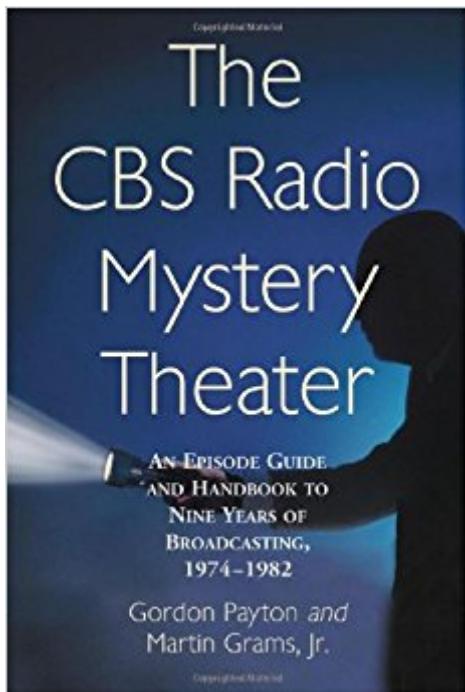


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# The CBS Radio Mystery Theater: An Episode Guide And Handbook To Nine Years Of Broadcasting, 1974-1982



## **Synopsis**

Almost every evening for nine years during the late 1970s and early 1980s, the CBS Radio Mystery Theatre brought monsters, murderers and mayhem together for an hour. Created, produced and directed by Himan Brown, the series remains a landmark in radio drama. This book is a detailed history and episode guide to the show. Descriptive information includes exact titles, airdates and rebroadcast dates, episode numbers, cast lists, writer and adapter credits, and a storyline synopsis. This material comes directly from CBS press releases in order to insure complete accuracy. Also included wherever possible are information about the actors and actresses, quotes from performers and writers (many from personal interviews), anecdotes about various scripts and sound effects, and other notes of interest.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

CBS Radio Mystery Theater fans no longer have to wonder about titles and broadcast dates of their favorite RMT episodes, or how many episodes there actually are. "The CBS Radio Mystery Theater" is meticulously prepared and researched with a complete listing of all original Mystery Theater episodes. The episodes listed here are in their original broadcast order. The strength of this book is definitely the episode listing. Each episode liner note contains the title, broadcast date, rebroadcast date (if applicable), cast, show synopsis and notes. It works excellent as a research tool for the Mystery Theater tape collector. The book also contains two appendixes. Appendix 1 is a chronological listing of the 1977 CBS/General Mills Radio Adventure Theater episodes. Appendix 2 is the complete broadcast log of the 1998 revival of the CBS Radio Mystery Theater. Curiously,

missing from the book are the episodes that aired in 1988/89. Although the episode portion of the book is outstanding, it is sadly lacking in the history department. I had expected more interviews and photos (there are no photos) describing the history of the show. Some anecdotes would have been nice too. The preface and show history total a mere eight pages! This is unfortunate, seeing that the show ran for more than eight years. It leaves this Mystery Theater buff with many unanswered questions about the show. The quality of the book cover, binding and paper are superb. This is basically a library edition which will last indefinitely in a private collection. CBS RMT fans, if you are looking for a book with all of the episodes to use as a reference guide, this is the one for you. However, if you want for an in-depth book that details the history of the show with photographs and anecdotes, you may have to wait a while.

This is a good book for fans of the radio series, as it lists all the episodes and brief synopsis's of each one. It also has air dates, and a good index. It suffers only in two areas. It is overpriced for a book its size, and it does not go into the history behind the series in depth. No interviews with stars or photographs were included, which would have enhanced its value. Still for fans, it is a must buy. Hopefully maybe the authors in a future printing will add the aforementioned information.

We all know that reference books with a niche market like this normally have a smaller printing run, and thus a higher cost. I can live with that. But for the price, I expect the book to be meticulously researched, which means it should be error free. Annoyingly, this volume is nowhere close. To shell out this kind of money, I shouldn't find typo after typo after typo. Actress Carmen Mathews' name is listed repeatedly, but never correctly spelled. In the episode guide for Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," Jacob Marley's name is listed as "Morley." Episode 409 is titled on pg. 75 as "The Death Wisher." In the index (pg. 454) it is titled "The Death Wish." I could go on, but you get my point. There is no excuse to charge this much money and have this many errors. Also, there is not near enough in the way of anecdotal material; this shouldn't be simply a list of air dates and titles, which it mostly is. In addition, the cast credits are skimpy; why couldn't the authors track down the names of those not credited in the original broadcast? It would have shown that they actually researched their subject, instead of just compiling lists of readily available material. I suppose I have been spoiled by Marc Scott Zicree's "The Twilight Zone Companion." And I suppose I expected this book to be like that: full of interviews with cast and crew, marvelous anecdotal nuggets, technical insights and more. Boy, was I wrong. I can't recommend this book, but I wish I could. Perhaps someone with more diligence and more respect for the audience will come along in the future and put together an

error-free and interesting read. Save your money.

This is a must-have book. The index is thick and covers every name, actor, writer, director, etc. The plot descriptions are a god-send, and very well written. That I will swear on my mother's grave. I noticed the history is not as long as most of Martin Grams' books, but I also noticed that most of the information that would normally be found in the history, has been listed under the episode entries. Trivia and recollections. One person wrote that they found the history too short and not enough interviews. Not true. If you were to flip through and take all of the trivia and interviews from under all of the episode entries themselves, it would probably total more than fifty pages of history! For any old-time radio fan and CBS RMT fan, this is THE book on the program. And we have to thank both Gordon Payton and Martin Grams, (the latter is the best d--- researcher on Old-Timer Radio - "we love you Martin!") for putting together such a great book. Buy this one folks! Accept no imitations!

A decent and helpful book, though lacking in details and especially photos. But, still, there isn't much out there on who performed on these episodes or what they were about, so it's a reliable resource.

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