

If Death Ever Slept

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With Nero Wolfe on the job, you'd think murderers would take caution. But even the master detective can't stop a killing, especially if it's an inside job -- right under the roof of his client, millionaire Otis Jarrell.

What's more, it's Jarrell's own missing revolver that the killer uses. Wolfe must find the truth behind the scandals in Jarrell's ill-behaved family. One of its members sleeps the fitful sleep of the guilty, and Wolfe's getting dead-tired of murder.

Rex Stout (1886-1975) wrote dozens of short stories, novellas, and full-length mystery novels, most featuring his two indelible characters, the peerless detective Nero Wolfe and his handy sidekick, Archie Goodwin. The magic of Rex Stout's novels is the stark contrast between the pompous, overweight master detective Nero Wolfe and his assistant, smart-aleck playboy Archie Goodwin. It takes a versatile performer to portray both Goodwin, the narrator, and Wolfe, the boss. Unfortunately, Michael Prichard, who has read 20 Stout titles for Audio Partners, isn't such a performer. Prichard has a strong and distinct style marked by wryness and a well-planned pomposity, but his wryness lacks the toughness of Archie's character, and his pomposity is missing the biliousness of the beer-swilling, orchid-raising Wolfe. The story, written in Stout's clever style, has the detectives hired to follow a slippery daughter-in-law. S.E.S. AudioFile 2002, Portland, Maine-- Copyright AudioFile, Portland, Maine

Other Books

Chambers's Cyclopaedia of English Literature.

" . Suddenly she felt as if she were quite well ; a glow like that of health pervaded her whole frame - one of those ... performing all manner of adventures , the most defensible of which is frightening an Irish miser to death ."