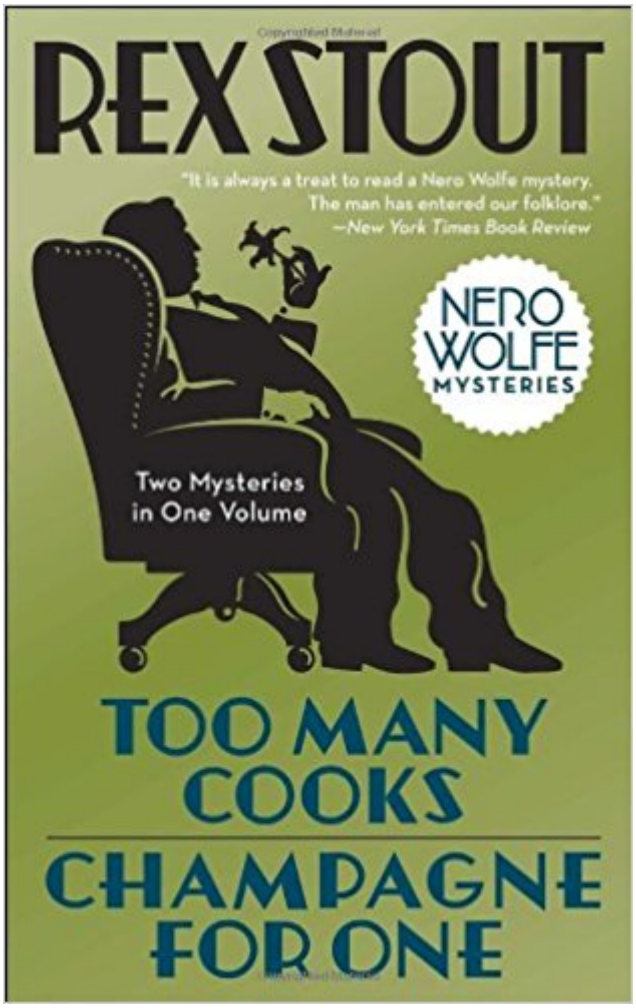
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Too Many Cooks/Champagne For One (Nero Wolfe)



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Synopsis

A grand master of the form, Rex Stout is one of AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s greatest mystery writers, and his literary creation Nero Wolfe is one of fictionÃ¢â ¬â„¢s greatest detectives. In this pair of classic Nero Wolfe mysteries, Stout is at his unparalleled best as the arrogant, gourmandizing, sedentary sleuth and his trusty man-about-town, Archie Goodwin, are served two lethally appetizing cases. Too Many CooksEveryone knows that too many cooks spoil the broth, but youÃ¢â ¬â„¢d hardly expect it to lead to murder. But thatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s exactly whatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s on the menu at a five-star gathering of the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s greatest chefs. As guest of honor, Wolfe was lured from his brownstone to a posh southern spa to deliver the keynote address. He never expected that between courses of haute cuisine he and Archie would be compelled to detect a killer with a poison touchÃ¢â ¬â •a killer preparing to serve the great detective his last supper.Champgne for One Faith Usher talked about taking her own life and even kept cyanide in her purse. So when she died from a lethal champagne cocktail in the middle of a high society dinner party, everyone called it suicideÃ¢â ¬â •including the police. But Nero Wolfe isnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t convincedÃ¢â ¬â •and neither is Archie. Especially when Wolfe is warned by four men against taking the case. Deception, blackmail, and a killer who may have pulled off the perfect crimeÃ¢â ¬Â¦Ã¢â ¬â„¢s a challenge Nero Wolfe canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t resist.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"It is always a treat to read a Nero Wolfe mystery. The man has entered our folklore...Like Sherlock Holmes...he looms larger than life and, in some ways, is much more satisfactory." Ã¢â ¬â • New York Times Book Review"Nero Wolfe is an exceptional character creation." Ã¢â ¬â • New Yorker

Rex Stout (1886-1975) wrote hundreds of short stories, novelas, and full-length mystery novels, most featuring his two indelible characters, the peerless detective Nero Wolfe and his handy sidekick, Archie Goodwin.

Too Many Cooks: One of Rex Stout's very best Nero Wolfe mystery novels. A gathering of the greatest chefs in the world; Nero wolfe having to travel by train to attend as the guest of honor; amazingly described dishes prepared by these chefs (I get hungry every time I read this book); and, by the way, a murder. Brilliantly written, a fantastic cast of characters and suspects, and an ingeneous solution in Mr. Wolfe's own inimitable style. I would recommend this book to anyone why might be interested in top-shelf mysteries.Champagne For One: A terrific story! As always with Rex Stout, brilliantly written, great plot and characters, and a surprise solution. This book is special in that it offers a unique insight into Archie Goodwin, Nero Wolfe's self-described confidential assistant-gofer-leg man-and, as needed, cattle prod. The murder, at a high-class charity soiree, takes place literally in front of Archie and he takes it very personally. His thoughts and comments on the subject are, by themselves, well worth reading this book. But don't limit yourself to just this segment. The entire book delivers the gamut of emotions and challanges your thought processes all the way to the final solution.

Archie gets Nero Wolfe to actually leave his beloved brownstone to attend a gathering of foodies and various female family members. No sooner has the train left the station than the accusations of skull duggery start, big knives disappear, and the females start making trouble. One of the knives is found in one of the chefs, and pressure is on Wolfe to solve it. Second book is a baby mama who wants-death? Surely not, and Archie brings in the suspects only to have the case turned on its head - twisty mystery with a twisty endiing; 2 good mysteries!

Too Many Cooks is set in a spa for the wealthy, more common in 1940 than in 2014. Wolfe is away from home as the guest of a group of "grand master" chefs. Food is especially prominent in this case, as is the issue of race relations. Stout, through Wolfe, expresses opinions that were very liberal, for that era. The fledgling air travel business is also critical to the crime. Champagne for One

contrasts classes - elite vs. working. The solution to the central event of suicide which is really murder, is somewhat contrived, and not totally convincing, but Wolfe fans will have no trouble with it. Archie has a peripheral role in Too Many Cooks, but is central to the action of Champagne for One. The writing is smooth abd tight in both books.

Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin, as Walter Mosley says, "Holmes meets Spade.

Simply wonderful. These two books are among my favorites. And if you are a big Nero Wolfe fan check out ’s video offerings.

Too Many Cooks/Champagne for One is a great buy supplying lots of old fashioned detective enjoyment in the 1930’s genre. Nero Wolfe & his sidekick Archie Goodwyn are a pair worth reading about as they have an amazing professional relationship in the New York City of yesteryear. In these two related pieces they travel to a country resort setting for NeroWolfe’s professional honor, solve a mystery & return to NYC for more professional hijinks. The team gives us lots to think about, great wisdom & evenings of reading pleasure. I’ve signed on for more forays into the Nero Wolfe mysteries.

I’m reading all of the Nero Wolf series in order. The ingenuity of Stout to have an "immobile" detective deduce such varied crimes is pretty remarkable.

It’s a Rex Stout Revival at my house ... I’m reading them as fast as I can pelt! Nobody comes close in this detective genre. Rare orchids, exquisite culinary samplings, loyalty and devotion to duty, with terrific one-liners and an eye for a shapely ankle ... so refreshing ... ! Nice to get two for the price of one, particularly considering that Too Many Cooks lets us into Nero’s epicurean world ... with a vengeance, of course.

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