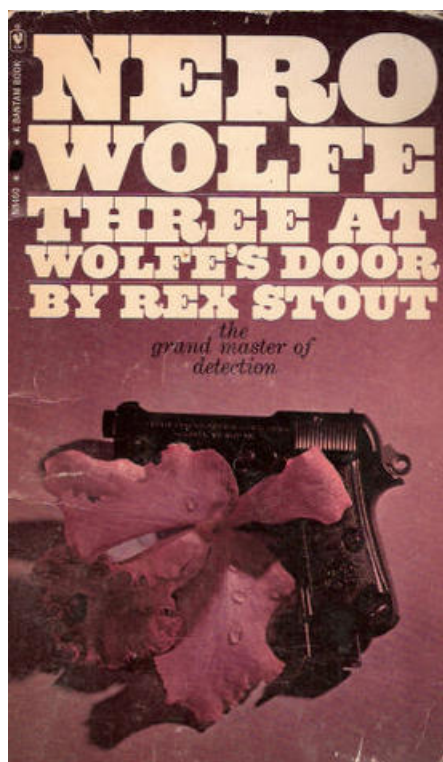




Three at Wolfe's Door

Rex Stout

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Three at Wolfe's Door Rex Stout

In Three at Wolfe's Door, death comes a-calling not once but three times in this murderous collection of cases from the files of the world's greatest detective.

Three at Wolfe's Door Details

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From Reader Review Three at Wolfe's Door for online ebook

Tony says

My Grade = 85% - B

This "book" consisted of three novellas, each about 75 pages long.

In the first, Poison a la Carte, Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin are guests at a very special New York dinner for ten gourmands. They are served by twelve unemployed actresses, all dressed identically in purple stolas (gowns a la greque). During the first course, one of the gourmands is given a plate of blinis that has been laced with arsenic, but the poison does not take effect for several courses.

As these men are all interested in the food, they pay little attention to the servers, and since the servers are all dressed identically, and, as the first course was some time ago, no one is able to distinguish who did what, when.

This is one of the rare stories where Rex Stout appears out of his 35th Street brownstone.

Since I read two more novellas since this one, I can't even remember which of the twelve girls was the murderer, even though I finished this one only four days ago.

The next of the three novellas is Method Three for Murder, an almost humorous, but very complicated story during which a woman borrows a taxi from a female friend to pick up the man she wishes to divorce, but he doesn't answer the door, and, when she returns to the cab, she finds the body of his dead girlfriend with a knife sticking out of her. She immediately takes the cab (and the body) to Rex Stout's house, to find Archie Goodwin exiting, as he had just left in a pique after quitting.

This was very clever, complicated, interesting, and very well written.

The third novella is Death at a Rodeo. In this one, once again, Nero Wolfe has accepted an invitation from Lily Rowan, Archie's "girlfriend" - if Archie ever had a girlfriend, but she comes up so frequently in very many of the stories.

There is a Rodeo going on in Madison Square Garden, and, in connection, a group of cowboys accept an invitation to lasso another cowboy - one of three - on a horse on the streets of New York from Lily Rowan's tenth floor penthouse apartment. One of the cowboys can't find his lasso, but it turns up a little later around the neck of a dead guest that on one actually liked.

Jennifer says

I love the Nero Wolfe books! Laughed out loud many times and kept reading bits to my husband. Such fun!

Daniel says

"Poison à la Carte": Nero and his refined pallet are lured out of the brownstone to support his personal chef, Fritz, who has been invited to cook for an exclusive club of gastronomes. When one of them is murdered by poison, Nero feels obligated to find the killer in order to protect the reputation of the kitchen staff. It was not my favorite mystery of the series since it strayed a bit from the peculiar norms associated with the famously eclectic genius, but there is still enough here for fans of Rex Stout's corpulent investigator and his quick-witted gumshoe. If you know anything about Nero Wolfe, you know you are going to hear about gourmet dishes, orchids, and new words (Aristology).

