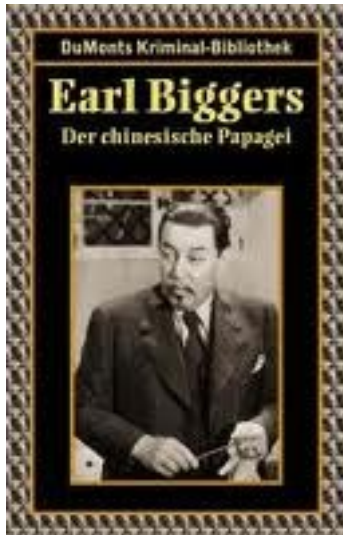

Earl Derr Biggers

Der Chinesische Papagei (Charlie Chan #2)



Title: Der Chinesische Papagei (Charlie Chan #2)

Author: Earl Derr Biggers

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Description

A mysterious millionaire with a penchant for strange pets takes a flyer on a string of pearls and finds that death is the broker. "Charlie Chan embarks on an incognito journey across the desert to find the answer to a question - a question posed by a dead parrot who spoke in Chinese . . . "

Insightful reviews

Jim Dooley: I'll admit that if this had been the first book in the series, I wouldn't have rushed into reading the second one. It is not poorly written. In fact, it is what I would have expected in style from a mystery of this period. It almost seems like an early Charlie Chan movie (one of the better ones) with stereotyped characters in an unusual location. The central focus is not so much "Who done it?" as it is "What was done?"

The first book had rich, vibrant characters, a mystery that was truly puzzling, and a location that was something of a character itself. In this second one, there were only two characters that I cared about at all (and one of them was not Charlie Chan), the location was the California desert which had no appeal for me, and I actually guessed the "What" that had been done.

It is an enjoyable read for those who enjoy period mystery novels. There are some racial reactions that may bother readers, yet they are not as overt as are found in many mysteries of this time. And I will move along to the third one in the series. I just won't approach it as rapidly as I would have done if this one had the style of the first one.

Alaina Sloo: Throw away everything you ever thought you knew about Charlie Chan from the Charlie Chan movies of the 1930s and 40s. Earl Derr Biggers' Charlie Chan books, written in the 1920s and 1930s, are much more interesting, putting on view the commonly held stereotypes of Chinese Americans during this period and the racism they encountered. The Charlie Chan of the books is an intelligent and subtle opponent of those attitudes. The mystery is clever and great fun, and like all of the Charlie Chan books, it has a great sense of place: in this case 1920s California.

Sam Bissell: Recently, I watched a few old Charlie Chan movies from the mid-'40s, starring Sidney Toler (who took up the reins after Warner Oland retired). These movies mesmerized me as a kid and probably are the reason I like mysteries so much as an adult. However, I had never read any of the Charlie Chan mysteries before so I looked them up at Amazon and started loading them into my Kindle. Sadly, there are only 6 specific Chan mysteries written by Earl Derr Biggers and several wannabe-Chan-mysteries written by other writers.

The Chinese Parrot is the second book in the series and, as usual, is an absolutely terrific mystery that keeps you wondering whodunit right up to the point that Charlie divulges his crowning theory, after interjecting many of his Chinese witticisms.

This book starts out in a San Francisco jeweler's office, where a friendly exchange of pearls are purchased. The two families involved are both rich, though one of them is hitting the skids and

desperately needs the cash, which, in this case, is a hefty \$150,000. Quickly, the locale shifts to the environs around Palm Springs, California, and a Spanish villa on the outside of town, where the purchaser is waiting for the delivery of the merchandise. Much to his dismay, the son of the jeweler, who is the intermediary in the transaction, is stalling on said delivery.

Bob Eden and Charlie Chan, who is working undercover as a houseboy and cook for the owner of the villa, do everything in their powers to keep the pearls from passing into the new owner's hands because something seems pretty fishy at the villa. For one thing, the Chinese Parrot falls ill almost as soon as they arrive at the villa and the owner of the villa seems VERY out-of-sorts and not acting himself. Add to the mix a young lady who is a "front girl," whose job it is to find backgrounds for silent movies and who wants to use the villa for said backgrounds...also add a newspaperman who has an acute nose for sniffing out fishy and mysterious shenanigans....and more and more nefarious characters who had something to do with either the owner or his butler in their previous lives.....add them altogether and you've got a really juicy mystery, despite the very dry and dusty environs of southeastern California. Twists and turns, as any good mystery will do, keep your attention sharp and just as stumped as Charlie and Bob Eden continue looking for clues that lead someplace!

