



Aunt Dimity: Detective

Nancy Atherton

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When Lori Shepherd returns from her trip to America, she is shocked to hear that Prunella "Pruneface" Hooper has been killed. This is the first murder in the village of Finch in more than a century, and everyone is in an uproar. Before the town implodes in the wake of this scandal, Lori sets out to solve the murder. Unfortunately, nearly everyone in Finch had a reason to want Mrs. Hooper dead. With the help of the ghostly Aunt Dimity and Nicholas, the enigmatic (and charming!) self-defense instructor, Lori aligns motive, means, and opportunity to unravel this delightfully tangled and gossip-filled whodunnit.

Aunt Dimity: Detective Details

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From Reader Review Aunt Dimity: Detective for online ebook

BJ Rose says

It was nice to be back in Finch, and to actually see Bill in the story instead of just hearing about him. And like some other reviewers, I'm getting tired of Lori's 'wandering eye' since she doesn't seem to want to leave it at the 'look-don't-touch' stage.

C. says

It is odd rating "**Aunt Dimity Detective**" low because **Nancy T. Atherton** is a favourite. Her previous volume, in a gothic mansion that achieves suspense notably rare for the "cozy genre", was the best. This one was weaker than an earlier Finch-based mystery. I often declare merely tromping through pages with these beloved characters is pleasurable. However **Nancy** knows what an excellent mystery is and so do we. We must not diminish the value of high stars by showering a limp instalment. This novel makes me think of "the expendable crewman".

We aren't intimately bonded to most of Finch's townspeople, therefore I couldn't believe **Nancy** would only peg-off a new arrival. I felt gypped to find she wouldn't dirty any other hands either. Not daring to incarcerate a townsperson, rankled second to writing Bill out. I would love Bill as co-sleuth! We adore him and he is supremely intelligent. There was one excellent secret but a flubbed plot weakened this novel. The secret produced a happy scene that I relished. However, everyone skipping jauntily down the lane, stretched thin. For serious mystery readers, this lacked lustre.

Few under suspicion had serious, realistic motives. A single man accused of dating? Any man would wiggle his eyebrows, or clarify! A woman not selected as flower decorator? Who cares?! Businesses were threatened but every appearance faltered. **Nancy** can weave novels that I have called brilliant. I am eager to see how else she explores Dimity Woodcock's spirit because spartan handwritten directives have begun to bore me. I love reuniting with Lori, Bill, and many of the others. One thing about me is that I revere mysteries so freshly creative: that they do not hinge on any crime. However limpness is limpness. "Phoning this mystery in" on this occasion, was not enough for me.

Elizabeth says

Another cozy wonderful Aunt Dimity mystery!

I want to live in Finch, the little village in the Cotswolds where Lori and her husband and twin boys live in Aunt Dimity's cozy cottage. Actually, I want to live in Aunt Dimity's cottage!

This mystery centered around a murder in Finch. The victim was Finch's notorious evil gossip. Every one in the village has a motive but whodunit?

Rage says

This book is very light. All of the people involved are very blasé about the fact that "Pruneface" was murdered and the murderer remains at large; everyone agrees that she was so nasty that her death was a kindness. At the end, the mystery is resolved in a comical manner. I felt that the book/Lori was a bit too flippant, and I think the author shied away from saying anything consequential about some of the issues she brought up in the course of the book (including infidelity and a young teen's aggressive crush on a thirty-year-old man). There's very little tension or suspense, but there are a lot of descriptions of food and what people are wearing. This is a quick read and good if you're in the mood for something that's not very serious.

Sandy says

Lori comes back from a few months in the US to find that a murder was committed in Finch. In a town where everybody knows everyone else's business and the murder is very close to the town square - no one saw anything or if they did they are not telling the police. Lori and the vicar's nephew, NIcholas, set the town tongues to wagging when they spend every day together trying to find out who the killer is, especially since Bill is still in London finishing up his work. Even in small town Finch, it seems many people have many, many secrets...who had one secret enough to kill to keep it that way. Read it and find out!

I did think the first part of the story was very slow to develop. This is unusual for her series to date. For that reason I gave this a 3.

Deb says

Finch's crime

The series has focused on soft crime and successfully lured me in on every page. Faced with real murder in Finch Lori' s life will change. Has the series changed to a cold blooded crime series? I wondered how the peace filled Finch stories could continue. The clues are threaded throughout the plot weaving a tapestry of human nature in its most colorful yet quaint hues. All the way, the characters become fully alive and the reader comes to love them even more.

Jodi says

The characters in the Aunt Dimity series (and they ARE a bunch of characters) are deliciously vain, and quarrelsome, and just plain human! Nancy Atherton is one of my favorite writers - she manages to imbue her stories with just enough menace to make it a real mystery, without a lot of terror, bloodshed, or psychopathy...The English countryside is depicted beautifully, and the little town of Finch is one you can find behind almost any little privet hedge in the nooks and corners of England. Finch and her residents are always a delight to revisit - Lori, Reginald the bunny and Aunt Dimity's spirit make a fine team solving the mystery (and assorted side problems, at the same time), and I look forward to each new adventure, each new twist of the path...If you like cozy mysteries, with a bit of humor, a bit of romance and a bit of murder, this series just might be YOUR cuppa, too!

