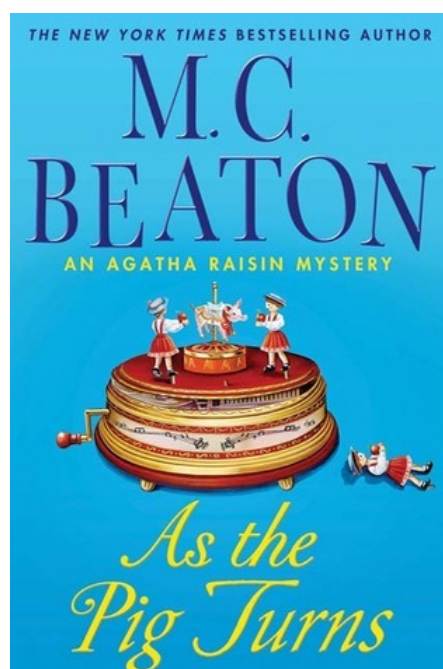




As the Pig Turns

M.C. Beaton

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Winter Parva is a picturesque (touristy) Cotswold village with gift shops, a mediaeval market hall, and thatched cottages. After a disappointing Christmas season, the parish council has decided to hold a special event in January, complete with old-fashioned costumes, morris dancing, and a pig roast on the village green.

Always one for a good roasting, Agatha Raisin organizes an outing to enjoy the merriment. The rotary spit turning over a bed of blazing charcoals is sure to please on this foggy and blistery evening. But as the fog lifts slightly, the sharp-eyed Agatha notices something peculiar about the pig: a tattoo of a heart with an arrow through it and the name Amy.

"Stop!" she screams suddenly. "Pigs don't have tattoos."

The 'pig', in fact, is Gary Beech, a policeman not exactly beloved by the locals, including Agatha herself.

Although Agatha has every intention of leaving matters to the police, everything changes when Gary's ex-wife, Amy, hires Agatha's detective agency to investigate - and another murder ensues.

With that provocation, how could any sleuth as vain and competitive (and secretly insecure) as Agatha do anything other than solve the case herself?

As the Pig Turns Details

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From Reader Review As the Pig Turns for online ebook

Claude says

Quite enjoyable. However I'm wondering. Wasn't Simon an orphan in one of the previous installments? Well, in As The Pig Turns both his parents were suddenly alive again. Sloppy plotting?

Barbara says

2.5 stars

Private detective Agatha Raisin - a stout fiftyish Englishwoman with small bear-like eyes and shiny brown hair - lives alone in Carsley, a pretty village in the Cotswolds. In this 22nd book in the series, business is slow and Agatha is bored - so she takes some friends and employees to nearby Winter Parva for a festive pig roast. As the pig is being basted, Agatha notices that the porker has a tattoo that spells out 'Amy.' Stop the roast! Turns out a pig's head has been attached to a human torso!

The victim is Gary Beech, a local policeman known for giving everyone traffic tickets for minor infractions. In fact Beech has recently given Agatha two tickets: for wiping her nose in the car and for driving 2 miles over the speed limit. Agatha has even loudly wished Beech dead. The murdered cop was an unpopular guy - but would village residents perpetrate such a bizarre crime?

Beech's ex-wife, Amy, hires Agatha to find the murderer - and the detective and her team get on the job. However, someone wants the inquiry stopped, and Agatha and her cohorts are threatened and harassed.....and one is even kidnapped. To top it off, Amy is soon found dead. Agatha is frightened off, but (of course) gets drawn back into the case.

Many familiar characters make an appearance in the story, including Agatha's ex-husband James - who assists with the investigation; public relations rep Roy - who loves to get his face on TV; aristocrat Charles - who always tries to get someone else to pay the check; agency employee Toni - who's tired of Agatha interfering in her life; Bill Wong - a policeman and friend; and Simon, a former employee who has reason to resent Agatha. Various thugs and miscreants round out the cast.

The premise of the book is interesting but the plot doesn't pan out. The detectives question people, gather evidence, and identify suspects - but it's all rather dull and strays down too many mundane paths. By the end I didn't much care who committed the crime or why.

The personal lives of the regular characters are a little more engaging, but not much. Toni has a new beau; Simon is engaged; Roy has a new punk look; etc. Towards the end of the story Agatha falls into an old habit - developing a crush on a handsome man. I cringed for poor Agatha who's acting silly and getting ready to make a fool of herself (again).....probably in the next book.

