures of Georgian Bath with your favorite characters from Jane Austen's hilarious Northanger Abbey, and prepare for a bit of romance, a bit of mystery, and a very nice story indeed!

## **There Must Be Murder Details**

Date : Published December 1st 2010 by Librifiles Publishing

ISBN : 9780615425870

Author : Margaret C. Sullivan , Cassandra Chouinard (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 118 pages

Genre : Mystery, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Romance

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## From Reader Review There Must Be Murder for online ebook

### Georgina Sampson says

Didn't take too long to read so consider it a short read! Lovely characters if a little cringe but that is the time of writing. You will

Enjoy if this is your normal kind of book for sure!

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### writer... says

lovely to find a book in the post with a personal note from the author!

great inspiration to read the book!! which I did with much pleasure ~ thank you Margaret!

you wrote a talented tale that kept me reading instead of other scheduled activities - without regret!

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### Danielle says

A fun quick read. The more times I read "Northanger Abbey" the more I love the characters, so it was fun to read a continuation of Catherine and Henry's story. I was a little disappointed with the mystery and it wrapped up a little quickly, but the story kept me entertained on a two-hour train ride.

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### Nadyne says

First sentence: "The Reverend Henry Tilney, the rector of Woodston parish in Gloucestershire, looked up from his book and addressed his wife."

P. 99: "He turned and bounded ahead of them along the riverbank towards the steep climb up to Beechen Cliff."

Last sentence: "It was not very long before Catherine found herself agreeing with that sentiment; for when he was inspired, Henry could be very convincing indeed."

I've read this novella because I heard somewhere it was a kind of sequel to Jane Austen's Northanger Abbey. I've never realised that contemporary writers could use characters from older books or classics and write a story about them (I know, that's pretty dumb of me).

I thought it could be a great idea, but after reading There Must Be Murder, I'm not so sure anymore. Sullivan takes the two main persons from Austen's book, Catherine and Henry and gives us a little insight into their married life. If you would wish to do so, you could tell the plot and story of this book in one sentence. There really doesn't happen anything that is worth mentioning. So, indeed, it was a very, very quick read (not three hours I think). It's the perfect book for reading on a long trip with the train, where you do not want to read something more complex.

But I really don't recommend it...

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### **Little Red Readinghood says**

As an Austin fan I enjoyed every word of this short book. Charming and humorous illustrations only added to the fun

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### **Misty says**

I've said a number of times that I think *Northanger Abbey* is vastly underrated, both by the general public and by Janeites themselves. I've also said many times that I think it gives the best idea of Austen's personality and playfulness, and I think it feels the most like what it would have been like to know Austen and be friends with her. So needless to say, there are not enough *Northanger* tellings out there for my liking. On the one hand, this makes sense, and not just because it's underappreciated; *Northanger Abbey* is a book that hinges on a silly moment of a very young character, and in the end, feels complete. There's not as much wiggle room there to play with in adaptations, or at least, not in the way that many adaptations tend to go. Nevertheless, when I see a *Northanger* adaptation pop up, *I am all over it*, so of course I was super excited when Maggie Sullivan (author of last year's "Heroic Ranking Index" post) sent me her latest, the intriguingly-titled, **There Must Be Murder**.

And what I found was a really solid, quick read for fans of Henry and Catherine. One playful enough and with that same sense of humor and observation that made me love its original, while poking fun enough that I think even those who found *Northanger* too silly will still appreciate this one. Sullivan does a good job when it comes to recreating the characters and their experience of Bath, but also of progressing the stories and lives of those same characters. Those that found Catherine to be unbearably silly and frivolous will see that she's shown growth, though her spirit and penchant for ridiculous drama is still there. But as I always liked Catherine, the thing the story hinged on for me was the *relationship*, and it was strong on that score as well. The way Catherine and Henry interacted was charming and a believable progression from the end of *Northanger*. I've seen many discussions where people doubt their relationship and its potential for happiness, questioning whether Henry would remain interested in someone as flighty as Catherine. I've always thought they were very well-suited, and could see Henry happily teasing Catherine well into old age; this embraces that dynamic and showcases how well they work together. It's really nice, and with some of that characteristic sly style Austen has, but also with a more modern flirtiness to it.

