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BOOK REVIEW

BOOK TITLE : **Partners in Crime**

AUTHOR : **Agatha Christie**

INTRODUCTION :

Agatha christie's partner in crime is a short story collection. It is a detective novel . I personally like suspense-thriller , mystery , detective kind of novels . first I choose the book by seeing the author name . I always wanted to read agatha christie's books . Because she mostly writes detective novels ,which are quite the type of books which I like .Hence ,I choose this book . After reading the overview of the book I expected the book to be lively , engaging ,intriguing and full of mystery. As a person who likes to read books , I expected that this book would certainly be my best choice .

SUMMARY :

The main characters in the book partners in crime are Tommy and Tuppence Beresford . The book has about 15 short stories i.e.15 cases that are solved by Tommy and Tuppence . Tommy and Tuppence are detective agents working under the government . They also have an assistant named Albert.

The Beresford's old acquaintance Mr Carter, a government intelligence officer, delivers a mission to the adventurous couple. They are to commandeer 'the International Detective Agency', a newly cleaned-out spy headquarters, and impersonate the owners in order to intercept any enemy communications passing through. Meanwhile Tommy and Tuppence can accept cases as the detective agents of this detective agency.

This chance is a joy to the young couple. They hire Albert, a young man also featured in *The Secret Adversary*, as their agency assistant.

1. A Fairy in the Flat

Mr Carter requests the young couple to take over 'The International Detective Agency'. The manager of the agency, Theodore Blunt, is in jail. Carter's specific request is that they look out for letters on blue paper addressed to Mr Blunt from a so-called ham merchant eager to locate his refugee wife. Each such letter will bear a Russian stamp with a "16" written below. He requests such letters to be forwarded to him at once.

2. A Pot of Tea

The couple overacts the agency, Tommy as Mr. Blunt, Tuppence as Miss Robinson and Alber as an office clerk in the agency.

Following a week of turning down divorce cases, which Tuppence dislikes, they are visited by Lawrence St Vincent. He is the nephew of, and successor to, the Earl of Cheriton. He has fallen in love with a young woman named Janet who works in a hat shop in Brooks Street. She has gone missing from the shop and has not been heard at her lodgings. St Vincent would like them to trace her.

3. The Affair of the Pink Pearl

Having read a number of detective novels, Tommy believes that it would be a good idea to solve the cases by duplicating the same methods.

The second client is a young lady called Miss Kingston Bruce. She resides in Wimbledon with her parents, and last night one of their visitors lost an expensive pink pearl. The Blunts have been referred to them by Lawrence St Vincent, who was a visitor.

4. The Missing Lady Case

The legendary explorer Gabriel visited the agency, who has returned prematurely from a two-year trip to the north pole. Gabriel tells us that prior to embarking on the trip, he got engaged to the Hon Mrs Hermione Leigh Gordon. Gabriel had a telegram signed by Hermione and sent from Maldon, stating that she was off to Monte Carlo. Gabriel went to Maldon but cannot trace her.

5. The Unbreakable Alibi

Tommy and Tuppence's new client is a thick-set young man named Mr Montgomery Jones. He has met an Australian woman named Una Drake with whom he has fallen violently in love. Discussing their shared love of detective fiction, she has made a wager with him that he cannot shatter an alibi she has arranged for herself. She has consented that if he prevails he can ask her anything he desires, and it is his plan to ask her for her hand in marriage. Full aware that he is not exactly noted for being bright, Montgomery Jones requests the Beresford's to undertake the task on his behalf.

6. The Adventure of the Sinister Stranger

Dressing up as the renowned detective pair Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, Tommy and Tuppence become involved in a mystery with a dubious stranger and an missing document of immense implications.

7. The House of Lurking Death

Their newest customer is Lois Hargreaves, who receives a box of chocolates in the mail. Those who consumed them fell ill as they were filled with arsenic, and she is not the first recipient of them in the neighbourhood. In addition she

believes the sender to have originated in her own household. However, before the Beresford's can travel to her house she is murdered, poisoned through some fig sandwiches.

8. Blindman's buff

Tommy and Tuppence use the case of Clinton H Stagg's blind detective, Thornley Colton. Tommy chooses to exercise his deductive abilities, not employing the sense of sight in a restaurant. A client by the name of Duke greets them at the restaurant saying that his daughter has been kidnapped and he wishes the blunt to escort him to his home. Where Tommy learns that Duke is involved with Russian letters.

