Spider

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Stewart

a young woman goes to an isolated warwickshire monastery to visit her brother who is a monk there her sister drops her off at the door the girl meets her brother in the parlour they say goodbye and part and she is never seen again a search of the buildings and grounds finally reveals her body buried in a shallow grave in the monastery cemetery the monks however have a cast iron alibi they were all in chapel at the time of her death then the abbot receives a mysterious telephone call a man s voice threatens to hand evidence of the murder to the police and so incriminate one of the monks unless the monastery puts up for public auction its most treasured possession a unique mediaeval manuscript and donates the proceeds to charity is this blackmail or a hoax as the events unfold the inspector and his sergeant become less and less sure of what is fact and what is fiction and the inspector begins to fear for his newly won promotion the case takes him to a castle in italy a town house in southern france a laboratory in cambridge and the home of a professor of music outside lincoln but the solution arrives unexpectedly in his own sitting room in this stylish story written in the classic tradition of british detective fiction the author intrigues informs and entertains in equal measure book reviews online publishedbestsellers website

the wealthy and reclusive harry quirke misanthropist and student of the piano works of alkan is stabbed to death in his country house outside tadcaster only one of the obvious suspects seems to have much of a motive his alibi is shaky it is true but there is no proof of his involvement di moat and his assistant ds stockwell follow one false lead after another in an exasperating investigation that seems to be getting nowhere a gypsy caravan an old murder in kansas the hurried will of a dying man a golf course green and an unfinished catalogue of alkan s works none of it seems

to make sense finally the murderer makes the smallest of slips and the penny drops but it s a close thing book reviews online publishedbestsellers website

lionel jagger head of english at mincliffe college in rural worcestershire is found dead in bed one morning with his throat cut twenty eight years old erudite talented popular an unlikely victim of murder inspector wickfield and his assistant sergeant spooner trawl through his life leaving no stone unturned they interview widely they travel extensively the only result is bafflement since all they meet have either no motive for murder or an unassailable alibi in his despair at bringing the affair to a successful conclusion the chief inspector hands the case to another detective team wickfield however despite this set back uncovers with a flash of inspiration as clever as it is fortuitous a devious and subtle plot that has deceived his colleagues the joy of this book however lies not just in the unravelling of the mystery but in the politico philosophical theories canvassed the style the dry humour and yes the erudition as always in falconer the reader has access to all the information available to the investigating team and the tiny slip up that leads to unmasking the murderer is displayed for all to see if you re up to it falconer fails to spot it fortunately for us the inspector is sharper settle down in a comfortable chair and enjoy this latest offering from the pen of a master of the genre book reviews online publishedbestsellers website

the discovery of the body of a petty criminal one winter s night in a quiet yorkshire hamlet sets in motion a series of events which stretches inspector walter moat s capabilities to the utmost

when lady amelia walden is murdered at monk fryston hall hotel in yorkshire on the night of her eightieth birthday the chief suspect is robert purbright a bachelor in his fifties engaged at farlington hall the ancestral walden mansion to catalogue her extensive collection of stamps at his trial the prosecution allege that he was creaming off choice specimens for himself and that his employer was beginning to have her suspicions exposure would have brought his career to an unpleasant end the jury however find him not guilty enraged by their obtuseness lady amelia s son toby vows to prove them wrong the detective inspector who had been in charge of the investigation walter moat admits to toby walden in a strictly off the record conversation that the police had made a poor case but he also lays some of the blame on counsel for the prosecution for not fully exploiting the evidence despite his best amateur efforts walden does no better until a second murder offers more promising openings a book by freud and an iroquois legend conspire to raise walden s hopes of finally getting purbright convicted but will raised hopes be enough all the hall marks of falconer are here velvet smooth english well shaped narrative erudite allusions and a rich surplus of thought provoking obiter dicta in short intelligent entertainment at its finest for the connoisseur