"Method Three for Murder": Archie has had enough of his overbearing boss and quits, but he quickly stumbles onto a new case at their front door. A hopeful client arrives at the famous brownstone in a borrowed taxi with a dead passenger in the backseat. Mira Holt needs the help of both detectives to solve the mystery and find the murderer, but the clock is ticking when the police arrive. This may be another story that doesn't follow Nero Wolfe's strict rules, but we get to see something a little more interesting when the long-standing relationship dynamics are challenged. Rex Stout does a fantastic job of conveying the familial devotion and commitment that each of these two strong personalities have for the other.

"The Rodeo Murder": What lengths Nero Wolfe will go for a good meal. In this case, he leaves his famous brownstone for some exquisite blue grouse. The dinner party welcomes the World Series Rodeo in town for a roping competition, but it ends in murder. As with the other two tales, this one deviates a bit from eccentric detective's peculiar habits which I enjoy so much. It is not a bad whodunit, but this would not be the one I would choose as quintessential Nero Wolfe.

Richard Schwindt says

For a novelist, Rex Stout, showed a surprising aptitude for the short story. His collections of short Nero Wolfe mysteries are well worth a look, especially if you are working on a limited time frame; maybe a flight to Baltimore or a bus to Hamilton. This particular collection contains what to me is certainly the best short story Stout wrote, "Murder a la Carte". A remarkable dinner goes terribly wrong and deeply involves Wolfe's Swiss chef, Fritz and a bevy of maiden servers. Take some time and read this book; it is recommended for anyone who loves excellent mysteries and short fiction but not caviar.

Joyce Lagow says

This is a collection of three Nero Wolfe short stories--Poison a la Carte, Method Three for Murder, and The Rodeo Murder--written in the late 1950s.

Always allowing for the time period in which these were written, Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin hold up well; they are enough idiosyncratic that they continue to entertain more than 50 years later. The same can't be said for some of the plots.

The Rodeo Murder is terrible. Cowpokes in The Big City and gettin' hitched an' all that sort of pseudo-folksy/Western talk that mercifully died an unremarked death years later. Spunky cowgals an' all that. The other two are not so bad, really.

But all three suffer, in my opinion, from being short stories rather than books, even short books. There's no space to develop any plot or to show off Wolfe and Goodwin to really good advantage. The plots have to be

uncovered too quickly within the space allowed, and Archie and Nero just don't have time to strut their stuff.

For die-hard fans who have read everything else and need their fix.

Scilla says

In *Poison a la Carte*, the first story, Wolfe agrees to have Fritz Brenner cook the annual dinner for the Ten for Aristology. At the dinner, one of the guests is poisoned with arsenic. There were 12 diners and 12 actresses each serving one of the guests. No one saw which actress served the plate to the dead man. However, Archie and Wolfe finally determine the killer.

In *Method Three for Murder*, Archie quits work and finds a young woman on the doorstep as he leaves Wolfe's house. There is a cab parked in front. The woman, Mira, claims she wants advice on a bet. However, soon the police arrive and look in the cab where there is a dead woman in the back seat. Archie quickly tells Mira he will help and she should keep quiet. Wolfe opens the door and invites them in and says he'll help. Things sound pretty mixed up, as Mira has borrowed a friend's cab, is trying to get a divorce from her husband, and another man is in love with her. However, all is soon discovered.

The last story, *The Rodeo Murder* takes place in NYC. Lily Rowan has three cowboys try to rope a man on a horse in the street below from the balcony of her penthouse apartment. One of the competitors can't find his rope. After the competition, Wade Eisler, a womanizer, is found dead with the rope around his neck in a closet on a balcony of Lily's apartment. Lily hires Wolf to find the murderer.

Bill Kerwin says

Three Nero Wolfe novellas, in which 1) a gourmet is poisoned at a meal prepared by Fritz, 2) a womanizer is strangled with a lariat during a roping contest in Lily Rowan's penthouse, and 3) a woman is strangled in the back of a taxicab parked literally at Wolfe's Door.

I think the Wolfe novellas are often superior to the novels, and these three are very good indeed.