As with his previous book which took place in Hawaii, Earl Derr Biggers sets a perfect scene in an environment that is the antithesis of Hawaiian shores: that of the dry, dusty gulleys and desert landscapes dotted with cholla cactus that are scattered throughout the southwest. Biggers' ability to invoke mystery to the background is shown in his portrayal of the atmospheric timelessness of the area. In this second Charlie Chan mystery, which was written in the mid-'20s, the readability still holds up to today's standards as a very engaging and enjoyable crime novel. All of Biggers' characters are spot on in their portrayals, too: from the various shifty bums, who seem to get seedier and seedier as we meet each new one; the old and tired newspaperman who sets his own type in the tiny town of Eldorado and who wants to go back to New York City but knows the city is too fast for him these days; the young woman who enjoys her freedom and doesn't go out of her way to pour on the charm for Bob Eden, who isn't exactly looking for a girl but who can't keep his eyes off of her; and, of course, the two personas which Charlie Chan must present, which are lowly cook and his Detective-Sergeant of the Honolulu Police Department.

The Chinese Parrot kept me turning the pages and, as a good writer will do, each chapter ends as it pushes you into the next chapter, of which Biggers is a true master. The more I read Biggers' Charlie Chan mysteries (I'm on my 4th as I type this), I find that his writing style is much the same in wit and atmosphere as are Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes adventures, despite the difference in locales.

I highly recommend this book, especially if you've read the first one (The House Without A Key)....and then read the next one, which is Behind That Curtain, the third book in the series.

Jayaprakash Satyamurthy: Charlie Chan is still an interesting personality and a pointy sleuth in this, the second one novel within the series, even if he is transplanted from his domestic turf to the Californian desert. If anything, gazing him improvise in a state of affairs the place he has no jurisdiction and needs to paintings incognito enables an excellent extra awesome performance. I found out the secret as soon as it grew to become obvious what the particular secret was once going to be approximately - it takes your time for the important puzzle to emerge - besides there

have been sufficient crimson herrings and problems that eventual solution held its percentage of revelations for me. The romance attitude - concerning Chan's Hastings of the moment, the younger son of a diamond service provider and a lady who scouts destinations for movie businesses - is dealt with with a mild witty contact and is helping the plot zip alongside instead of appearing as an stressful distraction, even though the point of interest is usually at the deviously creative puzzle Chan has to unravel.

Elena: This was once very humorous and, notwithstanding predictable, I loved gazing the whole lot fall into place. My twenty first century self firstly idea it was once a section racist yet then i spotted how frequently Charlie Chan was once capable of use his race to a bonus to determine extra concerning the crime so i made a decision it wasn't. Also, Biggers basically issues out how racist a few of the different characters are and doesn't compliment them for it, so i guess it used to be beautiful complex for the 1920s. now and then I questioned if those novels have been written with the hopes that they'd turn into videos (as they later did) given that there has been nearly an excessive amount of dialogue.

Nora: I loved this mystery. What shocked me the main was once the entire derogatory and racist feedback in the direction of the Chinese, yet then while i found this publication used to be released in 1926, the unfairness matches the time period. Even after i discovered that the racist comments have been a part of that point interval i used to be nonetheless surprised since it used to be so real. the writer didn't have to find out about the racism in the direction of the chinese language simply because he wrote the tale in the course of his personal time period. present day authors frequently cannot catch what it was once relatively like, purely what the study tells them. As a mystery, this was once a sluggish relocating one. such a lot of our mysteries this present day contain plenty of blood, guns, chasing and throughout speedy action. This was once extra methodical, good proposal out with plenty of useless ends. I needed to cease part approach via since it wasn't relocating quick sufficient for me, yet as soon as I went again to it I simply enjoyed it.

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