

## Sayers (2)

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1893	Dorothy Leigh Sayers b. Oxford
1909	boarding school in Salisbury
1915	1st-class honors in French at Oxford, but no degree
1920	BA, MA (Oxon; among first women)
1922–31	ad writer in London
1923	<i>Whose Body?</i>
1925–36	more Wimsey
1929	ed., <i>Omnibus of Crime</i>
1938	friends with C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, the Inklings
1944–57	Dante translation for Penguin
1957	d.

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Oh, dear! I *do* hope something will come of Lord Peter! I really feel that if an agent is really keen upon him it must mean that he *has* monetary possibilities....I'm sure writing is much more my job than office work or teaching.

Sayers to her parents, April 26, 1922, in *Letters of Dorothy L. Sayers, 1899–1936: The Making of a Detective Novelist*, ed. Barbara Reynolds (New York: St. Martin's, 1995), 190.

I believe serious novels, psychological or psycho-analytical studies, are still written in English. But what chance have they against the detective story, which never taxes the brain, Rolls-Royces your body luxuriously and rapidly along the road, and refreshes it at the most fashionable restaurants with caviare and chicken Neuborg? Perhaps in real life your purse may seldom, if ever, allow you these delights; all the more reason, then, for enjoying them in imagination.

“A.B.W.,” “Post-Sherlockism,” *Times*, February 8, 1922: 8, [Times Digital Archive](#).

She displays knowingness about literature without any sensitiveness to it or any feeling for quality—i.e. she has an academic literary taste over and above having no taste at all.... Miss Sayers' fiction, when it isn't mere detective-story of an unimpressive kind, is exactly that: stale, second-hand, hollow.... Miss Sayers, who might evidently have been an academic herself, is probably quite sound on the philological side.

Q.D. Leavis, “The Case of Miss Dorothy Sayers,” *Scrutiny* 6, no. 3 (December 1937): 335–36, 340. [unz.org](#).

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*New York Times Book Review*, June 10, 1923: 28, [ProQuest Historical Newspapers](#).