



The Silver Locomotive Mystery

Edward Marston

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This is the Railway Detective's puzzling new case. An exquisitely designed silver coffee-pot in the shape of a locomotive is on its way to Cardiff in the care of the young, talented silversmith, Hugh Kellow. It has been commissioned by wealthy ironmaster Clifford Tomkins for his acquisitive wife, who wants it to be the envy of all her friends - and enemies. But the coffee-pot is stolen. When a gruesome murder is committed at the Railway Hotel, Winifred Tomkins is distraught. Caring little for the dead silversmith, all she can think about is her missing treasure. Inspector Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming of the Detective Department are summoned to Wales from London by telegraph and they are soon confronted by some additional crimes. The situation is complicated by the arrival of a famous theatre company and by revelations of illicit liaisons among members of the local high society. There is no shortage of suspects and Colbeck has to sift through layers of deceit to find the killer - before it is too late.

The Silver Locomotive Mystery Details

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From Reader Review The Silver Locomotive Mystery for online ebook

Corinne says

First book in the series for me, but not the last. Enjoyed listening to this story. Liked the characters, plot, period in English history, and railroad information.

Leigh says

Great mystery with a enough turns and twist to keep you thinking!!

Gwyn Owens says

Good read as always with this author.

Gerry says

Inspector Robert Colbeck, along with his assistant, Sergeant Victor Leeming, embark on another case for the Railway Detective. And the tale proves to be just as riveting as the previous ones in this hugely enjoyable series.

A silver locomotive coffee pot is made for a wealthy lady in Cardiff, although why anyone should want a coffee pot in the shape of a locomotive is beyond me, and the silversmith's assistant sets off to deliver it.

However, murder is committed (at The Railway Hotel thus the Railway Detective's involvement) and Colbeck, Leeming plus Jeremiah Stockdale of the Cardiff police, are called in to investigate. Thus begins an investigation that leads mysteriously around South Wales and London with plenty of false trails along the way. Complicating the investigation are all the petty jealousies involved in Cardiff society and the theatre, for a leading actor had met the coffee pot carrier on his way to his destination and becomes an integral part of the case.

But unsurprisingly Colbeck eventually triumphs and brings the culprit to justice, enjoying a little love interest of his own en route.

There's never a dull moment in the Railway Detective books!

Clark Hallman says

The Silver Locomotive Mystery by Edward Marston (2009) – This is the 6th book in the Railway Detective series by Edward Marston. A magnificent, and valuable, silver coffee-pot, modeled after a Firefly Class of

1840 steam locomotive, becomes the property of several thieves in and around the city of Cardiff (Wales) in 1855. Unfortunately, possession of the treasured silver locomotive coffee-pot seems to result in robbery, extortion, and/or murder. Inspector Robert Colbeck (The Railway Detective) and his partner, Sergeant Victor Leeming, are assigned to the case, which tests their detective skills, their physical strength and their determination to solve the case. As usual for books in this Railway Detective series, there are multiple suspects to investigate and very interesting characters that add to the reader's enjoyment. I liked this book and the other books in this British series very much. I really believe this book deserves a 4.5 rating instead of a 4.

Catherine Maloney says

Like the others in the series it is very digestible although I think the storyline is stronger in this book than so far in the others.

Lisa says

Picked this up and didn't notice it's #6 till I opened the cover.

Well, in the end, I didn't feel too lost not having read 1-5. Again, I long for half starts...3.5 stars perhaps

