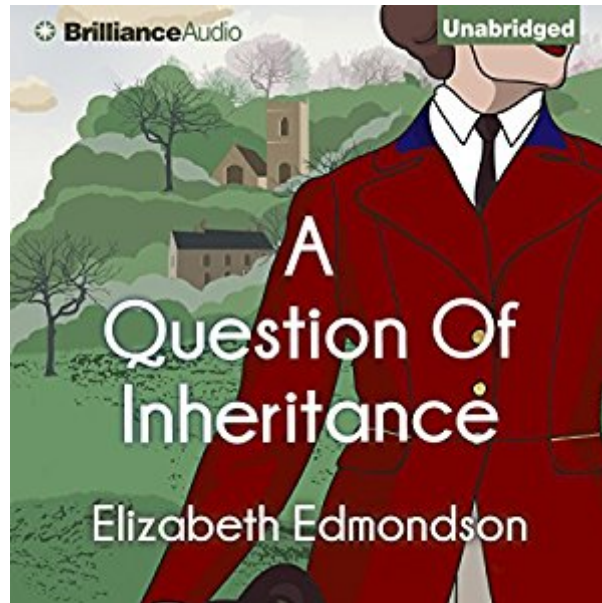


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A Question Of Inheritance: A Very English Mystery, Book 2



Synopsis

December 1953 Hugo Hawksworth is on the tail of rogue Cold War agents at a top-secret government facility, while back home at Selchester Castle they're awaiting the arrival of the new earl - an American, the long-lost son of the murdered Lord Selchester. The town of Selchester, rich in scandal and gossip, is unsure what to make of the earl or his teenage daughters, but they know that his sharp-tongued half-sister, Lady Sonia, furious at being deprived of her inheritance, won't be a merry guest over Christmas. The new Lord Selchester can cope with the strangeness of English country life, but he hadn't expected stolen paintings - or a body in the hothouse. What's the link between Hugo's investigations and the suspicious goings-on in the town and at the castle? And will he and his allies get to the heart of the mystery before the murderer gets to them?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I loved the first book and I was (and still am) enjoying the second book - but a little more than halfway through, the editing just went out the window. Extra words, missing words, sentence fragments - they are all over the place. It's as if the author or editor was making changes to sentences by adding in different words but not taking away the ones they were meant to replace. I love the writing, the time period, the story and the characters, but please go back and correct all those problems! I will look forward to more books by this author.

I enjoyed the first book enough to buy this one. But, although the story was pretty good and I like the

characters, this is not a good book. Is English the author's first language? Did the editor die partway through?? Somebody please edit this before it is purchased by any other innocent person.

I am just heartbroken to have seen a notice of this author's passing. What a lovely talented individual. She truly left the world a better place. If you are a fan, please read on. Rest in peace, Elizabeth Edmondson. Elizabeth Edmondson: 1948-2016 Dear friends and fans, It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Elizabeth, who died on the evening of Monday, 11th January, following a short battle with cancer. She was 67. Elizabeth was the author of over thirty novels, in genres including historical, detective, romantic comedy, women's fiction and children's fantasy. A fuller tribute to her life will be posted in due course, but her family and friends were taken very much by surprise. Please respect their privacy at this time.

I really enjoyed the first installment of this series--so much so that I immediately downloaded this one when I finished (fortunately for me, it was made available just days ago!) It was good; I think Georgia is an excellently written character, and I enjoy the way the author takes mystery cliches (like the lights going out at dinner for example) and kind of turns them on their head BUT the editing was truly atrocious. I'm one of those people (the anal retentive type) who likes to do the "report a typo" on my Kindle, but there were too many to even try here. There were extra words, missing words, mistakes etc. BUT the biggest thing that irked me (and there are SPOILERS ahead, so beware) was a giant plot hole (if I'm mistaken about this please let me know, I read the book in one sitting late at night so maybe I missed something).....About halfway through the book, when Dinah confesses that she knew of Oliver before due to her brother's involvement in France, she confesses the whole story to both Freya AND Hugo. BUT later it's like that never happened at all and Freya isn't sure if she should tell Hugo because Dinah told her "in confidence" and Hugo suspects that Freya knows something about Dinah, but he isn't sure what it is... it drove me crazy because a few chapters earlier Hugo was in the room with Dinah.

In the first book in this series, Lord Selchester, not a nice man, was murdered. In this book, a new Earl is installed in the Castle. He's the lost heir, found in America, and quite a nice man. With him are his two daughters, Babs and Polly. Two lodgers are still living in the Castle until they find a new home: Hugo Hawksworth, a government man doing Intelligence work, and his thirteen-year-old, worldly-wise sister Georgia. Installed in the Castle tower, and also in need of a new home is the earl's cousin Freya. It's Christmas 1953, and the Earl's half-sister Sonia invites herself to the holiday

festivities at the Castle. Sonia is a difficult personality, as we saw in the last book -- selfish and greedy (although rich in her own right). She brings an admirer with her, as well as an art expert to evaluate some paintings in the Castle. When the art expert is found dead in the hothouse, Hugo finds himself involved in his second murder investigation at the Castle. The post-war era is an interesting one, with shortages of food and housing in England. There are concerns about Russian spies, and Hugo is researching suspects. Another hot topic of the day is the confiscation of artwork from Jews families by the Nazis. This is pivotal to the plot. Unless I missed something (very possible), there are some loose ends in the plot left unresolved. But otherwise the mystery is well plotted. I felt very involved with the characters from the first book and happy to know what they were up to next, although the challenges they face are less intense this time around. But I enjoyed the story and look forward to the next book. Hugo, his brother Father Leo, Georgia and Freya are particularly likable characters.

The story was ok but the editing was horrid. Almost every page had mistakes in grammar and just poor sentences. Might be fine for people who speed read but not those of us who read every word. Never sent a review like this. Would not read another book by this author.

Well done, with a convincing setting and likeable characters but there are really a few problems. I suspect that the degree to which the UK upper classes functioned as one big happy family is somewhat exaggerated - Hugh and Georgia were originally lodged in the castle because his boss was a trustee of the estate, but who's paying for their meals etc? Then they get to stay there indefinitely for no apparent reason, and are regarded as "family" by other castle denizens after only a few months. Second, the mysteries presented in this story and the previous one are by no means cleared up at the end. I'm hoping there will be a third book, and I do want to read it, but even while putting out some hints of what's coming next I think this book would be a lot more satisfying if Edmonton had made it more able to stand alone. (For one example, we never did find out who was following Freya toward the end of book 1. There are other more vivid examples in this book, but they'd be spoilers.) And even when the mystery is cleared up it could be done better - how did the murderer in this volume get the expertise to commit his crime? How did he ascertain only the right person would be affected?

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