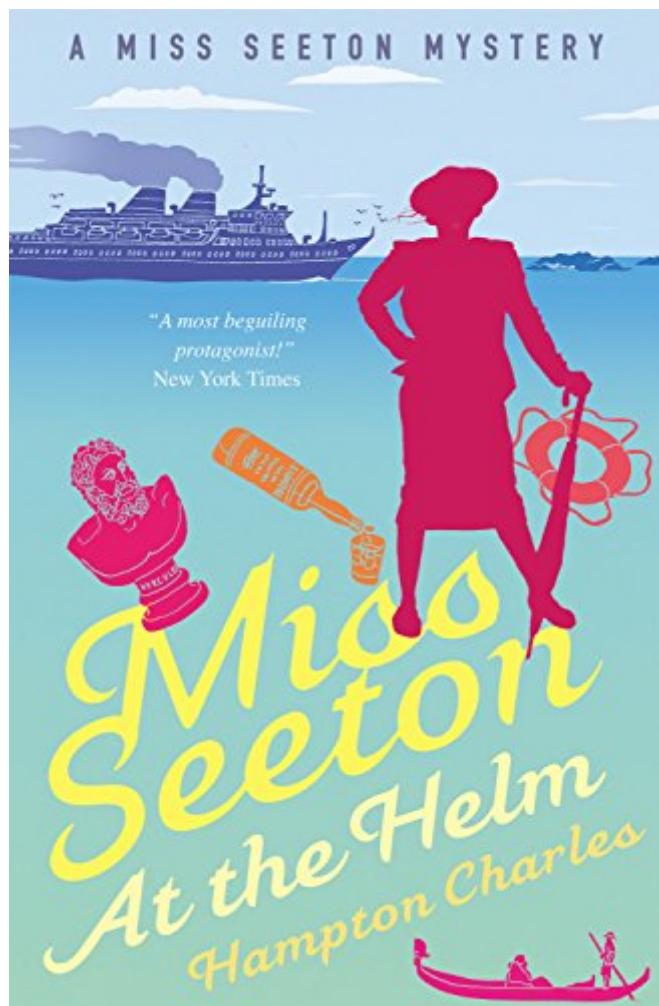


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Miss Seeton At The Helm (A Miss Seeton Mystery Book 8)



Synopsis

Lucky Miss Seeton is thrilled to be 'awarded' a luxury cruise from Venice to the Greek islands, for her services as official artist to Scotland Yard. But also on the good ship Eurydice are her friends, Sir George and Lady Emily Colvedon, who know all about Miss Sâ™s talent for tripping up wrongdoers. And by coincidence of course, there are a couple of well-known warring art experts, one of whom soon ends up dead. This voyage is heading into stormy waters, but by the crook of her brolly Miss S untangles the truth and brings them all safely into harbor. Serene amidst every kind of skullduggery, this eccentric English spinster steps in where Scotland Yard stumbles, armed with nothing more than her sketchpad and umbrella!

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Customer Reviews

I really love Miss Seeton, so when I found this one I snatched it up, since it is hard to find. But what a disappointment. It really seemed like the author just took all the previous characters and sort of pushed them into situations to see what happened. Miss Seeton and Lady Colveden are still recognizable, but Sir George is a buffoon, nothing like he is in previous books. The plot isn't very strong. The descriptions of Miss Seeton's drawings, which are, after all, key to the whole book, are

not very detailed and don't really even resemble her previous drawings. Then there's the shipboard romance between Delpick and Mel Forby. Where did that come from? It doesn't belong at all. There's never been a hint of that in previous books. In my opinion, Heron Carvic was really the best writer of this series. As the creator, he really knew the characters best. Hamilton Crane (Sarah J. Mason) does an excellent job of making the stories timely without losing the flavor of the period in which they are set. Her characterization is right on, too. But Hampton Charles, whoever he is, never really seemed to understand the series. Just a disappointment. Diehard Seeton fans will still want a copy of this one, but everyone else might as well forget it.

If you loved the first five Miss Seeton books by the original author, Heron Carvic, you might want to skip this one. Most of the main people behave quite out of character. While Miss Seeton stays closest to her character, it lacks her previous vitality. Chief Inspector Delphick, who seems perfectly happily married, and reporter Miss Amelita Forby, who is happy with her relationship with reporter Thrud Banner go completely out of character by having a wild affair while on the cruise ship. Sir George, previously a pretty sharp fellow, is a bumbling nitwit. As far as the mystery goes, the conclusion the police make at the end as to who the murderer is doesn't seem, to me, to be supported by the evidence.

I had enjoyed the previous Miss Seeton books in the series until this one. The title character in the previous books was charming and funny, as were the secondary characters. The books themselves were witty and understated. When this author assumed the series, he (or she) evidently wasn't familiar enough with the characters to portray them faithfully. Miss Seeton has been trivialized and her contributions are not as well described. Sir George Colvedon has been turned into a blustering buffoon. His wife is not much in evidence and The Oracle, Chief Superintendent Delphick, happily married in earlier volumes, engages in a completely gratuitous extramarital affair with Amelita Forby, who is romantically involved with another character, one who doesn't appear in this volume, except as a mention. The more minor secondary characters were not described well enough to be able to keep them straight. I didn't finish the book and I will not read any of the others authored by Hampton Charles.

I liked this book up until the part where the Oracle and Mel began their affair. It was so out of character for both of them. He is supposed to be happily married with a trusting wife and never a thought of straying and then this, where he has no regrets over the evening of wild passion and they

even continue after the case is solved. If he was single I wouldn't have had a problem with this, but it just destroyed his character credibility in my eyes. I wonder what the original author would have thought of this. Kinda like Tarzan messing around on Jane. I almost quit reading this series but since there was another new author (Roy Peter Martin having died in 2014) I decided to give it a try. So far there is no mention of the affair, no longing of them for each other, etc and it seems okay. But still I fear... I hope at some time the new author has a small scene where the oracle expresses his love to his wife in some way and I can forget about this book. That being said, if it happens again then I'm afraid I'm finished with this series.

...and I agree with all the people who didn't love this book. I feel the author wanted to put a little sex into a series that didn't need it...it had enough charm on its own. I don't know who this Hampton Charles is, but will soon find out, because I want to avoid all his books based on his slaughter of this particularly beloved series. And, shame on him...making Sir George into, as one reviewer described it, a buffoon. This may be my last Miss Seeton. I'm so disappointed to see her go before her time, but found this book fairly disgusting in parts.

This time Miss Seeton is all at sea. She has been 'awarded' an expensive cruise from Scotland Yard. The award was requested by Sir George Colvedon. Sir George believes there could be a problem. A friend of his is joining the cruise because he wants to keep an eye on an art critic who is believed to be a fraud as well as a crook. The action is fast moving. The characters are well done, each of them are complete human beings. I was disappointed that Sir George has changed from the genuine country squire he has always been into someone who seems to be some sort of bloated comedy form. And sex in its various aspects has become much more important in the action and the plot. The sex between Chief Inspector Delphick and Mel Forby, a reporter, was something that seemed to be right out of the Twilight Zone. I am not against sex. I simply do not think this series needs to add sex to make it entertaining. The art world and the world of luxury cruises cross paths in a manner that is common today. Luxury cruises can draw people with money. People with money can draw con men who want to separate those people from their money. I am a fan of Miss Seeton. I am not a big fan of the direction which the series seems to be going. I received this book from the publisher through NetGalley in the hope that I would write a fair and honest review. All opinions are my own.

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