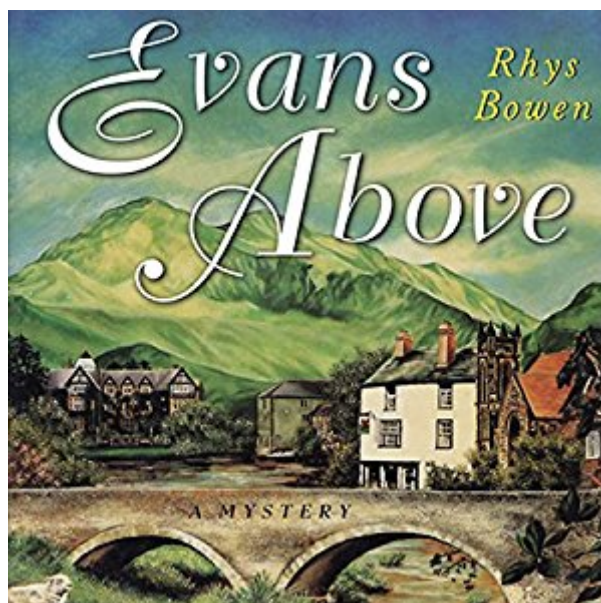


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# Evans Above



## Synopsis

Evan Evans is a young police constable who has traded in the violence of city life for idyllic Llanfair, a Welsh village tucked far away from trouble. Nestled among the Snowdonia mountain range, Llanfair looks to Constable Evans like a town forgotten by time, but he quickly learns that even the bucolic countryside has its share of eccentric - and deadly - characters. Evans' new neighbors include two competitive ministers vying for the souls of their flock, one lascivious barmaid, and three other Evanses: Evan-the-Meat, Evans-the-Milk, and Evans-the-Post (whose favorite hobby is to read the mail before he delivers it). Before Evans has time to sort through the complicated relationships and rivalries of his new home, he's called to the scene of a crime as brutal and fearsome as any he encountered in the big city. Two hikers have been murdered on the trails of the local mountain, and Evans must hunt down a vicious killer - who may or may not be linked to the mysterious destruction of Mrs. Powell-Jones' prize-winning tomatoes. *Evans Above* is the first novel in Rhys Bowen's popular Constable Evans Mystery Series.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Evan is new to his new domain, a small village set just below rugged Welsh mountains. Part way through his training as an investigator, he quit the school and asked to be assigned to a smaller, more remote site; he got his wish. And thus far, his constable duties have been rather mundane--but then a hiker comes down off of the mountain, speaking of a dead body seen at the bottom of a high ridge. Then, before the first body can be recovered, there is another death. The district investigators label the deaths as accidents, but Evan can't buy that so he starts investigating himself. The

investigation is interesting, with unexpected turns. The secondary characters are delightful (and will teach the reader some odd ideas about to name villagers). ONLY RELEVANT FOR READERS OF OTHER BOWEN SERIES: I saw that these books predates both the Her Royal Spyness and the Molly Murphy books and wondered, frankly, if it would show signs of an early writer. But it didn't: the only important change is the focus on a male central character, but the writing is solid and the book is quite enjoyable.

I am a fan of Hamish Mcbeth and Constable Evans is a delightful Welsh version. Having left the big city for a small village, he finds life isn't as quiet as he expected. A good mystery supported by a fun cast of suspects keeps the reader guessing--throw in a couple of females competing for his attention and you have a well-rounded story that keeps the reader's interest to the last page.

This is mystery set in Scotland and the police story is not as violent as those of US. The terminology varies from our own and I find it very enjoyable. Story was good, characters also good. I found it charming and entertaining. If you are looking for more this might not be the one for you. I found it refreshing.

Another enjoyable series from Rhys Bowen. This one is set in Wales. I love reading mysteries set in the British Isles and am working my way through the Her Royal Spyness and Molly Murphy series. All of these books have unlikely sleuths as the main character. Good overview of the history of the periods written about. Ms. Bowen has quickly become one of my favorite authors.

I was disappointed with Evans Above, because it seemed like Evans simply stumbled upon things rather than having his detective work lead to capturing the right person. Don't get me wrong, there's plenty of detecting and red herrings galore. And instead of Evans reaching the conclusion, the guilty party confesses all in the "Mr. Bond, I'm going to tell you everything" sort of silliness. Though the setting is appealing and the secondary characters show signs of promise, it was puzzling why the author made Evans be from the area but somehow he has no surviving relatives there. Especially in such a small town, it seems unlikely that there are 3 unrelated Evans families. This was one of those mysteries I found myself re-writing as I went along, and I found my version much more satisfying.

Loved the "Royal Spyness" books, so gave this one a try. It's o k; very much like M C Beaton's Hamish McBeth series which I liked a lot. I don't think I'll be reading the whole series, but it was a

good read.

A good read. Well written with well developed characters and a mystery that deepens before it is solved. The concept of a young family involvement adds humor coupled with warmth as all contribute to the serious business of the story.

Brisk pace. Full characters. Two connected crimes. Good Welsh constable. Two pretty village girls. We don't need amateur local cops investigating".

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