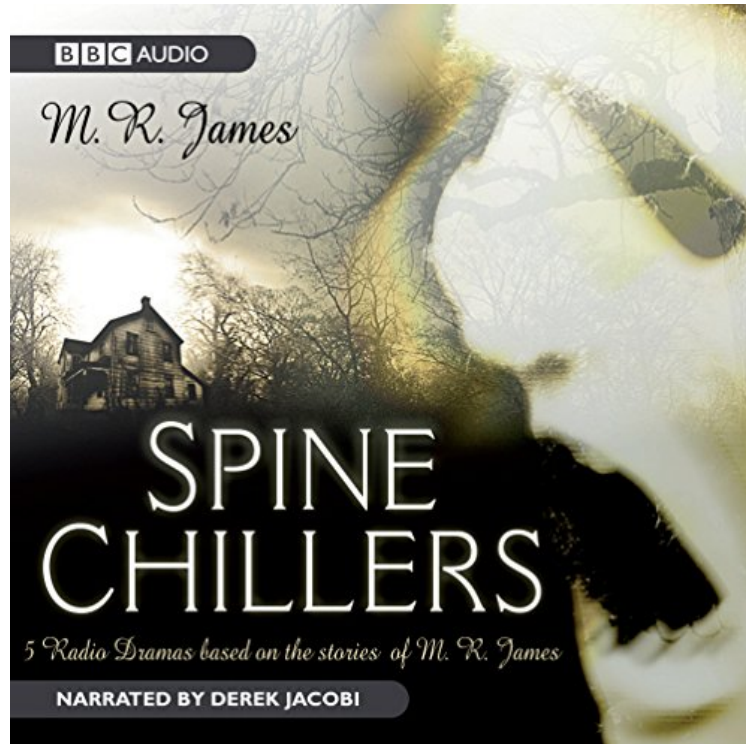


[FREE] Spine Chillers

## Spine Chillers

*M.R. James*

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**M.R. James : Spine Chillers** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spine Chillers:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. 3.5 stars for radio show, 1star for adaptations of M.R. James' stories. By MarsTwainWell, darn it. I'm a huge fan of the original M.R. James stories and I cannot figure out why every radio and film version of his tales has to be tampered with. You'd think if a company admires the work enough to put that kind of time and money in to produce a new version, they would respect the material but they don't. Endings are invariably changed to more suspenseful endings than the originals have, which tied up neatly. Characters are changed completely, not just in name, but in personality. They rarely use his actual verbiage and when they do it's jarring. If they need to "modern" it up, they should go find another author to adapt. The stories work best the way they were written and for those that don't care for them as-is, don't read them. And definitely don't make radio shows or movies of them. They are old-fashioned with mostly safe tie ups. That's how he wrote them so that's how they should be left. There is an unpleasant trend to try to make them more dramatic by having characters panic, weep and get hysterical when the originals do not. The distortion is aggravating and ruins the very sturdy characterizations James created. Female characters are added I think just to have more women involved. Again, not how they were written. Having said all that, bitterly, I must admit that as radio plays, the dramas on this disk are extremely well done. For those with no acquaintance with the source material, they're excellently acted, the music and effects add to the tales instead of get in the way and Derek Jacobi does a nice job on introductions. The sound quality is superb. I just can't get past the fact that my favorite stories have been butchered for no apparently good reason. Many of the choices

made in aid of making the written word more accessible to audio format do nothing to clarify or condense. They only lose detail and warp it farther from the source. Disappointed! For purists like me, the only versions I have found other than the written stories themselves are the Libravox tracks read by volunteer Peter Yearsley. And they're free.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. First Rate ProductionBy Clapton FanAs only the British can do, this is an entertaining production of several of M.R. James' great ghost stories. I have listened to this disc several times and enjoyed it! If only the Americans had radio productions like this.....0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not remarkable, but good enoughBy Julin Zafra MolinaIt's a compilation of short stories, but the tales are too simple and brief. I love the voice of the narrator but he talks only now and then.

Widely acknowledged as the master of the supernatural, M. R. James penned many of his classic ghost stories to be read aloud to friends, by candlelight, in his study on Christmas Eve. These five adaptations, originally broadcast on BBC Radio 4, perfectly capture the mood of nerve-jangling suspense that would surely have been present during those readings. In *Oh, Whistle, and Ill Come to You, My Lad*, Professor Parkins embarks on a terrifying journey of discovery after he removes a curious artifact from the ruins of a Templar preceptory; while *The Tractate Middoth* sees diligent curator David Garrett caught up in the machinations of the mysterious Dr. Rant when he's sent to retrieve an obscure manuscript from the library stacks. *Lost Hearts* tells of a young boy haunted by two ghostly children, and in *The Rose Garden*, terrifying forces are unleashed when the Goodmans tear down their old summer house. Finally, *Number 13* takes us to the Danish town of Viborg, where Dr. Anderson puts himself in terrible danger as he investigates why the hotel he's staying at does not contain a room 13. Starring BAFTA and Emmy-award winning actor Derek Jacobi, and with powerfully chilling music and sound effects, these rich, riveting dramatizations make for irresistible listening.1 CD. 1 hr 5 mins.

About the AuthorMontague Rhodes James was born in 1862 near Bury St Edmunds, though he spent long periods of his later life in Suffolk, which provided the setting for many of his ghost stories. He studied at Eton and Kings College, Cambridge, where he was eventually elected Fellow, and then made Provost in 1905. In 1918 he became Provost of Eton. He was a renowned medievalist and biblical scholar, and published works on paleography, antiquarianism, bibliography, and history, guides to Suffolk and Norfolk, as well as editing a collection of ghost stories by Sheridan Le Fanu. However, he remains best known for his own ghost stories, which were published in several collections including *Ghost Stories of an Antiquary*, *A Thin Ghost and Other Stories*, *A Warning to the Curious* and a collected edition in 1931. M. R. James died in 1936.