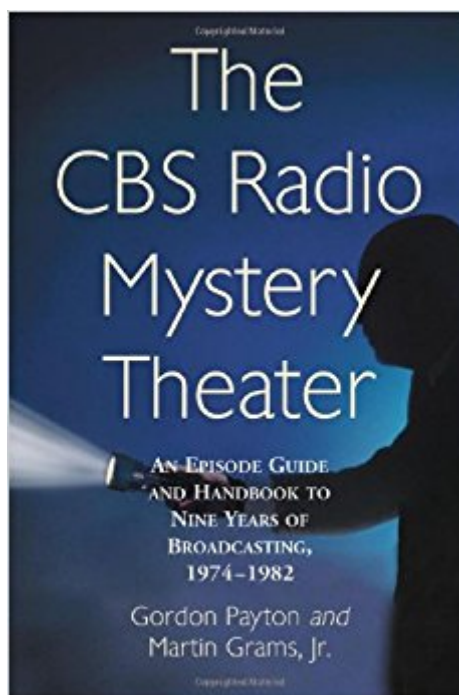




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# The CBS Radio Mystery Theater: An Episode Guide And Handbook To Nine Years Of Broadcasting, 1974-1982



## 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

"an extensive look at the radio drama that gave us the fear you can hear in the '70s --

Starlog"excellent index to titles, actors and actresses, and writers...fascinating glimpse into the history of radio and radio drama" --ARBA"Buy the book and you'll be pleasantly pleased." --The Illustrated Press

Gordon Payton is a radio drama actor, director, producer and archivist. He lives in Collingswood, New Jersey. Martin Grams, Jr., has written a number of books on the performing arts, including Radio Drama: A Comprehensive Chronicle of American Network Programs, 1932-1962 (2000). He lives in Delta, Pennsylvania.

So I just got my copy of the CBSRMT episode guide by Gordon Payton and Martin Grams Jr. I can tell right off that this will be a love-hate relationship. First let me say that this book was a remarkable undertaking by the authors and I commend them for spending what must have been many, many hours to gather together all this information. I especially am enjoying that I can now match characters to the actors (thought after hundreds of episodes listened to, I can identify at least a dozen actors at first hearing.) But, the one thing that I find unfathomable is the unfortunate manner they have numbered the episodes. Instead of doing what one would expect to number the total 1,399 episodes in order 1 to 1,399 the authors made the horrendous decision to number them as to their broadcast dates. So, for instance, The Horla was the 44th episode produced however, it shows up in the episode guide as number 49 because there were several repeats before it, and then it subsequently shows up as episode 133, 1750 and 1960. If the authors wanted to indicate broadcast dates they could have easily created an appendix for this. I will certainly be going through this book with a marker to write down correct numbers so that I can quickly find episodes. Oh vey, what a royal disaster. I'm sure I'll find little problems as I further digest this guide but I don't want to discourage fans from getting themselves a copy. I just needed to express my incredulosity at an essential editorial mistake on the part of the authors and publisher. The index could have been organized better with a separate "Show Title" index and "Cast" index, instead there's one big index and it's a mashup. An index should not be a mashup. Even with these egregious flaws I still urge all frequent listeners to pick up a copy as a basic reference, you won't regret it.

It is a complete chronology of the series. It answered a lot of my questions. Though I would have liked to have seen photos of the individuals involved accompanying the body of work. It is a good companion to the complete series I purchased recently. Radio Mystery Theater is an absolute pleasure to listen to. Me and my children enjoy listening and reading about it together. Thank You for your attention.

Makes it so much easier to discover any of the number of broadcasts that were produced by CBS Radio Mystery Theater. By far one of my favorite radio series of all time.

I lost my hardcover copy in a flood and so I had to "settle" for this paperback version. It's great and reading it makes me feel almost as if I'm listening to the episodes themselves. If you can get your

hands on the recordings, this book can serve as something like a TV Guide, letting you pick and choose which episodes you want to hear.

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.

I am a big fan of the CBS Radio Mystery Theater. There are so many episodes that this book definitely helps me keep track of my favorite stories.

This book follows the dvd and gives MUCH information on the original broadcast, the actors, & the plot. I'm I boight both.

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 orginal 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.

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