

THE WORLD OF AGATHA CHRISTIE

READ

story extracts with Poirot
and Miss Marple

SOLVE

our summer
crossword

EXPLORE

the love
detectives

DELVE

into deadly
romance



Meet the Love Detectives

THE KEY PLAYERS



Parker Pyne

Skill: The Fixer

Stories: 14

Love Rating: ♥♥♥♥♥



Tommy & Tuppence

Skill: The Detective Duo

Stories: 21

Love Rating: ♥♥♥♥♥



Mr Satterthwaite

Skill: The Listener

Stories: 13

Love Rating: ♥♥♥♥♥



Mr Harley Quin

Skill: The Wildcard

Stories: 12

Love Rating: ♥♥♥♥♥



Miss Marple

Skill: The Nostalgic

Stories: 32

Love Rating: ♥♥♥♥♥



Hercule Poirot

Skill: The Sensitive Sleuth

Stories: 83+

Love Rating: ♥♥♥♥♥

"Murder, I have often noticed, is a great matchmaker."

Agatha Christie, *The ABC Murders*

Evil Under the Sun

AN EXTRACT [1941]

'I wish, though, M. Poirot, that you'd played up to her a bit. Why didn't you? Why didn't you tell her that you were down here investigating a particularly gruesome murder, and that the murderer, a homicidal maniac, was certainly to be found among the guests of the hotel?'

Hercule Poirot sighed. He said: 'I very much fear she would have believed me.'

Major Barry gave a wheezy chuckle. He said: 'She certainly would.'

Emily Brewster said: 'No, I don't believe even Mrs Gardener would have believed in a crime staged here. This isn't the sort of place you'd get a body!'

Hercule Poirot stirred a little in his chair...

He said: 'But why not, Mademoiselle? Why should there not be what you call a "body" here on Smugglers' Island?'

Emily Brewster said: 'I don't know. I suppose some places are more unlikely than others. This isn't the kind of spot—' She broke off, finding it difficult to explain her meaning.

'It is romantic, yes;... 'It is peaceful. The sun shines. The sea is blue. But you forget, Miss Brewster, there is evil everywhere under the sun.'

The clergyman stirred in his chair. He leaned forward. His intensely blue eyes lighted up.

Miss Brewster shrugged her shoulders.

'Oh! of course I realize that, but all the same—'

'But all the same this still seems to you an

'This isn't the sort of place you'd get a body!'

unlikely setting for crime? You forget one thing, Mademoiselle.'

'Human nature, I suppose?'

'That, yes. That, always. But that was not what I was going to say. I was going to point out to you that here everyone is on holiday.'

Emily Brewster turned a puzzled face to him.

'I don't understand.' Hercule Poirot beamed kindly at her...

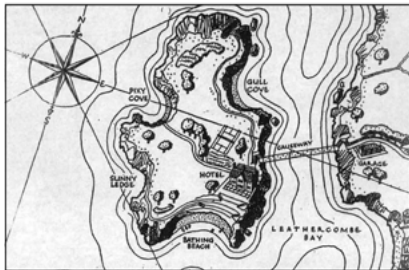
'Let us say, you have an enemy. If you seek him out in his flat, in his office, in the street—eh bien, you must have a reason—you must account for yourself. But here at the seaside it is necessary for no one to account for himself. You are at Leathercombe Bay, why? Parbleu! it is August—one goes to the seaside in August—one is on one's holiday. It is quite natural, you see, for you to be here and for Mr Lane to be here and for Major Barry to be here and for Mrs Redfern and her husband to be here.

Because it is the custom in England to go to the seaside in August.'

'Well,' admitted Miss Brewster, 'that's certainly a very ingenious idea. But what about the Gardeners? They're American.'

Poirot smiled.

'Even Mrs Gardener, as she told us, feels the need to relax. Also, since she is "doing" England, she must certainly spend a fortnight at the seaside—as a good tourist, if nothing else. She enjoys watching people.'



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Summer Love

A READING LIST



THE MYSTERIOUS MR QUIN [1930]

A conventional aesthete, Mr Satterthwaite never considered himself a participant in the trials and tribulations of love. But, his first meeting with the mysterious

Mr Quin proves that being a good listener will always come in handy. Explore 12 unique cases with an utterly unexpected coupling of characters, who will illuminate and improve the lives of those around them. Travel from society residences to the casinos of Monte Carlo. Just don't expect to be able to predict when Mr Quin will appear to help...

