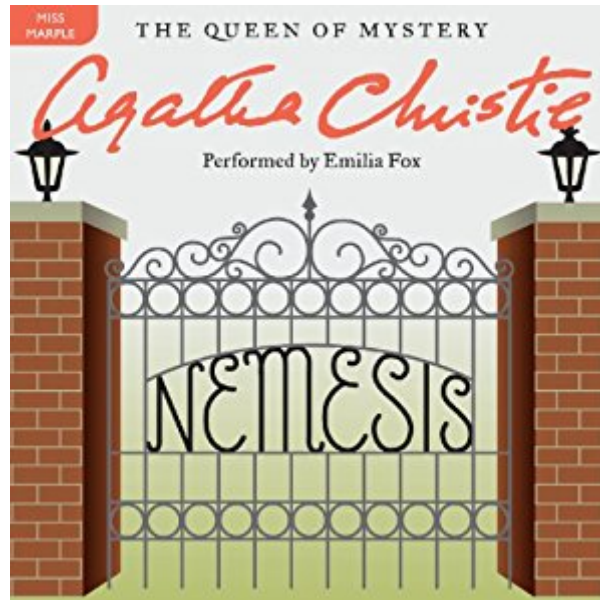




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Nemesis: A Miss Marple Mystery



Synopsis

In utter disbelief, Miss Marple read the letter addressed to her from the recently deceased Mr. Rafiel...an acquaintance she had met briefly on her travels. He had left instructions for her to investigate a crime after his death. The only problem was, he had failed to tell her who was involved or where and when the crime had been committed. It was most intriguing. Soon she is faced with a new crime...the ultimate crime...murder. It seems someone is adamant that past evils remained buried....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In this installment of the Miss Marple series, Miss Marple has been given a rather unique mystery to solve: one with very little details or clues. To begin, she has to figure out exactly what it is that needs to be solved, and then proceed. She is given details and notes from the late Mr. Rafiel which direct her somewhat, but she has to trust her own intuition to figure out what course of action to take. Mr. Rafiel has provided her the opportunity to go on a tour of famous British houses, and this is where small clues and ideas begin to form. There are fourteen other people on the tour with her, and she begins to take inventory of who they are. Little by little, small hints reveal themselves to her, and she begins to form a small idea of Rafiel's intentions. When a mysterious "accident" happens, she tries to piece together who did it, and, furthermore, why it was done. She must discover who are friends, and who are enemies, in order to see this mystery solved. As usual with Christie, a very enjoyable read. That being said, I tend to like

the Poirot mysteries a little better, and it was a little bit of a slow crawl the first portion of the book. For that reason, I don't think Nemesis quite ranks with some of Christie's top notch mysteries. Definitely a little darker than most of her work.

Suffers a little bit from the values of the time it was written in, but it's a great puzzle, and interesting portrayal of characters. I had never thought of Marple as being implacable to this extent, but she is. And the BBC version with Donald Pleasance is different, and fabulous.

This story picks up where *A Caribbean Mystery* left off. Miss Marple's collaborator in that mystery sends her a mysterious letter asking her to solve a mystery, but gives her no clues. The gentleman has died and wants Miss Marple's help putting the scales of justice back in balance. She will inherit a substantial sum of money from him if she can solve the case. She is sent on a mysterious bus tour of English historic homes and gardens with a group of fellow tourists one of whom is murdered. Miss Marple is on her own, so she thinks. A great mystery by the Queen of Mystery writers.

I read the book *Nemesis* to compare it to the movies done starring Joan Hickson and Geraldine McEwan, which were so vastly different. I think the movie with Joan Hickson kept more closely to the book. In comparing the 3, the book, and the 2 movies, I do prefer the book. Concerning the movies, I am not disappointed with the acting of Geraldine McEwan and the cast of that interpretation, but I am partial to Joan Hickson as Miss Marple. All of Agatha Christie's writings are exceptional in my opinion and for Mystery lovers they should be a staple. I get such pleasure from reading them over and over.

A comfortable chair, a cup of tea, a Christie novel narrated by the many voices of Rosalind Ayres. Perfection! Jason Rafiel has died. We met him in *A CARIBBEAN MYSTERY*. His London solicitor, Mr. Broad Rib (I love that name, don't you?) summons Jane Marple to receive an offer and a ples from beyond the grave. To Mr. Rafiel Miss Marple is not "a fluffy old pussy." He saw her as "a woman with a fine sense of evil, a natural flair for justice, and, therefore, a natural flair for crime." He begs his friend to solve crimes ultimaely involving his "unsatisfactory son," Michael, who is in prison. He offers a reward of 20,000 pounds if successful and sends her on a luxury bus tour of English homes and gardens. (To me, "luxury" and "bus tour" are contradictory terms. Don't you agree?) On the tour, Miss Marple travels with 14 others, all of whom seem to offer clues to the cleverly plotted, somewhat complicated cozy mystery. I always look forward to Christie's heart-felt insights into the

world of the elderly. As usual, she discusses patent medicines and new physicians with her friends. She carefully stretches her painful hands, rheumatic back, and sore legs before a fire more than once as she contemplates the case. I smiled at her depiction of the spiteful English weather when she noted a "sudden cold spell. which as its habit, can always descend on England at any moment selected by itself." And this time, I was especially touched when she spoke with compassion about epilepsy and spastic paralysis. I was born with cerebral palsy-spastic paralysis. Rosalind Ayres is masterful in her reading. I am from the American mid-west and her rendition of the accent is amazing. You won't be sorry if you listen to rather than read NEMESIS. Because I got confused with titles and hope to save you from doing so, I decided to edit this review with a list of MISS MARPLE novels. Jane Marple first appeared in a short story in 1927 entitled THE TUESDAY NIGHT CLUB. And here are the novels:(1)THE MURDER AT THE VICARAGE (1930). (2)THE BODY IN THE LIBRARY(1942). (3)THE MOVING FINGER (1943). (4)A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED (1950). (5)THEY DO IT WITH MIRRORS (1952) Alternate title: MURDER WITH MIRRORS. (6)A POCKET FULL OF RYE (1953). Also narrated by Rosalind Ayres. (7)4:50 FROM PADDINGTON (1957) Alternate title: WHAT MRS. MC GILLICUDDY SAW. (8)THE MIRROR CRACK'D FROM SIDE TO SIDE (1962) Alternate title: THE MIRROR CRACKED. (9)A CARIBBEAN MYSTERY (1964). Also narrated by Rosalind Ayres. (10)AT BERTRAM'S HOTEL (1965). This title is the most recent to be released in CD form. I have it in large print.(11)NEMESIS (1971). (12)THE SLEEPING MURDER (written in 1940 but published in 1976).

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