The Mystery of Agatha Christie
Books About Christie (& related topics)

The Mousetrap and Other Plays
by Agatha Christie
822.9 Chr

This special collection of Agatha Christie's greatest suspense plays includes "The Mousetrap" (the longest running play in history), "Ten Little Indians, Witness for the Prosecution, Appointment with Death, The Hollow, Towards Zero, Go Back to Murder", and "The Verdict". All in all, eight of Christie’s 16 published stage plays.

Who Killed Roger Ackroyd: The Mystery Behind the Agatha Christie Mystery [2000]
by Pierre Bayard
823 ChrYb

Agatha Christie’s classic novel The Murder of Roger Ackroyd has sparked great debate in the years since its publication in 1926, inspiring cultural critics from Umberto Eco to Roland Barthes to explore its unique construction: a murder mystery in which the murderer appears to be the narrator. With Who Killed Roger Ackroyd?, Pierre Bayard reopens the Ackroyd file. This psychoanalyst-cum-professor of literature examines the details of the case anew and offers an ingenious rereading of one of the most popular mysteries of all time. Wondering why Hercule Poirot’s conclusion about the identity of the murderer has never been questioned, Bayard uses a creative mix of literary theory and psychoanalysis to proposes a startling new solution.

by Matthew Bunson
823 ChrYb

Which poison was used most frequently in Agatha Christie's novels? How many of her novels featured a butler? Exactly where on the train were the suspects located in Murder on the Orient Express? How many actors have portrayed Hercule Poirot?

Get a clue...or a lot of them, in The Complete Christie – simply the most comprehensive guide to the life and works of the immortal Dame Agatha Christie.

Join author Matthew Bunson, whose Encyclopedia Sherlockiana was compared to "a box of the best chocolates" by mystery author Anne Perry, in this entertaining and highly enjoyable tour of the vast world of mystery created by Christie, and discover... a comprehensive biography of Christie, including new theories on her strange disappearance in 1926 plot synopses that offer colorful capsules of the stories (without giving away the solutions!) A-to-Z entries on characters from vicars to butlers, police sergeants to maids, each cross-referenced to the story or novel detailed listings of all films, television programs, radio shows, and documentaries of Christie and her works up-to-date entries on the most recent releases of previously unpublished Christie writings sixty illustrations, including book covers, shots from movies, and stage productions. Whether you've read every title in the giant Christie canon, or are just discovering her writing, The Complete Christie reveals in delectable detail why the mystique, fascination, and brainteasing fun of the mysteries penned by the century's most successful writing remain forever undiminished.

Agatha Christie and the Eleven Missing Days [2000]
by Jared Cade
823 ChrYc

In December 1926, Agatha Christie
disappeared in bizarre circumstances from her home in Berkshire, England. The discovery of the crime writer’s abandoned car led to the biggest manhunt in British history for a missing person. Eleven days later she was found over two hundred miles away in a northern spa town, claiming to be the victim of amnesia.

Up till the publication of this book in 1998 none of her biographers had come up with conclusive evidence as to what she did during the first twenty-four hours after she disappeared or whether her memory loss was genuine. Although the newspaper headlines made Agatha Christie famous, the private anguish that surrounded the episode ensured she made no reference to it in her memoirs.

Jared's Cade's number one bestselling biography - on which a BBC television documentary has been based - provides the answers to the mystery, including Agatha Christie's long forgotten explanation of the notorious episode, along with startling accounts by her relatives that reveal for the first time why she staged the disappearance with the help of a co-conspirator and how it all went terribly wrong. His sympathetic investigation reveals the incidents that shaped her character and how the fall-out from the disappearance affected the rest of her life.

**Little Grey Cells: The Quotable Poirot**

[2016]

by Agatha Christie

823 Chr

A charming, beautifully designed collection of bite-sized wisdom from Agatha Christie’s beloved detective Hercule Poirot—delightful, witty, and perceptive quotations and bon mots to stimulate every fan’s little grey cells.

"My name is Hercule Poirot and I am probably the greatest detective in the world." Perhaps the most famous detective of all time worldwide, Hercule Poirot is one of the most unique characters ever created. Fastidious, faint of stomach, a literal egghead, and a perpetual curser of patent leather shoes—the French-speaking Belgian may have his eccentricities, but he is also brilliant and full of wisdom both practical and timeless.

