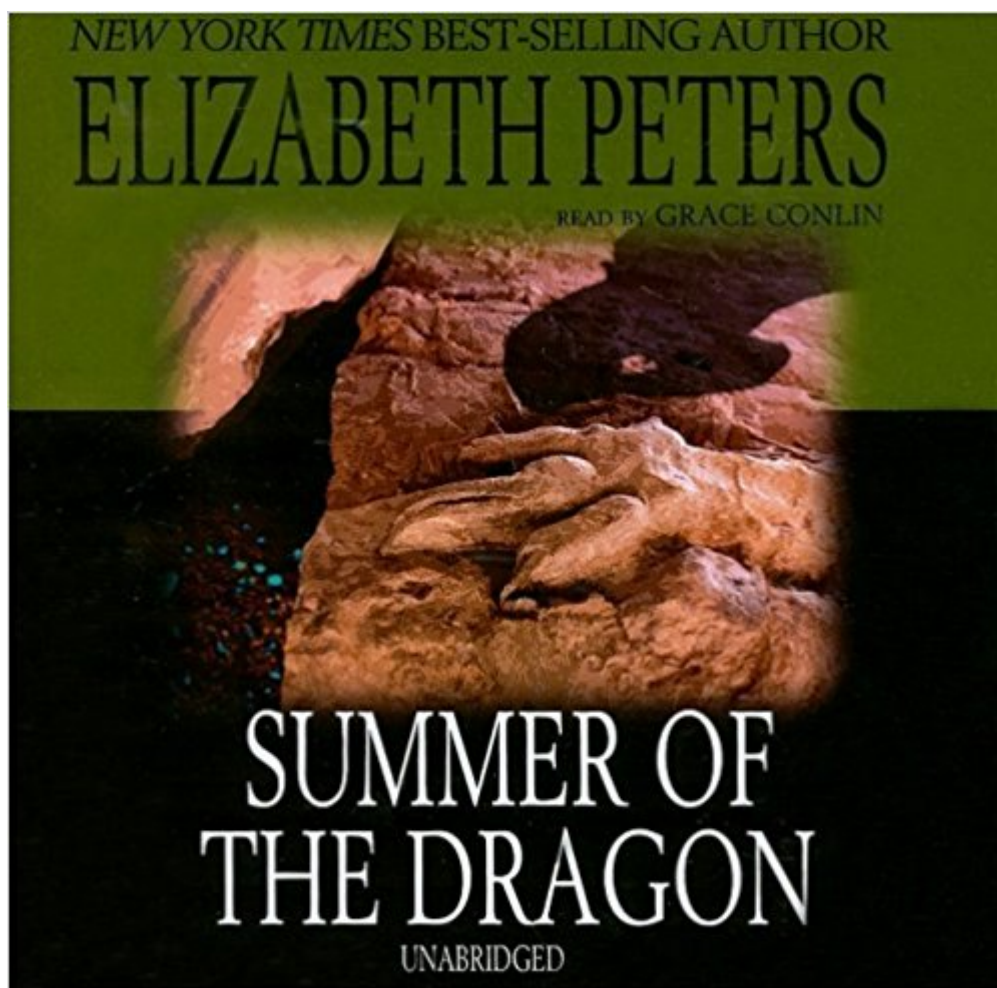




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Summer Of The Dragon (Library Edition)



Synopsis

Even though Hank Hunnicutt had a reputation as a kook, the opportunity to work on his ranch was everything a young graduate student could want until Hank disappeared. Suddenly, guests were eyeing each other with suspicion.

Book Information

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Authors, A-Z > (P) > Peters, Elizabeth #11814 in Â Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

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Customer Reviews

This delightful confection was originally published in 1979. You might expect that 20+ years would date it a bit, but it manages to retain its entertainment value full force. This is a credit to Elizabeth Peters, who popularized the humorous mystery story in the U.S. and remains its undisputed mistress. Desperate to find a summer job that takes her away from her beloved, but impossible, parents, D.J. Abbott snaps up a job working for Hank Hunnicutt. Hank is an extremely wealthy businessman who has a weakness for crackpot theories and spiritual hokum. D.J. finds herself surrounded by a herd of not quite harmless enthusiasts and practitioners, a treasure hunter, another young (and good-looking) anthropologist, the ineffable Hank himself, and an immense amount of desert. D.J.'s immediate problem is finding out what it was that Hank needed a physical anthropologist for, but she is distracted from this by an infinite supply of food, several attempts to drug her, some sabotage and, finally, Hank's kidnapping. The excitement mounts as she unravels the tangled threads and identifies the culprit. D.J. serves as narrator of the book and Peters gives her a charming style that sees everything from its humorous side, including her own failings and weaknesses. Using this device Peters creates a perfect example of summer or vacation reading. D.J. is a type that was once referred to as an 'uppity woman.' She is more truthful than

accommodating, which catapults her into many hilarious confrontations. To top of this tidbit, Peters' Ph.D. in Egyptology from the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute stands her in good stead, as she manages to mix her sense of humor with a wealth of interesting facts. It would be unfair to compare this book to Peters' Amanda Peabody series.

Ahhh, Peters is so, so great! Anthropology grad student D.J. Abbott is a master procrastinator. She has left finding a summer job so late that when she sees her advisor about it, all that's left is an offer from well-known crackpot millionaire Hank Hunnicutt, who seems to believe in every weird theory floating about. Since it's an extremely generous offer, though, D.J. decides to apply for it (it doesn't hurt that Hunnicutt's Arizona ranch isn't within visiting distance from her parent's house, something very important for her). Hunnicutt's already rejected a few applicants, but he accepts D.J., and so she heads over to Arizona. When she arrives, she finds the house full of assorted weirdos and a couple of extremely handsome men. She also meets the endearing Hank, who's very vague about the reason he wanted her at the ranch. He insists she rest and relax and enjoy the amenities until a certain gadget arrives... then he'll show her his discovery. But soon thereafter, after a couple of suspicious accidents, Hank vanishes, and it falls to D.J. and a few allies to find out what happened to him... and which of the nuts might have had a reason to make him disappear. Summer of the Dragon has three strengths which are the reason I love this author so much. First, there's the characters. Peters is a master at creating fascinating, three-dimensional, fresh secondary characters, and she's not bad with her protagonists, either! Each of the weirdos in residence has a distinct personality, and they are, every one of them, loads of fun. As for D.J. and her romantic interest (whose identity I won't reveal here, though anyone familiar with her books will probably deduce it the minute he shows up), they're great. I especially loved the way D.J.

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