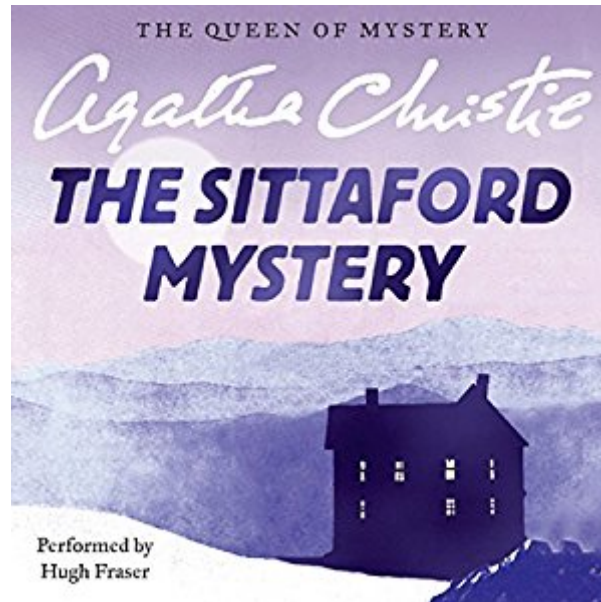




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The Sittaford Mystery



Synopsis

In a remote house in the middle of Dartmoor, six shadowy figures huddle around a table for a seance. Tension rises as the spirits spell out a chilling message: "Captain Trevelyan... dead... murder." Is this black magic or simply a macabre joke? The only way to be certain is to locate Captain Trevelyan. Unfortunately, his home is six miles away and, with snowdrifts blocking the roads, someone will have to make the journey on foot.... This title was previously published as *The Murder at Hazelmoor*.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours and 36 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: HarperAudio

Audible.com Release Date: July 3, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B008GZWEP0

Best Sellers Rank: #92 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > British

Detectives #470 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Historical Fiction #623 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > British Detectives

Customer Reviews

The Sittaford Mystery by Dame Agatha Christie (1890-1976) was published in London in 1931. It is one of those Christie novels without the services of Miss Marple or Detective Hercule Poirot on duty to solve mystery. The Plot: "Mrs Willett a recent émigrée to England from her home in South Africa holds a party at Sittaford House. Present are her daughter Violet and four guests. A séance is held and a turning table spells out a spooky message reading, 'Trevelyan Dead-Murder.'": Major Burnaby an acquaintance of Captain Trevelyan calls the police and the doctor. They arrive at the Trevelyan estate called Hazelmoor. There they find the dead Trevelyan. The retired murder victim has been bludgeoned to death with a sandbag used to keep out winter drafts. All of this occurs during a terrific snowstorm that has shut down travel in the gloomy Dartmoor region of Great Britain. The police arrest Jim Pearson the nephew of the murder victim. Jim's fiancée is beautiful and brainy Emily Trefusis. Emily along with newspaper reporter Charles Enderby put on their thinking

caps to solve the mystery. Emily is a fascinating woman reminding this reader of an older version of America's Nancy Drew. The plot is complex with many characters and there's a lot to sort out in typical Christie fashion. However, the explanation of the murder is simple and easily understood. This is one of the lesser known Christie novels but I found it to be a page turner. An excellent introduction to the delights of Agatha Christie!

Seeing Agatha Christie's portrait on my Kindle, I decided to give her a try - I had only read a couple of her books in my life, when I was a teen. She certainly kept me guessing, and I felt the book stood the test of time despite outdated words and phrases like "Hark!" and "the gay life in London." The book had some fun self-irony ("Like in books there ought to be some little incident that I should remember that would be a clue," said one of the characters). Another line reminded me of Dr. House from tv: "Everybody tells lies one way or another, and Mrs. Willett is perfectly entitled to do the same as everybody else."

Sometimes, only an Agatha Christie book can truly satisfy the desire for an old-fashioned whodunnit, and this book does the trick. I'm so glad that Agatha Christie captured her era in her books from the language used ("a bit keen on money," "You can't say fairer than that, sir") to the statements of "electric lights", as electricity in homes was still a new concept for rural areas. This book was published in 1931 and it takes you back to that time period during a snowy winter when Captain Trevelyan is murdered in his rental home. It's a story that's easy to follow and keeps you involved along the way. Enjoy!

I like Agatha Christie so am maybe a bit biased. Her books have been entertaining without the excessive violence and sexual content many authors today use. Her stories are timeless though written many years ago and I find them always interesting not formulaic. While liking some better than others I've not found any I disliked.

As someone said, even Agatha Christie's "worst" books are better than many authors' writing today. I would agree. I own most of her books and both the Poirot and Marple short story collections. The Sittiford Mystery setting was minimal and bleak (cold, snowbound, moors, very small town). The severity of the setting was unrelieved by anything approaching charm or interest. The characters were even less engaging--in fact, the plot quickly became monotonous. Probably the only Christie book I've not been sorry to finish. I bought this to add to my collection. If you don't care about

acquiring all her books, give this one a pass.

A small party decides to play a game of "turn tables" which spells out the name of Captain Trevelayn and says he is dead. His friend, Major Burnaby, sets out immediately to visit him. Trevelayn ends up dead and Inspector Narracot starts his investigation. When an arrest is made, the suspect's girlfriend, Emily, starts to investigate on her own. Can they figure out what really happened? Good story.

Captivating as always..... but didn't care for the ending. Just once I would like to be able to solve mysteries but there always seems to be some unique twist that no one would've been able to figure out no matter how hard they try. This one was very far fetched.

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