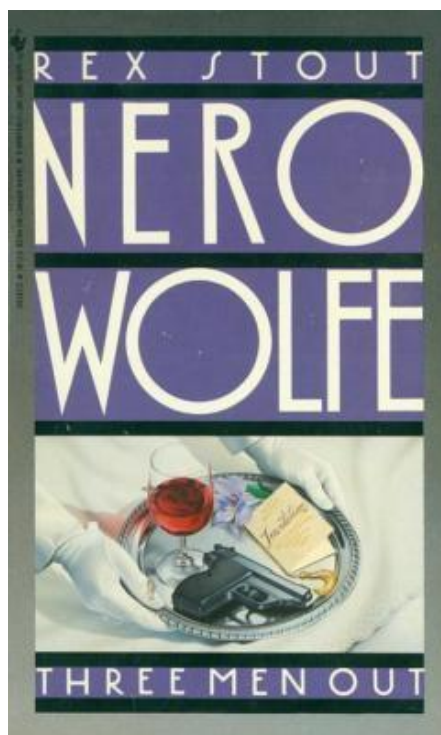




Three Men Out

Rex Stout

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Nero Wolfe and sidekick Archie Goodwin attempt to solve three puzzling cases of murder: in one, a person's questions lead to his death; another finds a man killed in a soundproof office; and in the last, a baseball rookie is removed from the lineup through murder.

Three Men Out Details

Date : Published (first published August 1953)

ISBN :

Author : Rex Stout

Format : Kindle Edition 165 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction



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From Reader Review Three Men Out for online ebook

Mary says

Sometimes, a novella is just enough. This collection of 3 Nero Wolfe mysteries works very well. Short and sweet, solved in typical Wolfe style.

Vicki Cline says

This is a collection of three stories, not as satisfying as a novel, but still entertaining. In the last story, Wolfe actually goes to a baseball game, because a famous visiting foreign chef wants to see one. Wolfe in uncomfortable situations is always amusing.

Hemanth Kapila says

Three separate stories in a single novel. Each of these involves Nero coming out of his house. Not great in terms of plot but a decent read none the less.

Bill Kerwin says

An entertaining trio of Nero Wolfe novellas featuring:

- 1) a wheelchair-bound widower with three live-in eligible females,
- 2) a mysterious message coded in the geometric arrangement of eight pencils, and
- 2) a plot to fix a Giants and Red Sox world series.

Thoroughly enjoyable.

Christopher Rush says

This was a very enjoyable collection, though I can't explain too much why I thought so. It's not that the mysteries were superlative or incredibly extraordinary, but for some reason (perhaps the period in my life in which I read them) this was a refreshing group of stories. The first story about the dangers of upsetting extended family in-laws was the least sparkling of the group, but the bizarre twists during the story, especially Archie tricking Wolfe into coming to the scene, make it different enough to be enjoyable. The second story, similarly, is another impressive mix of little movement in the story, a whole lot of Wolfe talking to people, Archie appearing at the wrong place at the wrong time (as is his wont), and a very clever twist that would be more frustrating to us ignorant boffs were it handled/presented by a lesser writer. The extended red herring throughout (especially the way it builds and builds upon itself as we become more aware of it) was definitely an enjoyable misdirection. The final story is a strange mix of baseball skullduggery and a wholly atypical scene of genuine danger, with Archie really shining on his own, though

likely in ways in which we may not approve. This was a very fine mix of unusual stories that really sparked well with me.

Ovidio says

Era uma Vez Três Homens (Rex Stout). Quando, há mais de dez anos, descobri os livros de Rex Stout fiquei viciado no ambiente que criou para o seu formidável detective Nero Wolfe, que nunca sai da sua mansão em Nova Iorque e que deixa as actividades no terreno necessárias à investigação a cargo do esperto, despachado e musculado quando é preciso Archie Goodwin, que também é o seu secretário e o narrador. Wolfe é um colosso a todos os níveis, com "um sétimo de tonelada" e um elevador privado para se conseguir deslocar até à cobertura da sua linda casa onde trata a sua plantação de orquídeas, primeiro expediente diário de um horário meticulosamente planeado e escrupulosamente obedecido por Archie e pelo outro habitante da mansão, o inventivo e dedicado cozinheiro Fritz. Para além destes carismáticos servos, ainda contamos com o exímio Saul Panzer quando é preciso seguir um suspeito sem ser visto, e uma série de inspectores e agentes das forças de autoridade que vão alternando entre o agradecimento contrariado e a hostilidade disfarçada pelas intromissões recorrentes que normalmente se traduzem por casos resolvidos. Lembro-me de até ter feito contas aos livros que Rex Stout escreveu, porque eram imensos, mas finitos, e preocupava-me imaginar que um dia ficaria sem as suas histórias para ler. Naturalmente que esta preocupação se revelou descabida, e a minha voracidade foi decrescendo à medida que outros interesses foram aparecendo. Hoje, ao invés, quando sinto saudades do brilho rabugento de Wolfe e da sua entourage, sinto-me contente por os seus livros serem finitos, sim, mas imensos, e que haverá sempre certamente mais algum a descobrir. Estes livros da colecção vampiro já não são muito grandes, e sendo este dividido ainda em três casos independentes, não será uma boa introdução ao seu universo, precisamente porque aquelas idiossincrasias dos personagens precisam de estar bem interiorizadas para se poder desfrutar dos seus actos e omissões em tão pouco espaço. Mas para um pai recente a querer aproveitar o pouco tempo quando adormece o filho para se entreter com uma elegante e inteligente investigação, são como uma iguaria saída da cozinha de Fritz.

