**Synopsis: ‘It's the Details that Count!’**

Set in the aftermath of WWII in the 1950s, the novel written for teenagers/adults, ‘It's the Details that Count', explores the realities of high-functioning Asperger's Syndrome (AS) in girls, showing a positive side: the attention to detail, in assisting with solving the crime. Martha, (16) and her younger sister Nora, (14) who both have AS, stumble upon the missing man Max Shaddoe's body, and set about investigating the murder in parallel to the police. The Detectives' reluctant admission of their usefulness ensures the girls’ very personal involvement in the investigations. Martha, now more aware of the “normal” neurotypical behaviour, is constantly explaining and curbing her younger sister's remarks caused by her AS. Their well-intentioned obsessive preoccupation in solving the mystery exacerbates the tension between themselves and the Detectives, D-Superintendent Oakes and D-Sergeant Pickering.

The victim's sister, Ruth's, arrival from Spain is the catalyst for the crimes that follow; a second death complicates matters, adding to the plethora of possibilities, likely and unlikely, explored through the autistic mind-set.

The confusion of assumed identities and a footprint mix-up add to the bewildering complexities of the case.

Oakes' gentle, non-judgemental acceptance of their AS, stands in sharp contrast to the local police's undisguised antipathy. Similarly, the serious intensity with which the girls tackle their investigations has an amusing foil in the unwitting buffoonery of the junior Detective, Pickering. These contrasts, typical of the black and white rigidity of the AS are highlighted by the bizarre incongruity drawn of the gruesome events in the beautiful environment.

The psychological repercussions of WW2, and the rationality of potential motives are meticulously chronicled in detail as events unfold, culminating in an unexpected and exciting climax, as the murderer eventually shows himself, finishing with his timely suicide.