



Agatha Raisin and the Wellspring of Death

M.C. Beaton

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Agatha Raisin, the crusty, yet perversely self-conscious Londoner who has resettled in the ostensible calm of a Cotswold village stars in her seventh adventure by M.C. Beaton.

In this episode, Agatha has agreed to come out of retirement to manage the publicity for the launch of water bottled from a village spring - much to the chagrin of some of her neighbors. Worried that the commodification of at least part of the village's charm might wreak havoc on their peaceful existence, some of the community try to stop it once and for all.

Still, killing off a member of the village council and leaving the corpse in the spring itself seems a little extreme, especially as it makes Agatha's paying job a bit more difficult.

Believing that a dead body might destroy the chances for a successful campaign to market her product, Agatha begins an investigation into who might have wanted the victim dead.

Agatha Raisin continues to be an engaging and slightly puzzling heroine in 'The Wellspring of Death'. She careens around the Cotswolds asking impertinent questions regarding the personal lives of her neighbors, all the while wondering why so many of them are unpleasant to her. She manages to muddle her own romantic affairs to such an extent that she finds herself in bed with her young and handsome employer - to the dismay of her former fiancée.

Yet, in spite of all this, she engages in the occasional humorous assessment of what life among charming façades and lovely vistas is really like (crowded shopping in too small stores) and has a peculiarly British obsession with class and accent. There is much to appreciate here and little that is daunting or dismal. - K.A. Crouch

Agatha Raisin and the Wellspring of Death Details

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From Reader Review Agatha Raisin and the Wellspring of Death for online ebook

Carol says

I enjoy her books, but have a hard time rating them 4 stars. Why I keep reading them I am not sure. Maybe it is because Agatha is so spunky.

Agatha is still moody over the way JAMES is treating her. Yet another mystery occurs. This time a local is killed over water.

Kristen says

Clearly, I am not the target audience for this book. It must *have* one, because there's a whole series of books about this Raisin woman, but it isn't me.

Which is a pity, because I would like to find a new English mystery series to read.

Now, this book *is* an improvement over certain other books I've reviewed recently, in that it has a discernible plot and is reasonably well-written. What it does not have is a main character I consider engaging. There's a pull quote on the cover that describes Agatha Raisin as "a glorious cross between Miss Marple and Lucille Ball, with a tad of pit bull tossed in."

Wild exaggeration, that.

Really, Agatha Raisin is a short-tempered semi-retired publicist who somehow overlooked the fact that she was still married when she tried to marry the guy next door to her new country cottage. She spends a lot of time worrying about that relationship, and also about the effects of aging. I'd have more sympathy with the latter, I'm sure, if I had ever spent a lot of time and effort on dolling myself up for display back when I *wasn't* staring middle age in the face and going, "So?"

Ahem. There was also a mystery in there. She talks to a bunch of people, investigating it, most of whom are very or extremely rude. In the end, though, the mystery is solved by police analysis of some cat hair and coincidence. Boring, really, even though the nice wife of the parson wound up having to shoot the murderer.

So, nothing to see here, folks. Move along.

Damaskcat says

In the nearby village of Ancombe there is a spring which runs through a garden and then into a drinking fountain. When a company wants to bottle and sell the water the parish council members are divided about whether this is a good thing or a bad thing. Agatha Raisin is asked to do the PR for the company as she lives locally. When a member of the parish council is found dead in the spring things threaten to go pear shaped.

Naturally Agatha feels the need to get involved in the investigation into the murder and wonders whether this will be an opportunity for her to get on better terms again with her neighbour James Lacey. This is an amusing mystery with Agatha bumbling around in her usual fashion and uncovering things which may be relevant without realising their significance.

All the favourite series characters are here – Bill Wong whose love life is continually sabotaged by his parents; former colleague and friend, Roy Silver; the imperturbable and compassionate vicar's wife, Mrs Bloxby and the other villagers of Carsley. I found this entertaining and relaxing listening and Penelope Keith really does bring this audio book to life. It is her voice I hear when I read the books having listened to several of the audio books. The sound quality is excellent and this is light and easy listening.

This review relates to the Audiogo recording of the unabridged book read by Penelope Keith. The book is just as good in paper or e-book format!

Cyndi says

If you think that Agatha is Miss Marple, umm, not so much. She is brash and very cool while she battles middle age.

Rachele says

Come sempre i libri sull'investigatrice un po anomala Agatha Raisin non deludono mai!!la storia è avvincente e ti coinvolge fino alle ultime pagine. Ritroviamo i personaggi di sempre più alcune new entry davvero spassose!non vedo l'ora di leggere la prossima avventura

RebeccaS says

Another confusing murder in a small village. This time it's not Agatha's town, but a neighboring one. This book is full of the grumpy and hostile suspects that don't appreciate Agatha snooping around. Though it seems like everything Agatha tries to do turns out worse than expected, in the end she has some success. I hope she stops working for Roy's company and takes a holiday or something. She is in another tiff with James and who knows if that will ever get solved; they are never on the same page. Mrs Bloxby is the star and I wish I knew someone as smart and kind and nosy as her. I was not that surprised by the murder culprit, because the obvious suspects seemed too....obvious?