This isn't one of the best Agatha Raisin books but if you're a big fan of the series you might enjoy it.

You can follow my reviews at <http://reviewsbybarbsaffer.blogspot.com/>

Nancy says

I won *As the Pig Turns* in a goodreads giveaway and was excited about my introduction to a "New York Times Bestselling" mystery author. Maybe the that tag line raised my hopes too high.

This book is populated with plenty of "characters" and is fast paced with lots of twists and turns. Unfortunately the scenes felt thrown together and the story lacked the thread of truth that makes a work of fiction enjoyable. There was no character I could like or root for.

Perhaps this is a series that only works by starting with book one, but I'm not about to waste my time reading the 21 earlier books to find out.

Jennifer Nichols says

I enjoy this mindless series, but this one had a glaring mistake that kept bugging me the whole book. Last book introduced Simon, a character i enjoyed whose parents were recently killed in a car accident. In this one he comes back, but his parents are alive and are wealthy and spoil him. I'm generally willing to suspend all disbelief, but continuity is important.

Lauren says

Definitely not the best Agatha Raisin adventure. The plot itself was fine and Agatha was great as always, but this story focused so much on Toni, who I find unforgivably uninteresting, that I was bored most of the time. And I couldn't possibly care less about the "drama" between Toni and Simon, so the fact that half of the book focuses on their relationship just irritated me.

Kwoomac says

[I couldn't for the life of me figure out why the bad guy Tulloch came back to murder Sim

Mayda says

Agatha Raisin is at it again in this newest installment of M. C. Beaton's wonderful series. Poor Agatha never seems to be in the right place at the right time. Either she is miserable because she is alone and lonely, or she is literally falling over dead bodies in public places. Agatha is good soul at heart, even though she sometimes fails to do the right thing. But watching her get in and out of scrapes is half the fun of reading an Agatha Raisin mystery, and the other half is seeing if you can solve the mystery before Agatha does. And, of course, we never tire of seeing if Agatha can be really happy alone, or if she must have a man in her life, and if so, just who will that lucky (?) man be? One thing is sure about Agatha: whatever she is, it's not boring! Be prepared to be highly entertained.

Plum-crazy says

Oh what to say about this book..well, the word dire keeps springing to mind but that may be a wee harsh! For a bit of background I've read 22 of this series now & to be frank was losing interest about 6 or 7 books back!

So the basis for this story (& it's all on the back cover so it's not a spoiler) is at a hog roast it's found that a body has replaced the traditional pig. Now in any other story this would warrant a bit more detail (& in many cases a lot of blood & gore!) but no, that's about all we get!

As said in previous reviews, the writing style which I once found quaint, is starting to grate. It's what I call, for want of a technical term, the "*he said, she said*" style, a bit too blunt & to the point - pretty much like Agatha herself! Added to which it seems like it should be set in the 1950's or something. Efforts to be "current" for example Toni's speech, mannerisms etc are often cringe-worthy, & the two create a curious mix (& not in a good way) - the author seems to be in some sort of time warp.

Yep, I think it's the final meeting for me & Aggie, it was fun (a dozen books ago) but time to move on.....

Peggy says

#22 in the Agatha Raisin series, one of the few books I can read in a day. Very light, but funny and somehow you have sympathy for Agatha in spite of her rudeness, and lack of growth and self-awareness. The plot of this one is a little convoluted, but all the familiar secondary characters are present and accounted for.

Cynthia K says

Although I am a big fan of British mysteries, I had not read any of the novels featuring Agatha Raisin. Jumping into the series at the 22nd installment colored my opinion of the book. I should note that the reason I am encountering this author/character for the first is that I won a copy of this book from a Goodreads giveaway.

It was a good story, but I was distracted by trying to keep up with the characters. In addition to the suspects and those people associated with the killers, I had to sort out Agatha, her team at the detective agency, her romantic interests and the cops as well. I have to admit that, with a name like Agatha, I was expecting a sleuth like Miss Marple. Mrs. Raisin's cigarette smoking, gin & tonic drinking and abrasiveness were disconcerting to my pre-conceptions. It took me over half the novel to warm to the heroine. Even then, I felt frustrated by not knowing the back story of the recurring characters. And since there are quite a few characters that fall into this category, readers might be better served to prepare for this mystery by starting at the beginning of the series.

