

Matthew Costello

Neil Richards

CHERRINGHAM

A COSY CRIME SERIES

The Vanishing Tourist



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Cherringham — A Cosy Crime Series

“Cherringham — A Cosy Crime Series” is a series made up of self-contained stories. A new episode is released each month. The series is published in English as well as in German, and is only available in e-book form.

About the Book

When an American tourist goes missing in Cherringham, the local police don't see reason for concern — people often wander away from such tours. But when that tourist's sister shows up from New York, desperately looking for answers, Jack and Sarah become convinced there's more to the disappearance than meets the eye. Soon, they are entangled in a mystery with a secret history of betrayal, sacrifice, dishonour ... and death.

The Authors

Matthew Costello (US-based) is the author of a number of successful novels, including *Vacation* (2011), *Home* (2014) and *Beneath Still Waters* (1989), which was adapted by Lionsgate as a major motion picture. He has written for The Disney Channel, BBC, SyFy and has also designed dozens of bestselling games including the critically acclaimed *The 7th Guest*, *Doom 3*, *Rage* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Neil Richards has worked as a producer and writer in TV and film, creating scripts for BBC, Disney, and Channel 4, and earning numerous Bafta nominations along the way. He's also written script and story for over 20 video games including *The Da Vinci Code* and *Starship Titanic*, co-written with Douglas Adams, and consults around the world on digital storytelling.

His writing partnership with NYC-based Matt Costello goes back to the late 90's and the two have written many hours of TV together. *Cherringham* is their first crime fiction as co-writers.

Main Characters

Jack Brennan is a former NYPD homicide detective who lost his wife a year ago. Being retired, all he wants is peace and quiet. Which is what he hopes to find in the quiet town of Cherringham, UK. Living on a canal boat, he enjoys his solitude. But soon enough he discovers that something is missing — the challenge of solving crimes. Surprisingly, Cherringham can help him with that.

Sarah Edwards is a web designer who was living in London with her husband and two kids. Two years ago, he ran off with his sexy American boss, and Sarah's world fell apart. With her children she moved back to her home town, laid-back Cherringham. But the small town atmosphere is killing her all over again — nothing ever happens. At least, that's what she thinks until Jack enters her life and changes it for good or worse ...

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The Vanishing Tourist



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1. A Tour of Cherringham

Will Goodchild pulled out his pocket watch, handed down from his father who had never tired of telling him that he wore that watch on D-Day, hitting Gold Beach, leading his men in the gallant struggle of World War II.

It was perhaps Will's most prized possession, and outside of an occasional adjustment by an old-school watch repair shop in Oxford, it told time perfectly, even chiming the hour.

Now — standing in the grassy area in the village centre that held three donated benches and the medieval stocks that — he noted — seemed to be weathering away more each day — he saw that it was 11 a.m.

And the bus was late.

Almost as he had that thought, a big white coach, looking barely able to manage the narrow high street of Cherringham, lumbered slowly into view as if the driver was afraid he'd sideswipe the shops that lined each side.

The few villagers out for a walk stopped on the pavement to observe the out-of-place behemoth as it rolled into view.

Will straightened up. He planted a welcoming smile on his face — *all part of the show*, he thought — as the bus came close to the little grassy square and then turned into the parking area where half of it would jut out into the street.

It would be an eye sore for the next few hours!

As he walked over to the door, the coach's engine was killed, and with a great whoosh the front door popped open.

Will watched the portly driver scramble out, blinking in the bright spring sunlight. A too-small cap perched atop his round head, matched by an equally round body.

Not a driver who Will knew.

Will took a step forward.

“Hel-lo,” he said. “Professor Will Goodchild. Your guide.”

The man nodded as if that information bordered on the irrelevant. Then the driver gestured at the steps that led into the bus.

“Full load, professor ... and *here they come.*”

Will stood back as the passengers, who had travelled all the way from London for a full-day tour of the Cotswolds, stepped out onto the normally quiet streets of Cherringham.

*

Will had the crowd circled around him as best he could.

Some people held up phones, even looking away from Will as he spoke, taking pictures of the village’s buildings as if it was a theme park — and even worse, selfies.

Will hated selfies.

And the driver?

Smoking a cigarette while chatting on his phone, standing well away from the group.

“Welcome to Cherringham,” Will said, speaking as loudly as he could. “Today you will see some of the spots that make this village the historic and beautiful place that it is. If you have any questions ...”

It was hard not to be distracted by the *distracted* tourists, many of whom didn't seem to be paying any attention at all.

Why on earth did they take this tour?

Anyway — Will pressed on.