

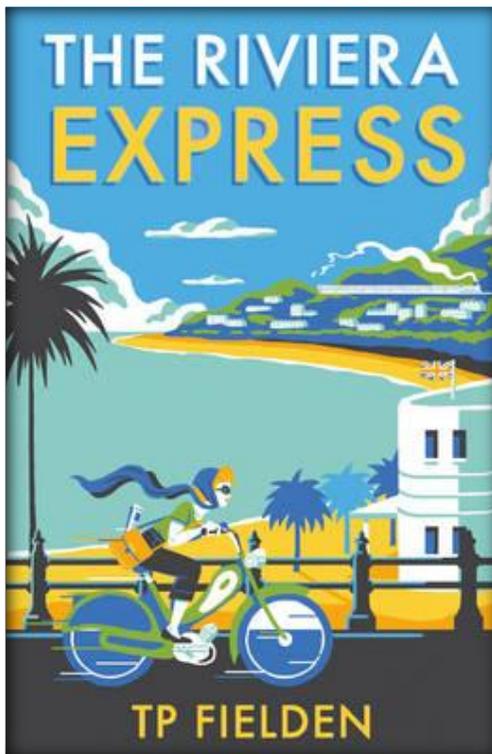


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MIRA

Lovereading Reader reviews of
The Riviera Express
A Miss Dimont Mystery
by TP Fielden

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.



Jan Kirkcaldy

This really was like going back in time, not just to the 50s when the story is set but to good old fashioned crime writing in true Agatha Christie style. No gratuitous violence, sex or bad language but a story that held your interest throughout. Over the top characters, not least the leading lady – Miss Judy Dimont, who is no Miss Marple, a local paper reporter and would be detective, and small Devon town Temple Regis, isn't really like St Mary Mead. Nevertheless the mix of characters found both in the Riviera Express weekly newspaper office and the locals who mostly seemed to know or be related to one another was a captivating combination. All made an impression and

when two unexpected deaths occurred on the same day in this sleepy town it soon opened up a can of worms. One who died was a famous film star and the other a journalist of dubious reputation, so soon many well-known people arrived throwing up the theory of accident or murder for all to wonder about not least Miss Dimont and trusty photographer Terry. She certainly thought there was more to investigate despite lack of evidence and little CID interest.

*Stereotyped in a way perhaps but a fascinating story unfolded and I didn't know if or who committed a crime until the bitter end. That being my judgement of a good crime novel and this fell into that category. I hope there are more of these stories to come – **this one was sheer escapism. Lovely.***

Phylippa Smithson

This is a fun though somewhat two dimensional murder-mystery set in the Devonshire Riviera.

I should say my personal preference is for meaty, credible stories so did struggle with this one as it is a little superficial and missing a depth I like to see in a book.

However, if you are looking for a very easy and non-challenging murder mystery, this is the one for you. With two murders coinciding in the same day, just a few miles from each other and to two people from very different walks of life – one a world famous actor, the other a press reporter with a reputation of bringing headline leading news to the UK national readership – in the very unlikely location of a quiet community village, there is much intrigue as the investigation progresses.

The lead character, is the wily forty something Miss Dimont (or Miss Dim as her colleagues on the local Riviera Express where there is little love lost between her and notably her Editor) who is on hand when the first victim is found – the actor. She is then immediately on site to witness the early reaction to the 2nd victim.

Whilst the police lead by Inspector Topham, is pursuing the formal investigation, the determined and focused Miss Dim slowly follows her own judgement and ‘gut feel’ to ultimately reveal the real murderer after very many others, including her arch rival Betty, come up with their own identity of the killer. This will appeal to some but mist admit, I have read better.

Cathy Petersen

*While it's not the best crime novel I've read this year, it is an enjoyable one and worth a look. **A good debut that has potential.** I did initially wonder if I'd get on with this as to begin with I didn't really like the style of writing or the main character, then as I progressed and the bodies began piling up I found I had warmed up to both. Set in the late fifties on the Devon coast, the English Riviera, this has the feel of an old fashioned cosy crime which seem to be back in fashion at present and to be honest, it doesn't do a bad job at it. There is a cast of reasonably suspicious characters, an intrepid amateur detective and a decent plotline all of which makes for a not too taxing, but enjoyable read. I admit there are flaws. In my opinion the characterisations could have been better developed as could the dialogue which on occasion I found irritating. The scene*

setting wasn't bad either, but as with the characters and dialogue it could have been better. These were not unsurmountable problems as overall I did enjoy the book. It's not the best crime novel I've read recently but not the worst and I wouldn't object to reading more in the series.

You can follow Cathy on Twitter: @Cerysthepup

Magdalena Vidgen

Truly, I am in two minds about this book.

On one hand, it is an easy and undemanding read about an amateur detective; something you might take with you for a beach holiday to enjoy. On the other hand, it is slightly disappointing.

It is a story of a female lead journalist for a small newspaper in Devon in late 50s, who stumbles on two, seemingly unrelated deaths, and tries to make some sense of the situation. The plot is built to resemble some of Agatha Christie's novels, however, it fails to do so with the same grace:

The language and behaviour of characters are more suited to the 30s rather than the late 50s; the notion that the newspaper employs only female journalists is hardly probable, considering the time; the main character's blunders are annoying- she doesn't talk to the right people and doesn't ask the right questions, especially in the light of many hints that during the war she was involved in some kind of detective work at the high level. But she finally solves the mystery and all is good again in that idyllic coastal town.

*Overall, despite some shortcomings, it is **a light and pleasant read, which could give one a couple of hours of innocent pleasure.***

Maz Tucker

Great little story with a bit of a twist. I was looking forward to reading this as being a Devon person I know all about the Riviera Express, but it turns out this is mainly focused on the other Riviera Express, a fictitious newspaper.

The book reminded me of an Agatha Christie, it was a bit slow, but it was an enjoyable read.

The characters were brought to life by the author really well.

Not having read any of this author before, I will look out for others.

Nicola Lowes

A slick and elegant story which has created a younger Miss Marple character in the form of Miss Judy Dimont. It is a murder mystery and shows how different characters pick up on the various clues but don't always let on to the ones who need to know about it. It takes a determined reporter to find out.

The atmosphere of a post war Devon seaside town is carefully crafted and the characters are instantly recognisable and likeable. The writing has a light touch and is easy to read through quickly. The plot is well thought out and I didn't guess "who-dunnit" so that made me happy. I warmed to Miss Dimont and am looking forward to the next book by this author.

Twitter @NJLowes