

THE WORLD OF AGATHA CHRISTIE

READ

about Hercule's
travels

SOLVE

the location
quiz

EXPLORE

Poirot's
London

DELVE

into new
cases



Appointment with Death

AN EXTRACT [1938]

'You do see, don't you, that she's got to be killed?'

Curious words for one Hercule Poirot, detective, to overhear on his first night in Jerusalem.

'Decidedly, wherever I go, there is something to remind me of crime!' he murmured to himself.

His smile continued as he remembered a story he had once heard concerning Anthony Trollope the novelist. Trollope was crossing the Atlantic at the time and had overheard two fellow passengers discussing the last published instalment of one of his novels.

'Very good,' one man had declared. 'But he ought to kill off that tiresome old woman.'

With a broad smile the novelist had addressed them:

'Gentlemen, I am much obliged to you! I will go and kill her immediately!'

Hercule Poirot wondered what had occasioned the words he had just overheard. A collaboration, perhaps, over a play or a book.

He thought, still smiling: 'Those words might be remembered, one day, and given a more sinister meaning.'

There had been, he now recollected, a curious nervous intensity in the voice—a tremor that spoke of some intense emotional strain. A man's voice—or a boy's ...

Hercule Poirot thought to himself as he turned out the light by his bed: 'I should know that voice again...'

Their elbows on the windowsill, their heads close together, Raymond and Carol Boynton gazed out into the blue depths of the night. Nervously, Raymond repeated his former words: 'You do see, don't you, that she's got to be killed?'

Carol Boynton stirred slightly. She said, her voice deep and hoarse: 'It's horrible...'

'It's not more horrible than this!'

'I suppose not...'

Raymond said violently: 'It can't go on like

Nervously, Raymond repeated his former words: 'You do see, don't you, that she's got to be killed?'

this - it can't... We must do something...And there isn't anything else we can do...'

Carol said—but her voice was unconvincing and she knew it: 'If we could get away somehow—?'

'We can't.' His voice was empty and hopeless. 'Carol, you know we can't...'

The girl shivered. 'I know, Ray—I know.'

He gave a sudden short, bitter laugh.

'People would say we were crazy—not to be able just to walk out—'

Carol said slowly: 'Perhaps we—are crazy!'

'I dare say. Yes, I dare say we are. Anyway, we soon shall be...I suppose some people would say we are already—here we are calmly planning, in cold blood, to kill our own mother!'

Carol said sharply: 'She isn't our own mother!' 'No, that's true.'

There was a pause and then Raymond said, his voice now quietly matter-of-fact: 'You do agree, Carol?'

Carol answered steadily: 'I think she ought to die—yes...'

Then she broke out suddenly: 'She's mad...I'm quite sure she's mad...'

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Poirot on Location

A WORD SEARCH

Is there anywhere the Belgian detective hasn't been embroiled in a case?
Take a break to find 14 places hidden below.

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

ANDERMATT
BAGHDAD
BELGRADE
DEVON
EGYPT

ISTANBUL
LAUSANNE
LONDON
PETRA
MESOPOTAMIA

MONTECARLO
NICE
KARERSEE
STLOO

*"Life is like a train, Mademoiselle. It goes on.
And it is a good thing that that is so."*

Hercule Poirot, *The Mystery of the Blue Train*

Poirot: At Home and Abroad

A READING LIST

To celebrate the cinematic release of *A Haunting in Venice*, inspired by Agatha Christie's *Hallowe'en Party*, we explore some of Poirot's best cases around the world.



THE MURDER ON THE LINKS [1923]

Poirot is summoned to France after receiving a letter from a fearful businessman. Alas, the detective and his sidekick, Captain Hastings, cross the

channel too late. Monsieur Renauld is dead before they arrive, his body lies face down on a golf course. But why is his coat too big for him? And who is the recipient of the love letter in his pocket? This is the first Poirot novel where the retired detective travels abroad for a case.

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THE MYSTERY OF THE BLUE TRAIN [1928]

On board the luxurious Blue Train headed for Nice, Ruth Kettering lies dead, her face disfigured almost beyond recognition. In addition to the brutal murder,

Ruth's precious rubies are missing. Her estranged husband is the primary suspect but Hercule Poirot is not so sure. To solve the case, he must stage a chilling reenactment. But is the murderer on board to strike once again?