[SHOP IN THE US](#) | [SHOP IN THE UK](#)



PARKER PYNE INVESTIGATES [1934]

A retired civil servant, Parker Pyne is not a conventional private investigator. Those who consult him, via his advert in *The Times*, are looking for happiness.

His skills are unrivalled and he will take on almost any case, whether it's a matter of the heart or an evil mastermind at work. He prefers to work from his London office, but is drawn into plenty of work whilst travelling the globe too. This collection of 14 short stories spotlights Parker Pyne's innovative methods.

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EVIL UNDER THE SUN [1941]

Arlena Stuart was a beautiful woman and was often found relaxing on the beach. Only today she was not sunbathing, she lay

face down and had been strangled. At this luxury retreat, everyone is a suspect, each with a motive to kill her. But Hercule Poirot suspects this "crime of passion" is concealing something much more sinister. Join the Belgian sleuth at The Jolly Roger Hotel for a perfect dose of summer escapism. Sun cream not provided.

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THE BODY IN THE LIBRARY [1942]

Dolly Bantry is startled awake by a servant declaring that there is a body in the library. The woman is dressed in an evening gown, as if she has been at a party. But

who is she and how on earth did she wind up in the Bantry's library? Dolly telephones the one person she knows will be able to help uncover the mystery, Miss Marple. What follows is a trip to the great British seaside to untangle a web of jealousy, infatuation and secrets.

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TOWARDS ZERO [1944]

What connects an awkward gathering at Gull's Point, a theft and the romantic life of a famous tennis player? To the eyes of the general public, nothing. However,

when a party gathers at the seaside home of an elderly widow, Superintendent Battle begins to make connections and discovers it is all part of a carefully laid plan for murder. A fascinating exploration of how the past can catch up with you.

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THE HOLLOW [1945]

Rather than a warm and inviting welcome to The Hollow, Hercule Poirot is greeted by a dead man lying at the edge of the swimming pool, with his wife standing over him with a revolver. But as Poirot

begins his investigation, a tangled web of love affairs comes to light and it soon becomes obvious that the dead man's wife may not be the only suspicious member of this party.

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THEY CAME TO BAGHDAD [1951]

Victoria Jones is yearning for a change. When she meets a charming young man in FitzJames Gardens and hears of his trip to the Middle East, she is eager

to seek a little adventure (and love) of her own. However, Victoria gets a little more than she bargained for when a wounded spy winds up in her hotel room and utters his final words: '... Lucifer... Basrah... Lefarge...'. But what does he mean? Soon Victoria finds herself in the midst of espionage, deception and secrets.

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DESTINATION UNKNOWN [1954]

After a number of leading scientists are reported missing, Hilary Craven is given the opportunity to partake in a treacherous mission promising

adventure, thrills and perhaps even love. To succeed she must impersonate the wife of one of the missing scientists whilst journeying to an unknown destination. Hilary soon finds herself amongst a rather eclectic group of travellers including an English, an American and a French holidaymaker. But can Hilary convince the group that she's in love with a man she's never met?

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A CARIBBEAN MYSTERY [1964]

Miss Marple's trip to the Caribbean was a present she mustn't take for granted, but listening to old Major Palgrave witter on isn't her idea of the

perfect break. Much more intriguing, Jane reflects, are the couple who have taken over at the Golden Palm Hotel, and their eclectic array of guests: married botanists and birdwatchers; the elderly and enraged Jason Rafiel alongside his cohort of staff. There is perhaps as much to observe from her sun lounger in St Honoré, as from her window in St Mary Mead, and affairs of the heart seem to cause chaos even in paradise.

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MIDSUMMER MYSTERIES [2022]

From the steep streets of a Cornish fishing village to the ruins of Ancient Greece, the settings in this collection will take you on a holiday you'll

never forget. Miss Marple will be on the case, so too will Parker Pyne, Mr Quin and Hercule Poirot. Expect stories of love, loss, and of course murder! This newly curated short story collection gathers the best stories to dive into this season.

