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Hallowe'en Party (BBC Audio Crime)



Synopsis

Famous crime novelist Ariadne Oliver, visiting her friend Judith Butler in the little town of Woodleigh Common, is invited to a Halloween Party put on by society hostess Mrs. Rowena Drake for the local teenagers. During her preparations for the party, the conversation turns to Ariadne's grisly novels. One of the teenagers, Joyce Reynolds, boasts that she once witnessed a murder, although she didn't realize at the time what she'd seen. Convinced that she is just trying to attract attention, no one believes her—but later she is found tragically drowned in an apple-bobbing tub. Distraught, Ariadne decides to call upon the services of her old friend Hercule Poirot to solve the case. Assuming that Joyce was killed because of what she said, Poirot knows he must find out if the teenager was telling the truth. If so, there is not just one death for him to investigate, but two. . . Starring John Moffatt as Hercule Poirot, with Stephanie Cole as Ariadne Oliver. 2 CDs. 1 hr 30 mins.

Book Information

Series: BBC Audio Crime

Audio CD: 1 pages

Publisher: BBC Books; Unabridged edition (January 9, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1846070414

ISBN-13: 978-1846070419

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.4 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 334 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,879,753 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (C) > Christie, Agatha #3127 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers #4018 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

Customer Reviews

"A thundering success... a triumph for Hercule Poirot" Daily Mirror --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

At a Halloween party, Joyce—a hostile thirteen-year-old—boasts that she once witnessed a murder. When no one believes her, she storms off home. But within hours her body is found, still in the house, drowned in an apple-bobbing tub. That night, Hercule Poirot is called in to find the “evil presence.” But first he must establish whether he is looking for a

murderer or a double murderer. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ariadne Oliver is at a Halloween party when a child boasts that she has seen a murder. Later the child was found drowned in the bucket for bobbing apples. She enlists Hercule Poirot's help. Can they figure out what is going on before someone else dies? A little bit more horrifying because of a child's death, but still a great mystery.

By this point, Ms. Christie and Monsieur Poirot were getting a bit verbose and crotchety. There's a certain amount of repetitive harping on certain themes that only slow down the plot. But nothing Ms. Christie wrote was inferior and this is worth both reading and rereading for the interesting characters alone.

Once again Agatha Christie has created the puzzle of a party of people visited by death. In fact, there are numerous deaths in this book, some current, some past. Determining if they are related and how is as much a mystery as determining the murderer. Poirot's pattern of speech and mental turnings are once again centerstage and share the limelight with his affected, deliberate manner of dress. The story itself is very satisfying and the resolution well explained with many clues presented along the way.

Only read this because of time of year, and picture on book. Also author was Christie. Story was not very interesting, but good subject matter.

Halloween Party - Agatha Christie audio performance by Hugh Fraser 3 stars
Mystery author, Ariadne Oliver attends a children's Halloween party. A child is found drowned in the apple bobbing tub of water at the conclusion of the party. The victim, who has a well established reputation for lying, had reported seeing a murder. Before the strange conclusion, two (unlikable) children are dead and another (very likable) child is rescued in the nick of time. Agatha Christie seems to have given up on aging Hercule Poirot appropriately for the purposes of this book. He works with Ariadne Oliver to solve the mystery without any apparent infirmities of age. She allows her characters a certain amount of ranting about how everyone is always hearing of children being murdered these days. She is apparently of the opinion that too many of the criminally insane are being released to commit further crimes. I thought it was

interesting to read about a British Halloween party. I'd thought most of these traditions were American. Ariadne does discourse a bit on whether the decorations are pumpkins or vegetable marrows, and apparently, in England, pumpkins are yellow.

A typical Hercule Poirot Mystery that is an enjoyable read. A young girl is murdered at a Halloween party, and a guest that heard the child brag that she had witnessed a murder was suspicious when the child was killed while bobbing apples. The guest enlists Poirot's help in investigating, but it's not easy when everyone who knew the child knew that she consistently told tall tales.

A 13 year old girl attending a birthday party mentions to all that she had witnessed a murder 2 years previously. A short time later another murder occurs, a short time later M.Poirot and his little grey cells become involved. This is the third to last full length Poirot story, (actually the second last given "Curtain" was written in 1940 and put in a safe,) and the author is getting tired. This is not one of the best in this series by any stretch but although you can identify the killer early in proceedings the author hasn't cheated too much and all the information is available to the reader to solve it. Unless you've read all these stories I'd leave this one until the end.

Hard to find fault with any Christie book. I've read them all years ago but wanted to read them again, and I love these new editions, great cover art and a bit nostalgic. I've started collecting them so my kids will have them around to read as well.

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