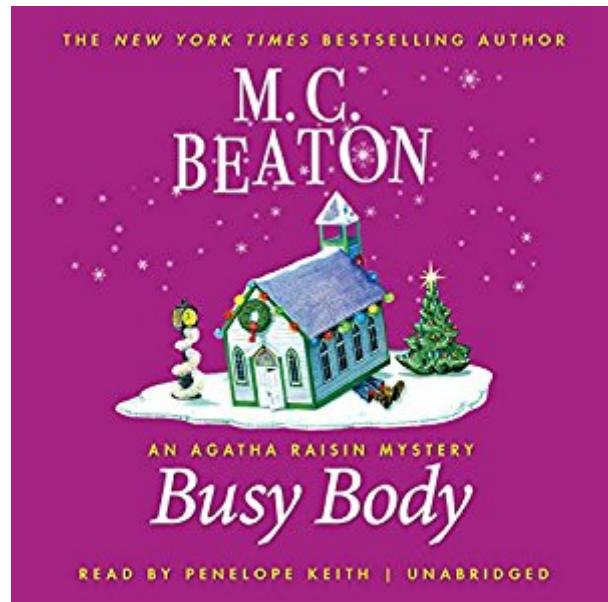


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# Busy Body



## **Synopsis**

Agatha Raisin has never been one for forced holiday cheer, but her friendly little village of Carsely has always prided itself on its traditional Christmas festivities. But this year the bells will not be ringing out, as Mr. John Sunday, an officer with the Cotswold Health and Safety Board, has chosen Christmas as the time to crack down on safety hazards all around the community. But he goes too far when he rules that there cannot be a Christmas tree atop the church tower this year. Mr. Sunday is soon found face down in the petunias, very much dead. Agatha is instantly on the case, but with so many people having threatened the life of the victim, it's almost impossible to know where to start!

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hoursÂ andÂ 14 minutes

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## **Customer Reviews**

M. C. Beaton is a wonderfully creative and prolific writer. The old Aggie is back in her latest book Busy Body. There are so many twists and turns that I had a hard time putting it down. A very engaging book. I disagree with one of the reviewers who said there were too many characters and it was confusing. That is one thing I love about most British mysteries, like Inspector Lewis and Morse, they are intricate and that keeps the story exciting. Of course, Beaton, throws in that touch of humor that makes all of us love Agatha and her escapades. I've come to love Beaton's cast of returning characters --- the wise and ever dependable Mrs. Bloxby; stingy but charming Sir Charles; flamboyant and flaky Roy Silver, and the list goes on. Now I'm left longing for Beaton's next Agatha Raisin mystery. Guess I'll have to wait another year. As Agatha would say, "Snakes and bastards!"

Ms. Beaton, please keep writing those wonderful Agatha Raisin books.

M.C. Beaton has been proclaimed the new Agatha Christie, and there is some merit to that, particularly in her earlier work. Of late, though, the well seems to be, if not running dry, whirling around and around like an eddy. "Busy Body" starring the redoubtable Agatha Raisin soars off in every direction and rapidly spins out of control. It reads less like a novel than three or four novellas carelessly pasted together. Characters come, characters go, characters get killed (even a hero); some characters pop up out of nowhere, others vanish without a trace, some are no more than extras; there is some country hopping, and an awful lot of time seems to pass over the course of the book. Potentially intriguing subplots are introduced and then left hanging (presumably for a future book), as though the author just didn't want to take the time to let them play out. Despite all this activity, none of the characters are particularly well drawn, even Agatha herself (if you don't already know what makes her tick from earlier books, she will be pretty enigmatic here). The denouement of one of the central murders is shockingly thrown away in "oh-by-the-way-I-heard-this-is-who-did-it" fashion. While an awful lot happens over the course of 278 pages, none of it gels into a cohesive story. For Beaton's fans, the book has to count as a disappointment, and those for whom "Busy Body" is their introduction to Beaton will no doubt wonder what all the shouting is about.

I've read all of the Agatha Raisin and Hamish Macbeth books, most more than once. I love them. When reading this book, however, I felt like I was playing the old Sesame Street game "One of these things is not like the other". Yes, it stars Agatha Raisin and the cover says it was written by M.C. Beaton, but something was just different. And off. I can't totally put my finger on it. One thing that initially threw me off was the fact that you barely hear anything about the title character before he's killed off. In fact, does Agatha even meet him? Then the rest of the book just seemed sort of choppy - lots of things happened that didn't really seem connected. I'm giving it three stars because it's still better than most of the other similar stuff out there, but it's just not up to par.

I don't know where to begin with the latest Agatha Raisin book, it was a confusing and bumbling read (then listen) from beginning to end. I started reading the book and in the first two chapters I knew it was going to be a hard book to complete from the random topics in the paragraphs to lack of flow from one sentence to the next. I have read or listen to all the books in this series and while I didn't love all of them I can honestly say I DID NOT LIKE this one at all. It was so much of the same - Agatha worrying about getting old, Agatha getting her hopes up about a young man, Agatha just

plain old not growing up. All that being said I did finish the book, which is a plus, and in the rare areas where the book reminded me of past books I enjoyed it but those areas were far and few between. After finishing the book, I think it may be time to say good-bye to Agatha and her bumbling ways.

Love Agatha Raisin, but this one was not that great. Thought the plot and other details, seemed as if this was written in a hurry. But will still read any other of this series.

I really have thoroughly enjoyed reading all of the Agatha Raisin mysteries which are set in the lovely Cotswolds of England. Busy Body was another good one. I finished the book in a day and by the time I read the last sentence I was wishing there was another one to continue the story. I find all the characters in the book enjoyable and of course, Agatha is simply fantastic! Very entertaining.

I can't believe M.C.BEATON wrote this junk. It is so unlike her earlier books, it had to be done by a stand-in. YUK. I was so disappointed.

Usually the Agatha books are well plotted and zip right along with good characterization and plots.. When I finished, I thought this one was rather a mess, the plot and characters were all over the place. I got sick to death of Wilkes constantly reading Agatha lectures just after she has uncovered another bit of crucial information. Really, a disappointment. And when Agatha took a sledgehammer to h bookshelves..... That was just too extreme, even for her.

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