THE AWDREY-GORE LEGACY

EDWARD GOREY
On last St Spasmus's day Miss D. Awdrey-Gore was found dead at the age of 97. Just before dawn a nameless poacher came upon her body in a disused fountain on the estate of Lord Eavelfly; she was seated bolt upright on a gilt ballroom chair, one of a set of seventeen then on display at Suthick & Upter's Auction Rooms in Market Footling; her left hand clutched a painted tin lily of cottage manufacture, inside which was rolled up a Cad's Relish label of a design superseded in 1947; something illegible was pencilled on the back. That she had been murdered was obvious, though as yet the cause of death has not been determined.
To catch and keep the public’s gaze
One must have lots of little ways.

Waredo Pyrge
Half Irish, half Japanese
Has been soldier of fortune and progressive
victim of explosions all over the world.
Now England’s most sought-after private detective
Has possibly world’s most valuable collection
of artificial hands, many of them given to
him by grateful clients
Will never take up a case on a Tuesday
What the murderer failed to realize is that
there is no Number
Fourteen, Bandage
Terrace

What the murderer failed to realize is that
yellow stitchbare
is not yellow at all,
but a pale mouse.

What the murderer failed to realize is that
the Great Northwest
Road does not go
beyond Little Romers.

What the murderer failed to realize is that
Zumbetch's salads
are not steeped in
lemonade.

What the murderer failed to realize is that
at high tide the everest
of Saint-Lucia Rocks
is completely submerged.
Miss D. Awdrey-Gore, renowned 97-year-old writer of detective stories, is found murdered; then a mysterious hidden packet is discovered. Addressed to her publisher, it contains what appear to be notes and drawings related to a literary work in progress. The contents “in their entirety—though certain things are patently missing”—comprise clues about the who, what, when, where, and how of Awdrey-Gore’s death. Or do they? The enigmatic Edward Gorey takes us on a rollicking ride in this merry murder mystery, but whether or not the killer is revealed is open to speculation. As one scrap of paper in the packet states, “The smallest clue may be (or not) / The one to give away the plot.”

Like his fictional dame detective, Gorey (1925–2000) was a prolific author. Creator of more than one hundred works, he was also an artist, playwright, award-winning set and costume designer, and creator of the animated introduction to the PBS series Mystery! First published in 1972, The Awdrey-Gore Legacy remains one of Gorey’s most treasured tales, satisfying the sleuth in each of us.

Mr. Gorey dedicated this book to Agatha Christie.