on the night of a blizzard in january 1963 an elderly couple who live in a tiny worcestershire village are summoned to their daughter's cottage two and a half miles away at longdon on urgent but unspecified business when eventually they reach their daughter's cottage exhausted and worried they find it warm but empty unable to face the journey back home that night they prepare a simple meal for themselves preparatory to retiring to bed in their daughter's cottage the following morning the concerned neighbours find the couple still sitting at table poisoned by a bottle of contaminated wine a student is found to have been killed by the same rare poison in his london bed sit within days of the longdon murders coincidence surely not

in the canadian force weaving his way round red herrings and dead ends wickfield requires all his ingenuity prompted by a random crossword clue to uncover a devious and intricate plot instigated by a determined criminal julius falconer can be relied on to provide stimulating and thought provoking entertainment for a cosy night by the fire but sharpen your wits first book reviews online publishedbestsellers website

the hon mr and mrs bede lambton of abberton hall in worcestershire persuade their nephew gregory to enter a competition run by the syrian ministry of tourism gregory a student in the archaeology department of bristol university produces a paper called the syrian sapphire but it is a housemate of his sheena morrison who submits it in her own name and under a changed title the star of syria the day after being told that her entry has won sheena is murdered there appears to be nothing in sheena s life or in the competition entry to justify such savage action inspector wickfield and sergeant hewitt find themselves baffled by a seemingly motiveless murder had the killer mistaken his victim was the murder a burglary that had gone wrong had the recent theft in new york of the fabulous sapphire known as the star of india anything to do with the case you are invited to accompany inspector stan wickfield and sergeant hewitt on their grim journey of discovery into the motivation of an astute and determined killer you will be given every item of information accessible to the investigating team are you clever enough to read the runes julius falconer s erudite and sophisticated stories are a byword for urbane and stylish entertainment in this case you have the added benefit of learning the basics of syriac if you so desire book reviews online publishedbestsellers website

fancy a bit of political theory mixed up with your murder a group of danish students with daring plans for a new world order a scam involving some

missing music scores wolf ravens in scandinavian folklore then this is the book for you inspector wickfield and sergeant hewitt are invited to take on the investigation into the murder of a woman in the st john s wood area of london the metropolitan police have arrested her husband and although he vigorously protests his innocence wickfield like his colleagues before him finds it difficult to believe him the investigation takes a different turn when the inhabitants of a sleepy manor house in gloucestershire are outraged by the appearance of a dog s head and a dead rook mounted on a spike in their drive follow the inspector in an intricate and baffling investigation in which only a brainwave saves his reputation allow the narrator to lead you by the hand or possibly by the nose until it may be the light dawns on you before it dawns on the inspector gracious english dry wit learned asides well researched background all the falconer hallmarks are here book reviews online publishedbestsellers website

on the morning following the feast of st giles 1 september 1966 the bishop of worcester the right reverend giles wyndham brookes is found slumped and lifeless in his study at hartlebury castle his official residence the doors and windows are securely locked from the inside and on his desk is a fifteenth century book in middle french and gothic script which he could not read he had seemingly tripped on an edge of carpet and hit his head on the fender but there is a distinct whiff of murder in the air the immediate suspects are the members of his household his wife the chaplain the secretary the housekeeper his almoner and the archdeacon of worcester others including a woman found casting spells in the castle grounds a young italian lurking at night in the bishop's chapel and a suggested unknown late night visitor appear in the course of the investigation inspector wickfield and his sergeant embark on a roller coaster tour of the anglican church in a search for motive and for a cunning killer there are forays into naples relics assassination locked room mysteries the cult of the saints wicca and blue moons follow the inspector if you dare but hold on to your hats in

this latest offering from the pen of the adept julius falconer you will be instructed entertained and intrigued in equal measure book reviews online publishedbestsellers website

a police investigation into the violent death of a part time cathedral verger stalls for lack of incriminating evidence however three people have a close interest in clearing the matter up where the police have failed the victim's sister and two suspects released without charge and eager to clear their names

