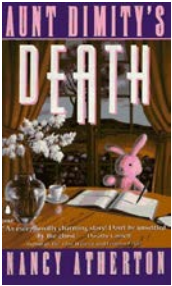
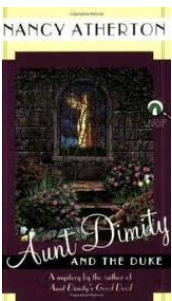


# The Aunt Dimity series by Nancy Atherton



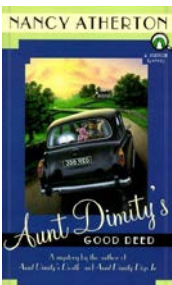
## **Aunt Dimity's Death** [1992]

Lori thought Aunt Dimity was just a character in a family bedtime story until a law firm summoned her to a reading of her relative's last will and testament. Lori will inherit a sizeable estate--if she can discover the secret hidden in a treasure trove of letters tucked away at Dimity's English country cottage.



## **Aunt Dimity and the Duke** [1994]

A compelling prequel to Aunt Dimity's Death. When avid gardener Emma Porter's longtime lover dumps her, she sets out on a summer-long driving tour of England's glorious gardens. A Dimity-contrived coincidence brings Emma to Penford Hall, where dark rumors and suspicious circumstances lead her on the path to mystery--and unexpected love.



## **Aunt Dimity's Good Deed** [1996]

Thanks to Aunt Dimity, Lori Shepherd was lucky enough to have had a fairy-tale courtship complete with a Handsome Prince and a cozy, honey-colored castle in which he popped the question. It all happened so quickly, so effortlessly, that Lori fell in love with her blue-blooded prince before she really knew who he was. And maybe that's where she made her first mistake. Now married for two years to said prince - Bill Willis, a workaholic lawyer who is, she admits, "honest and scrupulously considerate about his socks" - Lori finds herself inconsolably depressed. She loves Bill dearly but all he does is work, work, work - even their honeymoon was interrupted by a flurry of faxes. And to make her feel even worse, her busybody aunts-in-law keep badgering her about when they will have a new little Willis! But how will that ever happen if she never even sees her husband? Seeking to recapture the romance in her young marriage, Lori plans a second honeymoon at

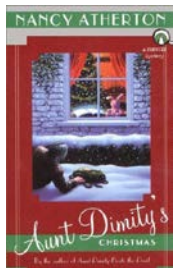
Aunt Dimity's English cottage. But at the last minute, Bill, true to form, can't make it, so Lori's reliable as-the-sunrise father-in-law stands in (how romantic!) - only to disappear minutes after their arrival, with Lori's pink flannel bunny, Reginald, in tow. Inspired by Aunt Dimity and accompanied by her very precocious twelve-year-old friend Nell, Lori packs the car and sets off on a backroads search for Willis, Sr. Nell proves herself a helpful guide (keeping Lori on the right side of the road!) as well as a mistress of disguise, while Lori finds herself aghast at her own unseemly attraction to Bill's dashing English cousin, Gerald. Soon Lori, Nell, and the ghostly Aunt Dimity find themselves at the center of a centuries-old Willis family scandal that, if revealed, could mean the end of life as they know it, for Willises on both sides of the Atlantic.



## **Aunt Dimity Digs In** [1998]

At home in the ghostly Aunt Dimity's idyllic English cottage, Lori Shepherd is up to her elbows in pureed avocados and formula bottles as she strives to be the perfect mother to her three-month-old twins! Aunt Dimity restores order - and Lori's sanity - by sending the beautiful and mysterious Francesca Sciaparelli to lend a hand with the boys. The nanny is a treasure, but Lori's newfound freedom proves to be a mixed blessing. No sooner does she step outside the cottage for a breath of diaper-free air than she finds herself smack in the middle of a civil war brewing in the nearby village of Finch. Finch has been torn asunder by the pressing question: Who shall occupy the church schoolhouse? Peggy Kitchen - unofficial empress of Finch - desperately needs the schoolhouse for her long-awaited Harvest Festival. When she learns that the precious building has been given over to visiting archaeologist Adrian Culver for his dig's picks, spades, and shovels, she embarks on a campaign to oust Adrian and his khaki-clad cohorts. Peggy's campaign is passionately countered by those Finch residents who are convinced that Adrian's dig will finally put Finch on the map. The two sides are about to come to blows

when Lori learns of the existence of a missing Victorian pamphlet that could prove the archaeological site is a fake - and would surely cause an abrupt end to the entire project, and the local civil war. As Lori hunts for the missing pamphlet, and the thief, she unearths secrets long buried in Finch's past - secrets that divide the village and threaten to destroy the delicate romance now blossoming between her nanny extraordinaire and Adrian Culver.