Hugh Kellow, apprentice silversmith, has supplanted the disowned son of a master silversmith in London as his right-hand man. Hugh is escorting a newly minted commission to Cardiff: a locomotive-shaped silver coffeepot. He shares a first-class train car with two lead actors headed to Cardiff for their troupe's performance of Macbeth. Inspector Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming of the Detective Department get called in by Jeremiah Stockdale, who runs the police in Cardiff, Wales, and who they've clearly met before. When a body is found, disfigured with acid, in a room rented to Hugh. Why was Hugh in the hotel when he told the actors he was delivering the item, securing the remaining payments, and heading back home (not in first class on the way back)? But the body isn't the only problem. The silver train is missing! Clifford Tomkins, local ironmaster, commissioned the ostentatious coffeepot for his wife, Winifred. Clifford is perturbed that he's lost his 50-pound deposit, and Winifred is concerned her friends will titter behind her back that she doesn't have her coffeepot...neither cares that a man is dead. Inspector Colbeck suspects they will get a ransom note for the coffeepot, and lo and behold, they do. Several exchanges (well, turnovers) of money take place, but all the Tompkins have to show for their efforts is a tin train coffeepot replica. Frustration abounds, for all the wrong reasons in that house. The detective team interview Kellow's master silversmith and find his sister through newspaper ads, both of whom give them some but not much background information. The master silversmith's shop is robbed, presumably with the keys the murderer stole off the body, but the thief also opened the safe...is it the silversmith's son, set on revenge? One of the actors from the train is reported kidnapped, but Inspector Colbeck believes the incident to be unrelated. He and Sergeant Leeming train their way around, from London to Wales and even further afield in search of their suspects. Quite a ride.

Graham Tapper says

The Railway Detective, Inspector Colbeck, has a different challenge on his hands this time. The locomotive in question is an ornament and not an actual engine. In fact, it's a coffee pot! In the shape of a railway engine! Yes, I too am struggling to imagine how that would actually work. How would it stand? How would

you hold it to pour from it?

Nevertheless, despite the interesting questions raised, the story surrounds the delivery of the item to a buyer in Wales, from the workshop of the creator in London, and the murder of the courier. The item itself, of course, is also missing.

Since the death and the theft both appear to have occurred in a hotel in Cardiff owned by the local railway company, that seems as good a reason as any to call upon Colbeck's expertise. He and the ever faithful Sergeant Lemming, are dispatched by Superintendent Tallis to solve the case.

But, it turns out that it isn't as simple as it might seem. Not only are they not certain who they are dealing with but the villain is no simpleton and is keen to play the situation to maximum advantage, not the least being to play upon the intended purchaser of the item for every penny they can extract, using the prized coffee pot as a bargaining chip.

But, of course, we know that Colbeck is no fool and, despite being misled at every turn, he will eventually get his man, or woman, in more ways than one.

Another hugely enjoyable page-turner from Marston. If only his books were easier to find. Now waiting on a copy of "Railway To The Grave".

Kathryn says

I enjoyed this - I thought I was losing my taste for cosy murder mysteries as the last couple I've read (not ones by Edward Marstons) have frustrated me somewhat - but this was a good one. I got a little irritated at times by Mrs Tompkin's disappointment over the theft of her silver coffeepot, despite the fact that it caused a murder and an assault, both of which were glossed over by her as of little importance with the loss of her coffeepot of prime importance!

But all in all, this was a fun book to listen to, as always, and I especially enjoyed the ending of this one and look forward to continuing with the next!

Mandy Snel says

I got this book as a gift from a friend, who did not know this was the sixth book in the series, and I have to say, the cover gave no indication that it was.

My review therefor might be clouded by me not reading the first 5 books. But after reading this book I will definitely not read any other of this series.

The characters in this book were very flat, seeming to only feel self importance and self pity. The conversations did not feel real at any point, and just seem to be there to let the readers know what was happening. If anyone was described it was only to tell the audience that someone was really beautiful, or really ugly, and both those options were repeated plenty of times in the book.

To understand the story you do not need the other books in the series, but previous events were recollected several times, without obvious need for it. The writer seemed to think the reader is very dumb, and needs lots of repetition. There was plenty of dislike for women in this book, with a few exceptions. Only pretty ladies

can be good seems to be the underlying message.

Although this is a case about a silver locomotive, and a railway detective, all that the story has to do with trains is that they travel with them a lot. I expected more, and was sorely disappointed...

two stars, because I did finish the book.

Peter says

This is the sixth book in the Railway Detective mystery series set in Victorian Britain featuring Inspector Robert Colbeck and his partner Sergeant Victor Leeming.