Annette says

What a terrible shame. What once was a brilliantly executed set of funny, believable and well written stories has finally come to an end. I say this because the last few novels in the series have just been utter rubbish

.Sorry to those that still think they are brilliant but in my honest opinion they have lost all what made them good .

Ive read every single one of MC Beatons Agatha Raisin series and they have got progressively worse and this one is no exception.

A thrown together plot that lost its way very early on which is what another reviewer said previously and i wholeheartedly agree. When reading the earlier Agatha Raisins i found i couldnt put them down but this one i became bored very early on.

The plot was ridiculously unbelievable , the characters some of which have been there since the begginging seem to have just been added in just to fill space and added nothing to the story and the repeating of certain words over and over was incredibly irritating.

It was such a forgettable book that even writing this review i am struggling to remember exactly what it was about and i only finished it yesterday .Loose ends galore silly situations that were just stupidly co incidental and just a book of nothing .

I am slowly losing the will to live with these stories but because im an optimist i live in hope that MC Beaton pulls her finger out and goes for quality more than quantity. Id rather have a better written story with a superb plot once a year than a couple of rubbish ones churned out just because you have to .

Ill read the next one but only because i like Agatha Raisin and the rest of the characters and also because of my love of the Cotswolds but i won't hold my breath for a decent story because quite frankly there hasn't been a decent one for several books.

Such a shame when over half of them have been brilliant ...this one didnt even raise a chuckle whereas previous ones have had me tears of laughter ...

2 Stars just because i couldnt say i HATED it but i really didnt like it

Jules says

As the Pig Turns wasn't one of my favourite books in the Agatha Raisin series, but it was still an enjoyable read. It's always fun revisiting some of the regular characters and seeing Agatha get up to her usual shenanigans.

It's definitely a series I recommend if you enjoy easy to read cosy crime mystery solving novels with fun characters.

Nancy says

I am convinced that MC Beaton does not use a plotting outline when she sits down to write her books in the Agatha Raisin series. Any book that begins with Mrs. Bloxby convinced that her husband is having an affair, an idea that is never revisited, and ends with the Bulgarian mafia, leaves the reader wondering if there is any pre-thought or just the ramblings of a bored writer.

The Agatha Raisin series is one that I revisit often since there is no deep thought needed to get through them.

The same characters are in every book; the plotline, though convoluted, is easy to follow and the reader does not have to invest too deeply to get to the end.

Slightly bored with her detective agency, Agatha gathers a group of her friends to visit Winter Parva a local Cotswold village. The group gathers around a pig roasting only to hear Agatha exclaim, "Pigs don't have tattoos". Thus begins Agatha latest adventure when it is discovered that the pig roasting is a much disliked police officer.

Add in an ex-wife, cosmetic surgery, leather goods, errant boyfriends back from the army, a cancelled wedding, Charles having more feelings that he likes for Agatha, James not liking the idea that Agatha might actually be over him. In addition, Toni trying to find a new job, Bill Wong not sure that he should date someone within the police force, stolen farm equipment, and a new gardener.

Really, the stuff that was thrown into this less than 300 page book is mindboggling.

You have to take Agatha Raisin with a grain of salt (I just love some of those old idioms) and realize that they are not literature, but a way to spend a few hours away from your own realities.

Mini says

In the previous book a new character was introduced, Simon Black. Hired by Agatha as a junior investigator. We learnt that he was an orphan, that his parents had died in a car crash and he was left with little but debts. But in this instatement Simon's parents are not only alive and well but quite rich and with some influence. This in-continuity was most annoying and distracting and is why I'm giving two and not three out of five stars.

Berit??? says

Picking up a book in this series and spending time with Agatha and her friends ...is definite comfort reading for me....

I do realize the plot in this book was a little OK a lot unbelievable, but I don't care.... it is the characters, I love seeing what Agatha gets up to next....Charles always makes me smile ... Love the addition of Tony to the detective agency in the last few books and also found it amusing Agatha pining after the gardener I appreciated the fact that James is getting concerned that Agatha isn't as interested in him as she was before....and yes the mystery, Agatha found this dead body in quite a unique way
