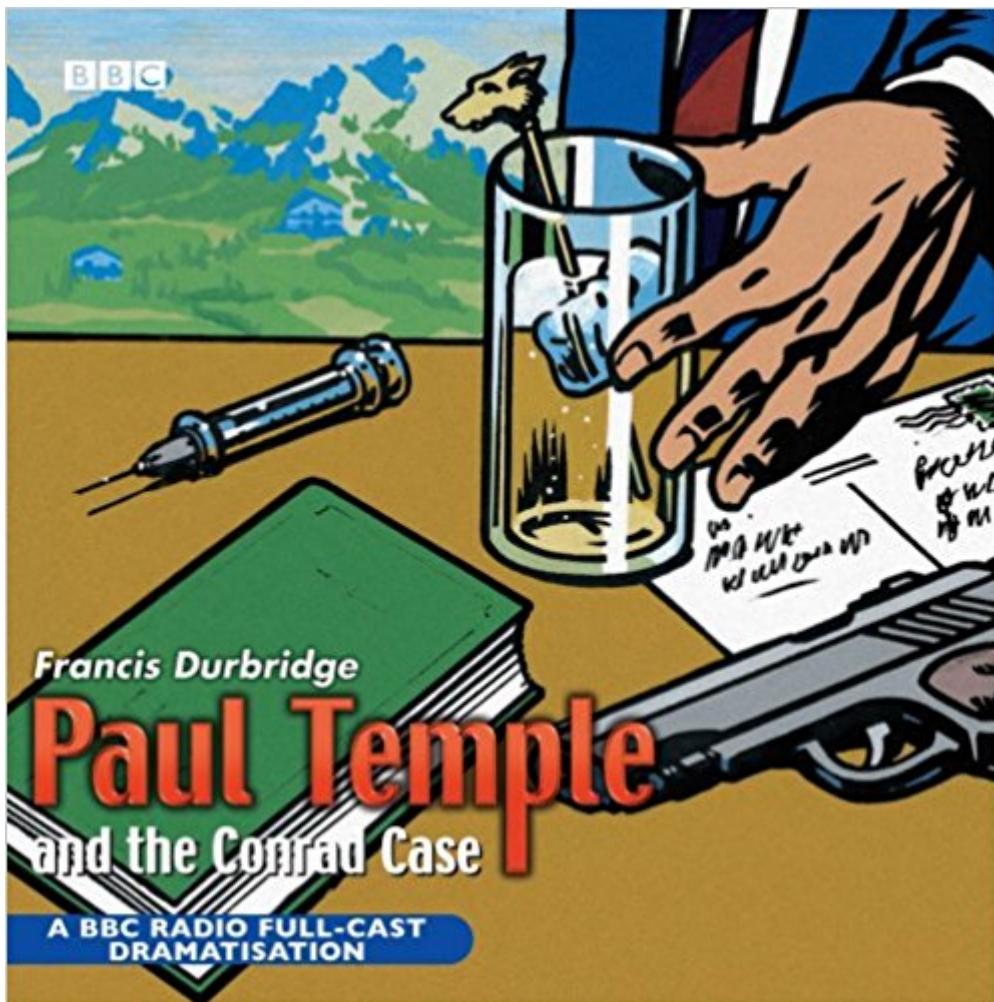


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Paul Temple And The Conrad Case



