



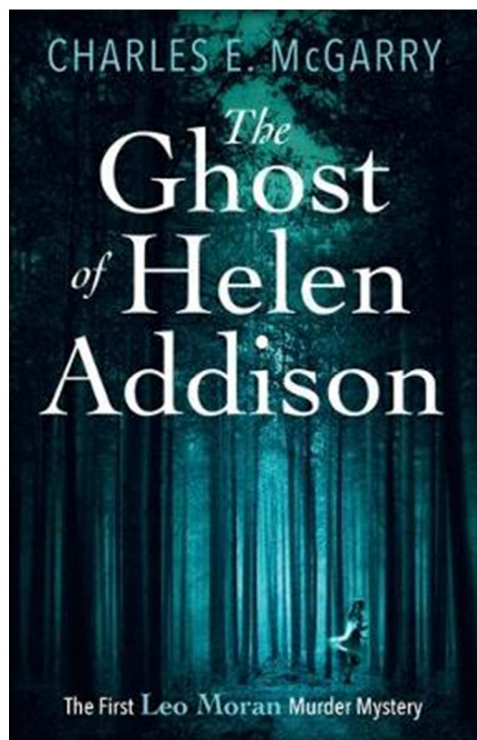
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your next book



Lovereading Reader reviews of **The Ghost of Helen Addison**

by Charles E. McGarry
The first **Leo Moran** Murder Mystery

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.



Sarah Musk

A slightly unusual murder story involving ghosts and psychics. A compelling lead character - Leo Moran - lifts the story to an engaging, exciting level which keeps the reader enthralled to the end.

I love ghosts and psychics so this book was just right for me. The main character - Leo Moran - is no ordinary investigator - he has visions and dreams and is called in by the police to help solve the brutal murder of a young woman. There is the inevitable conflict between him and the police - who are cynical about his skills - and also quite a few red herrings but that is what you expect from a detective story.

Leo is complex and a heavy drinker - again quite usual - but I liked his tenacity and compassion and his ability to read people's characters. He really knows who the good guys and bad guys are - he senses it!

He has conversations with the dead woman which are quite disconcerting and she unlike a lot of ghosts seems very real and angry about the loss of her life. These ghostly encounters lift the story above a run-of-the mill murder story. I will certainly read more books by this author and especially any that feature the quirky psychic Leo Moran.

Rafe McGregor

McGarry manages a perfect balancing act, succeeding in sticking to the rules of the murder mystery whodunit without slighting the supernatural abilities of his sleuth.

'The Ghost of Helen Addison' is Charles E. McGarry's second novel and Leo Moran's first case. Moran, McGarry's serial detective, is a champagne socialist who doesn't allow his Waterford crystal tumblers, Montblanc fountain pen, or personal masseur to interfere with his occasional activism and lives in a luxury apartment in Glasgow. He is also a clairvoyant and his second sight, which usually comes to him in dreams, results in his semi-official participation in the investigation of a particularly brutal murder at Loch Dhonn, in the West Highlands. Moran is quickly established as an occult detective in the mould of Sax Rohmer's Moris Klaw and M.P. Shiel's Prince Zaleski, beginning his inquiries by interviewing the victim's ghost. This is precisely the point at which many crime fiction fans will baulk, but McGarry manages a perfect balancing act, succeeding in sticking to the rules of the murder mystery whodunit without slighting the supernatural abilities of his sleuth. Helen did not see her assailant's face and Moran must resort to more mundane means to solve the crime when his psychic researches are opposed by a malignant force, which may or may not be related to the Green Lord, a cruel clan chieftain who was once local laird. The mystery is complex, the solution satisfying, the atmosphere eerie, and the suspense gripping...McGarry is an author to watch and Moran a detective to remember.

Twitter @rafemcgregor

Sabine Little

It is refreshing to have such a complex central character, and it will be interesting to see how this series develops. Leo Moran is an unusual character. Well-educated, a connoisseur of fine foods and classical music, he easily holds an intelligent conversation and puzzles over complex chess moves. On the other hand, he is not above 'mooning' an annoying landowner, drinks entirely too much, is prone to occasional bouts of swearing, and decidedly ungifted when it comes to crosswords, codes and ciphers. His gentlemanly behaviour is endearingly traditional, and seems oddly paired with his extra-sensory perceptions, which lead him to become involved in a murder case in rural Argyll. The local characters he encounters are, if sometimes a bit cliché, nevertheless well drawn, and Leo's attempts to collaborate with the police, even

if it may mean danger to his own life, are rather heroic.

It took me a long time to warm to his book, and I am not sure I ever entirely warmed to Leo, whose personality traits sometimes seemed to be at odds with themselves. Mental health issues are hinted at in various places, and it is refreshing to have such a complex central character. It will be interesting to see how this series develops.

Pam Woodburn

This is a detective mystery with a difference! Set in Scotland, the main character, Leo Moran, who is a private detective, has a character which is uniquely his own. He is a connoisseur who certainly enjoys the good (if often, solitary) life when it comes to food and drink, albeit to such an extent that he suffers for it the following day.

More importantly, he possesses supernatural powers which allow him to be in contact with the dead, in this case, the murder victim, Helen Addison. Whilst the police are attempting to solve the murder in the conventional fashion, Leo is able to bring his gifts into play to solve the crime, with many scrapes along the way and his own life under threat. A sense of evil abounds as the story progresses and the reader is often surprised by the unusual direction the story takes.

A large part of the action is set in the Loch Dhonn Hotel, where the reader is introduced to many local characters who all help to form the background of the story, both good and evil.

