



## **Colin Dexter**

(1930 – 2017)

Diamond Dagger Award, 1997

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Chief Inspector Morse, an inspector in Oxford, England:

Last Bus to Woodstock (1975)

*Finalist 1975 New Blood Dagger Award*

The Wench Is Dead (1989)

*1989 Gold Dagger Award*

Last Seen Wearing (1976)

The Jewel That Was Ours (1991)

The Silent World of Nicholas Quinn  
(1977)

The Way Through the Woods (1992)  
*1992 Gold Dagger Award*

Service of All the Dead (1979)  
*1979 Silver Dagger Award*

Morse's Greatest Mystery and Other  
Stories (1993, rev'd 1995) [SS]

The Dead of Jericho (1981)  
*1981 Silver Dagger Award*

The Daughters of Cain (1994)

The Riddle of the Third Mile (1983)  
*Finalist 1983 Gold Dagger Award*

Death Is Now My Neighbor (1996)  
*Finalist 1996 Gold Dagger Award*

The Secret of Annexe 3 (1986)  
*Finalist 1986 Gold Dagger Award*

The Remorseful Day (1999)

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## **Colin Dexter (1930 – 2017)**

- Born in Stamford, Lincolnshire as Norman Colin Dexter
- B.A. (1953) and M.A. (1958) in classics, Cambridge University
- Happily married since 1956, 2 children
- Taught classics at several British schools until he became deaf
- Assistant secretary of the Oxford University Local Examining Board, 1966 – 87
- Lived in Oxford since 1966; became a fulltime writer in 1987
- Won several crossword puzzle championships
- Constructed crossword puzzles himself
- On vacation in Wales in 1972, he read 2 crime novels and decided he could do better
- *Last Bus to Woodstock* (1975) introduced Morse and Lewis
- TV show: *Morse* 1987 – 2000 (Dexter himself appeared as a cameo in 33 of the 64 episodes)
- Spinoffs: *Lewis* and *Endeavor* (just concluded 2023)

### **Things to think about:**

#### **Plot**

- 1) This story had many twists and turns! Did you guess the solution to the mystery? Or any part of it?
- 2) Were there clues? Were there red herrings? Did Dexter “play fair”?

#### **Setting**

How does the Oxford setting affect the story?

#### **Style**

- 1) Are parts of the book humorous?
- 2) Dexter loves words. How many words did you have to look up?
- 3) There were multiple points of view (POV) – how did that affect the story?

#### **Characters**

- 1) Morse and Lewis are different in many ways, yet they have an effective working relationship. How do they do it?
- 2) What other characters stood out for you?