



Murder Is Bad Manners (A Wells & Wong Mystery)

By Robin Stevens

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Murder Is Bad Manners (A Wells & Wong Mystery) By Robin Stevens

Two friends form a detective agency—and must solve their first murder case—in this “sharp-witted debut” (*Publishers Weekly*, starred review) that is the first adventure in a brand-new middle grade mystery series set at a 1930s boarding school.

Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are best friends at Deepdean School for Girls, and they both have a penchant for solving mysteries. In fact, outspoken Daisy is a self-described Sherlock Holmes, and she appoints wallflower Hazel as her own personal Watson when they form their own (secret!) detective agency. The only problem? They have nothing to investigate.

But that changes once Hazel discovers the body of their science teacher, Miss Bell—and the body subsequently disappears. She and Daisy are certain a murder must have taken place, and they can think of more than one person with a motive.

Determined to get to the bottom of the crime—and to prove that it happened—before the killer strikes again, Hazel and Daisy must hunt for evidence, spy on their suspects, and use all the cunning, scheming, and intuition they can muster. But will they succeed? And can their friendship stand the test?

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Murder Is Bad Manners (A Wells & Wong Mystery) By Robin Stevens Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–7—A cozy murder mystery with manifest charms, this series opener introduces a pair of boarding school sleuths covertly detecting a death no one else realizes has occurred. Narrator Hazel Wong, a sturdy Hong Kong transplant, and charismatic English Rose Daisy Wells forge a friendship based on their mutual deception of their classmates, concealing their abundant intelligence during lessons and instead deploying it in the service of the Wells & Wong Detective Society. Though Hazel adopts the lingo of the native students, her pleasant, frank narration displays her outsider status, a perspective that helps guide readers through the logistical and social nuances of their 1930s British countryside school. The mystery proves a twisty but conventional story replete with concealed relationships, professional jealousy, and genre-bound clues. Fresher and more compelling is the tension between the two detectives. Even as the friends remain bonded in cleverness, Hazel develops a conscientious concern for students and staff along with anxiety at tracking a murderer; her caution sparks conflict with Daisy's gleeful curiosity and unperturbable confidence. A recent spate of boarding school settings means this novel shares some DNA with several 2014 offerings, especially Julie Berry's puzzler, *The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place* (Roaring Brook), a spiky story that flaunts its affectations. But Stevens's engaging tale shines with the reflected charms of its detecting duo, a winsome combination of thoughtfulness and relish.—Robbin E. Friedman, Chappaqua Library, NY

Review

"A skillful blend of golden era crime novel and boarding school romp, with a winning central relationship between plump, anxious Hazel, a new girl who has arrived from Hong Kong, and the super-confident blonde English rose, Daisy Wells. The novel works well both as an affectionate satire and an effective mystery story. . . . Top class." (Suzie Feay *Financial Times*)

"Satisfyingly unpredictable. I did not guess the whodunit. Ripping good fun." (Alex O'Connell *The Times of London*)

"Friendship, boarding school, and a murder worthy of Agatha Christie." (*The Bookseller*)

"Really cleverly done and unexpected for what I thought would be a straightforward whodunit caper." (Melissa Cox, Head Children's Buyer at Waterstones)

"Reading *Murder Is Bad Manners* is like drinking cocoa by a fireside: It is warm and witty and deeply satisfying." (Katherine Rundell, author of *ROOFTOPPERS* and *CARTWHEELING IN THUNDERSTORMS*)

"*Murder Is Bad Manners* lured me in with a charming British voice, and then, just as I started to get cozy, snap! I was trapped in a serious mystery problem. Robin Stevens develops her girl detectives with a light, deft touch and delivers denouement with a flourish." (Nancy Springer, author of the Enola Holmes series)

"Robin Stevens's *MURDER IS BAD MANNERS* is what I wish every mystery could be: a perfectly-plotted puzzle told in a deft and charming voice. The story is a brilliant mixture of classic detective work and contemporary humor—I enjoyed every page!"—(Jonathan Auxier, author of *The Night Gardener* and *Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes*)

"Stevens's engaging tale shines with the reflected charms of its detecting duo, a winsome combination of thoughtfulness and relish." (*School Library Journal*)

"[H]ighly enjoyable bunbreak reading." (*Shelf Awareness*)

About the Author

Robin Stevens was born in California and grew up in Oxford, England, across the road from the house where Alice of *Alice in Wonderland* lived. Robin has been making up stories all her life. She spent her teenage years at boarding school, reading a lot of murder mysteries and hoping that she'd get the chance to do some detecting herself (she didn't). She studied crime fiction in college and then worked in children's publishing. Robin now lives in London with her pet bearded dragon, Watson.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Dearman:

This Murder Is Bad Manners (A Wells & Wong Mystery) tend to be reliable for you who want to certainly be a successful person, why. The reason why of this Murder Is Bad Manners (A Wells & Wong Mystery) can be one of many great books you must have is giving you more than just simple reading through food but feed a person with information that perhaps will shock your preceding knowledge. This book is definitely handy, you can bring it almost everywhere and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed versions. Beside that this Murder Is Bad Manners (A Wells & Wong Mystery) forcing you to have an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you demo of critical thinking that could it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

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Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book is usually option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the book untitled Murder Is Bad Manners (A Wells & Wong Mystery) can be great book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Hubert Smith:

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