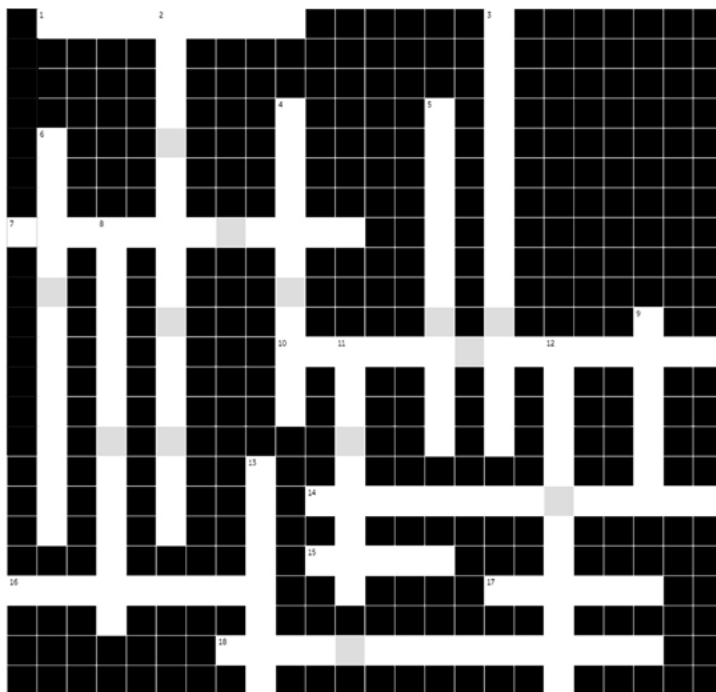
[SHOP IN THE US](#) | [SHOP IN THE UK](#)

We have explored stories which feature love, and have a distinct appeal for summer reading. There are plenty of other great stories featuring romance (and love gone wrong) which can be found on our website.

Have we missed off your favourite summer story from Agatha Christie? Let us know via our social media channels.

Crossword

A WORD SEARCH



ACROSS

- 1 A hobby shared by Miss Marple and Dolly Bantry. (9)
- 7 Name the novel that takes place at The Gull's Point Estate. (7,4)
- 10 Hercule Poirot's holiday companion in *Peril at End House*. (6,8)
- 14 Who is the protagonist in *They Came to Baghdad*? (8,5)
- 15 Complete these book titles: *Appointment with ----- in the Clouds* (5)
- 16 What are Linnet and Simon celebrating in Egypt in *Death on the Nile*? (9)
- 17 The mysterious Mr Quin's first name. (6)
- 18 Agatha Christie wrote six novels under a pseudonym. What was it? (4,10)

DOWN

- 2 In which book is Hercule Poirot's holiday interrupted by a murder at The Jolly Roger Hotel? (4,5,3,3)
- 3 Location of the deadly fête in *The Mirror Crack'd from Side to Side*. (10,4)
- 4 Name the hotel Miss Marple stays in in the Caribbean. (6,4)
- 5 Which friend of Poirot's stars in *The Man in the Brown Suit*? (7,4)
- 6 Can you name the first victim in *A Caribbean Mystery*? (5,8)
- 8 Which author assists Parker Pyne with his cases? (7,6)
- 9 *Destination -----*. The novel revolves around the disappearance of a man of science. (7)
- 11 In which publication does Parker Pyne advertise his services? (3,5)
- 12 The country where Agatha Christie first fell in love with surfing. (5,6)
- 13 *Dead Man's Folly* takes place in a country house inspired by which National Trust property? (8)

Parker Pyne Investigates

AN EXTRACT [1934]

Mr Parker Pyne waited on deck. Presently the door of Lady Grayle's cabin opened and the lady herself trailed out on deck.

'Such a hot afternoon,' she observed graciously. 'I see you have stayed behind, Mr Pyne. Very wise of you. Shall we have some tea together in the lounge?'

Mr Parker Pyne rose promptly and followed her. It cannot be denied that he was curious.

It seemed as though Lady Grayle felt some difficulty in coming to the point. She fluttered from this subject to that.

But finally she spoke in an altered voice.

'Mr Pyne, what I am about to tell you is in the strictest confidence! You do understand that, don't you?'

'Naturally.'

She paused, took a deep breath. Mr Parker Pyne waited.

'I want to know whether or not my husband is poisoning me.'

Whatever Mr Parker Pyne had expected, it was not this.

He showed his astonishment plainly. 'That is a very serious accusation to make, Lady Grayle.'

'Well, I'm not a fool and I wasn't born yesterday. I've had my suspicions for some time. Whenever George goes away I get better. My food doesn't disagree with me and I feel a different woman. There must be some reason for that.'

'What you say is very serious, Lady Grayle.'

Whatever Parker Pyne had expected it was not this.