Now, for the first time ever, all of your favorite pearls of Poirot are collected in one handy volume. With **Little Grey Cells**, you yourself will be able to solve all of life's mysteries.

**Agatha Christie’s Secret Notebooks: Fifty Years of Mysteries in the Making**

[2010]

by John Curran

823 ChrYc

**Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks** is the fascinating exploration of the contents of Agatha Christie's long hidden notebooks, including illustrations, analyses, and two previously unpublished Hercule Poirot short stories. Not only will Christie's legions of ardent fans find a treasure chest of new material from the author of such classics as *And Then There Were None*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, and *Death on the Nile*, but **Agatha Christie’s Secret Notebooks** is also a must-read tutorial for writers who want to learn the intricacies of constructing crime novels. [Followed by *Murder in the Making*.]

**Agatha Christie: The Woman and Her Mysteries**

[1990]

by Gillian Gill

823 ChrYg

A feminist analysis of the life and work of the popular mystery writer portrays a strong-willed, passionate woman whose fictional creations explode sexual and other stereotypes.

**Agatha Christie: Murder in Four Acts: A Centenary Celebration of “The Queen of Crime” on Stage, Film, Radio and TV**

[1990]

by Peter Haining

823 qChrYh

In the centenary of her birth, Agatha Christie’s unique and undying appeal goes from strength to strength; on both film and television the characters she created continue to reach an enormous and enthusiastic audience. David Suchet (as the Belgian sleuth in Poirot) and Joan Hickson (as Miss Marple) have both been acclaimed for their
superlative performances, while on film, the two detectives have been played with characteristic flair by Angela Lansbury, Peter Ustinov and Albert Finney.

But these are only the latest stars in a long and distinguished line of performers – including Charles Laughton, Marlene Dietrich, Margaret Rutherford, Margaret Lockwood, Gracie Fields and Donald Sutherland – who have portrayed Agatha Christie’s many creations on film, TV, radio and the stage, to audiences on both sides of the Atlantic for more than 60 years. From the first adaptations of her work for the theatre and the cinema in 1928, the “Queen of Crime” has provided in her novels and short stories – as well as in her twelve original plays – a flood of inspiration for the entertainment industry.

The Life and Times of Hercule Poirot
[1990]
by Anne Hart
823 ChrYh

An affectionate profile of Agatha Christie’s most famous detective! 1990 marks both Dame Agatha’s hundredth birthday and the arrival of this long-awaited portrait of her formidable detective hero. Anne Hart’s earlier work, The Life and Times of Miss Jane Marple, was hailed as “the perfect companion...No Agatha Christie fan could possibly resist this clever ‘biography’ of their illustrious heroine”, and the London Daily Mail called it “a great treat for Christie addicts.” Now Hart undertakes her second expedition into the Christie landscape with the impeccably researched The Life and Times of Hercule Poirot.

In 1920, as the adventures of Sherlock Holmes were drawing to a close, an unknown young writer named Agatha Christie launched an eccentric new genius on the world of detective fiction. From his first appearance in The Mysterious Affair at Styles, his gray cells, remarkable moustache, and perfectly egg-shaped head all fully formed, it was clear that Hercule Poirot was destined to join the ranks of the Great Detectives.

Monsieur Poirot’s extraordinary career came to an end fifty-five years later with the publication of Curtain, his last case, amid worldwide lamentations and front-page obituaries. To this day his readers still relish his adventures – including such triumphs as The Murder of Roger Ackroyd and Murder on the Orient Express. From Mayfair to the Mediterranean, Hart stalks the mercurial Belgian, recording his idiosyncrasies and passions, his social rounds and domestic life-style. Filled with marvelous details and long-forgotten facts, The Life and Times of Hercule Poirot is an absolute must for the library of every Christie fan.

The Life and Times of Miss Jane Marple
[1985]
by Anne Hart
823 ChrYh

“I have had a lot of experience in solving different little problems that have arisen.” Most of the ‘little problems’ tackled by Miss Marple occurred in the pretty rural village of St. Mary Mead and came in the shape of murder, robbery and blackmail. In the 40 years of her career, she even solved cases as far afield as London and the Caribbean. But though she usually masqueraded as “everybody's favourite great aunt”, what was she “really” like? In this delightful “biography”, author Anne Hart observes that Miss Jane Marple was a “superb actress required by her ingenious creator to be an old lady for all seasons.” And indeed she was. Over a span of forty years, she moved from the image of a twittering old maid in black lace mittens and cap to that of a tall, elderly woman in a tweed coat and a small felt hat, playing a variety of roles and solving dozens of crimes in twenty short stories and twelve full-length novels. With great care and genuine affection, the author has examined every short story and novel in which Miss Marple appears, uncovering and tying together details and observations that even the most avid reader may have overlooked or forgotten. What emerges is as clear and engaging a picture of the shrewd and fluffy spinster as one is ever likely to see.

