



Dishing the Dirt

M.C. Beaton

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In Agatha's newest adventure she must prove her own innocence when a love rival turns up dead!

When therapist Jil Davent moves into the village of Carsely, Agatha Raisin is not a fan. Not only is the therapist romancing her ex-husband James but she digs up details of Agatha's rather unsavoury origins; details she is happy to share with all in the village. Furthermore, Jill is counselling a woman, Gwen Simple, Agatha is convinced is a murderess - although she has no actual proof. Not one to keep her feelings to herself, Agatha tells anyone who cares to listen that Jill is a charlatan who is better off dead. So she can only sigh with relief when Jill takes offices in the nearby town of Mircester.

But then Jill is found strangled to death in her offices two days later and Agatha is the prime suspect! So, together with the detectives in her agency, she must prove her innocence and find the real culprit - before the murderer ensures that it's Agatha who's left pushing up the daisies!

Dishing the Dirt Details

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From Reader Review Dishing the Dirt for online ebook

Debra says

Agatha Raisin is a handful - and that is putting it mildly. She bundles through murder investigations while drinking heavily, smoking like a chimney all while attempting to have a relationship on her terms. This is the 26th in the Agatha Raisin series but it worked well as a stand alone novel for me.

Agatha is none too pleased when therapist Jill Davent moves to town and begins dating Agatha's ex-husband. Jill also seems determined to dig up the dirt on Agatha. Jill is also a therapist for a woman named Gwen Simple who Agatha believes may have assisted or at least covered up some of her son's murders. When Agatha learns that Jill has hired a private detective to look into Agatha's background, Agatha says "I could kill you!" after barging into Jill's office. When Jill is found dead, Agatha is the prime suspect. Agatha not only has a couple of murders to solve, she also has to clear her name.

I was put off initially by this book. The characters are rude and at times quite nasty. Agatha herself isn't the most pleasant woman. She barges around, and has no problem telling people off. She talks quit a lot without thinking. She is smart but perhaps she would be smarter if she were to think before she took action. This really did not take much effort on the part of the reader. I didn't have to think too much while reading the book. It is fairly predictable and really failed to WOW me with a big reveal or "gotcha" moment at the end. This really is a simple mystery with a high body count and snarky characters.

It is barely a 3 stars for me and I mean barely. I have no plans to read other books in this series. I received this quite some time ago from goodreads giveaway and realized today that I never left a review. OOPS!

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Sarah says

I keep promising myself never to read another Agatha Raisin novel again, but a friend gave me this one, so I just had to read it, didn't I?!

The last 5 or 6 novels in the series seemed to me to be overhastily published, very badly edited, full of mistakes, ridiculously predictable and, basically, vaguely amusing fluff and drivel. This Agatha #26, however, is an improvement on the last one: it was better edited with fewer mistakes. (Have you changed editors, Mrs B?) Still amusing fluff and drivel though; so why can't I stop myself reading them?!

Carol says

My husband warned me I would hate this book. It started off well enough, but became very disjointed with multiple points of view for no apparent reason. It was also sloppy -- on one page a character was said to be

26 and less than half a page later, he was said to be 25. [spoiler] There was also a plot involving identical twins who were male and female, which, as everyone knows, is impossible. I will never read another one of this series.

Nancy says

Scattered. I think that is the best word to describe this book. The Agatha Raisin series has been going downhill for years, so I take each one for what they are. I have been invested in these characters for years and I cannot look away when a new one comes out.

The Agatha Raisin books are very easy reads considering M. C. Beaton has a habit of doing a mid-book recap. *Dishing the Dirt* begins with the murder of a therapist that has a history of being a hooker when she lived in Chicago. Still not sure why that was even mentioned since the idea was not fully developed into anything other than maybe her past had caught up with her; personally, I believe it was thrown in for some sort of shock value. The people in Carsely went to her for counseling even though no one could actually prove that she was qualified, they just needed someone who would listen. A man is snooping around and is murdered. So is another. Listening devices are found in Agatha's cottage. Then another woman is murdered. Wolfsbane is suspected. Yada, Yada, Yada. Turns out the real killer was even more diabolical than Agatha realized.

Curious that in this book, both James and Charles see Agatha in a new light. At one point, the reader wonders if James could change his mind about having divorced Agatha, but that all blows up in a little squabble. Then you have Charles wondering how he could ever live without Agatha. Very odd and very curious indeed.

All the while, Agatha is blindly obsessed with one character as the murderer but many names are bandied about and until the reader reaches the end, you had no idea as to which characters you needed to pay attention to. Bumbling. Almost to the point where it felt as if the author was just making it up as she went with no clear path.

The book ends quite abruptly and then the reader is thrown into an epilog that actually ends the book properly. Properly that is for Agatha Raisin, meaning that there is dangling intrigue that involves a new man. A man that Mrs. Bloxby is quite taken with and Agatha cannot quite stop herself from chasing after.

