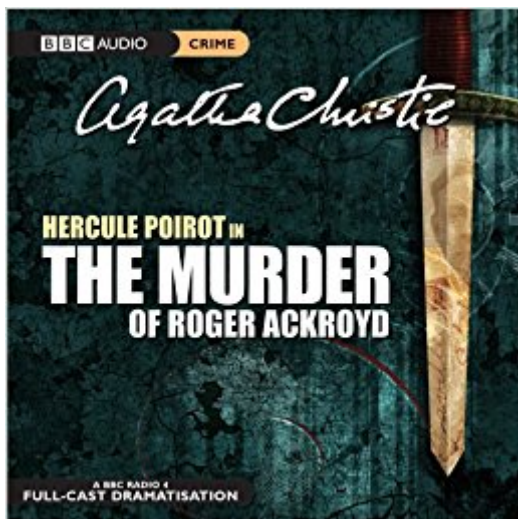


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The Murder Of Roger Ackroyd



Synopsis

This is the story that made Agatha Christie famous, and which was also one of her own favorites. It begins when the wealthy Mrs. Farrars is found dead of an apparent overdose, one year after the death of her husband. The villagers of King's Abbot are suspicious, for local rumor has it that she poisoned her husband and was in love with Roger Ackroyd. Was it suicide, brought on by a guilty conscience, or could she have been murdered? When Ackroyd is found stabbed to death the following day, there is little to go on. Anyone in the house could be the culpritâAckroyd's niece, Flora; Raymond, Ackroyd's secretary; or even Parker, the butler. The prime suspect, however, is Roger Ackroyd's stepson, Paton, who has disappeared and is known to have gambling debts. Luckily, one of the newest residents of King's Abbot, who has retired to the village to cultivate marrows, is none other than the redoubtable Monsieur Hercule Poirot. . . This ingenious mystery is brought to life with a full cast including John Woodvine, Diana Olsson, and Deryck Guyler. 2 CDs. 1 hr 30 mins.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This novel, written in 1927, is considered the best and most successful of the early mysteries. It met with no small outrage when it appeared, as it uses a plot device many readers thought "unfair."

There is a full complement of characters populating the cozy English village of King's Abbot: Major Blunt, Colonel Carter, Miss Gannett, the butler, the housekeeper, the narrator, Dr. Sheppard, and his know-it-all sister (the precursor of Miss Marple, according to Christie), and, of course, the redoubtable Hercule Poirot and his little grey cells. There are clues with a capital C to mislead us,

and the listener gets so involved with these red herrings (or not) that the very simple truth eludes the puzzler. Venerable reader Robin Bailey keeps the light, almost comic tone alive, although his voices are not particularly differentiated, and often he rushes the reading of dialog. A classic of the genre and essential for any fiction collection. Harriet Edwards, East Meadow P.L., NY Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

"A classic - the book has worthily earned its fame." Irish Independent --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

Even if you're not really an Agatha Christie fan, you should read this one. Christie is criticized as a literary light-weight. It's true that her characters are formulaic, but she wasn't really interested in characters. Her specialty was intricate, multi-layered puzzles and no one did them better. This book and *AND THEN THERE WERE NONE* are her trickiest and she spoke of both as her most difficult to "pull off" effectively. I can't say much about the plot without giving away the secret, but it's easy to see why this book caused such a stir and why it continues to be so controversial among fans of classic British mysteries. Some of Christie's colleagues at the Detection Club accused her of cheating, but she stoutly maintained that all the clues were there. I think she's right and the book is even more fun to read the second time to see what you missed on the first reading. In addition to the tricky plot, the book is of historical interest in other ways. It introduces a character that Christie DID care about. The narrator, Dr. Sheppard, has a nosy, bossy older sister who plays a pivotal role in the story. The author claimed that Carolyn Sheppard was based on her own grandmother and great-aunt, both important figures in her childhood. They were women who appeared to be sheltered and ignorant and yet they were shrewd judges of character and (through gossip and their servants) they knew everything that was going on around them. A few years later, this character would emerge as Miss Jane Marple and the books and stories that feature her are my favorites. This book also appeared at a pivotal point in Christie's life. Her first book (*THE MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT STYLES*) was published almost by accident and led to the novice author signing a publishing contract which netted her very little money. She lived up to her obligations, but switched publishers as quickly as possible and made damned sure to be well-represented in the negotiations with her new publishing house. Mrs. Christie may have been shy and unassuming, but she knew her own worth and she wanted to profit from her successful books. "Money, it means much to me and always has done" says Hercule Poirot and the character speaks from the author's heart. This was her first book with her new publisher and (partly because it was more effectively marketed than her

