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**S.S. Van Dine**

**The Benson Murder Case (Philo Vance #1)**

Title: The Benson Murder Case (Philo Vance #1)

Author: S.S. Van Dine

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 251

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0701206772

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 9.9 MB

Download: allowed

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## Description

This novel opens with the death of playboy stockbroker, Alvin Benson, who is found in his brownstone mansion with a bullet through his head. First on the scene is Philo Vance, amateur detective, who is at once intrigued by the absence of Alvin's toupee and his false teeth. These odd clues set him in pursuit of an elusive murderer. He confronts a host of suspects and uncovers a number of family skeletons in his quest for the truth. S.S. van Dine is the pen name of Willard Huntington Wright (1888-1939) who wrote this novel in 1926. He wrote 13 best-selling crime novels and his amateur detective, Philo Vance was later immortalized on screen by William Powell in "The Canary Murder Case".

## Insightful reviews

Linda: Philo Vance helps District Attorney Markham solve the murder of Mr. Benson when there are too many clues and too many suspects. Vance becomes the main investigator because Markham is having trouble throwing out the trivial information leaving only the stuff that matters. There is some humor in the story as Markham is often left hanging while Vance tries to get him to see the light.

Marty Milner: I enjoyed this book. I have to admit I binge read it and loved the New York settings and the accurate characterizations of New York types. Some people are highly critical of this style- I enjoy all kinds of books. Remember this book is almost 100 years old and for a detective mystery it moves along with style and ease- bouncing from one dump of red herrings to another. I intend to read the others over time as this is an acquired taste. I like to read books that are only available as eBooks, science thrillers and ones that might be a little unpolished as I enjoy digging in the author dirt. Lord knows there are enough trolls out there steeped in anger and negativity so I prefer to be encouraging if the writer has put in a worthy effort. Even though this one has been dead for some time I gave it 5 stars and admire that the work is still worth the read! Consider it if you'd like something different that doesn't read like a movie script... :-)

Donna: My first Philo Vance. I really didn't like Vance at the beginning of the story. I found him too affected, too much trying to be erudite and common at the same time. But when he puts together his final explanation, including one last red herring, he won me over. I'm not sure his psychological approach would still work, especially in eliminating women as certain types of murderers, but I'm interested to read more.

Francis: a man you could like to hate. From the Sherlock Holm's college of non-public investigation. he's bright, yet he's additionally conceited and condescending with out attraction and lacks a feeling of humour. His mannerisms are priggish, dandified and hugely affected. He lives in New York, but he chooses to communicate like a member of the British gentry. He is single and unlovable. Yet, regardless of it all, his cleverness wins out, the undesirable men fall and you have got to grudgingly admit, the dandified, snobbish, little braggart is aware his business. However, you continue to do not like him, yet then who could? even supposing you might want to concede, it particularly wasn't a nasty little mystery, in reality it was once fairly interesting, so regardless of his thorny personality, you end up awaiting his subsequent case.

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simply because after all, there is constantly achievable that the undesirable men may perhaps do him during this time.

Lisa Kucharski: Mr. Benson is shot to loss of life and unfortunately the fellow isn't good beloved so it comes right down to a who-wouldn't do it. However, on his first actual case, Philo Vance work out who could have probably have performed it correct off the bat, utilizing his speedy observational skills. In this primary tale is friend, district legal professional Markham, comes off as being a piece dimwitted..as does Sergeant Heath fill the invoice as heavy handed. The later books provide extra intensity to those characters. Also, during this tale i used to be in a position to determine the who, good prior to the end. the most draw to the e-book is they are light-hearted, and feature a component of enjoyable studying to them. from time to time the erudite Vance could be a little bit of a name-dropper (see how clever I am) this too is dealt with larger in later books. in the event you learn this, definite in case you are a fan... this is often the place it began.

Alexander Inglis: SS Van Dine, the pseudonym of Willard Huntington Wright, created the preferred fiction detective Philo Vance. His first visual appeal was once within the Benson homicide Case, which used to be released via Scribner's in 1926. one other eleven novels appeared, approximately one in line with year, till his early dying in 1939 on the age of 51. There are some, just like the present Philo Vance wiki author, who think "Vance's personality as portrayed within the novels may appear to many sleek readers to be supercilious, obnoxiously affected, and hugely irritating" and, actually, that is true. all through this tale, I heard the unmistakable inflected accessory of Lord Peter Wimsey, with no his corresponding business-like masculinity. As Ogden Nash quipped: "Philo Vance / wishes a kick within the pance". But that is fairly unfair. Yes, the publication is a bit padded, and the reasons every now and then wearily long-winded, yet there is additionally extraordinary charm. And, with no question, the paintings is an expression of its time: the interval presently after WWI whilst big apple was once re-emerging from the coolness of conflict and for the 1st time feeling its power as a real overseas capital -- and prior to the devastation that will hit 4 years later because the markets crashed. It used to be a time of a lot larger category delineation, and definitely an period the place being known as an immigrant used to be no longer but pejorative. a lot of this story inhabits the privileged type of which Vance used to be securely, and proudly, a member. So, there is my very own long-winded manner of placing it: an enthralling bon-bon of vintage early American detective fiction that is worth devouring.

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