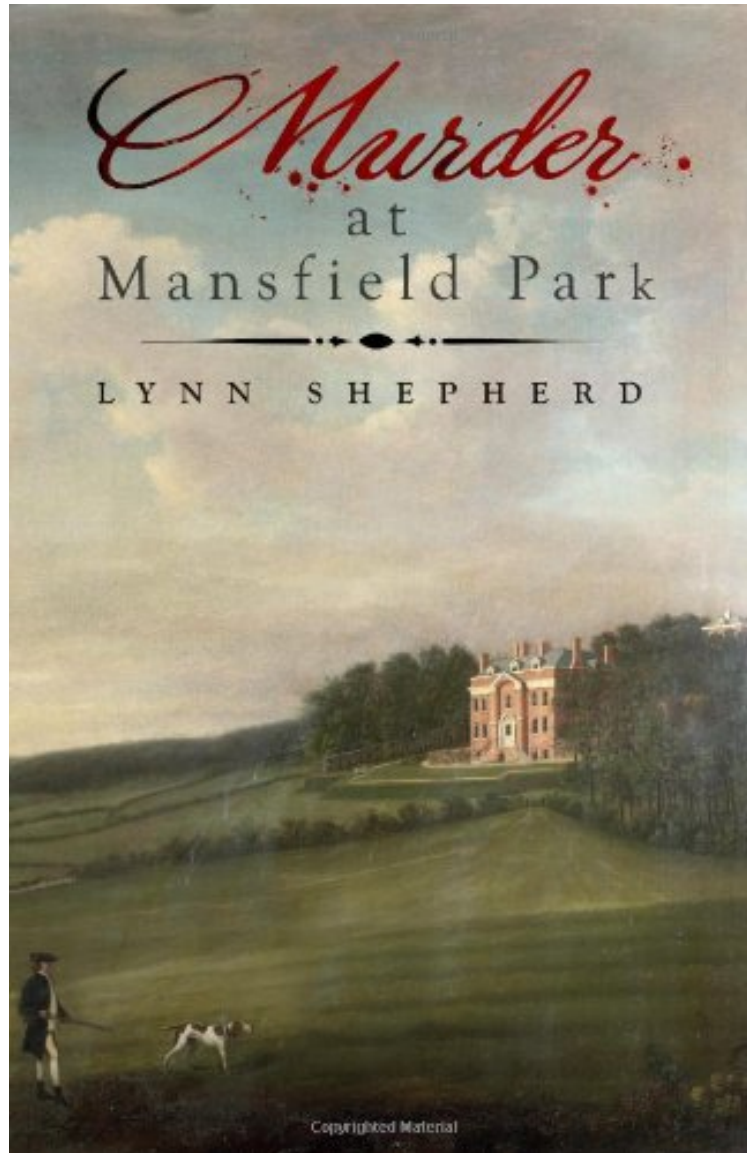


(Download free pdf) Murder at Mansfield Park

Murder at Mansfield Park

Lynn Shepherd

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Lynn Shepherd : Murder at Mansfield Park before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Murder at Mansfield Park:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. much better the second time aroundBy CustomerI read this book when it first came out and like most I bought it because I am a Jane Austin freak. I was not the biggest fan of the book the first time that I read it but I did go on to purchase her other two books in this series. Ms Shepherds new book came

out recently and I thought that I would go back and re-read the first three and I have to say that I really enjoyed this book the second time around. It is a bit slow and it takes a while for the book to get going but I really liked that she changed Fanny's personality. I am now on the third book and I am really enjoying it. She takes characters from other books or real life people like Mary Shelly and re-creates them into someone new. If this book dragged for you try the next in the series. You won't be disappointed. It is not as slow to get going as this one. If you stick with the book I think you will enjoy the whole series. I for one am glad that I decided to do a re-read. I look forward to more of Ms. Shepherd's books especially with Charles Maddox!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. excellent book
By Customer
I loved it! well crafted story - I also had a lot of fun picking out many lines directly from other Austen novels (besides MP) and the references to other Austen characters (Ferrars, Bingley) and places (Pemberley). Don't understand logic behind one star reviews but from my end I gladly give this novel five stars!

