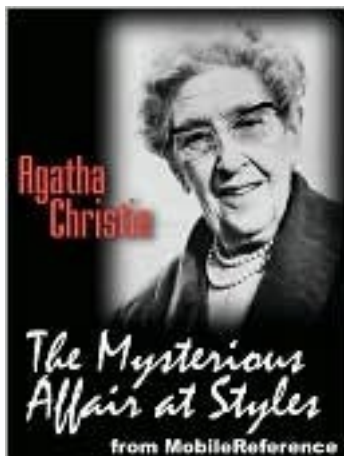

Agatha Christie

The Mysterious Affair at Styles (Hercule Poirot #1)



Title: The Mysterious Affair at Styles
(Hercule Poirot #1)

Author: Agatha Christie

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Language: English

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Description

Poirot, a Belgian refugee of the Great War, is settling in England near the home of Emily Inglethorp, who helped him to his new life. His friend Hastings arrives as a guest at her home. When the woman is killed, Poirot uses his detective skills to solve the mystery.

Insightful reviews

Laurel Young: Thus begins My Year of Agatha! Over the course of 2010, I'll be reading all of Dame Agatha Christie's canon, more or less in order of publication. I've read most if not all of them before, but in some cases it has been many years. I'm most familiar with her Golden Age work (1920-1939), because the study of it formed the second chapter of my doctoral dissertation. The chapter has already been published, and so my Year of Agatha is purely for personal pleasure. She is my favorite of all mystery authors, and a source of endless delight.

Re-reading her first novel, I was struck by the way this perfect mystery sprang upon the world fully-formed like Athena from the mind of Zeus! ALL of Dame Agatha's trademarks are here: the double-twist ending, carried off with perfect confidence, the fully-fledged characters of Poirot and son cher ami Hastings with all their quirks, the clues hidden among domestic detail red herrings. As always, she "plays fair"--it is not her fault that hardly anyone, today, will know what "spills" (as a noun, not a verb) were in 1920, making the crime even harder to solve.

The Mysterious Affair at Styles marked the dawn of the Golden Age of mystery in Great Britain. Young Agatha, with time on her hands during her chemist's dispensary job during WWI, put her new knowledge of poisons to work by trying her hand at a murder mystery...and a star was born! :)

Stela: To say that Doyle and Christie are mystery masters is almost a truism, since you find in their novels all ingredients to sustain this affirmation: perfect plot, charming weird detective, exquisite writing, interesting characters.

So it's no wonder that for me, a successful detective story has somehow to fall into a pattern they established a long time ago: clues gathered by a sharp mind, apparent contradictions and /or mistakes, dramatic turn of events and of course the big finale: the last reunion, where all the masks fall and the truth is revealed in a dramatic summary of the facts, that is to say where all the i's are dotted and all the t's are crossed.

And in Agatha Christie's case, the tension of the story is increased by the ambivalent attitude of the narrator, who forever hesitates to trust the detective with the power to find the truth. In fact, I think the couple Hastings-Poirot is even more colourful than Watson-Holmes, especially because of the doubts the captain freely expresses all along the story together with his own innocent interpretation of the events. His delightful naive opinions value as much as Poirot's smart reasoning, conducting to false paths and strange conclusions.

Besides, the discovery of the criminal is always satisfactory for the reader - in this first Hercule Poirot novel, for example, I thought I knew who the murderer was, then I dismissed my suspicion as too evident, to find I had been right all along, but not for the empiric reasons I first formulated. But, boy, did I have fun!

Therefore, whenever in search for a light but good reading, Agatha Christie is always a very good choice.

~~Poulomi Sylphrena Tonk\$~~: **4 coffee cups and coco stars!**

Years after I've exhausted all my raving and fangirling energy on Sherlock Holmes, I finally made up my mind to try Agatha Christie and see what the hype was all about. I was cynical, because I knew I would weigh everything against Sherlock. Or maybe Harry Dresden, who is a close and recent runner-up when it comes to those involved in espionage and the like. But Poirot was dissimilar in many ways, both in form and method, and thanks to that, I ended up quite liking the curious little fellow.

