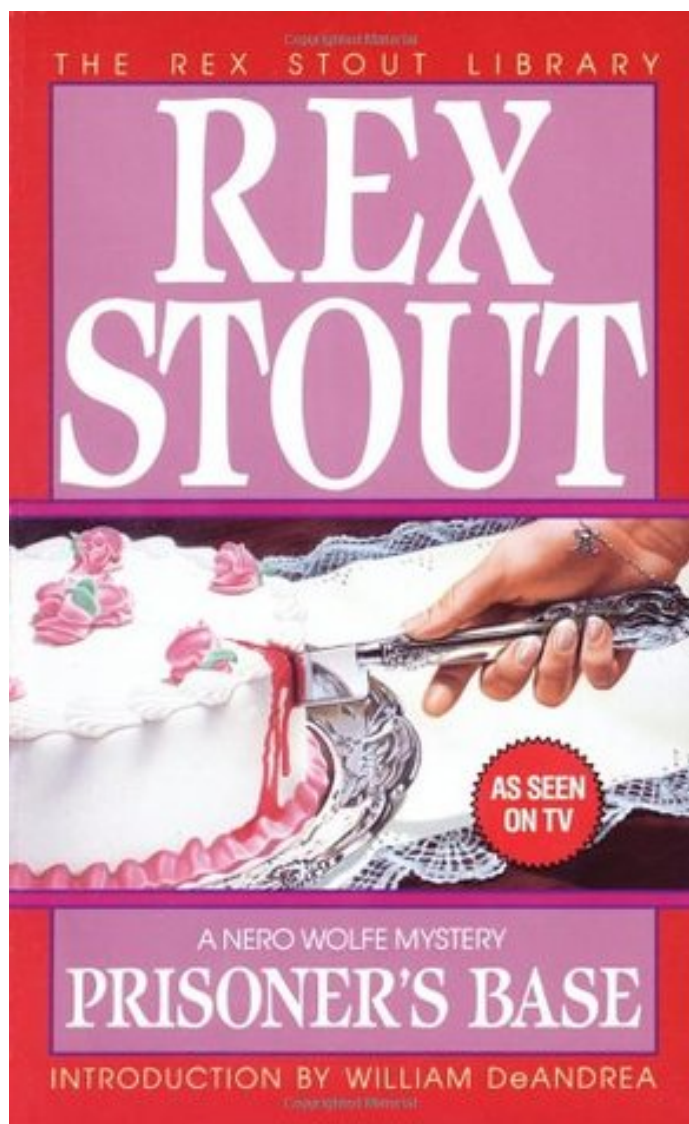

Rex Stout

Prisoner's Base (Nero Wolfe #21)



Title: Prisoner's Base (Nero Wolfe #21)

Author: Rex Stout

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Description

Hours after Priscilla Eads pleads with him to take her case, Nero Wolfe is shocked to find out that she was murdered, and soon he is investigating her fortune-hunting husband and greedy business associates.

Insightful reviews

Benjamin: I don't write reviews of most of these books, partly because one is pretty much similar to another and also because mysteries, as a function of the genre to which they belong, are all more or less the same. The reason I read these mysteries instead of others is because these are really good mysteries. Since I don't normally read mysteries at all, I think you can also extrapolate that I think they are really good books in their own right.

This one is much more an Archie Goodwin story than a Nero Wolfe story, and normally I don't like those as much, but I really enjoyed this one. Goodwin and Wolfe have always had a slight bit of Jeeves and Wooster dynamic--although one is an employee of the other, the casual observer might not immediately understand which is which--and it's never more apparent than in this story, in which Goodwin is Wolfe's employer. The two characters are at their best here, as they try to solve a mystery not for Wolfe's usual exorbitant fee but simply for pride. It's a clever twist on the usual plot, and it works, I think, both to give a reasonable excuse for the action of the story and to further cement what we know about the characters from previous stories.

The intro says that this one would be a good intro point to Nero Wolfe stories, but I am less sure. It deviates from the norm in several ways, and one might want to read some of the earlier stuff in order to determine what the norm is before departing from it.

As a side note, one of the main reasons I enjoy Nero Wolfe so much as a character is that although he is like many people you have met he is like no one that has ever lived, and Stout carries that impression across mostly through Wolfe's speech. I didn't realize until "Over My Dead Body" that Wolfe was even supposed to be American, I had always thought he was Montenegrin, and I had made that mistake because he speaks like no one has ever spoken. This one has some Wolfe gems, e.g. when he says that Archie "is not indifferent to those attributes of young women that constitute the chief reliance of our race in our gallant struggle against the menace of the insects."