earlier ones) was her most successful to that date. It was also the last book she wrote before her beloved mother died, her first marriage fell apart, and she became a public figure in a most unpleasant way. She would never again be the confident, trusting young woman who wrote this book, but she learned from her mistakes and (eventually) went on to even greater success and personal happiness. Good for her.

Agatha Christie at her best! I am an avid Marple & Poirot fan, but I had never gotten around to reading this particular Christie novel. There's a lot of hype around this novel and some say it's the best, and I can't find a reason to argue that. Reads very nicely and the ending had me pop up out of bed. I think I paced around my bedroom reading the last few pages. If you like Christie or are a fan of mystery, you must get this book. I especially like this particular publisher because of the good quality, attention to detail in editing, and that they organize the stories by Poirot, Marple, etc. in the top left corner.

I guessed the killer. The reason for this is that everyone told me "you'll never, ever guess the killer!" That's just how my mind works. Tell me I'll never see what's coming, and I'll instantly know Bruce Willis was dead the whole time. There's a cozy English village, King's Abbot, that's seen more of its share of tragic deaths in recent months. When the richest and most prominent man in town is murdered, the suspect list is long. There's the greedy sister-in-law, the scheming niece, the wayward stepson, the large game hunter, the mysterious stranger, and, of course, the secretive butler. But there's more to love here than just the whodunit. I got a huge kick out of the dynamic between narrator Dr. Sheppard and his nosy, know-it-all sister, Caroline. Learning that Caroline, who was easily my favorite character in the book, was an early prototype for Miss Marple makes me want to rush off to read those books. On the other hand, I'm not always sure of M. Poirot. Part of me roots for him to get the case wrong just to spite his pompous little Belgian grey cells. As always, Christie proves herself to be a master of mystery, and I enjoy her writing style. I don't typically reread mysteries, but this is one of the few that might remain interesting upon a second dissection. I didn't think this was quite as good as *Murder on the Orient Express*, but it's close.

Brilliant characterization by masterful writer Agatha Christie. Completely entertaining from the very first paragraph until the reader draws up the last words, like absorbing drops of a flavorful drink. No point in reading the last page to usurp the plot because it's an ambiguous ending only understood by the dedicated reader. Although this is touted as one of Christie's best mystery stories, my review

qualifies this by adding it's probably her best characterizations of all the suspects. Also, amazing how the intrigue remains as fresh today as when she published the story in 1926. This murder mystery is easier than most of her stories to deduce but reenacting the sinister motives keep the plot intellectually interesting. Especially entertaining was the Mah Jong game. A fun read! Loved the characters! Four stars because I figured the murderer after the first chapter but was nevertheless compelled to read the wonderful narrative, just to prove my opinion. Hercule is adorable:

I picked this book up after seeing it on buzzfeed list of "books with a plot twist that will blow your mind". I wouldn't have otherwise been interested in a book first published in 1922. When I thought of Agatha Christie, I thought of "Murder She Wrote". When I thought of "Murder She Wrote" I thought of my Grandmother and the Hallmark channel. Without the listings on multiple sites recommending this book, I likely wouldn't have picked it up. I purposefully didn't do too much research on the book before purchasing and reading. I didn't want to spoil the adventure. That ended up being a very profitable decision. Although it is dated, this is an excellent mystery novel. If you have interest in a good story at all, I would recommend you try this out. If you are already an Agatha Christie fan, I have been assured that this is some of her best work. You ought not delay any longer. Enjoy the ride.

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