You must remember I am not a detective. I am, if you like to put it that way, a heart specialist—'

She interrupted him. 'Eh—and don't you think it worries me, all this? It's not a policeman I want—I can look after myself, thank you—it's certainty I want. I've got to know. I'm not a wicked woman, Mr Pyne. I act fairly by those who act fairly by me. A bargain's a bargain. I've kept my side of it. I've paid my husband's debts and I've not stinted him in money.'

Mr Parker Pyne had a fleeting pang of pity for Sir George.

'And as for the girl, she's had clothes and parties and this, that and the other. Common gratitude is all I ask.'

'Gratitude is not a thing that can be produced to order, Lady Grayle.'

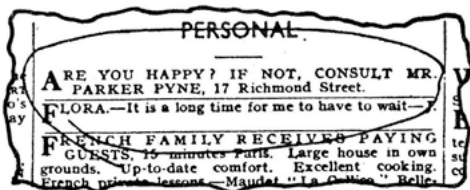
'Nonsense!' said Lady Grayle. She went on: 'Well, there it is! Find out the truth for me! Once I know—'

He looked at her curiously. 'Once you know, what then, Lady Grayle?'

'That's my business.' Her lips closed sharply.

Mr Parker Pyne hesitated a minute, then he said: 'You will excuse me, Lady Grayle, but I have the impression that you are not being entirely frank with me.'

Taken from 'Death on the Nile', *Parker Pyne Investigates*



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Colouring Sheet

BASED ON ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY BILL BRAGG



A Caribbean Mystery

AN EXTRACT [1964]

Since the Prescotts had been at the Golden Palm longer than Miss Marple, they were able to enlighten her as to some of her fellow guests.

That very old man, Mr Rafiel. He came every year.

Fantastically rich! Owned an enormous chain of supermarkets in the North of England. The young woman with him was his secretary, Esther Walters—a widow. (Quite all right, of course. Nothing improper. After all, he was nearly eighty!)

Miss Marple accepted the propriety of the relationship with an understanding nod and the Canon remarked: 'A very nice young woman; her mother, I understand, is a widow and lives in Chichester.'

'Mr Rafiel has a valet with him, too. Or rather a kind of Nurse Attendant—he's a qualified masseur, I believe. Jackson, his name is. Poor Mr Rafiel is practically paralysed.

So sad—with all that money, too.'

'A generous and cheerful giver,' said Canon Prescott approvingly.

People were regrouping themselves round about, some going farther from the steel band, others crowding up to it. Major Palgrave had joined the Hillingdon-Dyson quartette.

'Now those people—' said Miss Prescott, lowering her voice quite unnecessarily since the steel band easily drowned it.

'Yes, I was going to ask you about them.'

'They were here last year. They spend three

months every year in the West Indies, going round the different islands.

The tall thin man is Colonel Hillingdon and the other woman is his wife—they are botanists. The other two, Mr and Mrs Gregory Dyson—they're American.

He writes on butterflies, I believe. And all of them are interested in birds.'

'So nice for people to have open-air hobbies,' said Canon Prescott genially.

'I don't think they'd like to hear you call it hobbies, Jeremy,' said his sister. 'They have articles printed in the National Geographic and in the Royal Horticultural Journal. They take themselves very seriously.'

A loud outburst of laughter came from the table they had been observing. It was loud enough to overcome the steel band. Gregory Dyson was leaning back in his chair and thumping the table, his wife was protesting, and Major Palgrave emptied his glass and seemed to be applauding.

They hardly qualified for the moment as people who took themselves seriously.

'Major Palgrave should not drink so much,' said Miss Prescott acidly. 'He has blood pressure.'

A fresh supply of Planters Punches was brought to the table.

'It's so nice to get people sorted out,' said Miss Marple.

'When I met them this afternoon I wasn't sure which was married to which.'

There was a slight pause. Miss Prescott coughed a small dry cough, and said—'Well, as to that—'

'Joan,' said the Canon in an admonitory voice. 'Perhaps it would be wise to say no more.'

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Planters Punch Recipe

30 ml lime juice
15 ml sugar syrup
60 ml chilled water
45 ml dark rum (if using)
dash bitters
Mix together and serve over ice
Top with mint and slice of orange



Surfing

A WORD SEARCH

Agatha Christie's love of surfing began in South Africa, and is well documented.
But how much do you know about this seaside sport?

