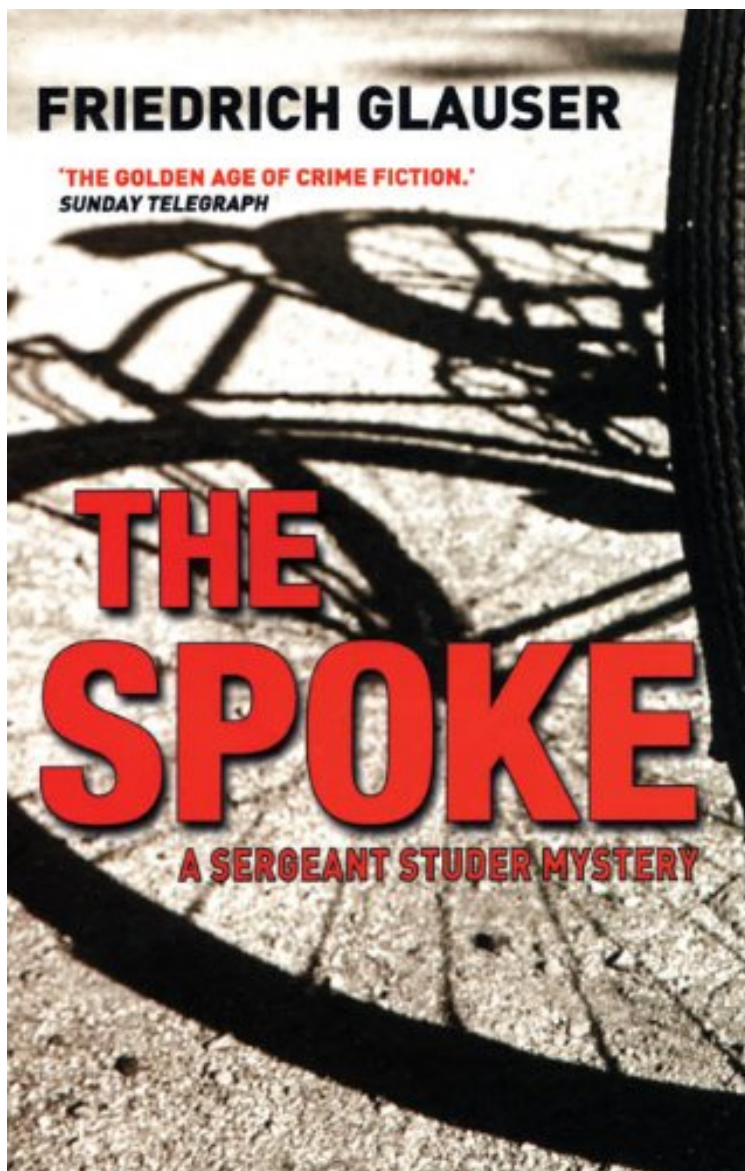


(Download pdf) The Spoke: A Sergeant Studer Mystery

The Spoke: A Sergeant Studer Mystery

Friedrich Glauser

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Friedrich Glauser : The Spoke: A Sergeant Studer Mystery before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Spoke: A Sergeant Studer Mystery:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Glauser Grabs!By CCFriedrich Glauser was one of the best writers of his time and his writing is solid and dependable. Nicely translated, powerful, haunting. But as with any series, though each book stands alone, they make a bit more sense when read in order.0 of 0 people found the following

review helpful. excellent Studer Swiss police procedural

By A Customer

In Bern Swiss police Detective Sergeant Jakob Studer and his wife have traveled to Schwarzenstein to attend the marriage of their daughter. However, in the Hôtel zum Hirschen where they are staying someone stabs to death Jean Stieger using a sharpened bicycle spoke. The local police arrest the only suspect, bicycle store mechanic and peddler Ernst Graf. However, Studer believes the murder weapon is not enough to prove Graf did the deed. Soon afterward while Graf remains in custody, someone poisons Stieger's boss and partner, financier Joachim Krock. Studer investigates the two homicides, applying a logic that confuses the local cops, but leads to several suspects with motives for both murders. The latest reprint of the 1930s Studer Swiss police procedural series is, like the previous four, a fabulous investigative tale. Studer is at his best working what appears to be a closed locked room case in which his progress in finding other suspects besides Graf with means, motive and opportunity alienates him with the locals and frustrates his wife on vacation and daughter preparing to marry. The Jakob Studer collection holds up as strong mysteries with an obvious historical perspective seven decades after they were initially released (see *IN MATTO'S REALM*, *FEVER THUMBPRINT* and *THE CHINAMAN*).