from the top of the stairs a little girl of five overhears an argument in the sitting room below between her father and a late night visitor frightened and uncertain she dared not descend the staircase but sat trembling at the top unable to return to bed her father is killed she did not see the killer and cannot remember clearly the content of the conversation but she remembers the killer s voice twenty years later she recognises the voice identifies its owner and sets out to take her revenge the first part of her plan succeeds and her quarry goes to gaol for six months but in putting into action the second part she disappears her husband reports her missing a search is instigated the police authorities in worcester believe that inspector wickfield is the best man for the job but he seems to do nothing but stumble from one blind alley to another his investigation leads him and his sergeant spooner to interview a businessman in spain a dotty clergyman a cashiered army major a gushing hypnotherapist a horsey countrywoman and a seedy cabinetmaker in an attempt to unravel the sequence of events oh and there is an important interlude in scotland but enlightenment comes only when wickfield s wife cracks a philosophical joke in this work of detective fiction julius falconer delights his readers yet again with a deliciously teasing and ingenious plot laced with comments on life the universe and everything and that of course includes revenge book reviews online

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one february evening in the year 1968 fr wilfred the parish priest of the sacred heart catholic church in droitwich tumbles out of his confessional stabbed to death his older sister demands the best detective in the force and stan wickfield is appointed to the case unfortunately he cannot identify either the means or the motive of the murder much less the perpetrator his investigation leads him through the highways and byways of tensions in the catholic church in the wake of the second vatican council and brings him face to face with anti catholic sentiment in the local population his suspects include an eccentric and learned septuagenarian spinster who quotes d azeglio every time they meet a school technician rejected for the priesthood because of his sexuality the custodian of kenilworth castle and a bookmaker with a taste for anti papal sentiment motives for the priest s death waver confusingly between contempt for his office disapproval of a teenage indiscretion personal hatred and suicide wickfield is at his wits end until his wife s reading a novella by nicholas montserrat prods him towards a triumphant solution the story comes to a dramatic climax in two sermons preached by the dead priest s curate fr gabriel julius falconer never fails to write serious and stimulating stories with humour a wealth of researched detail and subtle plots book reviews online publishedbestsellers website

we are in the sleepy village of sherburn in elmete yorkshire in the year of grace 1729 when george bywater the vicar s servant is clubbed to death as he collects the parish tithes the vicar undertakes to track his killer unfortunately his efforts are thwarted at every turn threatened with violence arrested and tried on three separate occasions on charges that include murder harbouring a felon and poaching he is saved from transportation or worse only by an act of god naturally he is hauled before the archdeacon and then the archbishop himself for carrying out his investigation at the

expense of his pastoral duties forbidden to proceed as he wishes he yet takes advantage of a tip off from a local magistrate and a chance encounter with a reformed footpad to pursue his inquiries in a pure spirit of duty of course and comes up with a peculiarly delicate challenge to his conscience this light hearted tale is the third chronicle from sherburn in which julius falconer presents for the modern reader the absurd adventures penned by the hapless vicar book reviews online publishedbestsellers website

inspector wickfield and sergeant hewitt find themselves caught up in a saga of murder illicit money making and racist thuggery a young girl s body is found one morning on the banks of a canal with help from a clairvoyant the trail leads the investigating officers to london and thence to reading and augsburg they find themselves mixing with butchers decorators fashion retailers dentists and the leisured rich bargees ex cons and bilingual administrators but the mythical and mysterious zedler who seems to hold all the threads in his hands cludes them is he the moving force behind the british league a right wing political movement whose aim is to keep foreigners out of britain is he the brains behind the counterfeiting operations is he the murderer wickfield finds out with a little help from his wife who fortunately has a better insight into robinson crusoe than he does as always with julius falconer you the reader are given all the information available to the detective officers and the vital clue is there for you to spot if you are up to it take your time enjoy the many detours and red herrings the literary allusions the religious and philosophical byways the silver smooth english and keep your eye on the ball if you can you are guaranteed a stimulating read book reviews online publishedbestsellers website