Tony says

THREE AT WOLFE'S DOOR. (1960). Rex Stout. ***.

This is a collection of three short novels, each featuring a specific mystery involving Nero Wolfe and his cohorts. There isn't really any underlying theme that unites these three tales. The closest I could come up with is that each story occurs mostly outside of Wolfe's house, and he is forced to leave his abode and make his way to a place better suited for solving the mystery. The three tales included are:

Poison a la Carte

Method Three for Murder

The Rodeo Murder

The first two are fairly clever, while the third case is truly lame. It seems as if these were collected from previously published sources, but there was no indication that such was the case on the copy write page. This particular edition also includes an introduction by Margaret Maron, a writer I used to follow religiously, but haven't read for years.

Dakota McCoy says

Very fun!!!! The third was my favorite in this triad. I generally enjoy the full novels better than the collections of three, but of the collections this may be my favorite!

Carolyn says

Not my favorite collection of short Wolfe stories. The last one, for instance, spends a lot of time on totally wasted activity. Wolfe figures the thing out and then still sends Goodwin on a wild goose chase.

Jefferson Searle says

I either have read this one before and forgot to mark it as read, or the first two stories were collected into some other book. I haven't figured that out yet. The more important thing, however, is the review. Some of the short stories are less fun for me to read, these are not in this category. Three excellent stories.

Alison C says

Three at Wolfe's Door is another collection of novellas by Rex Stout featuring the great detective Nero Wolfe and his sidekick Archie Goodwin. In "Poison a la Carte," Wolfe agrees to lend his Swiss cook Fritz to a group of gourmands for a special meal, provided he and Archie are invited too; when one of the guests ends up poisoned, Wolfe and Archie must determine whom of the 12 young women hired as wait staff did the evil deed in order to clear Fritz's name. "Method Three for Murder" follows Archie, having quit his job once again, as he takes on a case on his own, although with the help of Nero Wolfe: a young woman arrives at the brownstone in a taxicab in which a dead woman is found. Who the woman is, what her relationship to the client was and how she ended up dead in the cab are the questions to be answered here. Finally, in "The Rodeo Murder," a lecherous promoter of rodeos is found lassoed and dead in an area of Lily Rowan's penthouse home, where Archie is a guest at a party held for a group of rodeo performers who are in town for a show; when Archie learns that just about everybody in the house at the time has a motive to do away with the promoter, he and Wolfe start investigating, a process not helped by the frequent lying of one of the suspects.... As always, these are very entertaining, if rather more slight than the novels of the series are. But it's always a treat to spend some time once again with the hefty Wolfe and sardonic Archie, not to mention Fritz, Saul Panzer and the rest of the crew, so recommended!

Sharon Barrow Wilfong says

Three short stories that can each be read in one sitting. As usual, Archie Goodwin's hilarious wit and Nero Wolfe's even wittier repartee make all three mysteries as much fun as they are intriguing.

1. Poison a la Carte: Wolfe and Goodwin are invited to a dinner by the aristology club (science of eating).

Even though Wolfe insists that eating is an art, not a science he agrees to go because his cook, Fritz, is creating the dinner. Twelve lovely actresses dressed as Greek goddesses serve.

Halfway through the first course, one of the men keel over. It turns out he is poisoned. Who did it? How? Why?

2. Method Three for Murder: A woman consults Archie about a "hypothetical" situation. If a woman borrowed a friends taxi and found a dead body in it, how does one get rid of the body? Archie soon discovers the situation is not at all hypothetical and helps the lady (along with Wolfe) to find out how the body got there, who did it and why.

3. The Rodeo Murder: If you can stomach the phony Texan accents and stereotypes, this is still a funny mystery. Well, someone getting murdered is never funny. A body is found in the green house of a woman's penthouse while she is having a rodeo game...uh, men on horses are racing down sixth avenue while others from the balcony try to lasso them...yeah, whatever.

While that happens, one of them is strangled and tied up and thrown in the green house. Who disappeared without anyone noticing to do the nefarious deed and what was his motive? Or hers?