Alison C says

Three Men Out is another in Rex Stout's long series of books about Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin, this one being a compilation of three novellas, as most titles in this series with the number "Three" in them are. In "Invitation to Murder," we meet a man whose wealthy father left his fortune to the man's sister; when the sister dies, the fortune passes to her husband, a disabled man who appears willing to continue to send an allowance to the man, but who is being pursued by three women who might subsequently cut him off without a cent. The man wants Wolfe to investigate and so Archie goes to the household, only to find the client is the first victim. "The Zero Clue" concerns a mathematician-turned-prognosticator, who is making a good living by resolving questions of probability for individuals, for a hefty fee of course. When he suspects a client of criminal activities, the mathematician sends for Nero Wolfe, but he is killed before Archie has had time to do more than notice the six people in the waiting room. It is among those six people that the criminal and now murderer must be found, but will Wolfe have enough clues to solve the case? Finally, "This Won't Kill You" features Wolfe leaving his house to attend, of all things, the seventh and last World Series baseball game; when four New York players are seen to be drugged, causing the team to lose the World Series to Boston, and another player turns up dead, Wolfe must try to determine who did what to whom, relying on Archie's knowledge of women and baseball....Four highly enjoyable tales, not at the top of the game in Rex Stout's world but solid and entertaining. As always, recommended.

Steven Vaughan-Nichols says

This isn't the best collection of Nero Wolfe novelettes. Indeed the last of the trio has a major hitch in the tale, but still even a bad Nero Wolfe story is better than 90% of most mystery tales.

Stephen Osborne says

The three novellas that make up this volume are all fun reads and top notch mysteries. The first was my favorite, as Archie comes up with an ingenious method of getting Wolfe to leave the brownstone for a case. The enjoyment of the third story comes mainly from Wolfe's discomfort at having to attend a baseball game and being able to only perch on the edge of his seat. Fun tales from one of my favorite authors.

astaliegurec says

Rex Stout's "Three Men Out" (1954) is the 23rd book in his "Nero Wolfe" series. This one is not a novel. It's another collection of three short stories: 1) "Invitation to Murder" (1953), 2) "The Zero Clue" (1953), and 3) "This Won't Kill You" (1952). The first of those short stories is very good. It's written in good Stout/Wolfe form with a good plot and mystery. The second story, is OK. The premise of what the people in the story are doing is a bit silly and the mystery a bit weak, but it's still good Stout/Wolfe. But, the third story is pretty bad. Most of it reads like a Crime Drama instead of a Mystery. But, the biggest issue I have with it is how everything falls in line for the solution. It's pretty trite and just doesn't read like what we'd expect from a Stout/Wolfe story. So, averaging the scores, I get an OK 3 stars out of 5 for the book.

Susan says

Three Nero Wolfe mysteries are better than one--that must be why Stout wrote so many novellas and published them in compilations of three. In this collection, the title is a giveaway to expect three male corpses. It's notable because in two of the novellas, Wolfe leaves his house, which he tries to avoid doing.

Jill Hutchinson says

Just one more in my long list of favorite Nero Wolfe books.....to be truthful, they are all my favorites. This little book contains three short stories and in one, Wolfe actually goes to a baseball game which makes it worthwhile just to imagine him trying to fit into one of those stadium seats. Simple stories with the typical Rex Stout wit. that are good for a rainy afternoon.

David Miller says

A Friday night spent with Archie Goodwin and Nero Wolfe is never wasted; I don't think Stout was capable of writing less than a 4-star book. Even so these stories are not the cream of the crop. I'd still rather read

Stout at less than his best, than any other mystery writer...

Evgeny says

The anthology consists of three novellas.

Invitation to Murder.

A man who is entirely dependent on his uncle to provide for his living (at least he is honest about it) was worried that one of the three young women working for his wealthy relative his matrimonial plans for the latter which would put his income source in great peril. He asked Nero Wolfe to find out which one of the three is the threat. The detective thinks Archie Goodwin is a great expert on women and Archie himself shares this delusion, so off he went to investigate.

Most of Wolfe's investigations are related to murders, and this time he was not disappointed as Archie soon stumbles upon one. In fact things became so intense Wolfe who practically never gets outside has to do it this time: the mystery was quite complicated and required his personal presence.

The Zero Clue.

The plot strongly relates to that of Isaac Asimov's Foundation. Both of these were written at approximately the same time when the idea was popular. A college professor discovered a statistical formula which allowed him to calculate the probability of human behavior and make fairly accurate predictions of various events. He was so successful that he quit his job and began his scientific oracle work - so to speak - full time making big money.

One day his was found murdered, but not before he left a clue indicating Nero Wolfe might help with the identity of culprit and \$500 dollars as a fee for detective's services. Wolfe thinks it should be easy money and decided to solve the mystery.

This novella contains an interesting bit on the history of mathematics related to one of the most important discovery - extensively used in modern life - in the field during the time when none of the modern nations existed.

This Won't Kill You.

To make a long story short, Nero Wolfe broke his habit of never leaving his house and went to see a baseball game only to find out it was fixed in the blatantly obvious way and one of the most promising rookie players murdered. The team owner asked Wolfe to investigate the crime and Archie Goodwin whose favorite team just lost an important game due to a foul play is happy to help.

This is a unique story in sense that both Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin solved the mystery at the same time independently using different approaches. The former used his deductive skills and the latter legwork and nosiness which actually put his life in a real danger. By the way the mystery was very simple and obvious once Wolfe explained it, but there were enough red herrings to keep it hidden.

The final rating is my usual 4 stars for a book of the series.

Travis says

A solid trio of Nero Wolfe stories.

The first had a clever resolution, the second a clever idea and the third a unique setting.
