



The Awdrey-Gore Legacy

Edward Gorey

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Miss D. Awdrey-Gore, renowned 97-year-old writer of detective stories, is found murdered; then a mysterious hidden packet is discovered. Addressed to her publisher, it contains what appear to be notes and drawings related to a literary work in progress. The contents "in their entirety--though certain things are patently missing" comprise clues about the who, what, when, where and how of Awdrey-Gore's demise. Or do they? Edward Gorey takes us on a rollicking ride in this merry murder mystery, but whether or not the killer is revealed is open to speculation. As one scrap of paper in the packet states, "The smallest clue may be (or not) / The one to give away the plot."

The Awdrey-Gore Legacy Details

Date : Published December 31st 1972 by Dodd Mead

ISBN : 9780396065982

Author : Edward Gorey

Format : Hardcover

Genre : Art, Fiction, Childrens, Picture Books, Mystery, Humor

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From Reader Review The Awdrey-Gore Legacy for online ebook

Kristy McRae says

I love Edward Gorey! What else is there to say?

Scrumhalf says

As much as I love Edward Gorey's artwork, sometimes I just don't love the story. This was one of those times.

Dan Poblocki says

I think this might be one of Gorey's most genius works.

Allan says

The Awdrey-Gore Legacy, an entertainment from Edward Gorey, first published in 1972 has been republished in a handsome new edition from Pomegranate of San Francisco. The book is “a Mobius Mystery containing Portents, Fragments and significant Objects...” In fact, because of it's fragmentary nature this new edition could just as easily have been published in a decorative box with cards and lists and various objets trouvés. [return][return]The wit and anagrammatic whimsy of Gorey has never been more apparent. The elderly D. Awdrey-Gore, celebrated spinster-author of detective stories has turned up murdered on St. Spasmus Day — she had previously disappeared on this same saint's day in 1927 . A little confusing, but delicious fun![return][return]Gorey has summoned an impressive cast of characters including Waredo Dyrge, half Irish, half Japanese soldier of fortune and detective of the highest rank who announces his deductions in the form of linked haiku and is portrayed by E.G. in a series of drawings exhibiting progressively more extreme amputations and prosthetics (all in the line of duty I presume!). [return][return]The cast of suspects are all those you would expect to meet in an Agatha Christie mystery (to whom the book is dedicated) — the Vicar, the Baronet, the Amateur Cricketer, the Village Ancient, and many more, including “The authorities: local/Scotland Yard” — all presented in fine pen and ink as only Edward Gorey could. [return][return]Scenes of the crime (crimes?), methods of elimination (blunt, limp, gradual and instantaneous!), and assorted clues and ephemera are all portrayed in progressively more mysterious exposition until the final denouement! Gorey at his best!

Wade says

The barest of plots introduces this enigmatic little book... a mystery writer mysteriously murdered, and a package of notes and drawings that seem to comprise the authoress' next work. It is left to the reader to determine if and how the writer's death was connected to her work-in-progress, but the sketches, character

profiles, and other notes certainly link to the circumstances under which her body was discovered. Not a book for those interested in narrative, but a small delight to those that revel in small details, dry wit, and gentle poking at literary conventions of the mystery genre.

Laura says

Edward Gorey is an intriguing cult author-illustrator, as many assume he was an Edwardian Englishman when he was an American prolific during the latter half of the 20th Century. His works are dark, funny, disturbing, and sometimes so strange that you might wonder if the entire thing was an inside joke he failed to let anyone else in on.

The Awdrey-Gore Legacy is incredibly strange. The premise is that an Agatha Christie-like mystery author is found dead years after disappearing (Christie, to whom the book is dedicated, went missing for eleven days, though under very different circumstances), and “that she had been murdered was obvious.” The rest of the book is notes of what may be an unfinished mystery novel or clues to her own death. There is a protagonist (a half-Irish, half-Japanese former mercenary who is missing a hand, a leg, and an eye), a cast of characters, possible places where the body is to be found, potential methods of murder, and the layout of a hedge maze. Gorey plays with mystery novel conventions and cliches throughout.

