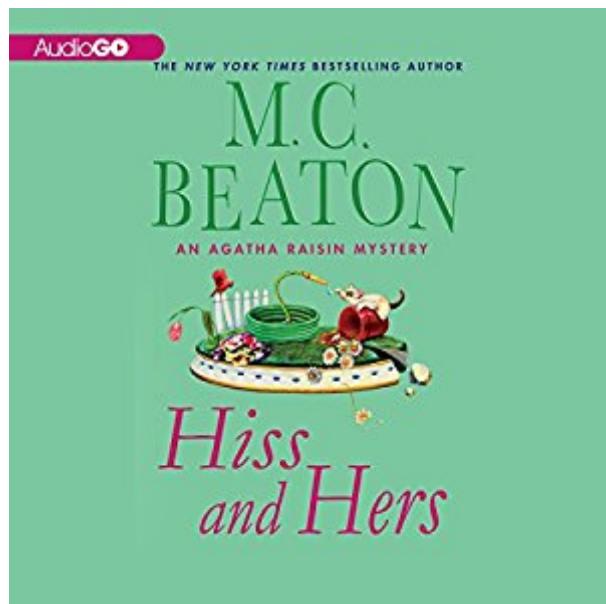


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# Hiss And Hers: An Agatha Raisin Mystery, Book 23



## Synopsis

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of everyone's favorite sleuth, M. C. Beaton's Agatha Raisin is as feisty as ever - armed with her famous wit and biting sense of humor. This time, though, there's some biting of a whole other sort going on. Agatha has fallen head over heels in love - again. This time, she has her eye on the local gardener, George Marston, but so do other women in their little Cotswold village. Shamelessly determined, Agatha will do anything to get her man - including footing the bill for a charity ball just for the chance to dance with him. And then George doesn't even show up. Only partly deterred, Agatha goes looking for him, and finds his dead body in a compost heap. Murder is definitely afoot, but this killer chose no ordinary weapon: A poisonous snake delivered the fatal strike. Rising to the occasion, Agatha rallies her little detective agency to find the killer, only to learn that George had quite a complicated love life. But murderously complicated? Well, if she can't have George, at least Agatha can have the satisfaction of confronting the other women and solving the crime.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours and 24 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Blackstone Audio, Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: September 18, 2012

Language: English

ASIN: B009CMOU9O

Best Sellers Rank: #371 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > British Detectives #2549 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > British Detectives #6531 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Cozy

## Customer Reviews

Agatha is running after the gardener in this current, latest, 23rd or 24th novel of the "An Agatha Raisin Mystery" series. Those of us that know Agatha, sees a vulnerable woman that stands behind her sharp tongued sarcasm as a shield against the world. Agatha has been married twice and both were sad situations. Agatha, tries everything in her personal arsenal to attack the gardener. Nothing seems to be working, George Marston seems to just not appreciate her. Taking a leave from her agency, Agatha throws an old fashioned ball for charity. George promises her the first dance, but is

a no show. Agatha traces George to his home and finds him, but George is in no condition to explain as he is dead! I found myself unhappy with the carping by the neighbors towards Agatha right at the beginning of the novel. However, if Agatha spoke to me as she does to her 'friends' I would be a former friend. Her obsession with men is growing old with me. In fact, I found it as a detraction from a rather good murder mystery. I will read the next Hamish Macbeth book, but, I believe this will be my last 'purchased' Agatha Raisin. This makes me sad.

I have read every Agatha Raisin book. I would say the first 5 to 8 books in the series had a sometimes laugh out loud quality that they really don't have anymore. I still enjoy reading them but I miss the humor that was part of Agatha's quirky personality. Not that she had a sense of humor, but the way she reacted to situations was so funny. I recommended the series years ago to a friend who is an avid reader -- she said she was under the hairdryer at her salon laughing so hard people were staring.

Not about this book in particular, but somewhere in the middle the whole series became so repetitive I can now read them in half the time, skipping over so many (practically verbatim) reminders: why the main characters only call each other by "Mrs...."; Agatha's physical description; backstory on Ron, James, Charles; "snakes and bastards"- she NEVER said this in the earlier books, now it's every other page; and the fairly new foreshadowing ("Little did she know...."). As other reviewers have noted, Aggie doesn't seem as funny as she used to; maybe M.C. Beaton is getting tired of her too. The vicar's wife is getting the best lines. Maybe Aggie just needs more sex with Charles...stop pretending you don't believe in "casual sex" and just do it! Maybe that would bring back a better mood. And I'm getting tired of Agatha's jealousy of Toni. But maybe that's the result of binge-reading 24 installments in as many days. Time we both had a vacation in the south of France. That's another thing-- occasionally Agatha goes off to some exciting foreign place, but the Beaton never seems very interested in that place...a trip to Paris, (can't even remember the other places- that's how forgettable they are) and two paragraphs later, she's coming home again. So why do I keep reading them? Answer: same reason Agatha keeps smoking!

I love M.C Beaton, but I am getting kind of tired of Agatha and her relentless pursuit of men, her make up, her high heels, her little bearlike eyes, I love the village, I love the minister's wife, in fact I am beginning to find Mrs. Bloxon the best character of all. I am a little bored with Agatha's jealousy of young women, come on, there is a big difference between mutton and lamb, get on with it

Agatha! and the fact that the endings are always predictable, I can tell you long before the end who the murderer is going to be. Let's change things up a bit.

Like many of its predecessors in the long line of M.C. Beaton's Agatha Raisin mysteries, "Hiss and Hers" is thoroughly entertaining and will not disappoint Ms. Beaton's many fans. As usual, Agatha entangles herself with some wily characters - two new-comers to her little Cotswold village: a famous soap-opera diva, and an Oh-So-Gorgeous-Hunk-Of-A-Man gardener. If you are not familiar with Agatha Raisin mysteries, they are light, funny, "English Cozy" type whodunnits, created to entertain. If you like police procedurals filled with blood, gore, and explicit sex, M.C. Beaton is not for you. However, her mysteries are full of believable, humorous characters, suspense, a dash of romance, a crazy, whirling plot, and subtle, yet, considerable, wit and irony. All I can say about Agatha is: she is SO "Agatha!" ... a 50-something, successful, bundle of opposing tendencies, who with her shining brown hair, bear-like eyes, and good legs, manages to irritate and charm her way through life. Her heart is prone to romantic fantasy, in spite of her intelligence and her knack for solving crimes. Though often plagued with petty jealousies and sudden urges to pursue unattainable men, Agatha is still endearing - perhaps because like most of us, she is her own worst enemy. "Hiss and Hers" is a fun roller-coaster ride through murder and mayhem, guaranteed to entertain any whodunnit addict.

Agatha Raisin will go down in literary history. I know she will. She is so rambunctious and moody that it just makes her as a character. I can just see her squeezing herself into something tight and going to the pub to see if she could attract some gentleman. I picture her trekking around in the rain on a case and coming home to eat a nasty microwaved dinner. The story line is good and I always like the setting of the Agatha books. I sometimes wonder if her thatched roof might cave in during all that rain but I guess they know how to do those properly. She is a keeper.

I have all MC Beaton books on the Agatha Raisin series except the latest. This is the only book I found a bit uninteresting it was lacking in story depth with little or no humor which most of the series contains both. This will not stop me from buying the latest book but I am hoping to see a more interesting story and the same quality that the earlier books contained.

She's always falling for the wrong man, and it's going to get her killed. What's worse than a broken heart? Maybe being stalked by a psycho, and losing your best friend. The one with privileges that is.

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