a suicide before the first world war a university career cut short by drink and debt a missed business opportunity family antagonisms a threat to jobs on the estate all give the inspector some food for thought until he rumbles the one tiny mistake that leads to the unmasking of a killer

fully revised and updated filmer's spiders an identification guide to southern africa features all 63 families of spider that occur in this region a fresh layout full colour photographs throughout many of them new and diagrams of diagnostic features make this a quick and easy guide for use in the field the spiders are grouped into web living ground living and plant iiving species to aid identification each family is described in terms of the spiders lifestyle habitat size behaviour and venom potential and the best collecting methods are given in each case for those species whose venom is potentially harmful to man the effects and recommended treatment of bites are discussed this handy format book will appeal to anybody wishing to gain insight into the daily lives of spiders

while renovating the derelict twelfth century chapel attached to their new house in rural worcestershire in 1972 grace and benjamin hothersall uncover three skeletons which have clearly been the victims of murder when news of this reaches the newspapers a series of anonymous letters and telephone calls begins at the hothersall residence clearly the murders are of not just historical interest since someone very much alive seems determined to prevent further disclosures inspector wickfield finds himself involved in a complex and baffling investigation which embraces local witchcraft a student of the cabala abduction a boy s curse a hidden will a stranger in cornwall death in a railway carriage and a latin textbook of 1563 it nearly proves too much for him but light dawns eventually and leads to a tense trial which brings the case to a close the narrative almost fails to see the light of day because the inspector objects to its style and instructs mr falconer to destroy the typescript fortunately for us mr falconer has more sense than the inspector as always the reader is given as much information as the detectives and is challenged to spot the crucial clue in the labyrinth as wickfield must julius falconer s sure touch ensures another page turner for the discerning reader in which intelligent stimulation vies

with sheer entertainment for pride of place book reviews online publishedbestsellers website

it is the summer of 1728 and we are in the village of sherburn in the west riding of yorkshire with its handsome church boys grammar school ancient tavern and tranquil rural population below the church lies the site of the palace of the kings of elmete nearby across the common and past the woods are the grand houses of commissioner of the peace squire hawley at scarthingwell hall and magistrate sir ralph gascoigne at parlington hall an apparent conspiracy to re establish the sixth century ancient british kingdom of elmete has worrying and sometimes hilarious consequences for the hapless vicar whose meagre detective skills are stretched to their limit both the squire and sir ralph are only too happy to leave it all to the vicar until that is the vicar is arrested for gun smuggling and the squire disappears it then transpires however that the conspiracy is merely camouflage for a more interesting crime altogether this neat tale both faithfully recreates the atmosphere of an eighteenth century yorkshire village and offers the modern reader rare entertainment book reviews online publishedbestsellers website

struggling to maintain his usual round of pastoral care agricultural concerns family life and church services the vicar of sherburn in elmete 1686 1771 parson and part time farmer again finds himself embroiled in a murder investigation forced on him by the indolence of the local law officers he skitters about in pursuit of a one eared footpad a scarred man and an elusive pedlar is arrested and tried for theft thwarts a plot to murder the local miller and confronts a villainous highwayman all apparently to no purpose however by resolutely excluding curses spirits and bogles the explanations offered by others and concentrating on rational solutions to the mystery he succeeds finally and triumphantly in identifying the murderer expertly edited for modern readers by the redoubtable mr falconer this second chronicle of the doings of the vicar of sherburn in elmete

draws the reader cosily into eighteenth century village life where medicine is primitive travel arduous and time consuming and officers of the law less than eager to perform their functions book reviews online publishedbestsellers website

a bug scurries across the floor in front of you or is it a bug at all do you know how to tell the difference between an insect and a spider readers will learn the tips for telling which animal is which appealing color photographs and concise text make this book a must read readers will see if they can tell whether they ve found an insect or a spider

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