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Murder at Mansfield Park
By theregencyinkwell
In Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*, Miss Fanny Price is a poor, orphaned child who goes to live with her uncle and aunt, Lord and Lady Bertram, and their four children. Together with the Bertram children--Tom, Maria, Julia and Edmund--Fanny flourishes into a beautiful and loving young woman. Fanny falls in love with Edmund, who had always been kind to her, but Edmund only sees her as his dear cousin. Tom, who stands to inherit, spends his life indulging his habits of drinking and gambling. The two Bertram girls are selfish and spoiled. Maria is the worst of the two and uses her position to mistreat Fanny. The arrival of Mary and Henry Crawford, brother and sister, disrupts the calm world at Mansfield Park, sparking a series of romantic entanglements, including Edmund's affection directed toward Mary Crawford. The Crawfords' are amoral, and both have secret agendas concerning Edmund and Maria Bertram. In *Murder at Mansfield Park*, Shepherd cleverly shifts the story and characters around. Like Jane Austen, Shepherd's story starts off slowly, allowing readers the chance to assimilate the new changes and get to know the characters. Shepherd also allows readers to become familiarized with societal rules and manners at that time, as well as the emotional damage that they caused. However, it is what Shepherd does with her alternate universe that will have readers on the edge of their seats. In an alternate storyline, she creates a whole new world allowing it to be filled with interesting twists and turns, including murder. Noble characters are now amoral. For example, it is Mary Crawford who becomes the loving and beautiful heroine and her brother Henry becomes a decent fellow making his living as an architect. Gone is the noble Fanny Price of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*. Even Edmund is not spared a change, as you will discover he is no longer a Bertram, but rather the stepson of Mrs. Norris, Lady Bertram's sister. In Shepherd's novel, Miss Price is rich, spoiled, and mean-spirited. We expect you will soon come to detest her enough to wish her ill. Shepherd also cleverly intertwines other characters from other Austen novels in her novel, as when snobbish and annoying Robert Ferrars becomes a potential new client for Henry Crawford. Later in the novel, Shepherd introduces readers to a new character, Mr. Maddox. Known as a thief-taker, Maddox is hired by Tom Bertram to find the murderer. Thief-takers were known as private individuals hired to capture criminals. Not respected and initially detested by everyone at Mansfield Park, Maddox proves a valuable asset to the story. He is brilliant and on occasion shows compassion to some of the females in the story. In fact, there were certain instances when we wished Mr. Maddox played a larger role in the novel. But his sole destiny in this novel is to find and apprehend the murderer. Like a diamond in the rough, Maddox is brilliant in his deducing skills and definitely a character worthy of his own crime-solving adventures--much like Anne Perry's Detective Pitt of the Victorian era. Hopefully, Ms. Shepherd will give us more of Mr. Maddox. We will admit that as purists of everything Jane Austen, we were hesitant about reading Shepherd's *Murder at Mansfield Park*, Jennifer Becton's *Charlotte Collins*, and Regina Jeffers' *The Phantom of Pemberley*. However, we are happy to report that reading them was time well-spent. We learned a valuable lesson. As a recovering purist, Miguelina Perez, co-author of *The Vicar's Deadly Sin*, is excited to say she will gladly give it all up, once more, for another opportunity to read more stories by these ladies and other authors who bring us glimpses of Austen's literary world in such an exciting and creative way. Miguelina said: "What I would have missed, if I had not taken the opportunity to read these wonderful works that commanded 19th Century English manners, language and societal rules, is unthinkable." We refuse to say anything further on the grounds that we might accidentally diverge too much of the rest of the plot. This is definitely a book worth adding to your library.

"Nobody, I believe, has ever found it possible to like the heroine of *Mansfield Park*." --Lionel Trilling
In this ingenious new twist on *Mansfield Park*, the famously meek Fanny Price--whom Jane Austen's own mother called "insipid"--has been utterly transformed; she is now a rich heiress who is spoiled, condescending, and generally hated throughout the county. Mary Crawford, on the other hand, is now as good as Fanny is bad, and suffers great indignities at the hands of her vindictive neighbor. It's only after Fanny is murdered on the grounds of *Mansfield Park* that Mary comes into her own, teaming-up with a thief-taker from London to solve the crime. Featuring genuine Austen characters--the same characters, and the same episodes, but each with a new twist--*MURDER AT MANSFIELD PARK* is a brilliantly entertaining novel that offers Jane Austen fans an engaging new heroine and story to read again and again.

From Publishers Weekly
Starred . Mary Crawford, a minor character in *Mansfield Park*, takes center stage in Shepherd's debut, a clever reworking of the Austen novel that's strong on plot, character, and historical accuracy.

Shepherd has altered Austen's characters, some beyond recognition. Most notably, meek and unassuming Fanny Price has become "a monster of complacency and pride" in Kingsley Amis's phrase borrowed from his essay on Jane Austen. Mary, whose cheerful disposition and wit ensure her acceptance at Mansfield Park, suffers much at Fanny's hands. When Fanny turns up dead in a trench on the park grounds, an apparent victim of foul play, a horrified Mary winds up playing detective. While mystery fans will find much to like, it is Austenites who will be most gratified, particularly by how well Shepherd has captured the tone of Austen's original. For anyone who thought Henry Crawford deserved Fanny or who has a problem with vampires and ghouls invading Jane Austen's world, this will be a delight. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "[Fanny Price is] a monster of complacency and pride...under a cloak of cringing self-abasement." --Kingsley Amis, author of *What Became of Jane Austen? And Other Questions*