A young London silversmith is given the job of delivering a silver coffee pot in the shape of a train locomotive to Cardiff, to the wealthy customers who commissioned it. On the way there he meets the leading principals of an acting troupe. Shortly after arrival in Cardiff a body matching the young silversmith's description is found in a hotel bedroom despite apparently knowing know one in the city. As the silversmith travelled by train to Cardiff and his body was found in a Railway hotel Colbeck and Leeming are called in by the local constabulary to help solve this baffling and dastardly crime.

During their enquiries they meet a varied group of suspects ranging from a pair of self-obsessed actors to the professional mistress of a local business magnate, each are generally well drawn. Each have a liking for silver but otherwise no apparent motive. However, the stand-out character is the opinionated and callous wife of the businessman who had initially commissioned the coffee-pot.

As the case proceeds Colbeck and Leeming shuttle between London and Cardiff as endeavour to track down the killer and his female accomplice. There are several twists along the way but I still managed to work out the accomplice fairly quickly if not the main culprit. Set against the background of the country's burgeoning railway system there is enough information to be interesting but not so much as to overwhelm non-enthusiasts. The story is told at a good quick pace making it any easy read but still manages to be an enthralling whodunit. Despite being the sixth in the series this was the first that I've read and as such feel that it capable of standing on its own rather than relying too heavily on what went before. Something light but still substantial for a long train journey or flight.

Maggie Kiely says

Really enjoying these cosy mysteries Enjoy the characters. Not really gripping but easy to read and would recommend

Naomi Mouland says

I love this series of books. I'm not one for historical crime fiction but must admit that since reading the first one I picked up I have become a fan hunting them all down. I find I get pulled into the story by the easy writing style, elegantly descriptive and always quite fast moving. I struggle to put these books down once I

start them. I just wish there were more in the series!

Terri Lynn says

If only I could give it a 10 plus!!! This is my favorite of all of the Detective Inspector Robert Colbeck mysteries by Edward Marston set in 1950's England.

So finally (!!!!!) Robert proposes marriage to lady friend Madeleine Andrews after years of holding hands and exchanging kisses on the cheek. Hopefully they will not take 6 more books to get married.

This book starts off with a train trip (of course) for a traveling troupe of actors. Nigel Buckmaster's (don't you just love the names Marston gives some of the characters?) is a fancy theater actor who heads the troop and thinks he is a gift to women. He has as his lady Kate Linnane who is as full of herself as she is gorgeous and talented. They share a first class carriage on the train with Hugh Kellow, a young silversmith sent by his boss to deliver an exquisite silver tea pot shaped as a train. Kellow's boss, Mr. Voke sees him off with many warnings to protect the teapot until it is delivered into the hands of the rich bitch who bought it- Mrs. Tomkins.

Unfortunately, Colbeck and his assistant Sergeant Victor Leeming get called to Wales to investigate when Hugh Kellow is murdered in what appears to be a kinky sex act at the hotel at the train station. He is trussed up to the bed spread eagled with semen in his tightie whities and acid poured down his throat and over his face. The tea pot is stolen.

Colbeck and Leeming love getting to work with their colleague and friend Jeremiah Stockdale who runs the police in Cardiff, Wales.

This story is full of excitement and mystery and Cardiff, Wales is just the British version of Peyton Place! You would not want these people for friends nor to marry any of them. There are stolen carriages, Leeming is (as in every book) thumped on the back of the head by someone creeping up on him, an elegant lady who plays musical beds with rich guys, some creepy rich ladies, trustworthy servants, stolen keys, a suicide, dads and their disgruntled sons, secret weddings, a kidnapping that was just a gal running off to be alone with her brother, another brother and sister who are in love and living as man and wife, and lots of train trips.

As always, Marston provides an authentic taste of Victorian Britain and detectives who solve serious crime without cars, cell phones, or computers. As always Leeming whines if he ever has to spend the night away from his wife Estelle (once the boss Superintendent Tallis told him to stop being so horny and acting like an animal in a previous book).

I liked the part about the theater troupe because I love theater and watching Shakespeare acted out on stage. There is a love triangle among the actors as well.

Highly recommended!

William says

I really enjoyed this book, but my one complaint is that I figured out "who dunnit" by about page 100.