Marie says

Three good Nero Wolfe/Archie Goodwin stories. As always, thanks Rex Stout.

Evgeny says

This anthology consists of three novellas:

Poison a la Carte.

The above picture shows a dish of Slavic origin called bliny. Wolfe sent his excellent ("competent" according to Wolfe's definition of him) cook Fritz to help prepare a meal for a group of gourmands. One of them was poisoned while eating bliny; Wolfe feels responsible for involving his cook and thus it is personal for him. Archie Goodwin has similar feelings, so it is personal for him as well.

I was extremely jealous of people who were lucky enough to try the dishes described in the story. My personal advice: please please *do not* read this one if you are hungry or on a strict diet; I cannot be hold responsible for what would happen to your diet if you do not heed my friendly warning.

Method Three for Murder.

No all NYC taxis look like this, but the picture is highly appropriate anyway. Archie finally got fed up with Wolfe's antics and quit. The moment he leaved the house he bumped into a woman who drove a taxi with a dead body in it. She wanted to hire a detective to help her as she had no clue how the corpse ended up in her car. Feeling regret about his behavior Wolfe decided to help Archie for old time's sake.

I found this to be most interesting mystery of the anthology. The fact that Archie has to solve the mystery on his own with just slight Wolfe's nudging him in the right direction added to my enjoyment of it.

The Rodeo Murder.

Ah, rodeo! Archie's girlfriend Lily Rowan organized a party with guests being Manhattan rodeo participants. Somebody from a party probably decided to practice on another guest before the rodeo starts. As a result a dead body tied with a rope of one of the cowboys shows up. The owner of the rope is a prime suspect, but Archie is sure he is innocent. The detective also thinks he needs to help his girlfriend avoid bad publicity resulting from a prolonged investigation, so he is on the case and so is Wolfe himself who also happened to be a party guest.

Usually marriage is considered to be "happily ever after event". In this case I felt really bad for one of the characters who got married at the end and both detectives seem to share my opinion. Read to find out why.

I have yet to find a Nero Wolfe story I do not like and these are not exceptions. They have their minor faults, but not enough to lower my usual 4 star rating for a book of the series.

Nan Silvernail says

Three mysteries:

1) Poison a' la carte - Nero Wolfe's personal chef, Fritz Brenner is honored with an invitation to prepare a dinner for the Ten for Aristology, a meeting of the top gourmets. Wolfe and Archie Goodwin attend by courtesy invitation. He wouldn't have if he'd have known the dinner would be served by 12 beautiful young women in purple togas. Pfui! But when the obnoxious member seated next to Wolfe is poisoned, he and Archie must find out whose delicate hand delivered Death.

2) Method Three for Murder - Archie quits! But as he leaves he is met on the stairs of the old brownstone by a lady in distress. She borrowed a friend's cab for a stunt and someone has played a nasty prank on her in return, by leaving a corpse in the cab! Can Wolfe and Goodwin reunite and save the faux cabbie?

3) The Rodeo Murder - Rodeo comes to Madison Square Garden and some of the stars know Lily Rowan from her Montana Ranch. So she hosts a party in her penthouse,. The menu includes young blue grouse who have been pretty much only berry-fed. Wolfe has heard they are better than any that Fritz has prepared so he must attend. During the party, there is a roping contest from the roof's parapet to try to lasso a horse rider down on the street, 100 feet down! But the hand of fate falls elsewhere during the contest. A notorious Broadway producer who is far too handsy with the ladies in his casts is found with a rope tied too tight and too many times around his neck. Someone has surely abused Miss Rowan's hospitality and as Wolfe was present, it reflects on his honor as well.

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SPOILERS HAILING A CAB OUTSIDE LILY'S PENTHOUSE

Cover Art - Well done, depicting the last story.

1) Poison a' la Carte - This is a rarity. No one was concentrating on anything except the dinner. Not even Eagle-eyed Archie saw exactly what happened. It's narrowed down to 6 of the ladies, but there it is stuck. This is a nightmare for Wolfe, having to deal with one woman is hard for him, but half a dozen? Fortunately, he has Archie to do the preliminary sorting.

