

# The Mysterious Affair at Styles. 75th Anniversary Edition *by* Agatha CHRISTIE



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**Author:** Agatha CHRISTIE

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## Reviews of the *The Mysterious Affair at Styles. 75th Anniversary Edition* *by* Agatha CHRISTIE

*Binar*

Just a word of caution if it matters to anyone, but this publication is presented in a book that is as big as a notebook (like 8.5x11). It's also missing diagrams that are mentioned in the book. If I somehow missed the measurements then that's on me...but I never thought I had to think about it.

*ERORHALO*

My comments are not about the novel, but about this Kindle edition....the diagrams and pictures which are apparently critical to solving the puzzle are missing. I am only 25% of the way in, but have already missed 4 drawings - 2 diagrams of the layout, a picture of a clue fragment, etc., which

Christie felt were important to include. I peeked at the end to see if they were there, and there is a photo of Christie and other info, but not the missing clues. I'd recommend trying one of the other editions.

*Faell*

First I would like to say the this book, like all of Christie's work, is phenomenal. I debated for a long time as to how to rate this book. My reason for rating this only 1 star is to warn other potential readers that this version has some major flaws. There are at least a dozen times where sentences are repeated, which in and of itself is not so bad. However, there are just as many if not more times where all or most of a sentence is missing. It's very confusing to come across a random word or to have a detail referred to, only to go back and discover that original detail is not there. I am sure there will be folks who are ticked off by this review but if I had known this before purchasing I would have looked for a different version.

*VizoRRR*

This is the second Hercule Poirot book that I have read, and-actually-the first that Agatha Christie wrote. I love Hercule Poirot's thoughtful way of approaching "suspects" and the simple way that he seems to make hypothesis and prove and disprove his "little ideas" through questioning and common sense. In both stories I have read so far, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, and *The Halloween Party*, there is another character trying to piece together the evidence and come up with a solution. Poirot leads them step by step, but neither is able to come up with the correct solution. I felt a little more confident with my ability in the *Halloween Party* than I did with *Affair at Styles*. I went down all kinds of garden paths on this one. Christie's writing style is very readable, and her sense of humor is marvelous. I can't wait to read more of her Poirot books. I think I am going to take notes on the next one I read, and see how many suspects I can prove or disprove!

*Ishnjurus*

If you're an avid reader you'll probably relate to this: that empty feeling you get after reading a really excellent book. You wander around, wondering if it will ever be possible to find another excellent book. You know that it might take you some time to find another really excellent book because there are lots of not-so-good books out there.

When I have that experience, I reach for an Agatha Christie novel.

I read my first Christie book back in the early 80s, when I was a teenager (the first Christie I read was "*Curtain*", Christies last book). I've read them all several times over the years. I don't read them because they are excellent (there are only a few I'd consider as a 5-star read). I read them because Christie was good at telling a story. Sure, some of her characterizations may be a little two-dimensional, and some of them are less interesting than others. But, still: Christie had a way of getting you to turn the pages.

I've decided that perhaps it is time for me to read Christie in order. Not that her series needs to be read in order, like many of the modern detective novels do. There's little in the way of backstory for Poirot or Miss Marple, so there is really no need to read them in order. It's more of an experiment, really: to watch her writing style, to see if it changes as she becomes more famous.

Hence, "*The Mysterious Affair at Styles*," Dame Agatha's first book, in which we meet the man who (thanks to David Suchet's definitive portrayal) is now world famous: Hercule Poirot.

Poirot is a retired Belgian policeman, now a displaced refugee (the book was written, and takes place during the years of the First World War) who has only recently arrived in England, and is living in the village of Styles St. Mary. A chance encounter with an old friend, Hastings --who is staying at Styles Court, a guest of the Cavendish family -- places Poirot on the scene for the first murder he'll solve in England: the death of Emily Cavendish, the wealthy owner of Styles Court.

Compared to the more action-oriented plots of many of today's mysteries, Christie's tales are much more leisurely. In this story, the only real action is Poirot, dashing like a madman, trying to find a car to take him to London to search for more information. Other than that, the story unfolds at Styles Court.

Others have given more story details, so I'll stick to the merits. First, and foremost, is Poirot. His characteristic egoism, his funny mannerisms, his little grey cells, all combine to make one of detective fiction's most memorable characters. And, like the great Sherlock Holmes, Poirot has a sidekick in Hastings, the one who's always a few steps behind, while thinking that perhaps Poirot has finally gotten too old. (As a side note: Hastings does not appear in all of the Poirot novels).

This story, like most of Christie's tales involve a small handful of suspects, each with motive for murder and plenty of red-herrings. But in the end, Poirot proves that he still has what it takes to solve a complex, devious crime.

As I finished reading this book I was surprised that it didn't feel dated. It reads more like historical fiction than a dated Cold War spy novel. Sure, there's still servants, and not always a phone; cars and gas can be tough to come by. But, the overall feel of the story feels relatively timeless: love, revenge, hidden passions, and deep secrets never seem to age. It would take very little to change this to a tale set in the present day.

The story moves quickly, though there is a part in the middle where things seem to bog down a little, but, in a book that's less than 300 pages long, the story picks up again.

One of the fascinating things about rereading Christie is seeing how good she was at dropping clues and of willfully misdirecting the reader along the way.

With the exception of Poirot's last case, "Curtain", there really is no need to read them in order, but, if you're new to Christie, why not start with this one: the one that started it all.

*Cktiell*

Just a word of warning to read the reviews before purchasing this. I bought the paperback version and there are a number of issues with it. Other versions may not have the same issues.

-First of all the cover art looks as though they took a jpg version of the original cover art and expanded it and it looks very shoddy and pixelated.

-The binding misspelled Agatha Christie's name and shows 'Agatha Christie' as well as the title of the book as 'Mysterious affair at styles' Capitalizing only the word 'mysterious' with the rest of the words uncapitalized. Despite the name of the book being 'The Mysterious Affair At Styles' the word 'the' is, for some reason, left out.

- There are no page numbers

-All of the text in the book is center aligned which is kind of awkward to look at or read and can cause some confusion as to where paragraphs begin and end.

-The illustrations that are supposed to be included in the book are not here. They are somewhat essential to the experience of reading the book so just for that, I recommend finding a different version.

Other than these issues, this is the book it claims to be and you can read it. The book itself is great and I would highly recommend it, just not this version of it. If you are looking for an affordable copy

and don't care too much about the rest then I guess this is fine.

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