

Gaudy Night (Lord Peter Wimsey Mystery)

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When Harriet Vane attends her Oxford reunion, known as the "Gaudy," the prim academic setting is haunted by a rash of bizarre pranks: scrawled obscenities, burnt effigies and poison-pen letters -- including one that says, "Ask your boyfriend with the title if he likes arsenic in his soup." Some of the notes threaten murder; all are perfectly ghastly; yet in spite of their scurrilous nature, all are perfectly worded. And Harriet finds herself ensnared in a nightmare of romance and terror, with only the tiniest shreds of clues to challenge her powers of detection, and those of her paramour, Lord Peter Wimsey.

Dorothy L Sayers was born in Oxford in 1893, and was both a classical scholar and a graduate in modern languages. As well as her popular Lord Peter Wimsey series, she wrote several religious plays, but considered her translations of Dante's *Divina Commedia* to be her best work. She died in 1957. GAUDY NIGHT is one of Sayers's most famous mysteries, and narrator Ian Carmichael does a splendid job personifying each of its well-drawn characters. The plot offers a lot of activity and even more dialogue, which Carmichael enhances with his gorgeous delivery. When Harriet Vane returns to her alma mater, Oxford, she finds herself in the middle of an escalating campaign of hatred. She calls Lord Peter Wimsey to assist as the attacks become physical, putting everyone in danger. Carmichael beautifully handles the eminently quotable Wimsey, along with a great deal of emotion, a suicidal young student, and the scouts (servants) who are vital to the story. He even treats listeners to a moving duet performed by Peter and Harriet in a lighter moment. A wonderful choice, even for those who are already familiar with the great Dorothy L. Sayers. S.G.B. AudioFile 2004, Portland, Maine-- Copyright AudioFile, Portland, Maine

Other Books

The Letters of Dorothy L. Sayers, C.S. Lewis said that Dorothy L. Sayers would be acclaimed as one of the great letter-writers of the twentieth century. His opinion is triumphantly confirmed in this collection of letters spanning Sayers's childhood and career as a detective novelist.

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