To the libraries of Agatha Christie readers everywhere, The Life and Times of Miss Jane Marple will be a welcome and satisfying addition.
Agatha Christie always revealed the solutions to the mysteries she created for her readers. All, that is, save one – the strange, unsolved case of the shy, self-conscious woman who, hating violence, knowing little of the world of professional crime, captured the detective-story kingdom from the specialists, and reigned over it for half a century.

Was it because of her literary talent? The sheer volume of her output? The originality of her settings? None of these, says Derrick Murdoch, who looks for clues to her secret in her background, her private life, the construction of her mystery stories, her travel books, the romantic novels she published under a different name to conceal her identity, and encounters a swarm of fascinating paradoxes.

The course of the investigation takes the reader into the riddle of Agatha Christie’s sudden, sensational disappearance in 1926, the fairy-tale quality of her desert wedding, her conquest of the theater world, the reason why she wrote Hercule Poirot out of some of her plays, and the extremes to which her feeling about the Miss Marple films swung. She is seen as the century’s most popular detective-story writer (by public vote, Hercule Poirot’s picture was chosen for a high-denomination postage stamp honoring Interpol); as the dramatist whose play, The Mousetrap, broke every world’s record; as the creative source behind two stupendous post-war motion pictures; and in the totally different role she filled as the devoted and domesticated wife of a distinguished archeologist.

Equally important in the search for the answer is a sketch of the literary traditions of the detective story she inherited, of the conventions she continued and of those she radically altered, as well as of the divergent directions in which modern crime fiction is heading. This panoramic view extends from her influential 19th century predecessors through her British, American and European pre-war contemporaries to her post-war fellow-writers, and takes a look at the elaborate game of musical chairs she played with her own favorite fictional characters in the continuing Christie saga.

Finally, when all the exhibits have been entered as evidence (and who would have thought to find a historic link between Poirot and Jack the Ripper?), Derrick Murdoch proceeds to sum up his case, producing some original thoughts and interesting conclusions about a writer whose wonderfully assorted talents have long beguiled him. He describes his meeting with her in 1966, from which he believes one of her last short stories may have evolved.

This unusual book is additionally valuable for its chronological listing of every original book Agatha Christie had published, whether written as Agatha Christie, Agatha Christie Mallowan, or under her pseudonym, Mary Westmacott; a similar list of every play, whether an original work by Agatha Christie, or adapted by her, or others, from one of her books or short stories, with details of its original London West End and Broadway productions, and of the principal players; a corresponding list of all known motion pictures based on Agatha Christie novels, short stories or characters; a comprehensive index and a bibliography.
Christie and her accomplishments through her own work. The result is a comprehensive, illustrated guide to the world of Agatha Christie, featuring authoritative information on each book’s provenance and on its contemporary critical reception set against the background of the major events in the author’s life. Illustrated with rarely seen photos and updated to include details of the publications, films and TV adaptations of her writings, this book provides fascinating reading for any Christie aficionado.

**Agatha Christie: Mistress of Mystery**
[1967]
by Gordon C. Ramsey
823 C467zr

This is an appreciation of Agatha Christie as a novelist and short story writer and a discussion of the unique techniques which account in a large part for her fabulously successful career. Chapters deal with the mystery story as a form, mystery writers as social historians, devices of the profession, the careers of Agatha Christie and her two detectives, Hercule Poirot and Jane Marple. Appendices include all Christie titles alphabetized, full-length novels and short story collections alphabetized, books and stories made into plays and films, and similar bibliographical information. For Agatha Christie readers everywhere, the book is a fascinating personal introduction to one of the most popular authors of our time.

**The 8:55 to Baghdad**
[2005]
by Andrew Eames
915.6 Eam

With her marriage to her first husband, Archie Christie, over, she decided to take a much-needed holiday; the Caribbean had been her intended destination, but a conversation at a dinner party with a couple who had just returned from Iraq changed her mind.