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MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS [1934]

Hercule Poirot is travelling on the lavish Orient Express when the train is stopped in its tracks by a vast snowdrift. One of the

passengers lies dead in his cabin, stabbed a dozen

times. But how did the killer get in when the door was locked from the inside? Poirot must use his powers of deduction to analyse clues, interview suspects and identify which passenger is the culprit of this ominous crime before the train continues its journey and the passengers can disembark.

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MURDER IN MESOPOTAMIA [1935]

Nurse Amy Leatheran, the narrator of this story, is employed by archaeologist Dr Leidner to care for his wife, Mrs 'lovely Louise' Leidner who is suffering

from overwhelming paranoia. But upon arrival at the excavation site in Mesopotamia, Nurse Leatheran notes there is something rather more sinister clouding the atmosphere. A sudden death necessitates a call to Dr Leidner's friend Poirot, who is travelling nearby.

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CARDS ON THE TABLE [1936]

In a flamboyant flat on Park Lane, London, an eccentric group of people gather for dinner; half of them are sleuths; half, Mr Shaitana believes, have gotten away with

murder. After boasting to Poirot that he considers murder an art form, the retired detective accepts the invitation with trepidation. What begins as a civil game of bridge takes a turn for the worse when Mr Shaitana drops dead mid-game and transforms the evening into one of danger and genuine detection.

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APPOINTMENT WITH DEATH [1937]

Poirot overhears a deadly threat in the still night air of Jerusalem, and ponders its significance. Later, when the body of the detestable Mrs Boynton is

discovered beneath the towering cliffs of Petra, Poirot is forced to examine the significance of this chance remark. With just 24 hours to solve the mystery, the Belgian detective must attempt to understand this dysfunctional family in order to uncover the truth.

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HICKORY DICKORY DOCK [1955]

Having made three mistakes in just one letter, Poirot knew there was something the matter with his ever-efficient secretary, Miss Lemon. Upon enquiring,

it becomes apparent that there is a peculiar case of kleptomania at the student hostel on Hickory Road, where Miss Lemon's sister acts as warden. The list of missing items is quite extraordinary and piques Poirot's interest. But if this is purely a case of missing belongings, why is everyone at the hostel so terrified?

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DEATH ON THE NILE [1937]

A peaceful cruise along the river Nile is shattered when the young and beautiful Linnet Ridgeway is discovered dead. Jacqueline de Bellefort has been in pursuit of

Linnet and her husband on their honeymoon, the victim of jealousy and betrayal. But did others on the steamer also have a motive to kill Linnet? Hercule Poirot needs to overcome his mal de mer and put his little grey cells to work before the culprit kills again. Can his charming friend Colonel Race provide the support he needs?

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THIRD GIRL [1966]

Three young women share a London flat. The first is a secretary, the second an artist, and the third interrupted Poirot's breakfast to announce that she was a killer - and then

promptly disappeared. But who really is this mysterious third girl and why did she confess to being a killer? Poirot must uncover the truth about the young woman by deciphering the rumours surrounding her, her family and her disappearance.

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ONE, TWO, BUCKLE MY SHOE [1940]

The usually unflappable Hercule Poirot has been forced to visit his dentist in London. But this appointment would not be the worst part of his day. Shortly after

arriving home he receives a call to return to the surgery, only this time not as a patient but as a detective. Dr Morley, had been found dead, and Poirot must reconsider everything he witnessed on that particularly unpleasant morning once more.

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The new Poirot covers were designed by HarperCollins UK Creative Director, Claire Ward, following the reissue of the Miss Marple paperbacks last year. The new Poirot covers are being rolled out on reprints, and all 39 will be in circulation in the UK by the end of 2023.

There are plenty of other stories starring the detective. For details visit the official Hercule Poirot reading list at agathachristie.com.

Hercule Poirot's Silent Night

AN EXTRACT FROM SOPHIE HANNAH'S FIFTH POIROT CONTINUATION NOVEL,
PUBLISHING OCTOBER 2023

I had been sure until the very last moment that Poirot was minded to decline her request. I knew only too well the expression that his face assumed when he was preparing to say no to somebody, being so often the person to whom he said it. At a certain juncture, however, Mother had said something that had aroused his interest. I watched it happen. The light in his eyes changed. I could not work out what had made the difference.