2) Method Three for Murder - She just wanted to talk to her husband. She knew her female cabbie friend was to pick him up. He didn't come out so she went to knock and when she came back to the cab, there was her



husband's mistress dead in it! Fortunately, she headed to Wolfe's door. Unfortunately, someone followed her and called the cops so they arrived right away. A wonderful moment is when Wolfe, upset at all the noise outside his door steps out of the old brownstone to demand what the devil is going on?! the case gives Goodwin and Wolfe a chance to make up. Goodwin has torn up his check and that creates a need for an intricate dance so that they both can maintain face.

3) I really worried that someone was going to tumble off that parapet. But a missing rope and several who could have easily handled it makes an intricate case. One of the cowgirls in town had to fight for her honor and fight the producer off. But when people borrow each other's stories even in a good cause it gets even thornier. It's very satisfying that Wolfe got to enjoy those grouse. He missed getting a taste of them in "Death of a Dude."

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## **Diane K. says**

This is probably my favorite of the short story collections. If not for the penchant of putting "Three" in the titles, this one could have been called something like "Formidable Females" because nearly all the women in the stories are forces to be reckoned with. I'll take them in reverse order of liking.

### **"Method Three for Murder"**

Archie often speaks of quitting, or threatening to quit, being fired, or being threatened to be fired, but this was one of the rare occasions where we actually saw him walk out. After having arranged a short appointment with Wolfe for an acquaintance, he is infuriated when Wolfe casually brushes it off. He knows that the resignation is hardly likely to be final, but it is serious. He heads out the door and smack into his first client as an independent operator. He sets up shop on Wolfe's stoop (planning to slip a dollar under the door for rent afterwards) and listens to Mira Holt's wild tale, knowing perfectly well that it is just a tale, but wanting to know where its going. It goes right out to the sidewalk in front of the brownstone, with a body in a taxicab. When the police show up and things start to escalate, Wolfe invites them to borrow his office, then offers to assist in the case, eventually revealing that he had, after all, accepted the appointment Archie had made for him as his agent. (Far better to fire Archie than have Archie quit on him!)

At one point in the story, after Mira has been hauled off to jail, her estranged husband bursts into Wolfe's office, accusing Wolfe of "alienating the affection of my wife". Wolfe dryly corrects his diction, pointing out that in such context, the plural "affections" is used. In my paperback edition, some jerk of an editor, seeing that the diction was wrong, and not bothering to read the very next line which showed that Stout wrote it wrong ON PURPOSE, took it on himself to "correct" the word and make it plural, and thereby made the whole scene nonsensical. I have no idea if subsequent editions corrected the correction.

Husband Waldo was a odd one. Having been told that Judy Bram had called him a "sophisticated ape", he refused to believe it, saying that they were quoting his wife, instead. Wolfe found this interesting and suggestive. I wish that Stout had included a scene with Waldo and Judy confronting each other, because Waldo clearly has ideas about Judy, whereas she considers him something to scrape off her shoe. Judy is quite a character, an early prototype of Julie Jacquette, a smart, tough woman who knows what men are good for and what they're not good for. Her scene with Cramer is priceless.

The murder itself is an eye-opener. An obvious clue--one of those forehead-smacking ones that Archie knows he should have seen right away--leads them quickly to the solution, which is one of the most vicious, savage killings in the entire Corpus. (I read recently that the Wolfe Pack prefers to regard Stout's work in its entirety as the Corpus, rather than the Canon, which sounds rather appropriate for murder mysteries.)

