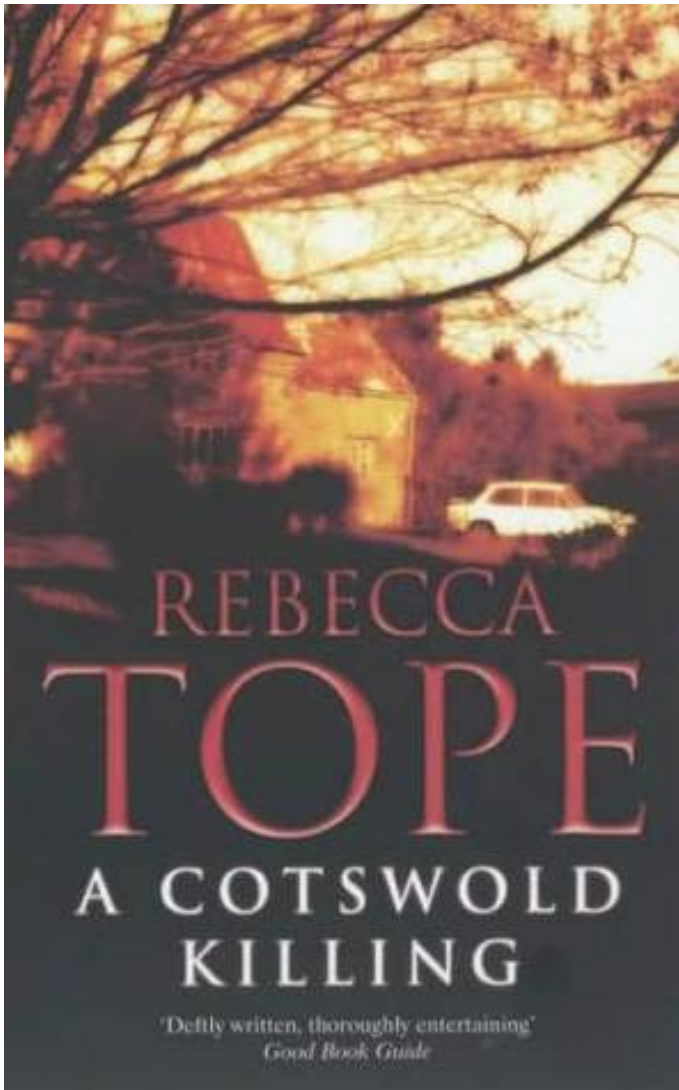

Rebecca Tope

A Cotswold Killing (Thea Osborne #1)



Title: A Cotswold Killing (Thea Osborne #1)

Author: Rebecca Tope

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Description

Nestled in the fertile hills of the Cotswolds, the village of Duntisbourne Abbots is a well-kept secret: beautiful, timeless and quintessentially English. When recently widowed Thea Osborne arrives to house-sit for a local couple, her only fear is that three weeks there might prove a little dull. Her first night's sleep at Brook View is broken by a piercing scream outside but she decides such things don't require investigation in a sleepy place like this. At least not until a body turns up... In calling on her neighbors to get some answers, Thea uncovers more tragedy and intrigue than she thought possible behind the peaceful Gloucestershire village. The first in a new series of thrillers to be set in the Cotswold area, *A Cotswold Killing* takes the reader on a tense journey along winding roads and muddy paths towards a dramatic and unexpected denouement.

Insightful reviews

Spudde: #1 Thea Osborne mystery, set in (duh!) the Cotswolds. Thea is a forty-something year-old recently widowed house sitter--a brand new house sitter on her first job minding the home of Clive and Jennifer Reynolds while they are on a Caribbean holiday. On the first full day of her occupation, she discovers a dead body in the pond on the Reynolds' property, which considerably livens up what promised to be a rather dull three weeks following Clive's extensive "do this and that" lists. Thea's brother-in-law is a Chief Inspector in another area but has apparently been "looking into" some sort of fishy business in that area and although he won't elaborate, Thea wonders if this death has something to do with James's investigation.

There is an odd cast of villagers, and definitely something 'weird' about many of them, and with Thea not knowing them or the history of the interactions there, it's all that much more difficult to know what's going on. I have to admit I was somewhat disappointed with this book; it was disjointed and not really cohesive. I couldn't get a good sense of who Thea was as a person, and her actions were often very contradictory from one minute to the next. It wasn't really bad, just sort of... "meh" I guess.

This series of books has been hard to come by--I've had the second and third books on my wishlist at PBS for about a year and a half and have only moved up one spot on one of the books. My library doesn't have them either, so being that I was not bowled over with excellence in this opening entry, I think I will delete them from my WL and relegate this series to one of those I'm choosing not to pursue.

Zoey: Great Cosy Mystery set in the beautiful Cotswolds.

Recently widowed Thea Osbourne & her little dog Hepzibah are house-sitting in a small village in the Cotswolds and end up in the middle of a murder investigation.

Looks like I have found another series I need to read, just what I need :)

Clare O'Beara: A widowed woman in her forties, lonely and self-pitying, takes up house sitting provided she doesn't have to go very far. Thea's brought her own spaniel and there are two Labradors and rare breed sheep in the Cotswold cottage and fields. However she's barely settled in when a scream is heard at night, and next morning she finds a dead man in the

stream. All the locals turn up, the police look into the matter but manage not to find three sizeable items of evidence which Thea finds on separate occasions by herself.

I decided on reflection that I didn't take to this book because the protagonist is just not very bright. Where Sue Grafton's heroine Kinsey Milhone would assess a situation and sum it up with a pithy remark, such as "Light dawned in the far-off world of the 98 IQ," Thea maunders for three pages and puts it aside unresolved, thinking it's all for the best really, or people don't do that, do they. She's alone a lot so we get all her thought processes instead of dialogue. Thea for no reason I can see also cuts herself to make sure she remembers that she's grieving after a year of bereavement. She intends to do as little as possible in the job and can't even manage to use a microwave.

The local setting is picturesque and some descriptions are very attractive. However this is plain writing, not lyrical, and I got tired of having postcards described to me. The other characters also didn't come to life for me. The point is well made that the Cotswolds are being bought up because they are in commuting distance of London and surrounds, so few real farmers live there any more. I have read another in this series but I can't even remember which one it was. Some people will no doubt enjoy these books for a relaxing mystery read but they could do with better editing to tighten up all those self-reflective passages and slow musings on the situations.

Gary Van Cott: I discovered this publication to be a long, challenging slog. Whereas the village secret style isn't my favorite, I'll learn them in the event that they have fascinating characters (books by means of Ann Granger are an example). Unfortunately, neither the characters nor the tale have been attention-grabbing here. The author's writing is wordy and the tale simply creeps along. The ultimate display while it comes simply on the finish was once now not absolutely supported by means of what little had already been disclosed.

Isabel: If somebody has ever visible "The Room" via Tommy Wiseau: this comes as regards to being the booklet model of that. The tale is sort of interesting, however the discussion and characters consider forced: unreal even. I used to be additionally hoping for a greater and extra conclusive ending. Elements have been badly written and there have been random rules thrown into the tale that lead totally nowhere. I did be capable to learn it in its entirety, and hence I will not provide it one star. It is a undesirable book, the single factor part means strong is the plot, yet regrettably far more than that's had to make an excellent book.

Margaret: Unengaging & deeply improbable plot & unappealing heroine.

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