**Agatha Christie, An Autobiography**
[1977]
by Agatha Christie
B C4587c

At the age of 60, this extraordinary author of the most popular mystery novels ever published began writing of her life and career, which ended with her death at 85 in 1976. Her story starts with her childhood in “Ashfield”, in Torquay on the southern coast of England.

Dame Agatha tells of her early writing attempts, her marriage to Archibald Christie, her only child, Rosalind, her volunteer work and travels abroad, and of her second marriage, to archaeologist Max Mallowan. Special attention is paid to how Christie devised her many characters, including Poirot and Marple.

For a world-renowned person who shunned publicity, who was quite against any intrusion into her private life by inquiring reporters which resulted in inaccurate, often sensational articles, this is a most revealing autobiography. She describes so well her many problems as a young woman, a wife, and a murder and is quite candid in her opinion of people, including friends and relatives. All in all, it is a warm, readable, interesting book that will intrigue her millions of readers and delight the critics of fine autobiographies.

**The Grand Tour**
[2012]
by Agatha Christie
Biography Christie

Agatha Christie is the most widely published author of all time, outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare. Now, in this fascinating travelogue of the prolific author’s yearlong trip around the British Empire in 1922, Christie provides the clues to the origins of the plots and locales of some of her bestselling mystery novels. Containing never-before-published letters and photos from her travels, and filled with intriguing details about the exotic locations she visited, *The Grand Tour* is an important book for Agatha Christie fans, revealing an unexpected side to the world's most renowned mystery writer.
**Curtain Up: Agatha Christie: A Life in Theatre** [2015]
By Julius Green

Biography Christie

From the producer of numerous Agatha Christie stage plays comes the first book to examine the world's bestselling mystery writer's career and work as a playwright, published to commemorate her 125th birthday.

Agatha Christie has long been revered around the world for her mysteries and the indelible characters she created, Miss Jane Marple and Hercule Poirot. In addition to her contributions as a novelist, this gifted writer was also an acclaimed playwright. Offering a unique, in-depth look at her work for the stage, *Curtain Up* analyzes her plays and features excerpts from Agatha Christie's correspondences, notebooks, and several unpublished and unperformed scripts quoted from for the first time.

Meticulously researched, peppered with groundbreaking discoveries—including a details discussion of her only play to premiere in America -- *Curtain Up* sheds new light on Christie's artistry and adds a fascinating layer to her remarkable story.

**The Mystery of Agatha Christie**
[1978]
by Gwen Robyns
B C4587r

A new (as of 1978) biography of the enigmatic and reclusive mistress of mystery answers the questions occasioned by Agatha Christie's notorious disappearance in 1926.

**Agatha Christie: A Mysterious Life**
[2018]
by Laura Thompson

Biography Christie

It has been one hundred years since Agatha Christie wrote her first novel and created the formidable Hercule Poirot. A brilliant and award winning biographer, Laura Thompson now turns her sharp eye to Agatha Christie. Arguably the greatest crime writer in the world, Christie’s books still sell over four million copies each year—more than thirty years after her death—and it shows no signs of slowing. But who was the woman behind these mystifying, yet eternally pleasing, puzzlers? Thompson reveals the Edwardian world in which Christie grew up, explores her relationships, including those with her two husbands and daughter, and investigates the many mysteries still surrounding Christie's life, most notably, her eleven-day disappearance in 1926.Agatha Christie is as mysterious as the stories she penned, and writing about her is a detection job in itself. With unprecedented access to all of Christie's letters, papers, and notebooks, as well as fresh and insightful interviews with her grandson, daughter, son-in-law and their living relations, Thompson is able to unravel not only the detailed workings of Christie's detective fiction, but the truth behind this mysterious woman.

**Poirot & Me** [2014]
by David Suchet

Biography Suchet

In the summer of 2013 David Suchet filmed his final scenes as Hercule Poirot. After 24 years in the role, he played the character in every story that Agatha Christie wrote about him (bar one, deemed unfilmable) and he bid adieu to a role and a character that had changed his life.

In *Poirot and Me*, David Suchet tells the story of how he secured the part, with the blessing of Agatha Christie's daughter, and set himself the task of presenting the most authentic Poirot that had ever been filmed.

