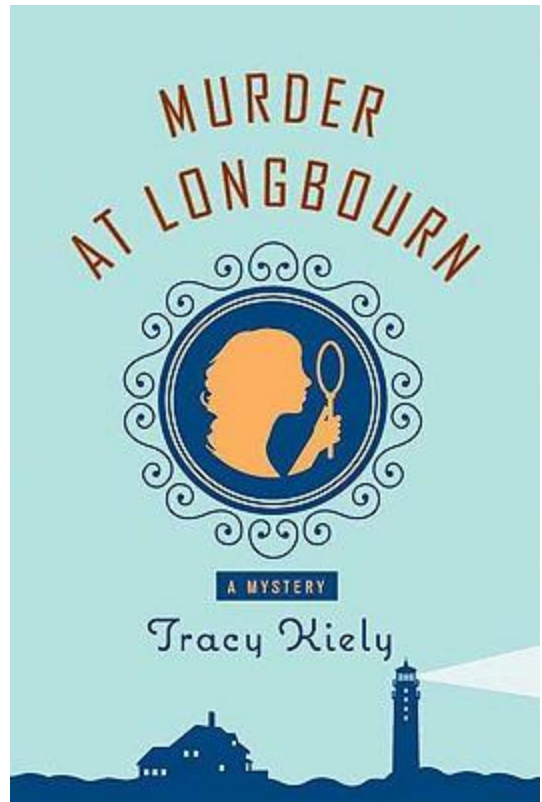


**“Murder at Longbourn: A Mystery” by Tracy Kiely.
Minotaur Books, 2009. \$24.99, 308 pages.**

Elizabeth Parker is determined to get a head start on her New Year’s resolutions by making healthier choices, more specifically by eliminating fatty foods and her two-timing boyfriend from her life. So when her Aunt Winnie’s invitation to a murder arrives, Elizabeth welcomes the opportunity to escape to Cape Cod for the upcoming holiday.

Of course, she’s not been invited to an actual murder, but a murder mystery party hosted at her aunt’s bed and breakfast Longbourn, named for the Bennet house in “Pride and Prejudice.” Elizabeth arrives ready to assist her aunt with the preparations, but is vexed to discover her childhood adversary Peter McGowan is also in attendance for the same purpose.

During the evening’s festivities, the guests are shocked when the theatrical murder mystery ends with the very real and very dead body of Gerald Ramsey, an extremely wealthy and prodigiously cruel man that no one seems to mourn after his demise. Although a number of the guests had a motive to kill the man, Elizabeth is worried when the police seem to be honing in on her adored aunt. She is intent on clearing Aunt Winnie’s name and finding the real killer in the process, even if it means collaborating with Peter.



Peppered with “Pride and Prejudice” references and quotes, “Murder at Longbourn” is a delight for any Austen lover. The cast of characters contains a number of counterparts to Austen’s creations, and a subplot or two definitely owe credit to the classic novel, but this book is not a retelling or a modern version of the much loved masterpiece. Indeed, one does not even need to possess knowledge of Austen or “Pride and Prejudice” to enjoy “Murder at Longbourn.” It is an entertaining and clever mystery that twists and turns just when it should.

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