If you read this and become frustrated because you can’t solve the mystery, don’t worry. There is no solution to this puzzle, just loose pieces and misleading hints. And it should be loved all the more for that.

Christopher says

The Awdrey-Gore Legacy is classic Gorey, and at first glance appears almost indistinguishable from the rest of Gorey’s oeuvre. What makes this book stand out from the rest of Gorey’s work is that it is like a love letter to formulaic mysteries, replacing the usual sort of plot and sensible conclusion with a big, open sense of the hilarious oddness of the whole “mystery” genre itself.

The “mystery” as a popular genre was originally constructed around stories of intelligent people using logic, reason and observation to make sense out of criminal acts and restore justice to the world. The Awdrey-Gore Legacy seems like a classic mystery: there is certainly a murdered author, and what seem to be notes toward a murder mystery, that might be related to the author’s murder. But the progress of the book doesn’t follow reason, or common sense, or logic--instead it rewards our leisurely observation, moving from one unreasonable possibility to another, full of clues that add up to more of a mystery than we started with. Instead of reading an ordinary type of story, we find at the end that we’ve been dallying in an imaginary world of beautiful eccentricity and cryptic motives (the Gorey world) instead of an ordinary world of problems that can be solved.

Along the way, of course, we get plenty of jolly puns and wordplay, and the trademark Gorey wit. Adding to the charm of the writing, the physical book itself is beautiful--and the illustrations reward all of the attention you give them.

[note: I received this book free from the publisher in exchange for a review, through the LibraryThing Early Reviewers program]

Mike Spinak says

The Awdrey Gore Legacy is not exactly a story in the traditional sense, but it plays with mystery story exposition. Along the way, it takes you on a wild tour of possibilities in a world of conventions and tropes. It's filled with fascinating characters, (perhaps) clues, anagrams and wordplay - all lovingly done.

I grew up with *The Awdrey Gore Legacy*, first poring for hours over the illustrations, then later reading it over and over. The illustrations are superb, and they informed my own drawing style, then later, my photographic style.

This is wordier than many of Gorey's books. It's also more coherent than some of his books (though you have to look for it).

All in all, it's a fascinating and engrossing exploration of the possible in a world of intrigue. It's one of Edward Gorey's best books.

Gabbygateway says

I named my cat Awdrey-Gore after reading this in 1994.

Jessica says

One of the best Gorey books he ever wrote, and a personal favorite. It is a mystery that almost, but not quite, seems like it could actually make sense.

Sam Gilbert says

This exploration of the possibility of closure offers the intelligent reader a remarkable playing field, the likes of which modern literature had not seen since Gorey's previous book.

Alison C says

This review was written for LibraryThing Early Reviewers.

Edward Gorey had an engagingly morbid turn of mind and a lovely way with a pen, both as author and illustrator. He was also amazingly prolific; *The Awdrey-Gore Legacy* is but one of his 100+ works. In this short illustrated novel (if one may call it that), we first learn that the 97-year-old body of Miss D. Awdrey-Gore, author of mysteries galore, has turned up (murdered!) some 44 years after her disappearance. The only clue, an "oiled-silk packet" found under the false bottom of an elephant's foot umbrella stand, containing sketches and brief biographies of some 18 people (or are they "characters"?), illustrations of places to

disappear and nasty modes of dying, maps showing where various boot-, shoe- and foot-prints mysteriously appeared, and several notes stating "what the murderer failed to realize is that..." among other items of intrigue. Can anyone solve the murder using these cryptic clues? One can only try by reading this book....This is a very handsome edition (from Pomegranate Communications) of a most enjoyable Gorey experience, with high-quality paper and crisp reproductions of all the drawings. And, of course, the story itself is delightful - easy enough to read the whole story in 10 minutes, but you'll want to linger over the illustrations gracing each page. Highly recommended!
