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Endless Night (BBC Radio Crimes)



Synopsis

"Some are born to sweet delight/Some are born to endless night." ~William Blake Agatha Christie wrote *Endless Night* in 1967, and it is one of her greatest and most unusual novels. Creepy, malevolent, and claustrophobic, it is a story about choices, the nature of good and evil, and grim retribution. Mike Rogers had a childhood fantasy about what life would be like as an adult: he'd have a beautiful wife, they would live in a beautiful home, and this would be a peaceful and deserved reward for a turbulent early life. When he meets Ellie Gutman at a lovely, remote spot known as Gypsy's Acre, suddenly it is all within his grasp. However, things are not as idyllic as they seem ~local legend has it that the land is cursed, and several terrible accidents have occurred there. Mike and Ellie pay no attention to these tales: but when they move into their new home, the curse suddenly seems to come to life and they find themselves in grave danger. . . Starring Jonathan Forbes and Lizzy Watts, this is a menacing drama that perfectly evokes the atmosphere of Agatha Christie's brooding, malevolent tale, infused with passion, hauntings, and grim retribution. 1 CD. 1 hr.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A surpassing mystery...ingenious...dazzling."--The New York Times --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Text: English, Spanish, German (translation) --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

This is my first Christie novel...I've read some other reviews saying that this book isn't recommended as an introduction to her work since it's not typical of her usual mysteries...but I have to disagree. This novel only makes me want to dive head first into another one! It had me from start to finish...I quite enjoyed the inner monologue and first person narration and about halfway through I was held in the grip of the most uneasy sense of creepiness that started colouring the story. There were points in the book where I actually looked over my shoulder...The suspense, character development and smattering of clues that only made sense as such at the end all make for a superb, edge of your seat portrayal of the inner workings of a mind gone horribly wrong. If you enjoy character development over plot happenings, glimpsing into a personality driven by darkness and a book that will have you thinking about it days after you've finished, then this is the novel for you.

Endless Night is essentially the same story as that told in a better-known and highly effective Christie novel, seen from a completely different perspective. It does not disappoint, however.

"Endless Night" by Agatha Christie further solidifies her as the "Queen of Mysteries," it's magnificent. The number of twists, turns, and misdirection's, in this story are mindboggling, you will think you are lost in an English labyrinth. The ending is startling and totally unexpected, at least for me it was. If you are a fan of murder mysteries and enjoy solving the case as you are reading you are going to love this story, it just doesn't get much better than this...

Endless night is unusual for Christie as it speaks to some political issues with regard to colonialism. However, as usual, she comes through at the end with a unique twist!

This novel is a stand alone by Agatha Christie, so Poirot or Marple are nowhere to be found. The story is told in first person and while not an overly dark tale, there is plenty of foreboding going on, so you won't be surprised by the murder and who dies. A well told story and the characters have plenty going on in the personalities to make them more than just 1 dimensional place-holders. All in all, a good mystery.

Very atypical story by Dame Agatha; in fact, if her name wasn't on it, and if you have read her Miss Marple / Hercule Poirot stories, I'd guess that you wouldn't identify her as the author of this one. A rather slight plot, and much more of a character-driven story than is usual in her writing. An

atmospheric beginning, with warnings of a gypsy curse, turned into a rather sluggish narrative. It is one of her later books, and, sadly, she seems to be slipping here.

This is truly a departure from the whodunits everyone is familiar with from Dame Christie. In some ways I liked it--it is a brooding novel that sort of captures you; but in some ways I felt a little disappointed with the story line since I am so familiar with her other works that are always so special to me. This novel was written in the 1960s and I feel that she perhaps wanted to distance herself from the Poirot, Marple, and other characters she had created in the past. If written by anyone else, I would probably have given it five stars. The character development and plot are fairly good and the ending has a bit of a twist, although I must say I couldn't really follow the reasoning completely. Unlike her other novels, this is one that I don't feel I would read again, but I'm glad that I had the experience of enjoying another look into the wonderful, creative, and sometimes devious mind of Agatha Christie.

Hmmm, what can I say? Agatha does an unbelievable job of sucking you in...I will give her that much, she knows how to build tension in her books. I would have given it a 5 stars, but, then there is the character building that occurs through much of the book. Without betraying the ending I must admit the concept of evil in her time must have been somewhat banal. Taking that into account she does an excellent job of really letting you wander through the environment she has created and wonder through all the characters she had created into who it might be. I guess I was a bit surprised at the lack of detail in her description of things as well, she never really vividly captures all the details of Gypsy Acres where the tragedy unfolds, just enough to keep you reading. Perhaps that is her greatness, economy of words, depiction to a point of raw utilitarianism to convey her plot and nothing else. All in all a great read. She is one of the best, though I was hoping for something more dark, sinister.

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