

Murder at Plimoth Plantation – Press Release

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LIVING HISTORY TURNS DEADLY IN AUTHOR'S DEBUT MYSTERY

In Leslie Wheeler's new mystery, *MURDER AT PLIMOTH PLANTATION*, protagonist Miranda Lewis is supposed to be keeping an eye on her niece while the young woman portrays a Pilgrim maid at the early seventeenth-century village, recreated in Plymouth, Massachusetts. But the beheading of the interpreter who plays Myles Standish the week before Thanksgiving forces this writer and armchair historian to transform herself into an amateur sleuth.

"The idea for this book came from a trip I made to Plimoth Plantation with visiting relatives several years ago," says author Wheeler. "It was a very hot June day and my eight-year-old niece whined the whole way up the path to the Pilgrim village, but once she went inside a house and a Pilgrim woman spoke to her, she stopped complaining and listened attentively. This experience gave me the "what if" of the story: what if my niece had so fallen in love with Plimoth Plantation that years later she returns as an interpreter, and what if while she's there, a murder occurs?"

Wheeler, a *Mayflower* descendant, has written extensively about American history. *LOVING WARRIORS* (Dial Press, 1981), her biography of Lucy Stone and Henry Blackwell, won the English-Speaking Union's Ambassador of Honor Award. She has written three other biographies and co-authored *WOMEN IN THE U.S. WORK FORCE* (Globe, 1994), and the widely used American history textbook, *AMERICA: THE PEOPLE AND THE DREAM* (Scott, Foresman, 1990). A member of Sisters in Crime and Mystery Writers of America, Wheeler lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts with her family.

Here's what reviewers have said about *MURDER AT PLIMOTH PLANTATION*:

"Mayflower descendant Wheeler is in her element in this fictional brew of history and mystery."
The Boston Herald (Editor's Choice)

". . . the sense of place and the portrayal of the interpreters are as engaging as the mystery itself."
The Boston Globe

"The plot moves along smartly with some good twists and turns and a satisfying ending. . . . The bits of information and quotes from the writings of original settlers added a nice historical flavor throughout." *The Berkshire Eagle*