Harriet Klausner

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Clunky Convoluted "Golden Age" Swiss Mystery Fails to Compel

By A. Ross

Originally published in 1937, this fifth and final "Sergeant Studer" novel (following *Thumbprint*, *Fever*, *In Matto's Realm* and *The Chinaman*), finds the grumpy Swiss ex-detective in Schwarzenstein, presiding over the wedding of his daughter to a nice but somewhat cautious junior policeman. Alas, as is so often the case in mysteries from the "classic" era, a murder takes place on the grounds of Studer's hotel (which happens to be owned by his long-ago sweetheart) just as he happens to be there. This compels him to send the wife and newly-married daughter home while he and the new son-in-law poke their noses into the matter. The initial clues point to an obvious suspect, but the wily Studer can't be fooled by flimsy circumstantial evidence, and starts investigating. Over the course of the next few days, several other guests arrive at the hotel, and another corpse is produced. Like the others in the Studer series, it's all rather old-fashioned, complete with concealed doors, skulking around at night and a grand finale gathering all the players into a room to unmask the true criminal. And as in the other books, the ins and outs of the case get rather complicated, not to mention tangled up in historical events unlikely to be familiar to most readers. Finally, as in the other books, much is made of the use of formal vs. informal German vs. dialect in various encounters, but these shifts have to be directly explained in the text, which is pretty clunky. On the whole, the story isn't particularly engaging, and is of limited appeal. Those who've read the other Studer novels, or have some particular interest in Swiss crime novels, or in "golden age" crime novels in general may find it engaging, but others probably not.

Praise for Friedrich Glauser's other Sergeant Studer novels: "Fever is a deviously plotted procedural. Not many can outdo Friedrich Glauser."—The New York Times "This gem contains echoes of Dürrenmatt, Fritz Lang's film *M* and Thomas Mann's *The Magic Mountain*. Both a compelling mystery and an illuminating finely wrought mainstream novel, *Matto's Realm* will make it clear to American readers why the German language prize for detective fiction is named after Glauser."—Publishers Weekly "Thumbprint is a fine example of the craft of detective writing in a period which fans will regard as the golden age of crime fiction."—The Sunday Telegraph

This is the fifth, and last, novel in the much-acclaimed Sergeant Studer series. Why must the festive dinner in the Hirschen Inn be interrupted? A murder puts an end to the wedding celebration of Studer's daughter. A man is found with a sharpened bicycle spoke embedded in his back, and a suspect is quickly arrested—a bit too quickly, thinks Studer. Property speculation, usury, and betrayed love find their way into this tightly written mystery novel that calls on Studer's intuitive, often absurd, yet efficient police methods. *The Spoke*, a European crime classic, was first published in 1937. It has been translated into six languages. This is its first publication in English. Friedrich Glauser is a legendary figure in European crime writing. He was a morphine and opium addict much of his life and began writing crime novels while he was an inmate at the Swiss insane asylum Waldau.

From Publishers Weekly

Originally published in 1937, the fifth and final Det. Sgt. Jakob Studer mystery (after *The Chinaman*) offers just enough eccentricity to support the author's reputation as the Swiss Simenon. The Bern policeman and his wife are on holiday in the town of Schwarzenstein, where their daughter is getting married, when a man, Jean Stieger, is found dead in the Hôtel zum Hirschen, stabbed with a sharpened bicycle spoke. The local police take the obvious suspect, bicycle mechanic Ernst Graf, into custody. Studer, however, isn't convinced they have their man. Then Stieger's financier boss is poisoned to death. As Studer investigates, using his own peculiar method of ratiocination, he discovers any number of suspects in what is essentially a variant on the classic locked-room murder puzzle. If the forensic methods the detective employs appear quaint to the contemporary reader, that's half the fun. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist

In Sergeant Studer's droll fifth outing, which served as the series' swan song and sees its first English translation here, the Swiss police detective takes his matter-of-fact mastery of human nature and logical deduction to curmudgeonly new heights. When the waitress at the country inn where his daughter has just been married—and where a man murdered via sharpened bicycle spoke has lately turned up—brings pre-filled drinks to the table rather than pouring

them in his sight, the suspicious Studer surreptitiously swaps his glass with a tablemate and then counts his blessings when the man keels over, poisoned. Probably had it coming, the sergeant surmises, and Studer's ardent followers won't doubt him for more than a few seconds. As the mystery plays out like a Thin Man romp full of frame jobs and double crosses, one might be excused for wishing Glauser had set Studer on his usual darker path, but then even a hard-driving, Brissago-chomping detective deserves a break once in a while. --Frank Sennett Praise for Glauser's other Sergeant Studer novels: "Glauser was among the best European crime writers of the inter-war years. The detail, place and sinister characters are so intelligently sculpted that the sense of foreboding is palpable." Glasgow Herald "Fever is a deviously plotted procedural. Not many can outdo Friedrich Glauser..." New York Times "Thumbprint is a fine example of the craft of detective writing in a period which fans will regard as the golden age of crime fiction." Sunday Telegraph "A despairing plot about the reality of madness and life, leavened at regular intervals with strong doses of bittersweet irony. The idiosyncratic investigation of In Matto's Realm and its laconic detective have not aged one iota." Guardian