

BOOKS and REVIEWS

A John Dickson Carr Trio
By John Dickson Carr, 472 pp. New York, Harper & Brothers, \$3.95.

Reviewed by JEAN LENESS

All three of the mysteries contained in this collection were first published well over ten years ago. There is nothing stale or old-fashioned about them. On the contrary, they remain excellent examples of true detective mysteries unobscured by the modern limitation of suspense for its own sake.

In each story the mystery is of the locked-room variety made even more incredible by strong elements of the fantastic and supernatural. Featured in the collection is Carr's agilest character, the amazing Dr. Gideon Fell.

In the first story, "The Three Coffins," two grisly crimes are apparently committed by an invisible murderer, fighter than air, who leaves no footprints in the deep snow.

THE NEXT MYSTERY. "The Crooked Hinge" is the most hard and satisfying tale of the three, presents Dr. Fell with the problem of which man is the real John Farnleigh, and how a murder could have been committed without a murderer.

The third story, "The Case of the Constant Suicides," continues

By James Cozzens, 570 pp. New York, Harcourt, Brace, & Co. \$5.00

Reviewed by ROBIN BAHR

"By Love Possessed" has been acclaimed one of the finest if not the finest novel of 1937. It was chosen as a Book-of-the-Month Club selection. It is now the country's number one best seller in the fiction field. The author, James Cozzens, has been on the cover of Time magazine and the Saturday Evening Post.

Cozzens' reviews have appeared in every leading magazine as well as on the front page of the New York Times book section.

In the face of such extraordinary success, one might wonder "Can it really be that good?" To the general consensus, I should like to add a most emphatic "yes!"

MR. COZZENS has presented a story which is not only gripping and dramatic, but also highly original. The writing is clear, concise, tightly organized, comprehensive in its understanding and exploration of human motivations; but, like

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AND TO EACH CRISIS—the big and the small—Arthur applies reason and understanding in trying to determine the why and how it came to be. Winner does feel as well as think his reaction, but again, the two are so well balanced, that neither Arthur nor the reader become emotionally entangled in the events.

There is the case of Ralph Detler whose sister Helen has died. He is left with the task of raising him after their parents died. Despite a family background, loving sister and a pending engagement, Ralph finds himself charged with rape of guilt and punishment drive his promiscuity and religious fanatics. There is the pathetic case of effeminate Bismar Abbott who plays the organ (not well) for Christ Church, and his shabby confidence after a row with the new minister.

IT IS NOT UNTIL Arthur Winner discovers a betrayal against a trusted and impeccably honored friend, that he loses control of his well-ordered emotions. It is a betrayal that will rob him

of "the jewel of his soul"—his own integrity and self-respect.

It is then that he finally understands the meaning of his father's last words—"I've been among the luckiest of men. I don't remember ever once having to do what I would have preferred not to do."

All his life and to all who turn to him, Arthur Winner advised "Honesty is the best policy. No exceptions." As his world literally rashes to pieces, so does the reader's, having been delicately lulled into a calm and repose up to this point.

WHETHER OR NOT it is the best novel of 1937 is difficult to say, for one must have done a bit of reading to determine the best. But in this reviewer's opinion it is excellent in style and content. It is not a book that will make you happier for having read it. But what you read will make a lasting impression and perhaps make you a little more prepared to understand yourself and the rest of the human race.

On Dean's List

Fred A. Hicks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred G. Hicks, 1030 Westwood and Robert E. Terry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Maynard B. Terry, 110 Half Moon, have been named on the Dean's list at Albion college for high scholastic standing since the beginning of fall semester.

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