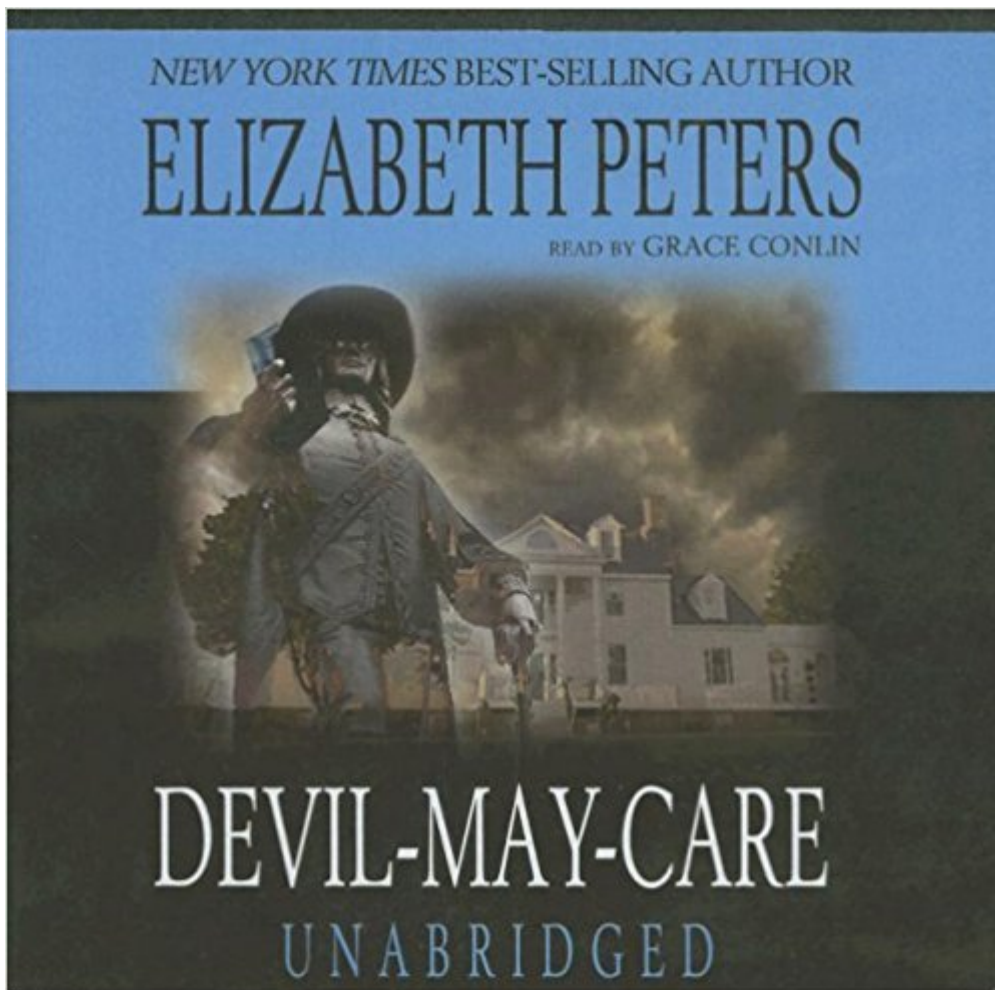




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Devil-May-Care



Synopsis

Ellie is young, rich, in love, and engaged. In the carefree days before marriage and new responsibility, she decides to house-sit at Aunt Kate's palatial estate in Burton, Virginia. With its nearly invisible housekeepers and plethora of pets, Ellie feels right at home. But when she opens an antique book about the town's aristocracy, she finds disturbing secrets that extend to her own family. Suddenly, Ellie's interest in the past is attracting a slew of unwelcome guests--some of them living and some, perhaps, not. Unwittingly, she has aroused a terrible vengeance that is now aimed at her.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"There's mirth as well as mayhem in Peters's mysteries, and Grace Conlin reads with a mischievousness....Her arch delivery reinforces Peters's descriptions of unlikable people, Ellie's stuffed-shirt fiancé in particular, but her voice warms when impersonating Ellie's eccentric aunt or Ellie herself." --AudioFile

Elizabeth Peters (1927-2013) was a New York Times bestselling author whose novels were often set against historical backdrops. She earned a PhD in Egyptology at the University of Chicago. She also wrote bestselling books under the pseudonym Barbara Michaels.

