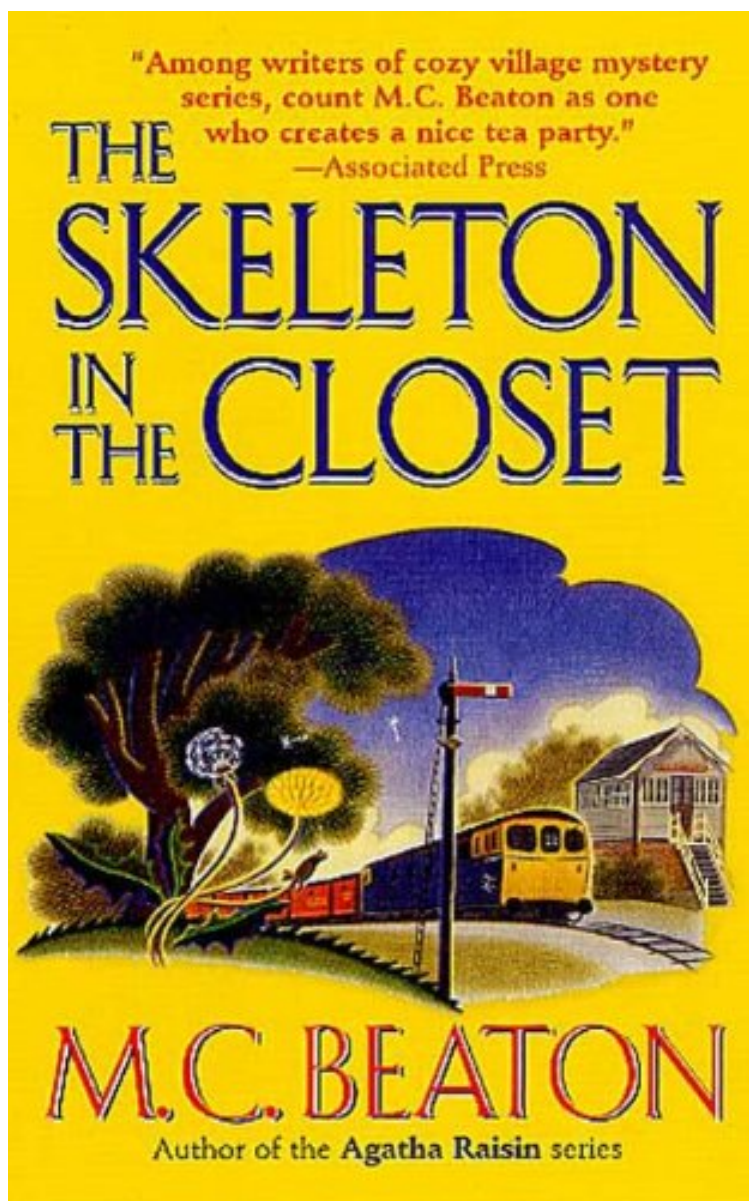


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# The Skeleton in the Closet



*Par M. C. Beaton*

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**Par M. C. Beaton : The Skeleton in the Closet** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Skeleton in the Closet:

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**Description :** Description du produitPoor Fellworth Dolphin has been living under the thumb of his miserly, cold-hearted mother for far too long. Since the death of his father, Fellworth has been supporting both himself and his mother with the meager wages he earns as a waiter in the local hotel. When his mother suddenly dies, Fellworth is shocked to find that she has left him a sizable inheritance. Not knowing where the money could have possibly come from, Fell teams up with Maggie, a plain girl with a similar background, to figure out where the riches came from. Could Fell's late father have had a hand in a long-ago train robbery? What secrets surrounding the Dolphin family will the two sleuths uncover? As they poke around the village for answers, Maggie and Fell embark upon a surprise-filled path to danger and adventure, and-just possibly-love.With the same charm and wit that characterize her Agatha Raisin series, "the always

wonderful M.C. Beaton" (Romantic Times magazine) has created yet another charming mystery in the best of the cozy tradition.

Prsentation de l'diteurEver since the death of his father, poor Fellworth Dolphin has slaved away as a waiter to support his miserly, cold-hearted mother. When his mother suddenly dies, Fellworth is shocked to discover that she has left him a sizable inheritance. confused, Fell teams up with Maggie, a plain girl with a similar background, to investigate the source of the riches. But what they find is a closet full of skeletons...Is it really possible Fell's father was involved in a long-ago train robbery? Who's the mysterious woman in the portrait hidden in his mother's wardrobe? As Maggie and Fell poke around the village for answers, they find themselves on a surprise-filled path to danger and adventure, and--just possibly--love. But Fell's sudden good fortune could come to an abrupt end if he doesn't stay one step ahead of a cunning killer... from beloved novelist M.C. Beaton comes this thrilling stand-alone mystery, *The Skeleton in the Closet*.From Publishers WeeklyTaking a break from her two long-running series (*Agatha Raisin* and *Hamish Macbeth*), Beaton introduces a pair of engaging misfits whose struggles to cope with overbearing families and overweening circumstances teach them, eventually, to rely on each other. When diffident fortyish virgin Fellworth Dolphin's mother dies, he finds himself surprisingly relieved and freed from a bondage he was only partially aware of. That's nowhere near the astonishment he feels when he learns that, in spite of their penurious existence, he's heir to a large sum. In a moment of panic, when it seems an aunt might assume the tyrannical role his mother once played, Fell pretends an engagement to mousy waitress Maggie Partlett. In fits and starts, Maggie and Fell begin their separate transformations--she to a swan, he to a drake. One catalyst is the money and its questionable provenance--perhaps the result of an infamous train robbery that occurred many years ago and that Fell's father might have been involved with. The other is the transformation wrought by their shared investigation and their shared lives, as Maggie falls in with the pretended engagement for her own purposes. Various relatives and villains attempt to derail the couple as they journey, but there's never a question of where the author is taking her odd couple, and never a doubt they will arrive safely. The trip will delight fans of either of Beaton's other series. (Mar. 21)will be published on Mar. 6 (see Forecasts, Dec. 18, 2000).Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalFellworth Dolphin, virginal and fortyish, achieves freedom when his manipulative, widowed mother dies of a sudden heart attack. Surprisingly, Dolphin inherits a small fortune as well as a mysteriously full cash box. To keep family at bay, he invents a live-in fianc e plain Maggie from the restaurant he has just quit who becomes his accomplice in investigating a years-old, unsolved train robbery with which his father had some connection. Assault, deception, and attempted murder dog their search, which uncovers much more than just robbery perps. Beaton, in fine form, handles a twisting plot with dexterity, wit, and precision. Recommended. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.