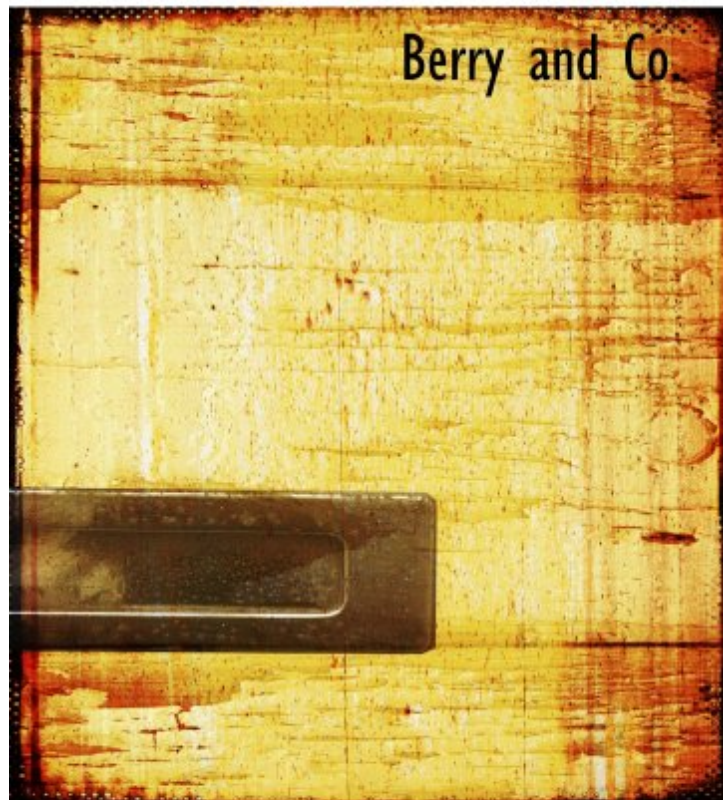


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Dornford Yates

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Dornford Yates : Berry and Co. before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Berry and Co.:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Warm up the Rolls, Carson
By David L. Vineyard
The charming self-satisfied heroes of Dornford Yates Wodehousian tales are at it again, at home and abroad in a fairy tale England and that was --- at least if you had the money, the time, the taste, and the good luck to find it. Yates is a terrible snob, but just enjoy the fun. These books define nostalgic charm, and Yates has a magical lyrical and unique way with the English language. No one save maybe Anthony Hope (The Prisoner of Zenda) ever wrote quite like this. White Ladies and its neighbor houses are as much fantasy today as Middle Earth, but it's a pleasant escape from today's reality. But I warn you Yates is addictive.
9 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Post WWI Neverland
By L. Norman
I don't understand myself. These stories, mostly of high jinks in the English countryside, are grossly

overwritten, especially in descriptions of scenery. The protagonists are all perfect gentlemen, apart from their assumption of entitlement and chauvinist superiority, while the ladies are paragons of demure pulchritude. And yet I find them quite delightful in their depiction of a place and time that never was. It's a puzzlement. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Remains of the Day? By Claude Lambert The author was about 16 years old when Queen Victoria died and about 26 when Edward VII died, and I think that he regretted that era until his own death in 1960. The book is a collection of old-fashioned pranks in the style of Oxford University. I had friends who talked like that, enjoyed pranks like that, and of course now they are all dead. Similarly, London still had in the 50s and 60s nice gentlemen who had served in India. You would see them drinking heavily in the pubs or the hotels' bars and hear them talk about the Empire. Now they are all gone. Time flies. The best movie about the generation of the author is The Remains of the Day. I prefer this choice because you get another great movie in prime (Sense and Sensibility). It was a generation where the upper class did not have much of a social conscience, not because they were heartless, but because "it was not done". Conversation should be light and airy with spirited banter. My heart goes two ways: on one hand I hate the stuff and what it represents. The book is almost unreadable. On the other hand, I can hear the voice of some old friends of mine. If you are interested in the spirit of the period, you should rather try the books of Dorothy Sayers (who was from Oxford as well). Start with Whose Body?: 1 (The Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries) It is well written, there is a mystery, the book is full of people like that and frankly it is in another literary class. It is also at a great price (0.99 today).

At the foot of the steps the great smooth lawn stretched like a fine green carpet its shadowed patches yet bright with dew. There were the tall elms and the copper beech and all the proud company of spreading giants what were five years to them?' (Excerpt from Chapter 1)

About the Author Born Cecil William Mercer into a middle class Victorian family with many Victorian skeletons in the closet, including the conviction for embezzlement from a law firm and subsequent suicide of his great-uncle, Yates' parents somehow scraped together enough money to send him to Harrow. The son of a solicitor, he qualified as a barrister whilst still finding time to contribute stories to the Windsor Magazine. After the first world war he gave up legal work in favour of writing, which had become his great passion, and completed some thirty books. These ranged from light-hearted farce to adventure thrillers. For the former, he created the 'Berry' books which established Yates' reputation as a writer of witty, upper-crust romances. For the latter, he created the character Richard Chandos, who recounts the adventures of Jonah Mansel, a classic gentleman sleuth. As a consequence of his education and experience, Yates' books feature the genteel life, a nostalgic glimpse at Edwardian decadence and a number of swindling solicitors. In his hey day, and as testament to his fine writing, Dornford Yates' work was placed in the bestseller list. Indeed, 'Berry' is one of the great comic creations of twentieth century fiction; the 'Chandos' titles also being successfully adapted for television. Along with Sapper and John Buchan, Yates dominated the adventure book market of the inter war years. Finding the English climate utterly unbearable, Yates chose to live in the French Pyrenees for eighteen years, before moving on to Rhodesia where he died in 1960. 'Mr Yates can be recommended to anyone who thinks the British take themselves too seriously.' - Punch 'We appreciate fine writing when we come across it, and a wit that is ageless united to a courtesy that is extinct' - Cyril Connolly