She had been talking about Stanley Niven, the murder victim, who, according to Mother, had possessed a sunny nature and a generous and delightful temperament. At the time of his death, he was sixty-eight years old and had a doting family and no enemies to speak of. He was the favourite patient of every doctor and every nurse at St Walstan's Cottage Hospital, always laughing and offering encouragement to others in spite of his own health troubles. His happiness was such that one could not help but feel jolly in his presence, no matter what mood one might have been in before encountering him. At sixty-eight, he was retired, but before that he had been a post office master in Cromer, where his customers and employees could not have been more devoted to him.

Mother had turned her stern gaze upon me at this point in her description of Mr Niven. 'A man like that is not supposed to get murdered, Edward: a cheerful, popular man who has worked hard his whole life and who endures poor health with great fortitude and a smile on his face. Really, you and your friends at Scotland Yard must deliver a clear message to the nation's rogues: if they insist on depriving people of their lives, they must choose more deserving candidates. Of course, taking another person's life is always wrong. You do not need to tell me that, Edward - I was the one who taught you about right and wrong, if you recall. But the fact

'A man like that is not supposed to get murdered'

is that not all crimes are equally heinous. What is this great nation coming to, really, when a man like Stanley Niven is not safe? Not that I care about him personally, you understand.'

'Yes, you have made that very clear,' I said. 'You care only insofar as it inconveniences your friend Vivienne.'

'Not only her,' said Mother. 'The whole family is affected. And it goes far beyond inconvenience, Edward, so please do not be flippant. Vivienne is...why, in the three months since the murder, she has become a mere shell of a person. It is terrifying to observe. Of course Stanley Niven's death matters to somebody somewhere - I do not doubt that. I never intended to suggest otherwise. You are determined, as ever, to interpret everything I say in the most uncharitable manner possible.'



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Poirot Games

PLAY DETECTIVE



HERCULE POIROT: THE LONDON CASE

Take on a new adventure in the bustling city of London. A young Poirot must team up with Arthur Hastings to transport a piece of priceless artwork. However, the unveiling of The Penitent Magdalene does not go to plan, and players must get to the bottom of the case by meeting with witnesses (and suspects) behind the scenes at theatres, art galleries, and apartments. Experience this original story on PC and console.

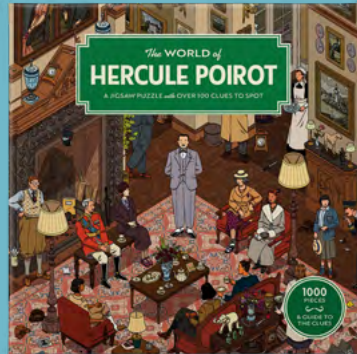
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THE WORLD OF HERCULE POIROT

You'll need to use order and method to put together this new 1000-piece jigsaw. Intricately woven into the design of the puzzle are clues, crimes and suspects from all 33 Hercule Poirot novels. Can you identify them all? Also included is a fold-out poster providing insight into Poirot's most puzzling cases.

Releasing October 5.

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MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

Climb aboard the lavish train with Poirot. Set in the present day, the game remains faithful to the original story but with an additional playable detective Joanne Locke, a member of the police force in Massachusetts, who will give vital background information to the case unfolding on the Orient Express. New elements added to the story means players familiar with the book will still have plenty to uncover and solve. Releasing October 19 on PC and console.

[FIND OUT MORE US](#) | [FIND OUT MORE UK](#)



Spot the Difference

A PUZZLE

Can you locate all 13 differences in this carriage scene? Illustration by Bob Al-Greene.



MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS: A GRAPHIC NOVEL

ADAPTED AND ILLUSTRATED BY BOB AL-GREENE

Travel on board the luxury train, and explore one of Poirot's most famous cases as you've never seen it before. Illustrator Bob Al-Greene has transformed the story into this full-colour graphic novel adaptation, with a cast of characters you will never forget.

OUT NOW IN THE US [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) | [Barnes & Noble](https://www.barnesandnoble.com)

Third Girl

AN EXTRACT [1966]

He crossed the room quietly and sat down in the chair opposite her. She looked up then, and he was at least gratified to see that he was recognised.

'So we meet again, Mademoiselle,' he said pleasantly. 'I see you recognise me.'

'Yes. Yes, I do.'...

'And how did you know me, may I ask? What made you recognise me?'

'Your moustache,' said Norma immediately. 'It couldn't be anyone else.'

He was gratified by that observation and stroked it with the pride and vanity that he was apt to display on these occasions.