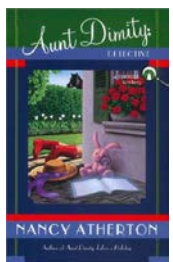
### **Aunt Dimity's Christmas** [1999]

Lori Shepherd can hardly wait to celebrate Christmas this year with her husband, Bill and twin sons in the beautiful cottage willed to her by Aunt Dimity. Then Lori makes a disturbing discovery beneath the cottage's snow-covered lilac bushes—the body of a mysterious stranger, barely alive. Lori must put her plans on hold to team up with Julian Bright—a devilishly attractive Roman Catholic priest—to seek out the tramp's identity. Their adventure takes Lori and Julian from abandoned World War II airfields to homeless shelters—places where the Christmas star shines dimly, if at all. Finally, Lori unveils the tragic secret that led the stranger to her door, and must confront painful truths about herself and the true meaning of a perfect family Christmas.



### **Aunt Dimity Beats the Devil** [2000]

With rain crashing down on her Range Rover, as it climbs up a steep embankment on the Northumberland moors, Lori Shepherd is beginning to doubt the wisdom of her decision to evaluate a rare book collection at Wyrdhurst Hall. The grim, neo-gothic hall that greets her upon arrival is full of surprises—including a charming, secretive stranger, and a cache of World War I letters that tell a tale of doomed love and hint at a hidden treasure. It will take all of Dimity's supernatural skills to help Lori solve the puzzle and restore peace to a family haunted by its tragic past.



### **Aunt Dimity Detective** [2001]

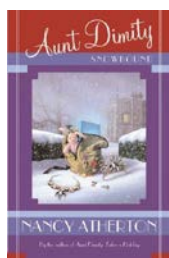
Nobody in the little town of Finch was really surprised when Prunella "Pruneface" Hooper came to a nasty end—but murder? There hadn't been a murder in Finch

since 1872 when one shepherd bashed another with the hook of his crook. Despite her hectic home schedule with her three-year-old twins, Lori agrees to investigate. But narrowing the list of suspects is a major challenge: the newly arrived Pruneface had quickly become privy to everyone's secrets—and used her secret knowledge to plant rumors, nurture backbiting, resurrect feuds, and season it all with downright lies. Almost everyone had a reason to want her dead. Fortunately, Aunt Dimity's supernatural skills—and her insight into uncovering the true goodness of human nature—make the experience of unraveling the mystery "as cozy as a warm fire on a winter's night" (*The Denver Post*).



### **Aunt Dimity Takes a Holiday** [2003]

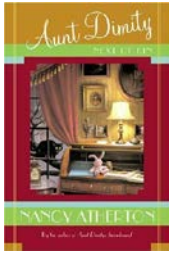
When Lori Shepherd's husband, Bill, is summoned to a will reading at the Earl of Harrisford's resplendent Palladian home, Lori herself thinks she is just along for the ride. But this gathering of the entire Harrisford clan, all of them affected by the earl's new will, devolves into a dangerous family dispute. Burning topiaries, threatening notes, suspicious maids, and family intrigue lead Lori to seek her phantom aunt's help in identifying the culprit before he or she can torch the whole house and its guests within. Atherton's signature whimsy and splendidly original twists make for yet one more delicious adventure with cozy mystery lovers' favorite supernatural sleuth.



### **Aunt Dimity Snowbound** [2004]

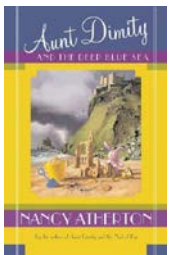
Nancy Atherton's delightful *Aunt Dimity* series continues to capture mystery fans across America with each new installment. This newest one finds Lori Shepherd overtaken by the blizzard of the century. Fortunately, she's soon safe and dry with two other stranded backpackers in Ladythorne Abbey, the fabulous home of the late Lucasta DeClerke. Or is she? In the abbey's cloisters and passages there still lingers the haunting presence of Lucasta, a mysterious madwoman—not to mention the danger posed by an unstable caretaker. When Lori thinks she's learned of a plot to steal a priceless DeClerke family heirloom, she attempts to prevent the theft and, moreover, keep herself out of harm's way. But as Aunt Dimity says, "Old sins cast long shadows." And Lori will need all the Dimity wisdom and

compassion she can get to banish the hatred and guilt that shroud Ladythorne Abbey in a blanket considerably thicker than the accumulating snow.



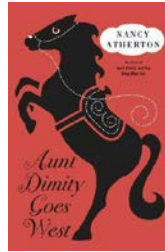
### **Aunt Dimity and the Next of Kin** [2005]

Lori Shepherd, feeling a touch world-weary, decides to become a volunteer at the Radcliffe Infirmary, where she can spread a little good cheer in the community. There she meets Elizabeth Beacham, a kind, retired legal secretary with no family except a brother who has mysteriously disappeared. Lori is saddened when Miss Beacham passes away suddenly after only a few visits. But when she receives an envelope containing a set of keys and a letter Miss Beacham wrote to her just a few days before her death, it becomes clear that there was much more to the gentle invalid than met the eye. Notices start arriving around the village of the large bequests made before her death. And Lori finds that Miss Beacham's flat is filled with priceless antiques; an inheritance too precious to remain unclaimed. Armed with a few clues and Aunt Dimity's help, Lori begins to unearth Miss Beacham's secrets and, ultimately, the surprising truth about her next-of-kin. In this page-turning installment, Aunt Dimity reaches beyond the grave to help another kindly spirit finally rest in peace.