9. The Man in the Mist

Tuppence encounters a well-known actress Gilda Glen. As they are walking to Morgan's avenue the weather gets very foggy and when they reach the house in question, they notice a man, a spurned suitor of Gilda, exit the property with his hands dyed red. On investigation they discover her killed and by the policeman on his beat no one entered the premises after Gilda came home except her spurned suitor.

10. Finessing the King

In this chapter *The Clue in the Air* (1917) and her detectives Tommy McCarty and Denis Riordan characters are being parodied. The Beresford's are going to the ball affair. where they find a woman dressed as queen of hearts dying in a club booth. Before she dies she utters that 'Bingo did it'. And her friend a man dressed as a newspaper is nowhere to be seen.

11. The Adventure of the Sinister Stranger

The new client Dr Bower is very suspicious, who provides a pretty incredulous case to them. Beresford's also know that somebody wants them to move away from their agency. Tommy wanting to catch the criminal red handed gets caught.

12. The Crackler

Inspector Marriot needs Tommy and Tuppence's assistance in apprehending a gang of forgers who have produced notes, primarily from a gaming club. Where Tommy places himself in harm's way again .

13.The Sunningdale Mystery

They speak about the Sunningdale Mystery. Captain was murdered 3 weeks on a golf course, stabbed with a lady's hat pin.

The police have accused a woman of the crime, but between the two of them, the Beresford's dissect the police's case and with their own specialist expertise reveal the true culprit.

14. The Clergyman's Daughter

The clergyman's daughter, Monica Deane, asks them to inquire into strange phenomena, which are happening at her home. They help her fake her disappearance to escape from restricting parents.

15.The Ambassador's Boots

Randolph Wilmott, employs the Blunt's agency.

A little while after arrival, his valet informed him that his kit bag, bearing his initials, was accidentally collected by another traveller on the liner with the same initials – Senator Ralph Westerham.

Mr Wilmott knows that the case is a small one, but his curiosity has been piqued and he would like the agency to investigate. 16.

16.The Man Who Was No. 16

They expect the troublesome agent "No. 16" will show up at Blunt's – although he has never known the real Theodore Blunt and is unaware that Tommy has been pretending to be him. Beresford's are given other recognized codes to watch out for and asked to co-operate as much as possible with "No. 16" in a bid to help Carter reach him.

ANALYSIS AND OPINION :

The book is full of stories . It is quiet lively as expected . The book also has some humour in it. I particularly liked Tuppence character a lot . For me she stood out the whole book . According to me she kept the readers engaging with her joyous nature . She is also the resourceful as she comes up with many ideas and thoughts instantly . She analyses a situation very clearly and is also quick-witted . She is fearless and never backs off from any kind of situation. Moreover I felt that though she is married to tommy she always had her own point of view and thinking , which clearly tells us that she is independent ..

The cute banter and chemistry between Tommy and Tuppence is another thing which I liked a lot while reading the book. The characters of Tommy and Tuppence complemented each other very well. In this book tuppence never followed the rules yet she finishes her work perfectly . The way both of them disguise themselves to solve a case each and everytime was quite interesting .

The book is easy to read and understandable also. Since these are short stories I felt that the mysteries are revealed too fast . Few stories are quite interesting but few are a little simple and quick to solve . The funny banter of the detectives made the cases a little less interesting and

decreased the seriousness or the high intense tension expected from a detective novel . The lead roles often encountered comically dramatic cases .

One example of direct and indirect speech I encountered while reading the books are :

*Direct speech :

“It’s only in modesty that men score top marks”, murmured Tommy.

*Indirect Speech:

Tuppence admitted she was thrilled by the idea of catching spies and insisted that they dive straight into the adventure.

PERSONAL CONNECTION :

This book is going to leave a lasting impression on me . Because as a person who likes to read mystery stories , I always read the stories which always created a high tense and suspense situation .The book was also in a light-hearted way. When I read this book I was caught off guard by the unique way of telling the mystery stories . The book has blown me away as I expected a typical detective drama but was encountered with humour and romance .

I connected a lot with the Tuppence character . she stood with her strong female lead character. Her boldness and independent character rub off on me . She is the leads the whole book with confidence and fills us with curiosity .

CONCLUSION :

I enjoyed a lot while reading this book. I would recommend this book as it is quick , fun and easy-going . Unlike other detective novels this book also gives away the humour . People who like to read female lead books , for young adults and adults this book is recommended. I would also say that who is starting to read books related to mystery , this book would be a great start .

As it contains simple terminology and easy to understand . This book also promotes famous fictional detective characters which helps people connect the stories and relate them .