All in all, a gripping story!

Angela Rhodes

A murder mystery with a difference, and what a difference.

Leo Moran is a private detective, loves wine and good food, and is a just a wee bit smarter than the usual detectives because Leo has a gift, he gets visions and can see and speak to ghosts!!

One morning Leo reads about the murder of a young woman, in Argyll, so packs a bag and off he goes.

Arriving in the brooding landscape, he realises this s no ordinary murder, and no ordinary killer, Leo knows he is up against the forces of evil. Summoned by the killer, but for what reason, Leo is yet to piece together, and with the help of

Helen's ghost, that makes her presence known to him, he sets about to do just this, and it is no easy case to solve.

Loved this book, unique, brilliant and one to re-read, again and again.

Lynne Morgan

A riveting murder mystery, but with a difference! I couldn't put it down!

Set in Scotland, the locations contrast strongly between the wild and majestic landscape of Loch Dhonn in the Scottish Highlands, and the urban setting of Glasgow's West End.

The book is the first in a series of murder mysteries about a private detective called Leo Moran, who is a real gastronome and also enjoys his wine and whisky! These details are interesting enough, and help to paint a picture of this new character, but what really makes Leo special and enriches his uniqueness is his extraordinary gift of supernatural powers; he has the ability to see people and events in visions and dreams, even those who are no longer alive!

A young girl from the village of Loch Dhonn is found brutally stabbed and the police are investigating, but not getting very far with finding the killer. Leo decides to travel to the area to help solve the murder, hoping that his proximity to the crime scene will inspire his visions and able him to identify the murderer.

Leo is a very likeable character, and it is easy to become absolutely absorbed by this book and fascinated by its unusual spectral twist.

Charles McGarry has successfully managed to come up with something original in this murder mystery genre, and I am already looking forward to the next Leo Moran Murder Mystery!

Edel Waugh

This is the first book in this new murder mystery series featuring Psychic private detective Leo Moran. Leo is an old fashioned type of gentleman, slightly suffering from hypochondria and more than a little partial to a nip of whiskey. I really enjoyed this story set in Scotland during winter centred around the brutal murder of a newly qualified nurse.

*The story is charming, Leo is very likeable even though he can have quite a sharp tongue, but he is just the man you would want on the case when there is a murder especially as he has such unique gifts. **The plot kept me intrigued***

the entire duration of reading it which meant I read it all in one sitting because it was awesome. The settings of the story, the hotel, train, quaint town etc all added to this stories charm. I would recommend this to any mystery fan, especially cosy mystery fans!

Phyllippa Smithson

Confusing and hard work investigative mystery.

I found it difficult to believe that the plot was set in the modern day as the writing style seemed more appropriate for a period some 100 years ago. The author created a central character, Private Investigator Leo Moran that I felt has more in common with that era and therefore I struggled to get into the story.

Moran makes it a personal mission to apply his 'out of body' images to resolving the mysterious death of Helen Addison. The victim is found in the wilds of remote Scotland and so Moran takes the journey north from Glasgow to get personal experience of the location the body was found and the person Helen has been.

He certainly is a character from the old world and is, for want of anything more subtle to describe him, an alcoholic, he is pedantic, he is annoying and he claims to be a clairvoyant which sets him apart from the majority. But he is also focused and it is that fixation that serves to help him gain credibility with the law enforcement professionals officially looking into the case.

Worth reading but only if you have time and patience.

Lyn Barrett

At first I wasn't particularly impressed by this debut novel. Then gradually it crept under my skin. So I started reading from the beginning again and was completely captivated.

A private detective who is also a psychic? Leo Moran, the man in question, has had a vision of a murder and has decided to investigate it before it is widely reported. Leo's at home in Glasgow and the murder occurs in Argyll. Moran travels to Loch Dhonn to assist the police, an arrangement made through his friend, Procurator Fiscal, Stephanie Mitchell. DI Lang isn't necessarily overjoyed to welcome Leo but tolerates his assistance for a period of time. Eventually, though, Lang bans Leo and sends him packing back to Glasgow.

However, unknown to Lang, Leo has already spoken with the ghost of the murder victim, Helen Addison, and has encountered evil that nearly overwhelms him. Not able to settle back home in Glasgow, Leo feels compelled to return to Loch Dhonn to prevent a further murder and a grave miscarriage of justice. Can Leo protect himself as well?

In Leo Moran, McGarry has created a character of the ilk of Poirot and Wimsey, a gentleman detective who appreciates the finer things of life - wine and gourmet dining, classical music, monogrammed luggage and perhaps a little too much single malt. Moran has the financial resources to indulge himself. McGarry hints at a back story for Leo but keeps the reader guessing. No doubt his story will unfold as the series continues. By the end of 'The Ghost of Helen Addison' I was wanting to find out more about Leo Moran.

Ruth

This is the first book in a new murder mystery series featuring Psychic private detective Leo Moran. An interesting take on the genre but unfortunately this book was not my cup of tea.

This is the first book in a new murder mystery series featuring Psychic private detective Leo Moran. An interesting take on the genre but unfortunately this book was not my cup of tea. The ghostly side of things unnerved me a little and the murder itself was a little grisly. Aside from the unusual form of detection, I found the style of writing quite overbearing. It is highly descriptive and I found that it was difficult to get to the point through all the imagery and long words. I am a fan of "cosy" crimes and this was perhaps too involved for me. I am all for setting scenes, using excellent description and being taken away with the story but in this case I found myself anxious, bored and certainly not keen to spend any time with Leo Moran.