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Hallowe'en Party: Complete & Unabridged



Synopsis

A classic Christie mystery. Read by Hugh Fraser who plays Hugh Fraser in the popular TV series. At a Hallowe'en party, Joyce - a hostile thirteen-year-old - boasts that she once witnessed a murder. When no-one believes her, she storms off home. But within hours her body is found, still in the house, drowned in an apple-bobbing tub. That night, Hercule Poirot is called in to find the 'evil presence'. But first he must establish whether he is looking for a murderer or a double-murderer...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Agatha Christie was a true mistress at presenting unique mystery plots and shocking conclusions! Although Miss Jane Marple is my favorite of her series detectives, Belgian detective Hercule Poirot is just as engaging and worth getting to know. His gentle arrogance and wit alone are well worth taking the time to try one of the instalments in this particular series, not to mention his brilliant deductive powers. "Halloween Party" is one of Christie's Hercule Poirot works, ranking up there with "Death On the Nile," "Murder On the Orient Express," and "The ABC Murders." The only minor complaint for me is that Captain Arthur Hastings does not appear in this book. This particular instalment involves Poirot's friend, mystery writer Ariadne Oliver, who is helping a friend prepare a halloween party for preteens of the country village. The party is a huge success until one of the girls, who has a habit of revealing more information than she should, is found drowned in the apple bobbing tub. She had told people earlier in the day that she had seen a murder being committed a year or two earlier. Could someone at the party have heard her and decided to silence the girl before she revealed what she knew? Ariadne Oliver enlists the help of Hercule Poirot, and his

brilliant "Little Grey Cells" begin their work. This mystery has a chilling undercurrent, because Christie uses the horrific occurrence of a child being murdered, and Poirot must confront a truly sociopathic killer who will stop at nothing to remain in the dark. The audio version of this book is superb, and features John Moffat as narrator. He originally played Poirot on several BBC radio productions of the series, and does well portraying different characters.

When I read the publisher's summary of Hallowe'en Party, I immediately expected it to become my favourite Agatha Christie novel. After all, it had everything that I look for in a good mystery: an interesting murder victim, a haunting setting, and complex cast of characters. My expectations, however, were not met in the least. The story started off well-enough; a young girl is found drowned in an apple-bobbing bucket after she boasts about having witnessed a murder. As usual, Poirot is called onto the case and the simple murder turns into a complex web of lies and forgeries. Unfortunately, from this point on, Hallowe'en Party began to lose a lot of its steam. One of my biggest problems with this book is the sheer amount of soap boxing that Agatha Christie decided to engage in. When I started reading this story, I had no clue when it was published. However, it was easy to tell that it was one of her later stories as she goes off on tangents about children becoming too independent, parents letting children go off on their own, pop stars, genetics etc. Instead of focusing on the mystery aspect or the psychology of the murderer, most of the characters seemed concerned with the societal influences leading up to the girl's murder. My other problem with Hallowe'en Party was the character development. Usually when I read one of Agatha Christie's novels, I find myself becoming attached to some of the characters and thinking "Oh! I hope s/he's not the murderer!" However, that didn't happen with this book. Most of the critical characters only appeared for a few pages. As a result, it was difficult to become attached to any of them.

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