Things have also changed and progressed nicely, or at least, interestingly, for other characters, too. And frankly, it's amusing to see General Tilney in a somewhat debased form. Reading this, I couldn't help but feel that he and Sir Elliot would get on capitally, were they to cross paths in Bath. You know what, nope. Scratch that. They'd fight like to primadonnas out for the same man - cuttingly one-upping each other, and maybe having a touch of grudging respect.\*

Um. That was a tangent... ANYWAY, I really think that Catherine and Henry could have a whole host of interesting adventures in Margaret C. Sullivan's hands, and I definitely hope to see more. The only real drawback for me was that it wraps up a little too swiftly and neatly. I would have liked a little more dwelling on the "mystery" that Catherine finds herself embroiled in, and the darker, gothic aspects that are such a hallmark of Catherine's sensibility. There was potential to lengthen and make the most of the drama, but

instead, it felt like Sullivan pulled back a touch, maybe trying to avoid those same pitfalls that make so many readers speak a little disparagingly of *Northanger*. Whatever the reason, I could have done with a little more on that score, but it doesn't change the fact that this was a thoroughly enjoyable, very quick, fun read.

\*Now, they'd be an interesting pairing. Someone needs to take advantage of *that*. ;)

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### **Mina Lobo says**

I heart this adorable take on the Tilneys' lives a year, more or less, after the events in Austen's *Northanger Abbey*. Henry's my favorite Austen hero (though Colonel Brandon from *S&S* comes in a close second), and I just really enjoyed that the focus of this story was mainly on his loving relationship with Catherine. This "mystery" couldn't get any cozier than a roaring fire, a cuppa, and some biscuits. OK, maybe a rocking chair and a shawl, too, with rain gently drumming against your window and your pets draped over your feet. (Like I said, it's COZY!) Loved it.

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### **Lorene Haupt says**

I was concerned that I would have to have a working knowledge of Jane Austen (which I don't) to enjoy this story, but it is very enjoyable on its own. I especially loved McGuffin the dog. He was by far the best character!!

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### **Meredith (Austenesque Reviews) says**

One night, while fondly reminiscing over their first encounter in Bath, the newly married Catherine and Henry Tilney decide that they would like nothing more than to revisit the famous spa resort and enjoy its pleasures as a married couple. The romantic and nostalgic pair arrive Bath without encountering any "robbers nor tempests," yet are surprised to discover that Henry's father and sister have traveled to Bath as well. Looks like this trip will be more of a family reunion than a romantic rendezvous! While the Tilneys are delighted to encounter Eleanor and her affable husband, Lord Whiting, the same can not be said for General Tilney, who is still as truculent and stern as ever.

What brings the general to Bath? Not his health, this time. It seems after being a widower for ten years, the general is once again contemplating marriage. Who's the lucky lady? The recently widowed and supposedly wealthy Lady Beauclerk. Because of Eleanor's and Henry's concern for their father and disapproval in his choice of wife, the Tilneys and the Whitings keep close company with Lady Beauclerk and her clan. To Catherine, the Beauclerks seem a mysterious and scandalous bunch, and after spending some time with Lady Beauclerk's flirtatious daughter, immoral nephew, and melodramatic sister-in-law, Catherine begins to suspect that there are several skeletons in their closet!

To continue reading, go to: <http://janeaustenreviews.blogspot.com...>

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## **Melissa says**

The storyline picks up with Catherine and Henry, a year after Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* ends. They are reading Ann Radcliffe's *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, and like Austen's heroine, Sullivan's Catherine also finds her life reflecting the lives of the characters in the Gothic novel. For all Austen fans, this is a very pleasurable read. The language is true to Austen's style, and Sullivan does a great job of maintaining the innocence and candor that make Catherine so memorable in *Northanger Abbey*.

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## **Heather says**

Finally, a sequel to an Austen novel that I actually enjoyed reading. This continuation of *Northanger Abbey* -- which follows newlyweds Henry & Catherine Tilney to Bath a year after they first met there -- is really quite charming. It stays true to the spirit of the original and provides laughs and hurrahs throughout, with a satisfying conclusion.

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## **Laurel says**

### **A *Northanger Abbey* sequel that is so much more than "nice"**

*Northanger Abbey* sequels are as scarce as an comely heiress. I can count them on one hand. *There Must Be Murder*, by Margaret C. Sullivan is a welcome addition to the slim collection. At 118 pages and twelve chapters it qualifies as a novella. I am not complaining. At all. I will take a Jane Austen sequel continuing the story after the wedding of our heroine in the making Catherine Morland and Austen's most underrated hero Henry Tilney without hesitation, but with a wary eye. The story has a promising beginning. The tone is pleasing and the reverence to canon characters a relief.