Synopsis

From 1938 to 1969, crime novelist and detective Paul Temple, together with his Fleet Street journalist wife Steve, solved case after case in one of BBC radio's most popular serials. They inhabited a sophisticated, well-dressed world of chilled cocktails and fast cars, where the women were chic and the men wore cravats. A world where Sir Graham Forbes of Scotland Yard usually needed Paul's help with his latest tricky case. The case this time involves Dr. Conrad's daughter Betty, who has disappeared from her finishing school in Bavaria. Paul is invited by the police to go over there to help trace the missing girl. Initially, though, even he is baffled, since the only clue to the mystery is an unusual cocktail stick found in her bedroom. Can Paul work it out? This edition also includes a bonus interview with Francis Durbridge. 4 CDs. 3 hrs 45 mins.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Francis Durbridge was born in Hull on 25 November 1912. He was educated in Bradford and went on to Birmingham University. It was while he was there that his radio play, *Persuasion*, was written and broadcast. After leaving university he worked for a short time in a stockbroker's office before realising that the only career he was really interested in was writing. For some time he toyed with the idea of creating a detective who was also a crime novelist, but was unable to finalise the character to his satisfaction until 1938. The end result, Paul Temple, inhabited a world of luxurious sports cars, Knightsbridge flats and chic women - a bygone age of elegance and manners.

Durbridge had his first detective novel published at the age of twenty-two and went on to write three

dozen more. Paul Temple made his first radio appearance on 8 April 1938 on the BBC's Midland Region. *Send for Paul Temple* was a huge success: within a week of the serial's final instalment the BBC received 7000 letters demanding more. A second adventure, *Paul Temple and the Front Page Men*, was broadcast in November and December 1938 and was even more popular than the first. The theme tune for the series was Vivian Ellis' *Coronation Scot*, which became instantly recognisable to the millions of Temple listeners. In all, twenty-one series of *Paul Temple* were broadcast over a period of thirty years. During the 1950s and '60s Durbridge transferred his skills to television; *Portrait of Alison*, *Melissa* and *The Scarf* are just a few of the serials that gripped the nation during those years. They all adhered to the writer's golden formula: 'Everybody is lying, nothing is as it seems.' His appeal was widespread: in Germany in particular a new Durbridge television thriller was apparently enough to clear the cinemas. In 1967 the European Broadcasting Union commissioned him to create a radio serial for the international market. The result, *La Boutique*, made for riveting listening. Durbridge was an extremely entertaining writer and the clever twists and turns of his plots were guaranteed to keep audiences tuning in week after week. He also wrote nine plays for the theatre: *Suddenly at Home*, *The Gentle Hook*, *House Guest* and *A Touch of Danger* all ran successfully in the West End. He married Norah Lawley in 1940 and had two sons. Francis Durbridge died in London on 10 April 1998.

This serialized case from the long-running BBC radio series featuring detective/fictionalist Paul Temple (Peter Coke) and his journalist wife, Steve (Marjorie Westbury), takes our heroes to Germany and embroils them in espionage, blackmail, and, of course, the obligatory murders. The only clue is an unusual swizzle stick. As usual, the urbane Temples investigate upper-crust suspects, impersonated by "the Beeb's" capable resident ensemble. The very British high-society world of the Temples makes for an attractive, amiable, and unchallenging listen. One never doubts that they will skirt all dangers and solve the crime. Interest lies in the puzzle they unravel and the milieu of cocktails and evening dress so ably evoked by the writer and actors with only minimal help from the serviceable sound effects and music. Y.R. © AudioFile 2008, Portland, Maine--
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Brings back the days when an exciting evening was sitting round the old wireless and listening to Paul Temple and *Journey into Space*.

This is the case of the missing girl enrolled at a "finishing school" in Bavaria. Thanks to Francis

Durbridge's tight plotting and the magic of BBC radio, after the disappearance has been explained to Paul Temple and his wife Steve, within 5 minutes we are sharing cocktails with them on the terrace of a country hotel, then 5 minutes later we are with them when they stumble on a body in a deserted house, and after another 5 minutes we have flown with them to Munich and are approaching the prestigious "finishing school" in a hired car. The pace is even hotter when they return to London six episodes later. Steve barely has time to utter, "Oh, Paul, I'm exhausted. I've never known such..." before the chase continues through hotels, nightclubs and cars with time bombs in them. A meticulous production and highly-skilled actors ensure that this piece of 1950s escapism can still entertain and enthrall. It can bewilder, too. After repeated hearings I still cannot always understand who caused what to happen where. Is that the way of good mysteries?

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