David Suchet is uniquely placed to write the ultimate companion to one of the world's longest running television series. Peppered with anecdotes about filming, including many tales of the guest stars who have appeared over the years, the book is essential reading for Poirot fans all over the world.
Not in the Lincoln City Libraries’ collection:

**The Ageless Agatha Christie: Essays on the Mysteries and the Legacy** [2016]
by J.C. Bernthal

When Agatha Christie died in 1976, she was the bestselling mystery writer in history. This collection of new essays brings fresh perspectives to Christie scholarship with new readings and discussions of little-known aspects of her life, career and legacy. The contributors explore her relationship with modernism, the relevance of queer theory, television adaptations, issues with translations, information behavior theory, feminist readings, postcolonial tribute novels, celebrity culture and heritage cinema. The final word is given to fans in an editorial that collates testimonies from readers, collectors and enthusiasts.

**Agatha Christie: Murder in the Making: More Stories and Secrets From Her Notebooks** [2011]
by John Curran

John Curran reveals the secrets of the world’s greatest mystery writer in Agatha Christie: Murder in the Making, the fascinating follow-up to Agatha Christie’s Secret Notebooks featuring more insight into Christie’s captivating life story and a new windfall of Christie’s unpublished work — including letters, archival papers, and a keenly incisive analysis of Christie’s last, unfinished novel. For readers new to Christie’s mysteries and for life-long fans of Hercule Poirot, Miss Marple, and Tommy and Tuppence, either from classic Christie novels like Murder on the Orient Express or from the popular Masterpiece Theater adaptations, “Curran’s discoveries will shape how Christie is read.”

**Agatha Christie: A Biography** [1985]
by Janet Morgan

Full access to Dame Agatha's papers and the cooperation of her friends and associates forms the basis for a study of the life and character of the reclusive novelist as well as the themes and methods of her writing.

**The Agatha Christie Who’s Who** [1988]
by Randall Toye

More than 2000 characters from the world of A. Christie completely cross-referenced and illustrated, and described by Christie herself, author Randall Toye and the detectives in the novels--Poirot, Miss Marple, Inspector Japp, Captain Hastings, Ariadne Oliver. [Note: Several critics have complained about inaccuracies in this volume.]

**An Agatha Christie Chronology** [1976]
by Nancy Blue Wynne

The only one-volume listing of every published Christie novel, short story and collection. Including plot outlines of Murder on the Orient Express and all major and lessor works.

**Novels with Christie as protagonist**

**A Talent for Murder** [2017]
by Andrew Wilson

Discover the real-life mystery surrounding the queen of crime herself: Agatha Christie. In this “twisty thriller” (Publishers Weekly), Andrew Wilson investigates Christie’s mysterious ten-day disappearance and offers his own gripping explanation, in which Christie is pulled into a riveting case of blackmail and murder.

Agatha Christie is preparing to board a train, preoccupied with the devastating knowledge that her husband is having an affair. She feels a light touch on her back, causing her to lose her balance, then a sense of someone pulling her to safety from the rush of the incoming train. So begins a terrifying sequence of events—for her rescuer is no guardian angel, rather he is a blackmailer of the most insidious, manipulative kind.
Writing about murder is a far cry from committing a crime, and Agatha must use every ounce of her cleverness and resourcefulness to thwart an adversary determined to exploit her expertise and knowledge of the act of murder to kill on his behalf.

**A Different Kind of Evil** [2018]
by Andrew Wilson

Agatha Christie — the Queen of Crime — travels to the breathtaking Canary Islands to investigate the mysterious death of a British agent in this riveting sequel to *A Talent for Murder*.

Two months after the events of *A Talent for Murder*, during which Agatha Christie “disappeared,” the famed mystery writer’s remarkable talent for detection has captured the attention of British Special Agent Davison.

Now, at his behest, she is traveling to the beautiful Canary Islands to investigate the strange and gruesome death of Douglas Greene, an agent of the British Secret Intelligence Service. As she embarks on a glamorous cruise ship to her destination, she suddenly hears a scream. Rushing over to the stern of the liner, she witnesses a woman fling herself over the side of the ship to her death.

After this shocking experience, she makes it to the Grand Hotel in a lush valley on the islands. There, she meets a diverse and fascinating cast of characters, including two men who are suspected to be involved in the murder of Douglas Greene: an occultist similar to Aleister Crowley; and the secretary to a prominent scholar, who may also be a Communist spy. But Agatha soon realizes that nothing is what it seems here and she is surprised to learn that the apparent suicide of the young woman on the ocean liner is related to the murder of Douglas Greene. Now she has to unmask a different kind of evil in this sinister and thrilling mystery.