We find Catherine and Henry comfortably settled as newlyweds at Woodston parsonage in Gloucestershire. Ever the thoughtful romantic, Henry proposes that they celebrate the anniversary of their first meeting in Bath with a visit to the city. Once there they are reunited with Henry's sister Eleanor and introduced to her new husband Lord Whiting. Also in attendance at the Lower Rooms is Henry's father the dour autocrat General Tilney, his recently widowed wealthy neighbor Lady Beauclerk, her twenty-seven year-old unmarried daughter Judith, and her husband's nephew and heir Sir Philip Beauclerk. Catherine is happy to dance the night away, while family differences bubble and stew.

As Henry and Catherine continue to enjoy the delights of Bath attractions, they begin to learn that there are suspicious circumstances involving the death of General Tilney's neighbor Sir Arthur Beauclerk brought forward by his widowed sister Fanny Findlay. She believes his death had not been natural – and it appears that many in this unhappy family would benefit from his early demise. The suspects stack up like winter cord-wood ready for the fire. Is it the wife, Lady Beauclerk, eager to be free of his miserly pocketbook? The daughter, Miss Judith, squashed by parental oppression? The dissipated nephew, Sir Philip, prohibiting his uncle from changing the will? Or the sister, Mrs. Findlay, ready to bump off all the heirs in line before her to regain the family fortune? Catherine's Gothic inspired imagination may serve her well as a detective, if Henry can temper her impulses and guide them to a logical conclusion.

*There Must Be Murder* had me hooked at Henry reading *Udolpho*, Anne Radcliffe's classic Gothic novel, to

his young bride in bed. Brilliant. It is exactly how I envisioned their marriage would continue: Henry romantically feeding his wife's passion for a horrid novel and Catherine finding new insights from the text from his patient and humorous explanations. The story cleverly builds, slowly layering in new characters, revealing family conflicts, planting evidence. Along the way we revisit Milsom-street, Beechen Cliff, the Pump-room, Laura Place and all the highlights of Catherine's first adventure in the beautiful Georgian-era city. Sullivan has captured the charm and endearing delight of Austen's characters beautifully, added new ones rich in folly and nonsense, and a Newfoundland dog named MacGuffin who steals every scene. The numerous illustrations by Cassandra Chouinard are enchanting. My only disappointment was in the length. It was over much too quickly. Austen's Henry Tilney would have been annoyed, claiming this shortcoming was "nice." We will agree.

Laurel Ann, Austenprose

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### **Selah Pike says**

It wouldn't seem quite right to give this the full 5 stars I gave Northanger Abbey, but I enjoyed it immensely! One of the best of the Austen "sequels" I've read, mainly because Sullivan captured the snarky, loveable Henry Tilney to perfection! 4.75 stars.

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### **Alice says**

La littérature para-austenienne autour de Northanger Abbey est assez rare pour être signalé haut et fort, d'autant plus lorsqu'elle est écrite par l'auteur de l'excellent Austenblog!! Ceci est d'ailleurs le deuxième livre après le très sympathique petit Jane Austen Handbook.

On y retrouve donc sa plume agréable et son humour fin, en même temps que nos adorés Catherine et Henry Tilney tout à leur bonheur conjugal. Pour fêter leur un an de rencontre, ils décident de se rendre de nouveau à Bath, où ils croiseront certaines de leurs connaissances!

Même si j'ai beaucoup aimé cette petite histoire qui se lit rapidement, trop peut-être d'ailleurs, j'ai moins apprécié les différents dénouement et l'intrigue qui tombe un peu à plat selon moi. Le tout manque indéniablement de substance et d'un peu d'approfondissement mais le plaisir de retrouver ces personnages que l'on aime ainsi que le petit plus apporté au personnage du Captain Tilney permettent malgré tout de compenser un peu ces petits défauts.

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### **Matilda says**

A really nice surprise! Margaret C. Sullivan has really captured the essence of the Austen's characters as well as the spirit of the late 18th century. The writing is elegant and witty, and the whole story is well plotted. It's nice to see a sort of transposition of Catherine's actions from "Northanger Abbey" into some other characters. I wish the book was longer because it was really nice to see Henry, Catherine and Eleanor again!

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