



The Confession

Mary Roberts Rinehart

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An absorbing mystery from a modern master of the genre. Agnes Blakiston did not want to rent the old parsonage and soon came to regret it. At night the phone would ring and there would be unseen visitors. Was the house haunted? And did Miss Emily have a secret so terrible she would rather die than reveal it?

The Confession Details

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Author : Mary Roberts Rinehart

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From Reader Review The Confession for online ebook

Mary Ellen Millbranth says

Quintessential Mary Roberts Rinehart!

I love all of her books but especially love the ones where she and Maggie are a team. Can't go wrong with this.

Yibbie says

A slightly terrifying little story. There were spots I wouldn't have stopped to go to sleep. At one point you even suspect the country doctor. She builds a confusing set of circumstances, and then gives a very good clue about halfway through. After that it was easy to figure out. It was a fun read though.

Pat Beard says

Definitely of its time. Much more gothic than my taste. The characters were very well drawn.

Honnha says

Such a wonderfully written story. I enjoyed it thoroughly. If you love to read for the sake of reading, I highly recommend this.

Kettle Macaulay says

Meh. Built up the spooky really well, but had a rather deflated ending. Mary, your endings are your greatest weakness, I fear.

Mrsgaskell says

I came across this free download while browsing in the Kindle store. I haven't read anything by Mary Roberts Rinehart in decades so I thought I'd try it for old times' sake. I'm not sorry I did. It was an enjoyable old fashioned mystery. A spinster and her maid rent an old house in a village for the summer. The original idea was to have some nieces and nephews to stay but it doesn't work out that way and they are alone with the cook most of the time. The old lady who rents them the house has asked a suspiciously low rent and is very eager for them to stay. As soon as they move in the house inspires fear. There are mysterious phone calls in the night, signs of an intruder... As well as being an entertaining mystery, the book was humorous, in

particular the relationship between Agnes and her maid, Maggie. I may very well read more by this author, next time I'm in need of a light read.

Mary Roberts Rinehart was considered the American Agatha Christie at one time and the phrase "the butler did it" was inspired by one of her novels.

Jeanette Johnson says

I

Jenn Estepp says

I maybe would've liked this a wee bit better if it wasn't my, I don't know, fourth or fifth Mary Roberts Rinehart? She definitely had a groove and, while not completely sticking to it, moved pretty comfortably in it for multiple books. i.e., older lady and her less-educated companion rent a remote house for the summer and then spookiness goes down that they must get to the bottom of. I think the other books are better, but this passed the time adequately and I won't complain too much about things I download for free.

Cindy says

Having never read any books by this author, I have to say it was an enjoyable classic mystery. I liked the creepy parts yet she added a touch of humor to the book at times. The characters were likable and this was an all around well written story.

It was a fairly short book that I was able to read in one sitting. They have a large selection of her books on Amazon and I plan on reading some more of her writings!

Christine Cody says

It is as if the author plucks a string on the first page of the book, thus leaving her reader suspended, waiting for the note to resolve, the tension to release, an answer to appear. Yet until the finish, we revel in the suspense, as Rinehart strings us along and we wait, just as we would for a long, sustained musical note to resolve itself. Throughout this edgy story, we simply give in to the suspense and wait for the denouement, which, as with most Rinehart mysteries, is as unexpected and satisfying as one could ever want.

Anna says

This is a fun mystery that I really enjoyed. Mary Roberts Rinehart is overshadowed by others like Agatha Christie, but she's worth exploring. She was a very prolific writer as well.

Becky says

A short read. I didn't really feel that there was much of a mystery going on. And the beginning was probably supposed to be suspenseful or creepy, but it just made me laugh. Which was fine with me. :p

Whistlers Mom says

I think you're either a Rinehart fan or you're not. Her books are dated, but whether you consider them quaint and charming or absurd is a matter of personal taste. Certainly her over-the-top, had-I-but-known style is a thing of the past. I like them for the reason that I like most old mysteries. No other genre gives as intimate and realistic a rendering of daily life in the past as mysteries. Mystery writers MUST get the details right. Solving the crime depends on it.

This is a favorite of mine. It was published in 1921 and bears a striking resemblance to her best-selling 1908 book *THE CIRCULAR STAIRCASE*. Both are narrated by a well-to-do middle aged woman who rents a summer house, as wealthy people did at that time. With no air-conditioning, cities were unbearable in the heat of summer and the country was also supposed to offer some protection from the epidemics that normally peaked in the hotter months.

Both of the women are single, have a long-time servant with whom they carry on a running battle, and both are aunts to a grown niece and nephew. It's not a sequel, because the names of the narrators are different, although the name of the niece (Gertrude) and her husband (Jack) are repeated. But it's impossible not to think of the narrators as the same woman. They SOUND identical.

STAIRCASE was a long book for the time (226 pages) and *THE CONFESSION* is a novella of 73 pages. In the earlier book, the young folks are single and the action revolves around their romances. In this one, they are married with families of their own and only the nephew plays a small role.

Basically, it's a story about a respected, prominent family whose pride in their family history has consumed them. Although Rinehart was a wife and mother, she was also a proud career woman at a time when that was a daring thing to be. She passionately believed that women should be educated and live their own lives. Old Miss Emily is a prime example of a woman who has sacrificed herself on the altar of family duty. But why is she so anxious to find a renter for the family home which is the only home she's ever known? And who is the nighttime visitor who terrorizes the intrepid Agnes Blakiston and her out-spoken maid Maggie.

Rinehart's books appeal because of the excellent writing, the wry humor, and the lovingly drawn characters. She cared about her characters and she makes the reader care, too. That's one of the highest compliments I can pay any author.

Barbara says

Perfect mystery for reading near the end of October. Even though there turns out to be a perfectly reasonable

and logical explanation for the events of the book, Ms Rinehart builds a creepy atmosphere that sent chills up my spine more than once. I believe if she had ever turned her hand to the writing of "ghost stories," Ms Rinehart would have been an uncommon success at it given her talent for creating the proper atmosphere of suspense.

Blanche Manos says

I've finished reading *The Confession* by Mary Roberts Rinehart. I think this is the third time I've read it through the years. Miss Rinehart was a master of suspense. The book drew the reader along, disclosing clues as the story progressed, until the ending which tied everything together. Needless to say, I thoroughly enjoyed the book and have been a fan of Rinehart mysteries for years. I'd recommend it to anyone who enjoys a gripping story.
