



The Perfect Paragon

M.C. Beaton

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Agatha Raisin, recent divorcée, hates adultery cases and pompous Robert Smedley, but needs work. Unfortunately Mabel appears the perfect young wife, a pretty church volunteer. Agatha stumbles across dead missing teen Jessica, and investigates free for publicity. When Smedley dies from poison, Mabel hires Agatha, who brings in old friends, new hires, and finds the killers.

The Perfect Paragon Details

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Author : M.C. Beaton

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From Reader Review The Perfect Paragon for online ebook

Andree Sanborn says

Not as much of Agatha as usual; more of her detective agency characters. Good drama but I figured it out in the first chapter (or second). Agatha's angst has worn me out. I want more of Sir Charles and her: he keeps her honest and real. And now, at the last sentence, we have James Lacy come back to haunt her.

Oh brother.

Curlyhair says

Another in the quirky Agatha Raisin series. A good decent story, with twists and turns and the old characters and some new ones who fit in quite nicely.

Gina says

Another great Agatha story! Lots of twists and turns and a couple new characters. I'm liking Charles having a bigger role in her life. Those two are a lot alike and kind of deserve each other. Haha.

Blue says

I love Agatha Raisin books, so no surprise I loved this one, too.

These books are like comfort food for me. Is this the tightest writing, the smoothest use of the written word? Nope. And? I don't care. I love cranky, insecure Agatha, with her bad habits and inability to cook, and her intelligence, drive, and not so well hidden generous heart. Any day I can sink into a book about her adventures is a day that un-clenches the part of my brain that is hoarding stress.

Nancy says

Oh sure, wait until the last line of the book to grab my attention. After the way that Agatha's life has been going, this was definitely an unexpected surprise and it will keep the Agatha Raisin lovers tuned into the next book.

Agatha is feeling a twinge in her hip and refuses to believe that it could be arthritis. Ailments are for old people and being slightly over 50 she is too young. That does not mean that crumbling into old age is her lot in life, but still, with no man and a detective agency that is barely stumbling long leaves Agatha with too much time on her hands and too many freewheeling thoughts in her head.

Tired of locating errant cats, Agatha needs a juicy case to work. In walks Robert Smedley, of Smedleys Electronics, determined to prove that his younger wife Mable is cheating on him. Finally, a spark appears in Agatha's bear like eyes.

Well, darn it if Mabel is not the perfect wife. Now what is Agatha to do? Once again, things are looking a tad boring until Robert Smedley is poisoned with weed killer and Mabel appears as the prime suspect. Not to say that she is the only suspect, as Mrs. Bloxby says, there is no telling what is in the hearts of women.

A few more twists and accompanying storylines are floating within this book, but unfortunately, for me the whole thing never really took off and held my attention – that is until the very last sentence. Sir Charles Fraith is still lurking about and does come to Agatha's rescue before she can once again make a fool of herself and an unnecessary couple of paragraphs show up with Agatha saving Roy Silver's reputation, but for the most part, the book was a bit flat.

Yvonne says

I had the pleasure of listening to another Agatha Raisin adventure (#16!). There's not much else I can say about this series that I haven't already said. I do enjoy listening to Agatha's latest escapades. She can be both a fun and exasperating character.

She's still too quick to fall in love with any handsome guy she meets. Not to mention that she's always wondering if they will propose marriage five minutes after she meets them. LOL Plus, there's still too much talk about her being in her mid-50's. Really, that's not all that old. You'd think she was 90 the way they talk.

I keep coming back for more so I must be enjoying this series :) The author is keeping this series fresh by adding new characters all the time. Giving Agatha her own detective agency opened the way for more storyline possibilities, too.

Quick, easy mystery stories with a cast of crazy characters. It makes my work commute more enjoyable since commuting is never an enjoyable thing.

Toglietemi tutto, ma non i miei libri says

Nonostante i suoi problemi, Agatha resta sempre la solita impicciona acida di sempre.
La rivederemo insieme a Charles e sul finale ci sarà anche una sorprendente sorpresa!
Questo piccolo particolare mi spinge a desiderare di poter leggere il seguito quanto prima, che sia in arrivo per Agatha un pacco pieno d'amore?
Una lettura spensierata anche se non troppo brillante, una trama non troppo complessa, dalla narrazione, come sempre, avvolgente.
Recensione: <http://chelibroleggere.blogspot.it/20...>

Jenny L says

Read them! All of them. All 23. They are simply fabulous! I love them and love Agatha Raisin. The stories are set in the English Cotswolds - which is where I'm from, so that makes them extra special, but I cannot recommend them highly enough. If you want to read about an opinionated, outspoken, headstrong single woman in her middle years with no money worries, but men worries and murder at every turn, then you too will love Agatha Raisin. Just make sure you buy more than one at a time, because you will regret it otherwise!

Fiction State Of Mind says

Lots of creepiness and murder!

The Flooze says

Though I do sometimes miss knowing Agatha's every little spiteful thought, I'm very much enjoying the turn the series has taken.

Moving away from the simple (though entertaining) cozy mystery, the stories have blossomed into more complicated tales with varied moving pieces. Agatha no longer detects alone, but with an ensemble of characters. Each of her cohorts brings a different skill and an impressive amount of common sense. Most of them may be amateurs, but their ideas and hunches make them as formidable as Agatha in their own ways. And Agatha is even willing to give them the credit they deserve! Most of the time.

There are still lots of references to village life. The reliance on busy-body neighbours will never go away. The community social functions still play a part. Mrs. Bloxby is still on hand to lend a peaceful atmosphere and some grounding common sense. And Charles and Roy still pop up to get into mischief...and get offended. Poor Agatha. She'll never fully get a handle on this whole friendship thing.

The book ends with a surprise. I dont know whether I approve of this latest snag, but I'm certainly eager to find out more.

Amy says

Hmmmm...It may have been the medicine fog I was in, but this was the first time I found myself let down by MC Beaton. I've so enjoyed discovering Agatha and her cronies, and that wonderful village in the Cotswolds. Somehow, this one came across a little formulaic (is that a word? Not sure.) I've been reading the series out of order, so I never know where Agatha will be in terms of her love life and employment opportunities. Now she's running a detective agency, still looking for love, still enraging Inspector Wilkes and still subsisting on ghastly microwaved foods. Some things never change it seems. I liked the new characters introduced via the detective agency and enjoyed meeting up with old friends such as Bill Wong, Mrs Bloxby and Hodge and Boswell.

Even though I was not as enchanted with the plot of this one, I still am happy to have spend the weekend with Agatha, and look forward to filling in the gaps in our relationship.

An Odd1 says

[later poisoned by milk from bottle washed and vanished, tea served by floozy secretary Joyce, rejected mistress, also sleeping with fired seducer salesman Burt Haviland, stabbed at home, called 999 without identifying killer; neighbor heard tap tap of high heels (hide spoiler)]

Rosemary says

A great installment in the life of Agatha Raisin.

Ali says

The sixteenth Agatha Raisin book see Agatha continuing to run her new detective agency. These fun little novels have changed a little, now that Agatha has her agency, the action centres around that more than in Carsley, and she has several members of staff who help her out. We also have 3 seperate (or are they?) cases which need to be solved. Agatha is her dear old self, as if the marvelous Mrs Bloxby and Roy Silver who along with Sir Charles Fraith pop up along the way. There is also an intriguing surprise at the end which may make you want to reach for the next book atraight away. Good escapist stuff as ever.

tracey says

Fabulous
