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# **MAGPIE MURDERS**

**a novel**

## **ANTHONY HOROWITZ**

“An extravagant circus of a novel, part high-wire act, part funhouse mirror. Intricate, bold, stone-cold clever—both comfortably old-fashioned and thrillingly new.”

—**A.J. Finn**

**MAGPIE MURDERS** (Harper; June 6, 2017; \$27.99), by *New York Times* bestselling author Anthony Horowitz, is a cleverly constructed mystery-within-a-mystery that both pays homage to the Golden Age whodunit and reinvents the genre with a modern twist. Playing with the beloved tropes of the English manor house crime novel, Horowitz—who has written many of the most popular mystery shows imported to our shores from British television and has continued the legacy of Arthur Conan Doyle and Ian Fleming in his acclaimed previous books—turns those traditions on their head as he interlocks two mysteries with fiendish ingenuity.

London book editor Susan Ryeland has worked on the bestselling crime novels featuring eccentric private detective Atticus Pünd since the series began. Now, author Alan Conway has turned in the manuscript for the ninth, *Magpie Murders*, and Susan looks forward to spending a rainy summer night reading it. As she settles into the manuscript, she becomes immersed in a tantalizing tale of murder set in a fictional manor house, Pye Hall, in the 1950s. First, the housekeeper is found

dead, and soon after the lord of the manor as well. With his usually brilliant plotting, Conway lines up a colorful cast of suspects—there are a lot of people in Saxby-on-Avon who have motives for wanting the victims dead. When Atticus Pünd—who is keeping his own terminal illness a secret—arrives in the quaint, if deadly English village, he will puzzle out the crime with his usual unrivalled acumen.

Yet, when Susan reaches the climax of the story she is perplexed and perturbed to discover that the final section of the manuscript—the chapters containing the solution to the crimes—are missing. Before Susan can find out why Conway has failed to send the last pages, though, she receives some shocking news: Conway is dead, an apparent suicide. When her first attempts to find the missing pages of the manuscript come up short, Susan embarks on her own investigation, unintentionally becoming an amateur sleuth in the bargain. Delving into Alan Conway’s private life, she begins to discover that the writer, whom she always found prickly and enigmatic, has left behind plenty of disgruntled former friends and relations. Susan begins to suspect that Conway’s death was not suicide at all. But, can the clues to the writer’s possible murder be found in the pages of his own fictional work? And will trying to get to the bottom of the crimes place Susan in danger?

This is Anthony Horowitz’s first standalone adult novel: a mystery that transcends and reinvents the form. **MAGPIE MURDERS** is both a superb entertainment and a literary homage par excellence. “Putting two books in one with their plots running side by side makes **MAGPIE MURDERS** difficult to put down,” says *Daily Express* (UK), “and Horowitz fans will thoroughly enjoy a cracking good read.” “A fiendish mystery within a mystery that will have you hooked from page one,” says *Good Housekeeping* (UK). “We loved this Agatha Christie-esque crime novel.”

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**Magpie Murders**  
**By Anthony Horowitz**  
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