The Mysterious Affair at Styles is a fast good read. I liked the way the story unravelled, pockets full of mystery. I was smart enough to not trust even one of the characters in such a story, but did I ever guess who the villain was? No. . Agatha Christie is a crafty writer; she gives nothing away till the end, and even though you feel like you're getting closer to the culprit, every subsequent evidence renders your hypothesis false and unreasonable. You keep guessing and second-guessing, but when Christie reveals Poirot's interpretation, you're completely bowled over as to how precisely he fit in all the pieces to form the picture.

The language is top-notch. Excellent plot, mysterious to the core! have a strong feeling I'm going to like Poirot a lot in the coming days.

Looking forward to continue the series. 4 stars in all.

jzhunagev: My First Affair with Hercule Poirot(A publication evaluate of Agatha Christie's The Mysterious Affairs at Styles)Written as an final result of a big gamble during which "the reader wouldn't have the capacity to spot the criminal", Agatha Christie's The Mysterious Affair of Styles, released in 1921, is the 1st released paintings via the writer that not just introduces what's going to develop into her trademark for inventive plotting in addition to the egg-shaped head, quirky and well-groomed Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, one of many cherished sleuths within the annals of crime fiction.Set in the course of the First international War, the unconventional opens while the narrator, Lieutenant Arthur Hastings, will get a call for participation from his pal John Cavendish to spend his time improving from his warfare wounds on the latter's manor positioned at Style's Court. However, Arthur's peaceable retreat is minimize brief while the estate's getting older heiress, Emily Inglethorp, lately married to a guy 20 years more youthful than her, was once came upon lethally poisoned. it truly is on an opportunity come upon on the city whilst Arthur seeks the help of his buddy Hercule Poirot who's now dwelling as a refugee in addition to few of his countrymen on the English countryside. without warning known as out of his retirement, the previous police inspector lends his investigating prowess to resolve a case with out small provide of suspects the place the perplexing items of clues contains the disappearance of a espresso cup purported to have contained the poison, a burned piece of a will, an inexplicable piece of cloth, a wierd rug stain on most sensible of the victim's room being locked from the inside!Finishing the whole Sherlock

Holmes canon — comprising of 4 novels and 56 brief tales — made me savour and improve a partiality to the classical works in detective fiction; i have not checked out the style an analogous manner again. fact be told, I'm nonetheless experiencing what I name "Sherlockian withdrawal symptoms", and perhaps it's due to it that i made up my mind to discover the following neatest thing secret books need to supply in which no different identify dominates than that of Dame Agatha Christie, Queen of Crime. The Mysterious Affair at Styles proves to have what I'm having a look or lengthy for in a detective novel. It contains many of the components of storytelling which have been the cornerstone of the genre, extraordinary of that's the creative detective with razor-sharp common sense with a couple of peculiarities thrown in. Christie knows the truth that not anyone can certainly reproduction the good Detective correct off the bat; still, it could not be denied that Poirot and Sherlock do have one or related traits. Even so, the writer manages to make his production lay his personal declare within the big whodunit turf. every now and then Poirot could be very tense and problematical with a few of his antics, through his tricks or "little ideas", that provides away little or none on how he may clear up the case, yet he's additionally particularly fascinating and humorous infecting the reader along with his exuberance — surprising Belgian-French utterances included! Agatha Christie makes use of the entire trappings of the crime fiction of her occasions — basically with its locked room secret and death-by-poison plot the unconventional is usual fare of the style by way of today's criteria — taking a web page from Sir Athur Conan Doyle's in particular within the demeanour of narration the place the occasions and information of the case are chronicled by means of the detective's affiliate a los angeles Dr. John H. Watson which during this publication is mentioned by means of Lieutenant Arthur Hastings. From the best way I see it, Christie could have took it too a long way mostly in how a lot exact Watson and Hasting's situations are in the beginning of the book. However, don't allow this placed you off from opting for this ebook because the genius of Christie lies in devising the narration — countering and complementing this possible act of imitation — as a motif of misdirection interspersing the story with clues, crimson herrings, and circumstantial evidences to inspire the reader to attract his personal deductions or give some thought to different incidents and percentages other than what the narrator presents. to those that don't are looking to flex their brains to determine the twist ahead of it will get printed and simply are looking to move alongside for the journey and entertained, the writer certainly serves up a case that would actually make it demanding for somebody to spot the reader until eventually the ultimate pages. The Dame fairly loves to make a idiot out of her reader, and think me whilst I say in order this event made glance again while I first learn after which there have been None .With the book of The Mysterious Affair at Styles, critics acknowledged Agatha Christie to have all started "The Golden Age of Detective Fiction", and scant even though my readings during this filed is, it's a genuinely-earned popularity for the writers debut novel isn't additionally a troublesome case to crack, it's additionally a difficult act to follow. Presently, this can be simply the second one e-book i've got learn from the Queen of Crime, and already huge vistas are establishing up correct ahead of me: if the 1st I've encountered to date is such an engrossing read, what extra of the others to follow? With over 80 or so books released lower than her name, Agatha Christie could turn out the treatment for my "Sherlockian withdrawals" I've been searching for — or perhaps one other detective to move loopy over.