Debbie says

I enjoy making a trip to the village of Fitch every now and then and I'm always happy to catch up with Aunt Dimity. This is a cute trip with just a touch of magic, which we all need in our lives.

Karen A. Wyle says

I'm rounding up about half a star.

A great deal is familiar in this seventh book in the Aunt Dimity Mystery series: POV character Lori Shepherd, her frequently busy husband Bill, their twin boys, their nanny, the usual cast of village characters -- and two more: the strikingly malicious Prunella, whose death provides the mystery to be solved this time around, and Nicholas, nephew of the vicar's wife, who becomes involved in the detecting and in Lori's life as well. Lori's eye for an attractive man once again plays a significant role.

Aunt Dimity has her say from time to time, but this is not one of the books where she really feels integral to the story.

The Flooze says

A proper murder! In Finch, of all places!

Aunt Dimity: Detective veers away from the normal pattern of the series by focusing on recent murder. However, the occasion is still a catalyst for stunning revelations about the townspeople.

The rumor mill of Finch is as industrious as any. Atherton lets the gossip fly in a story that takes place entirely within the village. The secrets uncovered by Lori and her newfound friend Nicholas are mostly tame, but one is a regular humdinger.

Unfortunately, I didn't have much time to enjoy the mystery itself. I spent the majority of the book deeply resenting the continual intrusion of Lori's wandering eye. Every man she encounters becomes an object of lust. Attraction and flirtation are one thing. Silently thanking your nosy neighbours for shaming you into fidelity is another entirely. I was thrilled when Dimity chastised her. I balked at the idea that Bill would be so coolly accepting - though I suppose she's kept half of her crushes a secret from him, so he doesn't know better. This woman is constantly Flirting With Intent and I'm fed up with it.

Now that she's addressed it with Bill and they've vowed to spice up their lives, will the pattern be broken? I dearly hope so. I'd hate to give up on Dimity just because her niece is a strumpet.

Kailey (BooksforMKs) says

Fun and silly again, but a good read.

Erin L says

Based on the ratings here, I'm giving this a 2. It really was ok, but just ok and here's why: our author gives us 230 pages - it's a short novel to begin with. In those 230 pages, we spend at least as much time on Lori's "passionate nature" and the long stream of men who find her absolutely irresistible as we do on the actual mystery. In fact, in this installment, we are treated to Lori generally being a jerk about people who are gossiping about her inability to keep it in her damned pants. She also uses her boy toy of the book moment by kissing him openly in public trying to give the townspeople something to talk about with absolutely zero thought to how it would affect him. And then she laments that decision and how she's a big jerk near the end of the book. Yes, Lori. You are a jerk.

But, it wasn't all bad. Aside from the woman who can't help falling in love and the men who can't help falling in love with her, we have some truly interesting people in town and the secrets their keeping. (view spoiler)

Aunt Dimity is wonderful, but I find myself wondering more and more why I read these things when so little narrative is spent on mystery and so much on what appears to be an exceedingly selfish idiot.

Liz V. says

Bill and Lori arrive back in the UK after a three months' sojourn visiting family in the US. Bill stays in London to catch up on paperwork, while Lori returns to the village of Finch. There, murder dominates all, as a newly arrived tenant, Prunella, has been bashed on the head. Yet in a village where nothing goes unobserved, no one saw anything--at least that can be shared with the police. The almost universal feeling is that Prunella deserved to die.

Dimity, Lori and the vicar's wife and nephew disagree and set out to learn the facts. All of the villagers have seen something, heard rumors, and talked amongst themselves, but their interpretations are derived from their own biases and animosities, leading to untruths.

I have been finishing series that I started, some years ago, and filling in gaps. Generally I have enjoyed the Aunt Dimity series, though this was not, in my opinion, amongst the strongest.

Linda C says

Lori Shepherd returns from her trip to America to find that there has been a murder in her small English village. The victim Prunella Hooper rented a cottage on the town square while Lori was away and managed to learn secrets and start rumors about many of the villagers. Her demise is not mourned and the village is keeping mum. When the vicar's nephew comes for a visit and seems curious, he hooks up with Lori to see

what they can discover. Slowly secrets start coming out. Good story about small town life and what happens when everyone gossips and watches their neighbors. Not thrilled about the 'wandering eye' sub-plot.

Margie says

I can't believe it! Here is an Aunt Dimity book that I didn't like! No interesting historical sidelights and not an engaging mystery either. Other than getting to know the villagers better, this book left me very unsatisfied. It definitely can't hold a candle to the first six Aunt Dimity books. I hope #8 is back to the delicious fun of the first six!

P.S. And I am getting tired of Lori's "wandering eye" too. It doesn't endear me to her as a character, especially when it is repeated with different men in book after book.
