



Death in the Castle

Pearl S. Buck

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Sir Richard and Lady Mary need to sell the thousand year old castle which has been in the family for hundreds of years. Sir Richard has no heir to pass the castle on to, and if he doesn't sell the English government will turn it into a prison or a powerplant. John Blayne, an American, wishes to buy the castle, but he wants to take the castle apart piece by piece and bring it to America and make it into a museum. Sir Richard does not know this and this becomes a source of conflict.

Death in the Castle Details

Date : Published December 1st 1988 by Amereon Limited (first published 1956)

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Author : Pearl S. Buck

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From Reader Review Death in the Castle for online ebook

Magda says

What a charmingly enchanting story! The "chilling, thrilling" on the cover-quote is to be taken lightly. A well-written, pure (ie, not gratuitous) suspense novel that makes me want to read more of Pearl S Buck.

Fonch says

One of the worse novels, that i have ever read in my short life. Sorry for the fans of Pearl S. Buck.

Karina says

I 'm not entirely convinced, this is partly a ghost story, partly a mystery story. But somehow it seems to be missing some tension, some thrilling anticipation.....

Mandy says

This was surprisingly enjoyable! Having only previously known Pearl Buck from The Good Earth and her association with China, I wouldn't have expected her to write what feels like a quintessentially English novel, a tale of an elderly and increasingly impoverished couple, Sir Richard Sedgely and his wife Mary who are struggling to maintain their ancient ancestral castle. Along comes a rich American who wants to dismantle it and take it back to the United States with him. This solution doesn't go down too well with Sir Richard, as can be imagined. What follows takes a rather gothic and frankly unlikely turn but it's all good fun and a charming light read, but certainly not one to be taken too seriously.

Angela says

Not bad, but not what I expected from Pearl Buck. It was a pretty typical 20th century gothic.

Susan says

Sir Richard and Lady Mary are elderly and childless and can no longer afford the upkeep on their ancestral castle. The only other people in the castle are a butler and a maid to take care of them. After talking with their solicitor they think they have a plan. There are plenty of secrets and maybe a ghost or two. This was an enjoyable read and kept me turning pages til the end.

Thank you to Netgalley and Open Road Media for a copy in return for a honest review.

Orsolya says

Having read a couple of Pearl S. Buck's Chinese novels; I was drawn to "Death in the Castle" due to the novel taking place in England versus China. The question is: can Buck maintain a story in a setting outside of the "norm"?

"Death in the Castle" stands true to Buck style by jumping directly into the plot versus introducing characters. This 'works' because Sir Richard, Lady Mary, Kate, Wells, etc; are familiar and relatable without necessarily needing an introduction. At the same time, the characters don't particularly evolve and fit too cleanly into a box while also causing some confusion (for example: Kate doesn't speak or act like a maid at all).

Immediately, the pace is swift and easy flowing, resulting in a fast read. The issue lays with inconsistency as some events are "cheesy" and best described as a "Downtown Abbey for teens"; while other sections are deeper and provide more ample thinking in regards to philosophical theories (versus simple dramatic novel events).

This inconsistency also bleeds though to the images and settings which aren't explored or expressed enough (especially historically – it is difficult to figure out the time frame of the novel) and *yet* are easily imagined. "Death in the Castle" feels somewhat like a screenplay and summary which one could see portrayed on the silver screen.

"Death in the Castle" lacks the peaceful Zen experienced in Buck's Chinese novels which may disappoint some readers but will please those who seek a more upbeat vibe. However, it often feels too modern, making "Death in the Castle" choppy, at times. Also odd is Buck's choice to not include any chapter breaks which makes the text one long string. This makes the book difficult to put down (in a good encouraging page turning) but is a negative when needing a bathroom break.

Buck's simplistic style and ability to conceal the underlying premise of the novel (and of the meaning of the novel title), while still maintaining a steady pace; is well-conceived and promising.

Part Two of "Death in the Castle" is a complete 180-degree turn of events with much more drama and suspense. Although some of these are clichés, while the others are compelling; they are enjoyable and creative (albeit, even if a little silly at times). This action becomes quite exciting with multiple events occurring on each page and will remind the reader of a murder mystery dinner or 'Clue' game. History fans will also revel with the mention of or connection with well-know English historical events.

The conclusion of "Death in the Castle" is weak as Buck plays on anticipation and builds suspense but closes the novel not answering all questions, and/or answering them in an unbelievable or odd way. Other storylines (such as Kate's) are too easily solved and perfectly happily-ever-after. Buck is too abrupt and lacking creativity and spunk with this ending.

"Death in the Castle" is spirited, fun, and enjoyable; and a great novel for mystery/HF readers whom seek a one-day, quick read. Although, one shouldn't expect Buck's usual depth or appeal; "Death in the Castle" isn't bad and is written decently well.

Mirella says

Pearl S Buck is an extraordinary, award winning author, and so it was with great anticipation that I began reading this book. The setting is England in the early 1900's. Sir Richard Sedgeley and his wife Mary own a castle, but can no longer maintain its upkeep. Opening up the castle to tourists has done little to help replenish the family's fast depleting coffers. Enter an eccentric but endearing rich American millionaire who wishes to dismantle the castle and rebuild it in America.

As expected with any novel written by Pearl S Buck, I found compelling characters and an intriguing plot premise. I thoroughly enjoyed the characters, especially because each character seems to have a touch of eccentricity. However, in my opinion, the story unfolds very slowly and ambled along in several different directions, with little happening that could grip me until the last third of the book. This is not one of her best works, but if you are a fan of this author, then you may likely find something to enjoy in this romantic-gothic-mystery tale.

Margarida says

Bastante datado, mas uma leitura aprazível, narrado com um estilo cinematográfico e com personagens cativantes, embora previsíveis.

Uma história de amor, pelo local, pela História, e, claro, entre um americano e uma inglesa. Algumas expressões, divertidas e mordazes para a época em que foi escrito este romance (anos 1950), versam sobre a diferença entre os americanos e a velha aristocracia inglesa.

Christine says

Something different from Pearl S. Buck, well known for her novels set in China. This one is a cozy mystery set in an English castle. Well-written but lacked the depth of character development Buck fans love in her China novels.

LaRae Steen says

Happy Birthday, Pearl S. Buck -- June 26, 1892

Vishaka Rajan says

I received this novel as an advanced copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I struggled so much when reading this novel. I could not get past the immature writing style that seemed so

at odds with the story and its setting. I couldn't take it seriously at all. The characters are not well developed at all; the novel just jumps straight into dialogue, and I found myself rereading quite a few pages to understand what exactly was going on. I also didn't really feel the historical vibe; in fact, there were aspects where it was quite "modern". While the writing jumped in terms of conversation material, the plot itself moved at a very slow pace. At the end of the day, it took a great deal of effort to concentrate and finish this novel, and it wasn't worth all of that for me.

Karen Kay says

I received this ARC from netgalley.com in exchange for a review.

Sir Richard and Lady Mary need to sell the thousand year old castle which has been in the family for hundreds of years. John Blayne, an American, wishes to buy the castle, but he wants to take the castle apart piece by piece and bring it to Connecticut and make it into a museum.

Lady Mary and Kate, the butlers granddaughter, are trying to communicate with the ghosts in the castle, they need to say where the treasure is hidden, then they won't have to sell the castle.

Originally published in 1956. Clean language and appropriate for younger teens, a sweet ghost story.

3?

Erin says

A re-issue by Open Road Media - ARC for review. EPD: May 25, 2017.

Çimen says

Review to come...