'Ah yes, very true. Yes, there are not many moustaches such as mine. It is a fine one, hein?'

'Yes—well, yes—I suppose it is.'

'Ah, you are perhaps not a connoisseur of moustaches, but I can tell you, Miss Restarick—Miss Norma Restarick, is it not?—that it is a very fine moustache.'

He had dwelt deliberately upon her name. She had at first looked so oblivious to everything around her, so far away, that he wondered if she would notice. She did. It startled her.

'How did you know my name?' she said.

'True, you did not give your name to my servant when you came to see me that morning.'

'How did you know it? How did you get to know it? Who told you?'

He saw the alarm, the fear.

'A friend told me,' he said. 'One's friends can be very useful.'

'Who was it?'

'Mademoiselle, you like keeping your little secrets from me. I, too, have a preference for keeping my little secrets from you.'

'I don't see how you could know who I was.'

'I am Hercule Poirot,' said Poirot, with his usual magnificence. Then he left the initiative to her, merely sitting there smiling gently at her.

'How did you know my name?' she said.

'I—' she began, then stopped. '—Would—' Again she stopped.

'We did not get very far that morning, I know,' said Hercule Poirot. 'Only so far as your telling me that you had committed a murder.'

'Oh that!'

'Yes, Mademoiselle, that.'

'But—I didn't mean it of course. I didn't mean anything like that. I mean, it was just a joke.'

'Vraiment? You came to see me rather early in the morning, at breakfast time. You said it was urgent. The urgency was because you might have committed a murder. That is your idea of a joke, eh?'

A waitress who had been hovering, looking at Poirot with a fixed attention, suddenly came up to him and proffered him what appeared to be a paper boat such as is made for children to sail in a bath.

'This for you?' she said. 'Mr Porritt? A lady left it.'

'Ah yes,' said Poirot. 'And how did you know who I was?'

'The lady said I'd know by your moustache. Said I wouldn't have seen a moustache like that before. And it's true enough,' she added, gazing at it.

'Well, thank you very much.'

Poirot took the boat from her, untwisted it and smoothed it out; he read some hastily pencilled words: 'He's just going. She's staying behind, so I'm going to leave her for you, and follow him.' It was signed Ariadne.

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Travel Like Poirot

A PUZZLE



Can you match these locations to the correct Hercule Poirot novels?

1 APPOINTMENT WITH DEATH

2 DEATH ON THE NILE

3 ELEPHANTS CAN REMEMBER

4 MURDER IN MESOPOTAMIA

5 MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

6 THE ABC MURDERS

7 THE BIG FOUR

8 THE MURDER ON THE LINKS

9 THREE ACT TRAGEDY

Answers: A2, B6, C9, D4, E7, F1, G9, H3, I5

Hercule Poirot's London

A FACT FILE

Belgian native, Hercule Poirot makes London his home. Don't think he's always solving cases from his armchair however; he does plenty of travel around the capital to solve cases. From kidnap victims to stolen gems, he's never too far from a crime that needs his attention.

- Perhaps one of Poirot's least favourite addresses in London is 58 Queen Charlotte Street, the location of his dentist.

Similar to Sherlock Holmes, Poirot makes use of local youths to elicit information from the city's streets, which he would be too conspicuous to seek himself.

- Hercule Poirot's most well-known London address is 56B Whitehaven Mansions. ITV's Poirot series used the impressive Florin Court on Charterhouse Square to represent the location.

Fond of luxury, Poirot has been known to dine at a variety of illustrious addresses, including The Savoy Hotel and in the King's Road, Chelsea.

- Poirot much prefers London to the countryside as the amenities, such as reliable plumbing and central heating, are more likely to be found in the city. Poirot dislikes wood fires, as they are asymmetrical and do not heat evenly.

Far from working alone, Poirot has been assisted by Ariadne Oliver, Detective Inspector Japp, Superintendent Battle, Colonel Race, and Arthur Hastings in his London cases.



Get to know Ariadne Oliver

Played by Tina Fey in *A Haunting in Venice*, the author has also been depicted on screen by Jean Stapleton and Zoë Wanamaker.

- Ariadne Oliver appears in six Poirot novels, but we are first introduced to her when she assists Parker Pyne from his London office.

Alongside Christie's profession, Ariadne also shares Agatha's teetotalism and love of apples.



For more extracts, features, reading lists, games
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