

The Agathas

AUTHOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid to Upper Secondary
(Violence)



SYNOPSIS

Welcome to Castle Cove—a town cursed with missing girls, bad boyfriends, family secrets and some very steep cliffs.

Last summer, Alice Ogilvie’s basketball-star boyfriend, Steve, dumped her. Then she disappeared for five days. Where she went and what happened to her is the biggest mystery in Castle Cove. Or at least it was. Because now, another one of Steve’s girlfriends has vanished: Brooke Donovan, Alice’s ex-best friend. And it doesn’t look like Brooke will be coming back ...

Enter Iris Adams, Alice’s tutor. Iris has her own reasons for wanting to disappear, though unlike Alice, she doesn’t have the money or the means. That could be changed by the hefty reward Brooke’s family is offering. The police are convinced Steve is the culprit, but Alice isn’t so sure, and with Iris on her side, she just might be able to prove her theory.

Luckily, Alice has exactly what they need to crack the case—the complete works of Agatha Christie. If there’s anyone who can teach the girls how to solve a mystery, it’s the master herself.

But the town of Castle Cove holds many secrets, and Alice and Iris have no idea how much danger they’re about to walk into...

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Kathleen Glasgow is the author of the New York Times bestselling novel *Girl in Pieces*, as well as *How to Make Friends with the Dark* and *You’d Be Home Now*. She lives and writes in Tucson, Arizona. To learn more about Kathleen and her writing, visit her website, kathleenglasgowbooks.com, or follow @kathglasgow on Twitter and @misskathleenglasgow on Instagram.

Liz Lawson is the author of *The Lucky Ones*, a Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2020, and the upcoming YA mystery *The Agathas* which she co-wrote with NYT bestselling author Kathleen Glasgow. She lives outside of Washington DC with her family and two bratty cats.

QUESTIONS FOR THE AGATHAS

- The protagonist in a detective or mystery story, is typically a person who has a great insight into human nature. They are good models for students to create memorable characters because they are quirky and clever and can see the truth when others can’t. Have a class discussion on mystery stories. Do students enjoy reading mysteries? Why?

- Agatha Christie is one of the world’s most famous fiction writers and known as the Queen of Crime. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, Christie remains the bestselling fiction writer of all time, with total global sales exceeding two billion books in more than 100 languages. Her murder mystery play, *The Mousetrap*, holds the record for the longest-running stage production in the world, and producers continue to produce feature films and TV adaptations of her work. In groups, research her most famous detectives, Hercule Poirot and Jane Marple. Why are they so popular and continue to hold appeal?
 - Create a list of the most common tropes of the crime genre.
 - Think about these conventions when you read *The Agathas*—how do the authors adhere to or challenge these features?
- Good writers don’t tell the audience everything—they allow the audience to infer and draw the pieces of the unfolding puzzle together so that they can, to a degree, draw their own conclusions about what is being presented to them. What information do the authors leave out in the first part of the book or add, to keep readers interested?
 - What crucial bit of information is on the map? How does it hook readers?
- Follow the character journeys of both Alice and Iris. Find and write down examples of the elements of a strong and distinctive narrative voice for each character using the following prompts:
 - Three examples of first person narration. Compare their diction, syntax—sentence structure and tone. What do you notice? Does the sentence structure or tone differ? Why? How do these language choices add to the overall effect?
 - Example of the characters thinking one thing and doing another.
 - Example of the characters being funny.
 - Example of the characters being brave or noble.
 - How the characters change over the course of the story.
- Write a paragraph on the characters of Alice and Iris and why they are each important and how they influence each other. Why is this relationship important in the story?