Alison C: Prisoner's Base, by Rex Stout, is yet another Nero Wolfe novel, published in 1952. Young heiress-to-be Priscilla Eads lands on Wolfe's doorstep, determined to stay at the famed detective's house for the next week, and ready to pay for the privilege. She doesn't give her name and doesn't give her reasons for this demand, however. Subsequently a lawyer appears and offers Wolfe first \$5K and then \$10,000 to discover the whereabouts of the young woman; but not knowing the young lady's name, Wolfe refuses the offer. He then has Archie turn the woman out of the house, and when she turns up dead the next day, Archie feels responsible and determines that he will look into the matter personally, with or without Nero Wolfe's help. As the death toll mounts, so too does Archie's determination, to the point where he willingly starts

working with Inspector Cramer and Sergeant Purley Stebbins to find the murderer.... This story is quite complicated, with half a dozen red herrings that seem quite reasonable to pursue, and in the end, of course, it is not Archie but Nero Wolfe who provides the solution to the mystery. Entertaining as always, and recommended.

Beth: Sometimes, you just have to return to a favorite author. Nero and Archie are just what I needed after the last book which made me cry.

Marysia: I continuously get pleasure from interpreting the Nero Wolfe books. This one used to be satisfying, yet i would not rank it up there as one of many best. For one thing, it is quite heavy on Archie and lightweight on Wolfe, and i have learned that the interactions among them is among the most delightful elements of the books for me -- there is not lots of that here. The name of this publication and the canopy artwork do not rather have a lot to do with the plot. Plot Comments: The center of this booklet has an exhilarating half that, whereas I had a solid proposal of ways it can flip out, stored me turning the pages to discover out. I regularly get pleasure from Nero Wolfes for the nature interactions and seeing how every little thing suits into place, however the "action" scene used to be a pleasant swap of pace. However, I felt as if most of the sections detailing Archie's paintings with the police might have been trimmed; we did not relatively research whatever vital and it dragged. Like so much Nero Wolfe novels i have read, the answer of the crime does not come all the way down to the tiny information of the crime scene, yet extra approximately rationale and the psychology of the killer. I wasn't absolutely happy with the way it was once resolved. (view spoiler)[I'm regularly now not keen on whatever regarding impostors. particularly because, as different readers have pointed out, he can have entire his pursuits simply via his legal professional with out ever having to be noticeable via the folks he killed. (hide spoiler)] The company elements of the radical additionally appeared type of unrealistic, yet possibly that used to be a part of the purpose in regards to the attainable causes of the board of directors. The endings of those books tend to be lovely abrupt after the denouement yet there is frequently a minimum of a paragraph or so of wrap-up. This one simply ended correct then and there. ****IMPORTANT NOTE!** It has come to my consciousness (reading the Wikipedia article for the book) that: "Random apartment stumbled on in 2011 that almost all of the Bantam paperback variations of Prisoner's Base lack the ultimate bankruptcy (17), that is 1.5 pages in size within the hardcover editions. The Wolfe Pack, the Nero Wolfe literary society, took the freedom of offering the ultimate bankruptcy in PDF structure on its website." the following it is: <http://www.nerowolfe.org/pdf/corpus/B...> That's one of these end i used to be having a look for. So the fault this time is at the publisher, now not Stout. Character Comments: Sarah Jaffee is a fascinating character. i did not really like Priscilla Eads at all, specifically along with her backstory, yet Sarah was once fascinating -- no longer sympathetic exactly, yet understandable, and she or he undergoes a few personality improvement after assembly with

Archie.["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>

Dwight: It was once enjoyable to learn a Nero Wolfe secret and very unlikely for me to not photograph issues as within the televised versions. It started out good and collected pace yet eventually dragged close to the top and will were a lot shorter. I beloved the secret yet a few of the writing was once painful. I do besides the fact that watch for gazing this episode now that i have learn the source. Stout has a truly singular style.

Magdalene: Promising begin however the tale meandered a little bit after. The finishing felt hollow, whilst a lot suspense have been outfitted up. i might have cherished the tale better, if the killer hadn't been a random imposter who'd long gone unidentified as a result of a lady's "reluctance and/or worry of being involved." "But she should have given an indication that she'd recognized he wasn't Pris's genuine husband..." <--- And that used to be how and why Pris's buddy used to be additionally murdered. Tada.

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