### "The Rodeo Murder"

In which Wolfe leaves the house to partake of huckleberry-fed blue grouse. It was interesting to learn of blue grouse, and I suppose nothing less would have drawn Wolfe out, but I was rather irked at Lily so blithely slaughtering 20 protected birds to feed her guests. Wouldn't it have been more to the point to feed her visiting Westerners with the best of Eastern/New York cuisine? Another point that occurred to me the other day, after having read this story countless times--Lily's penthouse is, I believe, on the tenth floor of her building. They had the roping contest on her terrace, which means the cowboys were using ropes that were...ten stories long? Really? I know that cowboys need a good length of rope for gettin' after them dogies, but...ten stories long? Not to mention the little matter of winds gusting between the buildings. Yup.

Lily asks for Wolfe's assistance in this one, largely because of the "abuse of hospitality" wherein a man was murdered under her roof--but also because the police and the DA insisted on treating her like an ordinary citizen instead of one of the privileged rich. I'm reminded that Lily is not one of my favorite people.

The fun of this story is in the characters, particularly the erstwhile lovers, "Loco" Laura Jay and "Silent Cal" Barrows, who might possibly have eventually popped the question over the next ten to fifteen years if circumstances hadn't speeded things up. Laura, having gotten bruised by a bronc's bridle (say that five times fast) was embarrassed to admit her clumsiness to Cal, so instead she claimed that she was injured when one of the promoters of the World Series Rodeo took her to his apartment (claiming he was having a party) and then assaulted her. The incident had actually happened to another cowgirl, Nan. Laura hoped that the story would encourage Cal's interest and protective feelings, and that he would "ride herd" on her for the remainder of their stay in New York and maybe realize it was time to break out the bridle. It worked, but not the way she anticipated: Cal planned to quietly "take some hide" off the toad, with Archie's assistance, once the rodeo was completed. When the toad turned up dead, Laura instantly assumed that Cal murdered him for her sake. Archie already knows Cal well enough to know that if he was driven to kill him, it would be with his fists, not strangling him, and certainly not with his own rope. But Laura can't be convinced. I suspect her ego had something to do with it; it's exciting to think that a man would kill for you. She's bound and determined to save Cal from the consequences, attacking Cramer, claiming that she's the killer, threatening to shoot Archie so that he can't contradict her testimony (but not in the back; she would have waited for him to turn around first), and then, failing to put it on herself, trying to put it on another innocent cowboy. It starts to dawn on Cal that maybe she actually likes him a little. In spite of all Laura's shenanigans, Wolfe and Archie manage to work out the solution.

### "Poison a la Carte"

This is my favorite short story of them all. Perhaps because Fritz has a starring role, being requested to cook the dinner for the Ten for Aristology. I love Fritz. I liked how he refused to commit himself until he got a good look at the kitchen he would be working with, so Lewis Hewitt promptly popped him in his car and drove him right out for the inspection. The menu sounded delectable (except for the caviar; unlike Archie, I don't care for the idea of fish eggs.) When the tragedy occurred, Fritz was calmly self-assured that his cooking was not responsible.

The murder itself was deceptively simple, with the killer relying on speed and luck to carry her through. She had to have been one of the very first servers, then zipped back into the kitchen, snatched another plate, then served her assigned person. That initial serving was the danger; when they were first lining up, why didn't someone say, "Hey, you're too close to the front of the line, you're supposed to be further back!"?

Another thing I enjoyed: Archie has an irritating habit of instantly judging women by their looks. In this case, the most beautiful of the "Hebes" turns out to be a completely self-centered jerk, prepared to accuse one of the others (ANY one of the others) simply in order to get the case closed and done with so that SHE is no longer inconvenienced. Nice lady.

The Rustermans' staff and Fritz appeal to Wolfe to solve the case for the sake of their reputations; Wolfe is already doing so because of the insult to Fritz. Zoltan is requested to assist in a nifty little fishing expedition, and I loved how they had him practice on the house phone with several people listening so that he would get it right. The expedition is set up at Piotti's restaurant. John Piotti has reason to be grateful to Wolfe, and so willingly allows them to set up a listening wire at one of his tables. (He's also good for a table, a plate of the best spaghetti in town and a pint of Piotti's reserve wine whenever Archie cares to drop in.) There's a breathtaking moment when Zoltan makes a bad mistake, but, surprisingly for a reluctant amateur, he covers it expertly. Wolfe, of course, has managed to convince the police to make a detour to his house before hauling the killer off to the police station. He wants the chance to confront her. Fritz, ever dignified, forgives the killer for using his food to poison her victim--although she more or less throws it back in his face.

