

Magpie Murders

Anthony Horowitz

The author:

Anthony John Horowitz CBE (born 5 April 1955) is an English novelist and screenwriter specializing in mystery and suspense. His works for children and young adult readers include the *Alex Rider* series featuring a 14-year-old British boy who spies for MI6, *The Power of Five* series (known as *The Gatekeepers* in the USA), and *The Diamond Brothers* series.

Horowitz's works for adults include: the play *Mindgame* (2001); two Sherlock Holmes novels, *The House of Silk* (2011) and *Moriarty* (2014); two novels featuring his own detective Susan Ryeland, *Magpie Murders* (2016) and *Moonflower Murders* (2020); five novels featuring a fictionalized version of himself as a companion and chronicler to private investigator Daniel Hawthorne. The estate of James Bond creator Ian Fleming chose Horowitz to write Bond novels utilizing unpublished material by Fleming, starting with *Trigger Mortis* in 2015, followed by *Forever and a Day* in 2018, and a third and final novel *With a Mind to Kill* in May 2022.

Horowitz has also written for television, contributing scripts to ITV's *Agatha Christie's Poirot* and adapting six early episodes of *Midsomer Murders* from the novels of Caroline Graham. He was the creator/writer of the ITV series *Foyle's War*, *Collision* and *Injustice*, and the BBC series *Crime Traveller* and *New Blood*. Horowitz adapted his novels *Magpie Murders* and *Moonflower Murders* into television miniseries. (Wikipedia)

Magpie Murders includes two books: *Magpie Murders, An Atticus Pund Mystery* by Alan Conway set in 1955 and *Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz set in 2015.

Characters

1955 (1st Bk)	2015 (2 nd bk)
Jeff, Adam & Diane Weaver, Neville Brent	Susan Ryeland, Andreas Patakis
Mary, Mathew, Robert & Tom Blakiston	Alan Conway, James Taylor
Sir Magnus, Lady Frances, Clarissa & Freddie Pye	Charles Clover, Bella
Rev. Robin and Henrietta Osborne	Mr. Sagid Khan
Dr. Emilia, Arthur & Sebastian Redwing	Katie, Jemima
Johnny & Gemma Whitehead	Melissa Conway & son
Atticus Pund, James Fraser, & Det. Ray Chubb	Mathew Pritchard
Joy Sanderling	Claire Jenkins, Det. Insp. Locke
Dr. Edgar Rennard	John White
Saxby-on-Avon	Donald Leigh, Mark Redmond
Pye Hall, Dilly Dell	Abbey Grange

1. How many people die in these books? How many of those are killed?
2. How are we introduced to the 1st book (manuscript)?
3. How are we introduced to the 2nd book?
4. How do we learn there are 2 books in *Magpie Murders*?
5. Why is it important that the 1st book takes place in 1955?
6. How is that different to the time/year that the 2nd book is written?
7. Why does Atticus Pund decide to investigate the death of Mary Blakiston?
8. Who is likely to gain/lose from Mary's death?
9. Why does Susan take on the role of detective in the 2nd book?
10. How do we learn that Alan Conway is dead?
11. Who is likely to gain/lose from Alan's death?
12. How do we learn about the suicide?
13. Why does Susan reconsider the suicide letter? How is the suicide note written?
14. Why does Susan say that *Magpie Murders* changed her life and warn readers?
15. Do you like the characters in the 1st book? What about the 2nd book?
16. When and why was Pye Hall burgled? How important is it?
17. Why are letters and envelopes important in both books?
18. How are children important in the books?
19. Who did Alan use as inspiration for Atticus Pund?
20. What do you think of Alan's naming conventions and anagrams in his books? Why hide things?
21. What is *Death Treads the Boards* and why might it be important?
22. How do bikes and cars figure in the plots of either book?
23. What's in Sir Magnus Pyes Will? How is that important to the characters or plot?
24. What's in Alan's Will? How is that important to the characters or plot?
25. How did Atticus and Alan view their impending deaths and legacy.
26. How does Susan feel about Alan & his character, Atticus Pund?
27. Which characters did you like best/least?
28. What do you think about the book's structure?
29. How did the settings impact the story and the characters?
30. Did the plot succeed in a way that felt natural or manipulated when you read it?
31. Did the book remind you of any others you've read?
32. What do magpies symbolize?