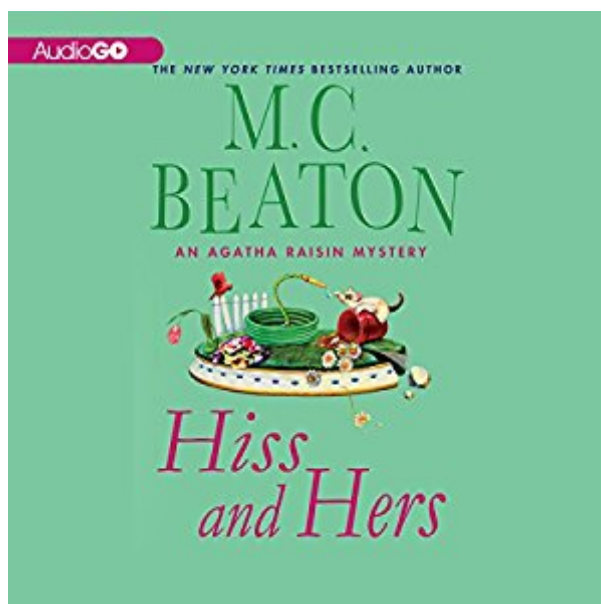


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Hiss And Hers: An Agatha Raisin Mystery, Book 23



Synopsis

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of everyone's favorite sleuth, M. C. Beaton's Agatha Raisin is as feisty as ever - armed with her famous wit and biting sense of humor. This time, though, there's some biting of a whole other sort going on. Agatha has fallen head over heels in love - again. This time, she has her eye on the local gardener, George Marston, but so do other women in their little Cotswold village. Shamelessly determined, Agatha will do anything to get her man - including footing the bill for a charity ball just for the chance to dance with him. And then George doesn't even show up. Only partly deterred, Agatha goes looking for him, and finds his dead body in a compost heap. Murder is definitely afoot, but this killer chose no ordinary weapon: A poisonous snake delivered the fatal strike. Rising to the occasion, Agatha rallies her little detective agency to find the killer, only to learn that George had quite a complicated love life. But murderously complicated? Well, if she can't have George, at least Agatha can have the satisfaction of confronting the other women and solving the crime.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I used to love the Agatha Raisin series, but the last few books have been less than stellar. I don't like the way the plot quickly moves from thing to another with really no lead up. The first part of this book had a tight plot and was centred around an English country summer. The atmosphere was wonderful, hot, dry with a storm finally coming to break the tension. But the tension of the book itself didn't follow the weather scenario. Then in the last half of the book we jumped 9 months, then a year and then almost 2 years with no plot to sustain this swift passage of time. I realize that cozy

mysteries work on their own timeline, but this one was ridiculous. I felt like I was running to catch up to what was happening to Aggie and her crew. And Aggie's neediness for a man is getting old and tired too. We didn't get to see much of the wonderful Mrs. Bloxby either, so that in itself is a disappointment. I would give this one a miss unless you're a die hard Agatha Raisin fan.

Agatha is running after the gardener in this current, latest, 23rd or 24th novel of the "An Agatha Raisin Mystery" series. Those of us that know Agatha, sees a vulnerable woman that stands behind her sharp tongued sarcasm as a shield against the world. Agatha has been married twice and both were sad situations. Agatha, tries everything in her personal arsenal to attack the gardener. Nothing seems to be working, George Marston seems to just not appreciate her. Taking a leave from her agency, Agatha throws an old fashioned ball for charity. George promises her the first dance, but is a no show. Agatha traces George to his home and finds him, but George is in no condition to explain as he is dead!! I found myself unhappy with the carping by the neighbors towards Agatha right at the beginning of the novel. However, if Agatha spoke to me as she does to her 'friends' I would be a former friend. Her obsession with men is growing old with me. In fact, I found it as a detraction from a rather good murder mystery. I will read the next Hamish Macbeth book, but, I believe this will be my last 'purchased' Agatha Raisin. This makes me sad.

I have read every Agatha Raisin book. I would say the first 5 to 8 books in the series had a sometimes laugh out loud quality that they really don't have anymore. I still enjoy reading them but I miss the humor that was part of Agatha's quirky personality. Not that she had a sense of humor, but the way she reacted to situations was so funny. I recommended the series years ago to a friend who is an avid reader -- she said she was under the hairdryer at her salon laughing so hard people were staring.

I have read the entire series of Agatha Raisin and have enjoyed each one with different degrees of like/love. The latest chapter was the most disappointing. Reading the book, it almost seems to have been thrown together just to get it published. It certainly lacks the intelligent banter and hilarious predicaments found in some of the others. I don't want to say that the book bored me, but I found myself wanting to turn pages quicker wishing for something to happen. Story was way too predictable and Agatha just seems very tired. I am the same age as Aggie, so I always felt comfortable laughing at her aging issues. But, this book made me feel old and tired as well. I will certainly miss you, Ms. Raisin.

I love M.C Beaton, but I am getting kind of tired of Agatha and her relentless pursuit of men, her make up, her high heels, her little bearlike eyes, I love the village, I love the minister's wife, in fact I am beginning to find Mrs. Bloxon the best character of all. I am a little bored with Agatha's jealousy of young women, come on, there is a big difference between mutton and lamb, get on with it Agatha! and the fact that the endings are always predictable, I can tell you long before the end who the murderer is going to be. Let's change things up a bit.

I've read all the books in this series and in the Hamish series. This is just sad. The plot is so incredibly bad -- killing people with snakes?? It seems to me that in the beginning of the series, Agatha could be very witty. Here she's just brittle. I hate giving up on an author, especially one I've enjoyed for so long; I don't think I'll read any more of them.

My first touch of Beaton was the "Hamish Macbeth" series, which led me eventually to Agatha Raisin. I have read every book in both series. I tried Beaton's third mystery series but the first offering was so dismal that I persuaded myself not to bother with the rest. She is not a good writer, but she is a capable plotter. She relies a lot on repetition of words, phrases, and descriptions, and to some degree, plots. PG Wodehouse could make that work; Beaton is not in that class. (I believe she mentioned Agatha's "bearlike" eyes three times in this book, starting on page 2.) The characters never really develop from one book to the next. They simply appear, do their usual "turn" and then vanish again. Agatha (who in chronological terms would be at least in her mid-60s by now) is still described as a "50-ish" woman hungry for men and adventure, who never learns her lessons in relationships. Beaton has now populated the series with so many "Agatha assistants" that they are hard to keep track of, and one gets the feeling that she struggles to find something for everyone to do in each successive book. I won't say anything particular about the plot, because you've heard it all before. I consider myself a former fan who is now more of a straggler, reading each new book out of habit. If you are new to the series, please start with the early books which were wittier and not covered with barnacles like the later ones. I'm just about ready to give up on Agatha. I'm sure Beaton will continue with them as long as the cash rolls in.

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