Belinda says

Here's the thing. I know these books aren't good books. There is no character development at all - the characters are exactly the same in every single book. The body count is ridiculous - I think about 11 people die in this one, with no noticeable impact on anyone's behaviour. There's a serial killer wandering around the Cotswolds and everyone's like "_(?)_/. The Agatha Raisin books are very silly! But I love them and I'm not going to apologise for it.

Dishing the Dirt is the same as all of the other Agatha Raisin books. Read it at your own peril. I enjoyed it a lot.

Tex says

How Agatha Raisin continues to stay in business is beyond me. She is accusing and meddling and keeps almost getting killed in various ways. How ever does she continue to attract men to her unless they want to act as knights errant? Outside of being about bits of gossip that went out of hand, the plot doesn't seem real, even for a cozy mystery. Even at the end, I had the feeling that nothing was actually wrapped up. Need to take this series off my list of future choices.

Una Tiers says

Beaton does a nice job of bringing in the regulars with brief descriptions. This book is stronger than the last several books and has several differences: everyone is nasty, ravens are all over the book and there are more murders than before.

There were several dropped words in sentences.

Leslie W says

It is a sickness really, sticking with an author and a series well past the point of both their primes. Why do i do this?! Please give me those four days of my life back.

Cyndi says

Agatha hating on another woman is nothing new, but she's right to mistrust the pseudo therapist. Can't wait to see what Gwen has up her sleeve.

Malia says

I'm conflicted, I am so fond of the sassy Agatha Raisin, this is my 26th adventure with her after all. Unfortunately, I found this one rather disappointing. Sooo many murders, and so many characters who were just rude and unpleasant made the story feel almost like a parody of prior Agatha books. I still liked Agatha and Charles, and whatever progress there was in their relationship, but the story was not terribly satisfying. It was a quick, easy read, but after waiting a year for a new book in this series, I just feel a bit short-changed. All the same, I will not be giving up on her yet and still look forward to a new book hopefully next year:-)

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Fiona MacDonald says

Enjoyable treat around the Cotswolds with Agatha. This time she is putting her detective skills to use after a horrible therapist named Jill Davent who has been digging up unsavoury secrets on everyone in the village (including Agatha) is murdered. Agatha always makes me laugh, and is surprisingly clever when it comes down to cracking cases. She's a tough nut to crack, but is soft-hearted deep down, and has an amusing penchant for lasagne and chips.

Julie says

Maybe I have just read a few too many Agatha Raisin books but I became very impatient with this one. EVERYONE was mean and selfish and I really couldn't stand reading about any of them. The humor I originally found in this series seems to be fading fast. Not sure I will read the next one.

Pattie Tierney says

I have always been a little bit in love with Sir Charles Fraith. After reading this book, I am completely enamored by him. Sure he has his faults, lots of them, but then so does Aggie, and she is darned lucky to have a guy like this in her life, if sporadically. I tend to like the books the best when they strongly feature Charles and, if you are like me, then you are going to love the latest installment, the 26th, in the Agatha Raisin series, one of the best in recent offerings.

When conniving therapist, Jill Davent, who dug into Agatha's background to reveal her humble Birmingham upbringing as a way to humiliate and manipulate her, is found dead in her consulting room after Agatha threatened to kill her, Agatha sets out to find the real killer along with her loyal group of able bodied detectives. There are a lot of twists and turns here, with a high body count, reference to the previous book (Agatha continues to distrust Gwen Simple, mother of the maker of those Sweeny Todd-type meat pies), reference to Beaton's own ride on the Orient Express to celebrate a milestone birthday, as well as some interesting twists for the characters. The next novel is set up at the end of this one, and a questionable turn for the beloved Mrs. Bloxby has me champing at the bit for the next volume. This is Aggie at her finest, struggling with age, fears, and self-image, falling in love with every handsome man who happens to cross her path, and stumbling upon the solution in advance of the police, as usual. If you love Aggie, you will love this book.

Tracy says

Predictable and repetitive but I just can't stop myself from reading them!! :)

Melissa says

Once upon about 12-13 years ago, I stumbled upon an Agatha Raisin audio book, the very first book in the

series of which *Dishing the Dirt* is #26. Since that time, I have read or listened with pleasure to each book in the series, even though the narrator for the audio titles changed at some point from Donada Peters to other narrators whose voices just didn't capture the one I felt was the "true" Agatha. Some installments in this series are better than others, but none was as shoddy as this one. Everything about this title was rushed, perfunctory, and boring! I have never been BORED with Agatha -- not ever -- until now! I really hope that this series hasn't "jumped the shark," but I suspect it has indeed. I finally gave up on Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum series after several crap books in a row. I hope I don't have to do the same with this series.