I'm grabbing an opportunity for a bit of a rant. I loved the A&E production of "Nero Wolfe". They did a marvelous job, overall. There were some problems: Wolfe bellowed too much (I understand that was Chaykin's own idea) and I hated how they turned the dignified Fritz, who was never fazed by anything, into comic relief who was fazed by EVERYTHING. But by and large, they did a fine job translating the stories into episodes.

With a major exception. They MANGLED this story.

First with the Hebes, with their silly prancing about, striking poses. All they were there for was to serve food. The epicures would have been concentrating on the food under normal circumstances; under the current ones, frolicking about with a man sick unto death a few feet away was in extremely poor taste.

Then with Zoltan and the sting operation. I suppose they wanted to get a look at Rustermans; well, put it in another episode. And they wanted Wolfe in the scene; well, he would have been there in his office at the end, where he was supposed to be. Having that scene there at Rustermans was idiotic. Think about it from both viewpoints. Zoltan: "Let's find a public place that's quiet and private, so that we can discuss my blackmailing venture (and get it all on tape)". Killer: "(He's going to insist on a public spot, but) let's make it quiet and private, so that I can (pretend) to listen to you (and wait for an opportunity to kill you)". So they're going to go to Zoltan's place of work, where (presumably) all of his co-workers will be slipping into the room to peek at who he's dating tonight! Yeah, right. After her brilliant, bold, audacious killing, apparently her brains all leaked out her ears.

And then there was the killer. One of Stout's best, an ice cold, ruthless, malevolent Medea. She probably killed her victim not so much because he seduced her, but because he forced her to realize that she was nothing special, just another girl like the host of others who had passed between his sheets. The A&E killer is reduced to a whimpering, whiny, stupid dweeb. I can't comprehend why her victim would have wanted to be in the same room with her, let alone seduce her. Kari Matchett or Francie Swift would have nailed this role. Pfui.

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## Sun says

Three Nero Wolfe stories in one. In the first, 'Poison a la Carte', Wolfe and Goodwin attend a select dinner for aristologists specially prepared by Fritz. One of the diners is poisoned and suspicion falls on half a dozen waitresses. In 'Method Three for Murder', a corpse is delivered right to Wolfe's door and it's Archie who is hired to solve the case. This is the most well-developed of the three stories in plot. The last and the lamest short is titled 'The Rodeo Murder', in which a Broadway producer is killed during a party.

A trademark of Stout's mysteries is that the denouement is often unexpected and without apparent reason.

Usually this works to highlight the genius of Nero Wolfe as well as producing a memorable climax. In the case of these short stories, we don't have enough time to get to know the usual half dozen suspects to be either surprised or amazed. Good thing the bright narration and snappy commentary makes it so readable.

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### **Travis says**

Decent Wolfe collection.

Two really fun, solid stories and one that starts strong and kind of ends with an abrupt 'thud'.

Though, even weak Rex Stout is better than 75% of good everyone else.

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### **astaliegurec says**

Rex Stout's 1960 book "Three at Wolfe's Door (A Nero Wolfe Mystery Book 33)" is a compilation of three of his 1960 short stories:

1. "Poison a la Carte"
2. "Method Three for Murder"
3. "The Rodeo Murder"

"Poison" is a Very Good 4 stars out of 5 short story in good Stout form without any real negative. "Method" is an even better Excellent 5 stars out of 5 short story that's got the added benefit of being even more witty (I'd say humorous if it weren't a murder mystery). But, "Rodeo" is a Not Very Good 2 stars out of 5 short story with horrible characterizations for everyone who isn't a regular. Their behavior is cringe inducing. Averaging those out gives still gives a Very Good 4 stars out of 5, so that's what I'm rating the whole compilation at.

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