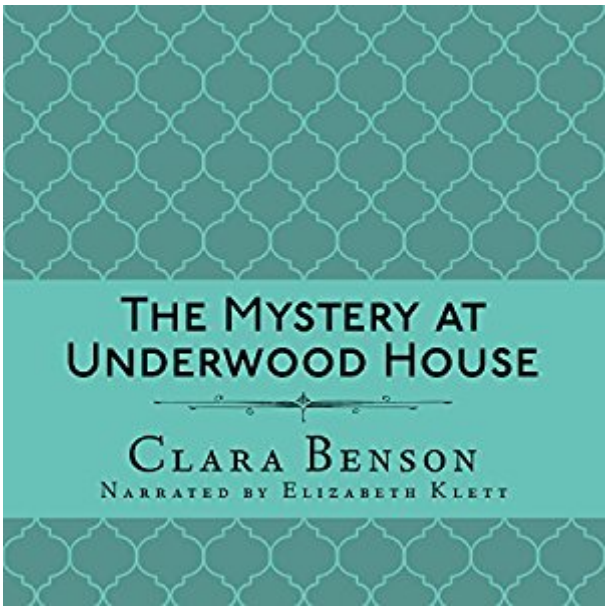
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The Mystery At Underwood House: An Angela Marchmont Mystery, Book 2



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Synopsis

Old Philip Haynes was never happier than when his family were at each other’s throats. Even after his death the terms of his will ensured they would keep on feuding. But now three people are dead and the accusations are flying. Can there really be a murderer in the family? Torn between friendship and duty, Angela Marchmont must find out the truth before the killer can strike again.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 7 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 17 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
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Publisher: Clara Benson
Audible.com Release Date: October 14, 2016
Whispersync for Voice: Ready
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Best Sellers Rank: #184 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > British Detectives #1224 inÃ Â Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > British Detectives #4429 inÃ Â Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Women Sleuths

Customer Reviews

This is the second Clara Benson book I have read, and like the first one, I just adored it. The characters are well defined, the lady detective is just fabulous (I wish I was half as interesting!) and I didn’t know "whodunnit" until very near the end. A good read for fellow Agatha Christie fans.

Some families don’t get along, but the Haynes are in a class by themselves. The father drives his wife into an early grave and torments his oldest daughter until she runs away from home. When the old goat dies he leaves a will dividing his money between his lawyer and his children AND stipulating that the siblings (who loathe each other) have dinner together twice yearly. Three dinners so far and a brother or sister has died mysteriously at each one. And you think YOUR family reunions are deadly!So we’re down to the oldest son, but there are spouses and children and three (THREE!) young folks who are orphans with mysterious parentage, so there are plenty of people to suspect and all of them look quite suspicious at one time or another. And, of course, there’s that daughter who ran off and was never heard of again. Or was she?This is my third Clara Benson and

not my favorite. Angela (normally a great favorite of mine) seems a bit off. She divides her time between blushing prettily while coyly denying any interest in detection and dodging death with tactics learned in WWI undercover work. And she spends what seems like DAYS trying to get the slippery shyster to show her the damned will. I yelled "Go to Somerset House, woman!" until my voice gave out, but it was still several chapters before she gave up on the lawyer and went to Somerset House (where all will, birth, and death records are available to the public.)I still enjoyed it. It's a period piece and Angela's household is as entertaining as ever. Marthe continues to run the joint with an iron fist and impeccable French snootiness. William is as intelligent as Mrs. Bradley's George and much more attractive and personable. The banter between the three of them is worth the price of admission. The Haynes family is screwy enough to be interesting. The clues are broad and plentiful and if you haven't identified the killer by the middle of the book better cut back on the sherry. Not Benson's best, but still a good read.

Clara Benson is a modern writer (ignore the bio in the book) who patterns her novels after English writers with style, characters, settings and plots similar to Agatha Christie's. I have enjoyed the first two of Benson's mysteries but figured out "whodunit" early in each book so that the only suspense was the character's motive. Sustaining suspense and creating plot twists are areas where Benson falls short of Christie. In fairness to Benson I read all of Christie's novels forty years ago, and readers who are not familiar with Christie may find the stories quite suspenseful. I will definitely read more of Benson's works because I read for suspense and saw improvements in the second novel. Also, I am personally delighted that this author understands that it is unnecessary to litter her work with obscenities, profanity, guts, gore, and/or perversions of all sorts to tell a story. Relying on such unsavory elements as those just mentioned suggests to me that a writer depends upon shock rather than talent. I give Clara Benson only three stars for being less than Agatha Christie, but I give her three cheers for having the courage to emulate a master and for not being a part of that "let's substitute gruesome for skill" crowd!

This book was an absolute pleasure to read. The story line moves effortlessly with a family who are not all willing to admit they surely must have a murderer in their midst. I was so pleased that the author didn't feel the need to draw me into the surroundings nor give the characters an aura of mystery.

Clara Benson is really good. As I have said in a review of the first in the series, her ear for period

usage is remarkable. So is the quality of her research. In a review of a mystery novel there is never any real point in expounding, at the risk of becoming a spoiler, on plot details and characters. All I'll say is that in this book Angela Marchmont is developing, credibly, into a golden age sleuth to rival Marples, Poirot, Wimsey and others. The plot is excellent, turning as it does on an obscure legal device, and while believability was never necessarily a hallmark of characters in classic detective fiction, Benson's people are as real as most. I will read more of her books.

WHAT a delight!! Reading Clara Benson's books is a mix of Columbo, Perry Mason and Agatha Christie. How could it get any better?!?!?!?!?!?! I love the touch of England's aristocracy, or at least elite, mixed with mysteries that keep one guessing right to the time she reveals the (always) surprise villain, which certainly dashes one's hopes for a career with the FBI or CIA!! The grammar is very good; she doesn't drag you through sexual exploits, and she is intelligent enough to use good language, not "street/alley talk," nor vulgar innuendoes. This, as with the others I have read, was intriguing, "can't-put-it-down, page-turning" terrific. She even added a bonus lesson in family dynamics and what NOT to do to create a dysfunctional family!!

This series is not going to set the world on fire, but the lead character is engaging, the mystery is intriguing, and for cuddling up with a book when you don't have a lot of time, this is good fun. Sometimes you don't want something that will keep you up all night until you finish it. I'm not by any means belittling this book. I definitely liked it & would recommend it.

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