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Sleeping Murder (BBC Audio Crime)



Synopsis

Young Gwenda Reed arrives in England from New Zealand, traveling ahead of her husband Giles and charged with the task of finding the perfect place to make their base. In the quiet village of Dilmouth, she finds a house with immediate appeal. A few renovations will convert it into her ideal home. Then things get very strange indeed. Wanting porch stairs, Gwenda hires a builder to put them in—only to find some old steps, covered up by bushes. She decides on a connecting doorway between the drawing-room and the dining-room, but discovers one already there, now plastered over. When she opens the painted-over doors of an old cupboard to find wallpaper exactly the same as she had imagined, she begins to wonder if she is going mad. Is her mind playing tricks on her, or does she unconsciously know how the house used to look? It takes Miss Marple to realize that an unsolved murder is behind Gwenda's apparent intuition—but even she does not suspect the murderer will strike again. . . Agatha Christie's final Marple mystery is dramatized with a full cast including Julian Glover and Carolyn Pickles. 2 CDs. 1 hr 30 mins.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Has all the virtues of Agatha Christie's work. -- Times Literary Supplement --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Miss Marple's Final CaseA novel that adheres to the classic mystery formula, as well as transcends it, Sleeping Murder -- published the year of Agatha Christie's death -- marks the final appearance of

her popular sleuth. And this time "Christie makes us feel her shiver" (New York Times) as the usually unflappable Miss Jane Marple delves into the moral complexities of an immoral crime. Gwenda Reed's new home, a charming Victorian villa, is giving the lovely new bride the strangest feeling of *deja vu* -- and an unnatural dread that's taking its toll. Perhaps her husband's aunt, Miss Jane Marple, can calm the young woman's frayed nerves. But how can anyone solve a mystery such as this when the only clues are those in Gwenda's vivid imagination? As Aunt Jane digs a little deeper she's soon to discover just how truthful -- and terrifying -- the imagination can be.... --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

A young married couple, Gwenda and Giles Reed, purchase a new home in the English village of Dillsmouth. As Gwenda begins renovations, she stunningly comes to realize that this home is actually familiar to her: she lived in it as a young child with her father and stepmother. Beginning an investigation, they learn that Gwenda's stepmother, Helen, vanished some 18 years earlier and that her father, Kelvin, committed suicide in a mental facility. Did Gwenda really see Helen's dead body when she was a young child? Did Helen run away with an old lover? Did Kelvin kill his wife and go mad? Miss Marple aids in the investigation despite her belief that it might be best to let sleeping murder lie.

Miss Jane Marple has many talents. In this case she shows a capacity to reflect and reconstruct acts retroactively. The plot is interesting. One has to think carefully to discover the murder. Agatha tells the story in a direct manner. Miss Marple comes in the scene in a politely way and gains the confidence of the persons involved. A good reading that shows some of Miss Marple's techniques.

Agatha Christie is my all time favorite mystery writer. I have read nearly all of her books. Actually, I even read this one in the past, but forgot about it these many years later. This particular story, I believe, became a BBC production years ago. It may even have been on Masterpiece Mystery. It is a typical Miss Marple mystery about our unassuming older, white-haired friend involving herself, for the most innocent of reasons, into murder investigations filled with red herrings and dead end paths. And because of her observations into the human condition, is always finding a clue to the solution when she is reminded of someone or other back in her town of Saint Mary-Meade.

The story is classic Agatha Christie and although Miss Marple is not involved for a large part of the story her presence when she does appear is logical and entertaining. I enjoyed the main

protagonists that drove the plot and was entertained by how the various threads of the mystery came together as the book progressed. I would recommend this because the narrator was excellent, she made it obvious which character was speaking and her portrayal of emotions the people were experiencing came though in the audio.

Miss Marple is always welcome company, and once again she applies her vast experience with the darkness of human nature to aid a frightened young couple. A complicated tale, "Sleeping Murder" presents an unusual puzzle. A plentitude of red herrings litter the path, but Miss M provides a nick-of-time understanding of the tangle in a thoroughly engrossing story.

Excellent book! This kept me guessing to the end. Now I'm on a quest to read more great Agatha Christie novels!

The problem with the Miss Marple series is that they differ greatly in terms of how much she's actually involved in the stories, and who the narrator is. I liked this one less than some of the others because she's hardly in it at all. It's not a bad little mystery, but if Christie had removed her entirely it would hardly make a difference.

"Sleeping Murder" is one of Agatha Christie's best. This mystery keeps you guessing and constantly reevaluating the identity of the perpetrator of the crimes. To have such a wide variety of suspects adds many interesting twists and turns to a flawlessly developed plot. Miss Marple, Gwennie, and Giles are tireless sleuths who keep digging to uncover the truth. Murder Mystery aficionados will be riveted. In their seats from first page to last! Do yourself a favor and read this amazing book of countless twists and turns, intrigue, and excitement!

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