



Three Bags Full

By Leonie Swann

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Three Bags Full By Leonie Swann

A witty philosophical murder mystery with a charming twist: the crack detectives are sheep determined to discover who killed their beloved shepherd.

On a hillside near the cozy Irish village of Glennkill, a flock of sheep gathers around their shepherd, George, whose body lies pinned to the ground with a spade. George has cared devotedly for the flock, even reading them books every night. Led by Miss Maple, the smartest sheep in Glennkill (and possibly the world), they set out to find George's killer.

The A-team of investigators includes Othello, the “bad-boy” black ram; Mopple the Whale, a Merino who eats a lot and remembers everything; and Zora, a pensive black-faced ewe with a weakness for abysses. Joined by other members of the richly talented flock, they engage in nightlong discussions about the crime, wild metaphysical speculations, and embark on reconnaissance missions into the village, where they encounter some likely suspects. Along the way, the sheep confront their own all-too-human struggles with guilt, misdeeds, and unrequited love.

Funny, fresh, and endearing, it introduces a wonderful new breed of detectives to Canadian readers.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The mysterious death of their shepherd has sent a flock of sheep into a frenzy trying to piece together whodunit. Overcoming their sheepish ways, the members of the flock realize that they may be the only ones who can solve it. The more intelligent sheep, who have better retention or the intuition to ask the right questions, develop a list of potential suspects. As the investigation continues, the sheep quickly find the conspiracy is quite large, including a significant number of residents of Glennkill, Scotland. The delightful story is chock-full of metaphors and analogies about human behavior, interaction and memory that provide provocative insight. Bailey keeps an excellent pace and tone throughout in a light—almost benevolent—tone that keenly projects the slightly naïve perspective of the sheep. She makes indisputably clear voices for all her characters, including male voices that most would be hard-pressed to discern as coming from a woman. Tantor Media conveniently includes a handy pamphlet that lists the numerous sheep integral to the story along with a brief description of them.

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Review

“It’s rather as if Agatha Christie had re-written **The Wind in the Willows.**”

—*Independent* (UK)

“Moments of high comedy come thick and fast. . . . This entertaining, light-hearted mystery is told from a refreshingly novel perspective.”

—*Daily Mail* (UK)

“Swann’s light, sure touch keeps cuteness at bay, and the whimsical central conceit is nicely sharpened by literary allusions and running theological jokes (all those ovine metaphors).” —*The Times* (UK)

“If you love a good mystery and have even the slightest taste for *Charlotte’s Web* or *Babe*, trust me, you’ll be enchanted. . . . The combination of sly humour and naiveté makes this novel a surprising and refreshing read. The herd is filled with vivid characters laid out in vivid detail.” —Hallie Ephron, *The Boston Globe*

"An original and clever mystery, with a flock of endearingly woolly detectives. I may never eat lamb chops again." --Carl Hiaasen

About the Author

Leonie Swann earned degrees in philosophy, psychology, and communications from Munich University and has worked in journalism and public relations. Currently working on her doctorate in English literature, she lives in Berlin.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Deborah Tate:

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