Lese lust says

1,7

das ist so eine Art "guilty pleasure".... ich weiß von Anfang an, dass ich nicht viel zu erwarten habe, lese es trotzdem und ein kleines bisschen ärgere ich mich dann am Ende darüber. ..

Gerry says

Here she is again. Retired London PR executive Agatha who lives a quiet and secluded life (???) in a Cotswold village gets back into the business with a water company. And, surprise, surprise, a couple of murders take place under her very nose. Flirtatious, jealous, cigarette-smoking, outspoken she may be but her charm remains and her penchant for sniffing out a villain is still there! With the aid of a friendly detective, an ex-colleague and her ever-present, or as the case may be, absent, heartthrob she eventually solves the mystery in the nick of time. Will she and James ever get together? Maybe, only time, and possibly future volumes, will tell!

Emma says

I felt this was much more the Agatha Raisin I enjoy back in Carsley than the last outing on Cyprus. Agatha is back to her best, but this time is engaged by a water company that wants to take water from Ancombe Wellspring so seems more of a reluctant sleuth when the head of Ancombe council is found dead at the Wellspring. A return of Mrs Bloxby and Ray Silver also made this book more enjoyable.

Yvonne says

A new mineral water company invades Agatha Raisin's neighboring village of Ancombe and everyone is angry that it will tap into the village spring. When Agatha stumbles upon the murdered body of the council chairman, who hasn't yet cast his vote for the water company, she puts herself right into the middle of things. First, she accepts a PR job for the water company and then she starts asking questions. As usual, she sticks her nose where it doesn't belong making everyone angry.

Still mooning over her former fiance, James Lacey, she has an affair with a much younger man. James isn't quite as uninterested as he pretends to be. In fact, he decides to conduct his own investigation into the murder. It's almost a competition between James and Agatha as to who solves the crime first. Honestly, they both act like teenagers most of the time.

The mystery is another light-hearted one and it's easy to listen to. Once again, I'm more interested in the characters. I still can't believe Agatha is so smitten with James, but to each his or her own :) What's starting to get to me is that other characters are making such horrible remarks to Agatha about her age. You'd think she was in her 80's instead of in her mid-50's.

The other thing is that she is retired from her public relations job and that's why she moved to the Cotswolds in the first place. Yet, each book has her being talked back into another PR job. Seems to me like she should have kept ownership of her PR company and just work when she wanted to.

Anyway, yes I'm still listening to them. I can't seem to turn away so M.C. Beaton must be doing something right.

Tressa says

Wellspring of Death is a little thin on plot with the water company vs. environmentalism and landowners in a neighboring village. However, for me, it's all the things going on around feisty "get stuffed!" Agatha Raisin that I enjoy so much in this series.

Agatha's friend (with friends like Roy Silver, who needs enemies?) gets her to take on a PR case with his firm for a bottled water company. Unfortunately, there's a dead body in the spring leaking blood and brain fluid. Death sells, yes, but is this a little too much?

Loved all the shenanigans Agatha got up to in this one, but, like I said, the plot leaves a lot to be desired. Just isn't very interesting.

Gina says

I do love Agatha Raisin! It's odd that she is now venturing out of Carsley to other neighboring villages to solve mysteries. So far the Carsley crew are my favorite. The people in this village were a bunch of miserable turds. Fortunately some of them were funny and Agatha's misadventures are always just what the doctor ordered. James....sigh.....he really has to GO. My one and only beef about this series is Agatha's insistence that she needs a man, preferably that idiot, to be happy. Perhaps this attitude is more reflective of the time the books were written, or because they were written by an older, more traditional author, but COME ON. He's proven time and again that he's a cold fish, a thoughtless turd and a complete tool. Kick him to the curb, Aggie, and stop undervaluing yourself. Other than that, love these books.

Ali says

Not sure why but I didn't enjoy this 7th Agatha Raisin as much as the previous ones. I don't think it is as funny, and Agatha still seems a little sad and vulnerable - just as she was in the last book. She makes several disastrous romantic decisions, which I found frustrating. A light undemanding read, but it lacked something that the first few books had, not sure what that is though. as a character Agatha is brilliant though, and I will still be reading the rest - in time.

Catherine says

Arrived in the post, started straight away and finished before I did anything else, including ea. I'd arrived home tired and lazy so a nice cosy mystery with familiar characters was just what I needed in order to wind down. Agatha fitted the bill perfectly. I think I'm more or less up to date with her now: the stories are discrete enough not to suffer too badly from reading out of sequence, although I can see that they might be a

bit much read all in one go.

In this episode, Agatha is still at the raw and agonising stage over her broken relationship with James and this spurs her on, as ever, to some of her more foolish actions. That's the nice thing about her - she manages to retain your sympathy while not always being likeable.

Jolene says

I love cozies, but usually after book 5 or 6 in a series I get bored with it (really how many villagers can be killed off before everyone leaves?). That is not the case with the Agatha Raisin books. I love the characters, the village, and I haven't been able to guess the killer in any of the books. Every time I think I've figured it out there's a new twist. This title was a nice addition to the series. The only thing I didn't care for is how Agatha keeps letting Roy into her life. He is no friend I'd want to have.