L N Z H I W U G Y N R R A G S O Z H C O
A H M R Z F F Z A F Q L R B J A P R L I
A V G O Z Z U E P B F E D I T P I R C N
X Q S L R X C S D W B P E G Y E A P M O
R G Q E A O X J E N P P T Q W I L B H K
W X W E A N N H E C N A L A B Z X X O W
H F A C R S Q Z W V Z D W N A U H T N O
Q G Y W K D I E G R R D Q S Z N R J O C
T R T V G U O D X L E L Y B Z G A W L Z
S U H B M H B C E R K E D G N I F R U S
V T N L V X V V G C N V F A Z K T Y L D
Z M R E P A U G Z J C J P B Z H I M U C
H K W B D E R E I D T Q L I R J I M U F
T U H Q Z E B G G I L K W I D J T Q X B
M K R F Y X G L S X L X A A K A W X U K
S W I M M I N G R D T Z V W B S D K G W
C C Z N N I V X B N T E E A S Z D R T K
E N E B O A R D E V A F S H C A E B D U

Can you locate the following surfing terms?

BALANCE
BEACH
BOARD
HAWAII
HONOLULU

MUIZENBERG
OCEAN
PADDLE
RAFT
REEF

RIPTIDE
SEASIDE
SURFING
SWIMMING
WAVES

*"Whenever we could steal time off ... we took the train
and went to Muizenberg, got our surf boards,
and went out surfing together."*

Agatha Christie, *An Autobiography*

Agatha Christie

A DIARY

Do you have a favourite story featuring love in the Christie canon? Our favourite has to be that of Agatha herself and her husband, Max Mallowan. Whilst on their honeymoon, the couple wrote a shared journal of their trip, noting activities, unforgettable views, and comical anecdotes.

Whilst Max's enthusiasm for the joint project might have waned, Agatha kept recording her thoughts, providing The Christie Archive Trust with a charming record of this trip to treasure. We share a couple of short extracts from this diary with their kind permission.

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Agatha's sense of humour is never far from her entries: 'Two bathers, a luxuriant lobster, a cosmopolitan countess delighted to have sunk her baggage in the Grand Canal at the Fin de Saison.'

AGATHA ON VENICE, ITALY.

-
Whereas Max's initial impressions of Venice show a profound appreciation of the city's history: *'The lapping of water by night against the quays of the Grand Canal. The warm glow of the palaces at sunset as if suffused with the body of their ancient fire, no longer at full brilliance, but unobtrusive and yet unspent, more powerful for the burning of its pent up heat.'*

MAX ON VENICE, ITALY.

Whilst we know Agatha had a great flair for writing, Max showed that he was quite talented in that department too:

-
'A cold grey dawn as we rounded the cape into the harbour...the Adriatic was morose like an ocean between two worlds.'

MAX ON SPLIT, CROATIA

-
After Croatia, they travelled over to Kotor in Montenegro which the pair described as *'fairy like'*. Agatha said it had *'the dazzling unhuman unearthly beauty of a dream vision.'*

-
The couple boarded the S. S. SRBIN from Kotor to Albania which Max described as "an ideal journey - sun, books, good food, ports at judicious intervals" before making their way to Greece.

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They explored the small town of Olympia before hearing the Testament of Beauty up the Chronos hill which according to Agatha was *'One of the most perfect days I have ever known...'*

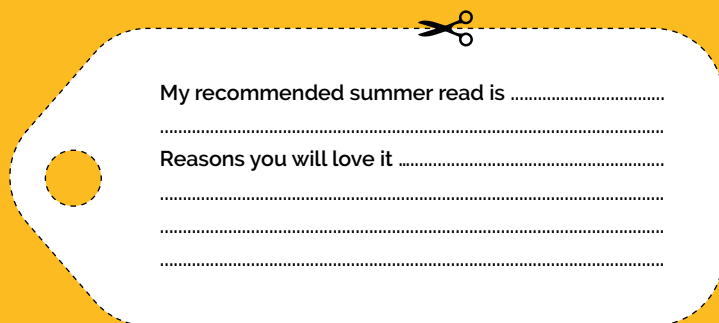
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Find out more about Agatha Christie's travels in *An Autobiography, The Grand Tour and Come, Tell Me How You Live*. Have you ever kept a travel diary? Let us know via our social media channels. Quotations © The Christie Archive Trust



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My recommended summer read is

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Reasons you will love it

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