Pretty darn good. I hate to admit it, but this is the first book I've read by Barbara Mertz (aka Barbara Michaels and Elizabeth Peters), but it won't be the last. (I have already begun on her Amanda

Peabody series.) Ellie, a young woman from the city, promises to house sit her aunt's mansion in rural Virginia, and all kinds of hallucinations, ghosts, even riders at midnight begin to appear. Her aunt houses a menagerie of pets, and they too contribute to the atmosphere. Through it all, Ellie keeps her cool, and even endures the advances of a rakish young man from the neighborhood, so different from her uptight fiancé. This was a light and fun read. I'm glad I finally discovered Ms. Mertz (Peters, in this case) books, and can look forward to reading many of her others.

I love Ms Peters' books that take place in Egypt with the daring, loveable, and eccentric Emerson family and their friends. I know when I start one of these books, there won't be any chores done until I finish the whole thing. I can't say the same for Ellie, the heroine, of this story. It might just be that I am more interested ancient Egypt than more modern VA. I could be that the villains that attack the Emerson's are more colorful. Whatever, the reason, I don't think I will be collecting this series as I have the former. The writing is just as fun and Ms Peters can turn a phrase with the best of them. I'm just not as taken by this story as I have been and continue to be with the Peabody series.

This is an unusual Elizabeth Peters' mystery, but I found it an enjoyable read. Elli is a young woman engaged to a self-centered, social-climbing attorney. She is going to house sit for her eccentric, old aunt who lives in a mansion with an assortment of pets. Shortly after her aunt leaves on vacation, ghostly events start happening. Elli doesn't know if the events are real or pranks. The attractive groundskeeper, a neighbor, becomes her companion and assistant sleuth to figure out what is going on. But what about the boyfriend? A fun read.

I still hungrily await a new Amelia book, which may not happen due to Peters' advanced age. I was really hoping that she and her daughter would team up, with her daughter carrying the banner into the future. That doesn't seem to be happening. In the meantime, the search for unread EP books continues, with choices reduced considerably since my "have-read" list is fairly complete. Every now and then one does pop up. Devil May Care is the latest. I didn't see a publication date, but it appears to be an early effort. It's engaging and, in addition to the mystery plot, features the male/female tensions so typical of her books. It's basically fun, light reading.

I am a big fan of Elizabeth Peters and have loved everything I have read, however in the case of this book I really did not enjoy it. Something was lacking with the main characters, I never felt that I got to know anyone and I was really rather irritated at the way the book ended, it just stopped dead.

It really didn't read like the usual Peters writing, but no one can please everyone all the time. I am still a fan and looking forward to another of her books.

This is my favorite Elizabeth Peters book (I'm pretty sure I've read them all). Ellie, Kate, Donald, Ted and even Henry make a great combination of characters. Sometimes I'm laughing, other times I get a slight chill. I keep hoping someone will discover and unpublished sequel to this book.

Ellie has agreed to house sit for her Aunt Kate. Her pompous fiance drives her down to impress the rich old lady, who dislikes him immediately. After Kate's departure with the fiance to the airport. Ellie experiences all kinds of strange manifestations involving the six founding families of the area. A rare book telling of their boring scandals seems to be the trigger. A neighbor agrees to help her solve the mystery. It seems like a practical joke, until an old friend of Kate's gets seriously injured.... This was a very quick read and I enjoyed it thoroughly. I picked it up and didn't stop reading until the last page. The characters are quirky and entertaining. The atmosphere appropriately creepy, and the story line engrossing. A very good read.

I really like the books by Elizabeth Peters and this is one of my favorites. They always keep me entertained. I had gotten this years ago in hardback and decided when I got my kindle, that I wanted to put some of the authors I like on the kindle so that I have them available when I am waiting on appointments. That is the reason I ordered it.

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