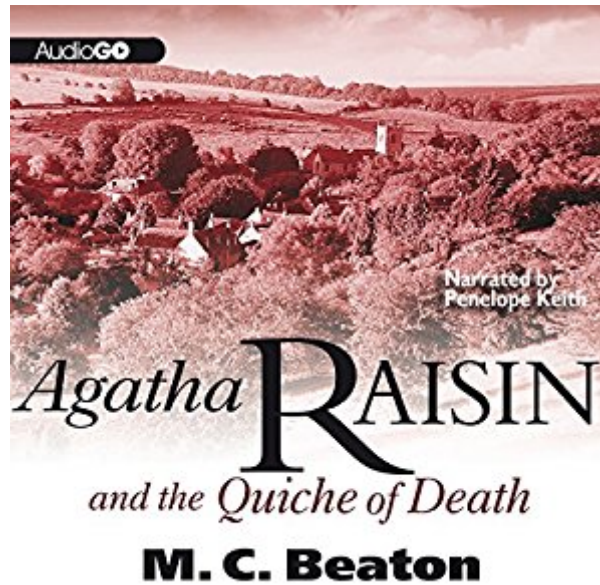


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Agatha Raisin And The Quiche Of Death: Agatha Raisin, Book 1



Synopsis

After years of bullying and cajoling others as a high-flying public relations boss, Agatha Raisin's early retirement to the picture-postcard village of Carsley in the Cotswolds is a dream come true. And how better to begin making herself a local leading light than by entering the village quiche-making competition? Unburdened by old-fashioned ideas of fair play, the ruthless Agatha decides to ensure she wins by buying her entry from a London delicatessen. Alas, Agatha's perfect product is soon exposed - as not only store-bought but poisoned. The contest judge succumbs after eating it, and with him go Agatha's reputation and her chances of rural bliss - unless she can expose the poisoner....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For months now some of my reading friends have been praising Agatha Raisin, the female detective who has got her life through the pen of M.C.Beaton. It took me some time to finally buy some of the books, but one day a packet came from with the three first ones. In the middle of buying and selling houses, full time work and a busy family it was not easy to sit down with the book. But you always need some resting time, and what is better then to grab a cup of ice tea, and sit out on the patio with a book. Agatha Raisin then came into my life, and here she will stay on, no doubt of that. I loved the book from the very first pages. First I was curious, this Agatha, who is she? Then amazed of this woman selling her promotion company in London to move out into the storybook English village, then I had to laugh, laugh alotShe is for sure no Miss Marple, and no Penelope from Rosamunde

Pilcher. She is truly something unique, a woman you have to love because she is so human, with her faults and everything. In her attempt to become one of the villagers, Agatha decides to take part in the country fair. No cook though she buys a quich from a London deli, quite sure that this one has to be a winner. Of course it is not, it is even a very bad quich, and when the judge eats from it he dies of poisoning. Well, from here the story goes on, with Agatha trying to find the murderer when everybody else tend to believe it was just an accident. With this book I can promise you hours of fun, and if you are about to sell a house you might need to do as Agatha does, tell people the house is already sold when they come to look at it. I am glad I already have the second book to dive into, but what about my house selling???

I am currently reading this book on my Kindle. (I am about 1/3 of the way through the book.) This Kindle version has many, many typos and some of them are absurd. For instance, this book's main character is Agatha Raisin. In at least three places, she is called Angela. I just read a paragraph where another of the characters was called by yet another of the character's names. There are also many less obvious typos like "teh" for "the", or "at at." The name mixups are distracting. I like the story, but the "translation" is ridiculous. When you pay for a book, you do not expect so many very bad errors. I do not know who is responsible for the errors. If it is the publisher, they need to get their act together.

I've just discovered the novels of M.C. Beaton through the Hammish Macbeth TV series running on BBC America. While the majority seem to prefer the Macbeth series, I don't. Agatha Raisin is a prickly personality that is delightful to read because she says the things we would want to say and don't. This particular book is a great character study and even if set in England, I recognize my own small hometown within its pages. Is it literature? No, thank God! But it is a pleasant weekend read. Oh, and if you've ever read the very funny Regency romances of Marion Chesney, you'll want to know she is also M.C. Beaton.

...And great fun to read! Agatha first comes across as hard to take, but pretty soon we begin to appreciate her vulnerability. Set in the Cotswold villages of Britain, Agatha's adventures are closely tied in with her inability to safely navigate normal social life amongst the village. The supporting cast is wonderfully diverse, and the humor that is liberally sprinkled throughout Agatha's observations and experiences kept me thoroughly entertained chapter to chapter. I don't much care for series, but look forward to reading more in this one. I appreciated that it was PG rated, and that the main

emphasis was on characterization and solving the mystery. No blood and guts.

Agatha Raisin, a sharp-tongued middle aged woman, debuts in this cozy set in the Cotswolds of England. Agatha, tired of London and the publicity business, sells out and buys a cottage in the village of Carsely. Wanting desperately to fit in, she enters a baking contest in the village, but resorts to cheating when she enters a store bought quiche instead of her own. When the judge of the contest dies from eating the quiche, all fingers point to Agatha and she must admit to all that she cheated. All the while, Agatha becomes more and more curious about the poison found in the murder victim, and wanting to clear her name, Agatha sets out to find the real killer. Helping her (when everyone else shuns her) are Mrs. Bloxsby, the vicar's wife, and Detective Bill Wong. Future love-interest, James Lacey, is also introduced in this hilarious romp of a mystery. M.C. Beaton is also the author of the much-loved Hamish McBeth mystery series, and shows her sense of humor in this series. Agatha's antics are legendary, and at times, I laughed out loud at some of the silly things that she does. Agatha's low self-esteem (hidden under a rough, blustery exterior) makes you root for her even when she pushes everyone away. I especially like the scenes in which Agatha tries to make herself appear younger (wearing tons of make-up that runs, high-heeled shoes for a walk, etc.) because she becomes much more human and lovable to the reader. If you have not read this series and you like cozy mysteries, ask yourself what you are waiting for, and get all of the books in the series! Then curl up with a cup of tea and enjoy!

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