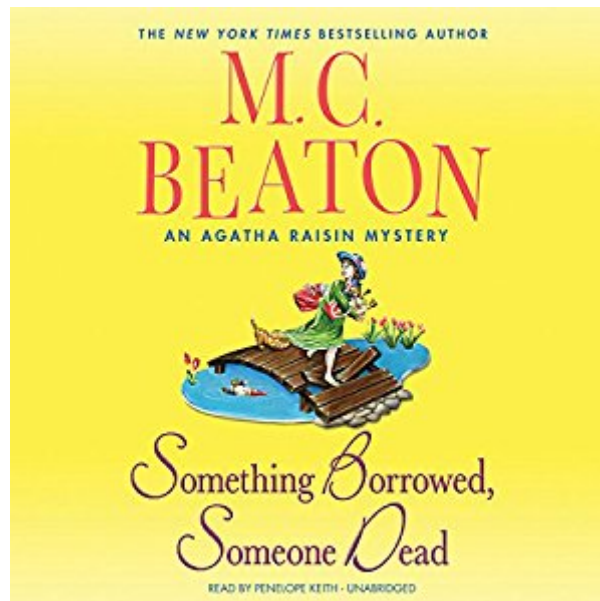


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Something Borrowed, Someone Dead: An Agatha Raisin Mystery, Book 24



Synopsis

Gloria French was a jolly widow with dyed blonde hair, a raucous laugh, and rosy cheeks. When she first moved from London to the charming Cotswold hills, she was heartily welcomed. She seemed a do-gooder par-excellence, raising funds for the church and caring for the elderly. But she had a nasty habit of borrowing things and not giving them back. They're just small things - a teapot here, a set of silverware there - so it's quite the shock when she is found dead, murdered with a poisoned bottle of elderberry wine. Afraid the murder will be a blight on the small town, Parish councilor, Jerry Tarrant, hires private detective, Agatha Raisin, to track down the murderer, but the village is secretive, and the residents resent Agatha's investigation. Of course, that doesn't stop the ever-persistent Agatha from investigating and sticking her nose where no one wants it - especially as the suspect list grows. And, as if it isn't enough that Agatha's ex has reentered the picture and the murderer is now targeting Agatha! With M. C. Beaton's *Something Borrowed, Someone Dead*, the bossy, vain, and absolutely irresistible Agatha Raisin continues to be a fan favorite.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the first book I have read in this series, and, though not overly enthused, I was not disappointed either. Agatha Raisin and her staff explore the death of a brassy woman, who borrowed items from everyone and conveniently forgot or neglected to return them from poison imbibed in some elderberry wine she had "borrowed" from a donor at a recent faire. Agatha is asked to investigate the murder, but finds the going difficult, as the townspeople try every way they can to

block or stymie her or her staff's efforts. I found the basic murder plot enjoyable reading, but there was so much other extraneous stuff in the book that I wondered whether the author was just padding things. Every time I read more, I found another event/incident involving Agatha's poor relationship with and understanding of her staff or of a friend in some sort of personal relationship, which only detracted from the basic story. The long-time reader of the series, familiar with all the strengths and foibles of the characters, may appreciate the way the author expanded, explained and resolved some as well as their tempering with the main character, Agatha Raisin. One thing I found interesting and somewhat unique about this murder plot and story was the fact that the book took place over large spans of time, unlike most of the other mysteries I read and have read. However, once the basic plot was developed and the murder occurred, a lot of the other sub-plots seemed to only prolong things without really adding to the main story. The author has well-developed characters, and the settings in the typical English country town and villages was authentic and interesting. I recommend die-hard readers of the series read this book, because, in addition to an interesting plot, it may tie up some loose ends about the characters.

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