_____Book Details:Book #51 for 2012Published by means of Dover(Trade Paperback)153 pagesStarted: September 26, 2012Finished: September 30, 2012My Rating: ? ? ?[See this overview on my ebook web publication darkish Chest of Wonders and for lots of others.]

Kirsty: How did I am going for thus lengthy with no examining an Agatha Christie?! I want I might picked one up sooner! I figured my first learn could be the 1st ebook released (I have an OCDish have to learn books in order) and I've to assert that it is a marvelous debut novel. so much authors' paintings will get larger with time - if Christie will get higher than this then I've got a few treats in store! Long tale reduce short:- Mrs Inglethorp, the outdated girl proprietor of kinds Court, suffers a violent healthy early one morning and dies. it seems that foul play is within the air and the relations herald Hercule Poirot to investigate... This booklet was once every little thing a homicide secret may still be. there have been interesting characters (which, incidentally, are properly fleshed-out), a page-turning plot, lots of clues and red-herrings and, better of all, it stored me guessing correct until eventually the very end. The narration additionally works good - through having Hastings because the narrator, we do not get to work out inside of Poirot's head, so they can proceed to shape our personal conclusions correct to the end. I additionally cherished how old fashioned this was. As a reader of extra glossy thrillers comparable to James Patterson, Lee baby and David Baldacci, it was once great to understand that there's not constantly a demand for violence, blood and guts to be able to have an excellent plot. I will certainly be settling on up extra of Christie's work.

Amy (shoutame): this can be the 1st publication within the Hecule Poirot sequence by way of Agatha Christie, I will not let you know how a lot I admire me a few Poirot! Although this is often the 1st within the sequence it isn't really the 1st Poirot ebook I've got read... I appear to be examining them approach out of order, yet I don't believe this concerns an excessive amount of as each one tale is entire in itself and will be learn as a standalone.- So in Poirot's first case we see him settle right into a domestic in England, helped out through the beautiful Emily Inglethorp. the house is particularly as regards to the massive manor condominium referred to as 'Styles' the place Emily lives together with her new husband and prolonged family. a pal of Poirot's referred to as Hastings (he is a reoccurring personality via a few of the Poirot books) is invited by means of Emily to stick at Styles, unaware that Poirot resides simply down the road. yet then Hastings fortunately stumbles upon his outdated buddy while jogging via city sooner or later and this can be the place the buzz kicks in... we're proven a few of the tensions that hover over the family members residing at kinds and the surprising and mysterious homicide of Emily Inglethorp sends the home into chaos. So in comes Poirot along with his willing detective eye to unravel the mystery.- Poirot is the sort of brilliant character, I am getting such nostalgic emotions while interpreting the sort of novels! he's quick-witted, mischievous and is often leaving you guessing! the way in which Christie slowly releases information regarding the murders is superb and I've by no means been in a position to bet who the assassin is. Suspense is outfitted splendidly and the speed of the unconventional is ideal - I by no means felt bored or just like the tale line was once dragging.- an excellent novel for any lover of Christie and an excellent spot to begin for newbies! four out of five stars from me!

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