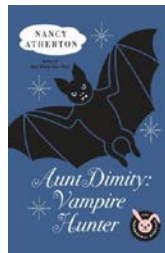
### **Aunt Dimity and the Deep Blue Sea** [2006]

Lori Shepherd is no stranger to trouble and intrigue. But when Bill, her high-profile attorney husband, receives a number of chilling death threats aimed at his family, danger hits close to home. With Scotland Yard on the case, Bill decides to send Lori and their five-year-old twins to the safety of a remote island off the coast of Scotland. There, another mystery begins to unfold-- Lori suspects that the locals on the island are making a fortune running an illegal smuggling operation. What else could explain their luxurious lifestyles? But after finding a human skull washed up on the beach, Lori fears something even more sinister is going on. With Aunt Dimity's help, Lori begins to piece together the clues, unaware of the growing danger on the island. Will the murderous threats against her family finally catch up with her?



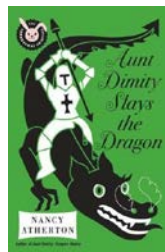
### **Aunt Dimity Goes West** [2007]

Lori Sheppard barely survived her last adventure in Scotland before she's off on her next. This time in the mountain town of Bluebird, Colorado. No sooner than she's arrived do things start to go amiss. Someone has mysteriously disappeared, a charming and charismatic man seems to know more than he's letting on, and the whole town is hiding a dark secret. With Aunt Dimity's help, Lori sets out to solve a hundred-year-old mystery and discovers in the process that sometimes the strangest places can seem the most like home.



### **Aunt Dimity, Vampire Hunter** [2008]

Lori Shepherd's life in England couldn't be more tranquil or more satisfying-- except for one thing. Her five-year-old twins have started school, and Lori fears they'll catch everything from the flu to fleas. What they do come home with, however, is worse: a report of a pale, cloaked figure with bloodstained lips lurking in the woods. Lori is skeptical at first but soon grows concerned enough to consult with her late (but not entirely departed) Aunt Dimity and her dear friend Kit Smith. The vampire-hunting trail leads to Leo, a charismatic vagabond who just returned to England after a self-imposed exile, a bitter old crone named Lizzie Black, and finally to Aldercot Hall, where a mysterious murder took place forty years ago. With Kit and Aunt Dimity's help, Lori uncovers the secret that will shock everyone--including herself--about the true identity of the twins' vampire.



### **Aunt Dimity Slays the Dragon** [2009]

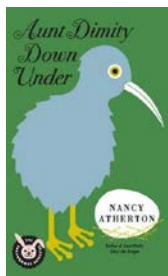
Lori Shepherd loves living in the small English village of Finch, but as her eighth summer in the town approaches she finds herself wishing for something exciting to spice up her all-too-familiar routine. When King Wilfred's Faire opens nearby, Lori gets her wish and more. The age of chivalry lives again at the Renaissance fair. Wizards, wenches, magicians, and minstrels cajole the fairgoers while lords quaff, jesters joke, and knights battle in the joust arena. But Lori discovers that it's not all pageantry and play. A sinister figure is stalking the angel-voiced madrigal singer. A



jealous rival has sabotaged the Dragon Knight's weapons. And an evil assassin is trying to murder Good King Wilfred. With Aunt Dimity's otherworldly guidance, Lori races to save her dear village and risks her neck to keep the medieval revelry from ending in tragedy.

This booklist compiled for the  
Just Desserts  
mystery fiction discussion group

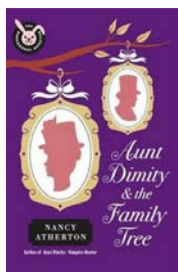
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### **Aunt Dimity Down Under [2010]**

A shock wave rocks Lori Shepherd's world when she hears that her beloved neighbors, Ruth and Louise Pym, may be dying. Bracing herself for a final farewell, Lori instead receives a request from the eccentric sisters: Find their long-lost brother before it's too late. Aubrey Pym is a wicked scoundrel who was banished from his family long ago; and much to Lori's surprise, she must travel all the way to New Zealand to find him. In granting her dear friends' dying wish, Lori sets out on a journey full of surprises. And with the help of a charming Kiwi and the otherworldly guidance of Aunt Dimity, Lori goes Down Under to search for the mysterious Aubrey, unraveling a web of secrets that has haunted the Pym family for generations.

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### **Aunt Dimity and the Family Tree [2011]**

Her debonair father-in-law has moved to town and is renovating Fairworth House, a grand estate nearby. William Sr. expects a quiet, small-town life, but among the spinsters vying for his attention, shifty servants, and the discovery of a mysterious painting of a family tree in Fairworth's attic, he discovers that life in Finch is anything but quiet. On top of it all, Lori and William are embroiled in a case of deception and false identity by one of Finch's own. It's nothing the plucky Lori can't handle, but once things get truly peculiar at Fairworth-moving furniture, strange sounds, and mysterious visitors-she calls on Aunt Dimity for her otherworldly guidance and uncovers the shadowy past beneath the estate's magnificent surface.

### **Aunt Dimity and the Village Witch [2012]**

Due in 2012...