

first book of agatha christie

First book of Agatha Christie is a fascinating topic that opens the door to exploring the beginnings of one of the most celebrated authors in the mystery and detective fiction genre. Agatha Christie, often referred to as the "Queen of Crime," has captivated readers worldwide with her intricate plots, memorable characters, and ingenious puzzles. Understanding her first published work offers valuable insight into her development as a writer and the foundations of her legendary career. In this article, we will delve deeply into her debut book, examining its context, themes, characters, and its significance within her oeuvre.

Overview of Agatha Christie's Literary Career

Before discussing her first book specifically, it's important to understand Christie's overall career trajectory. Born in 1890 in Torquay, England, Agatha Christie's prolific writing spanned over five decades, producing more than 70 novels, 60 short story collections, and numerous plays. Her works have been translated into dozens of languages, and her characters, such as Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, have become cultural icons.

Christie's distinctive style combines clever plotting, misdirection, and a deep understanding of human psychology. She revolutionized the mystery genre, blending traditional detective stories with innovative narratives. Her early works laid the groundwork for her later masterpieces, and her first book marked the start of this extraordinary journey.

The First Book of Agatha Christie: "The Mysterious Affair at Styles"

Publication Details and Background

Agatha Christie's first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, was published in 1920. It was initially serialized in a magazine before being released as a standalone book. The novel was written during a period when Christie was still honing her craft, and it reflects many of the characteristics that would become hallmarks of her style.

Interestingly, the novel was inspired by her own experiences and her fascination with detective fiction, particularly the works of Arthur Conan Doyle. Christie's keen interest in puzzles and her skillful storytelling were evident from the outset, and *Styles* showcased her potential as a master of the mystery genre.

Plot Summary

The Mysterious Affair at Styles introduces the reader to Hercule Poirot, a Belgian detective with a

sharp intellect and distinctive personality. The story is set in a country estate in Essex during the aftermath of World War I.

The plot revolves around the murder of Emily Inglethorp, a wealthy and somewhat domineering woman. Her death appears to be a straightforward case of poisoning, but as Poirot investigates, he uncovers a web of jealousy, greed, and deception among the household members.

Key elements of the plot include:

- The suspicious death of Emily Inglethorp.
- Poirot's methodical and logical approach to solving the case.
- The presentation of clues and red herrings that guide the reader through the mystery.
- The eventual unveiling of the murderer through meticulous deduction.

Main Characters

The novel introduces several memorable characters, each with their motives and secrets:

- **Hercule Poirot** - The brilliant Belgian detective known for his meticulous methods.
- **Emily Inglethorp** - The victim, a wealthy and commanding woman.
- **John Cavendish** - Emily's son, a lawyer with financial troubles.
- **Mary Cavendish** - John's wife, who is secretly involved in the plot.
- **Alfred Inglethorp** - Emily's new husband, whose motives are questioned.
- **Victor and Cynthia** - Household staff with their own secrets.

The character dynamics and motives are intricately woven, showcasing Christie's talent for creating complex, believable personalities.

Themes and Style

The Mysterious Affair at Styles explores themes such as:

- Deception and appearance versus reality.
- The importance of observation and deduction.
- The social dynamics of post-war Britain.

Christie's writing style in this debut was characterized by clear, concise prose, a tight narrative structure, and a focus on logical reasoning. Her use of dialogue and detailed descriptions helped immerse the reader in the story and encouraged active participation in solving the puzzle.

Significance of "The Mysterious Affair at Styles"

Introduction of Hercule Poirot

One of the most enduring legacies of Styles is the introduction of Hercule Poirot. This character would go on to become Christie's most iconic detective, appearing in over 30 novels and numerous short stories. Poirot's distinctive personality—fastidious, methodical, and intellectual—set a standard for detective protagonists.

Establishing Her Signature Style

Christie's debut established many conventions that would define her work:

- The "closed circle" mystery, set in confined locations.
- The emphasis on logical deduction over action or violence.
- The use of misdirection to keep readers guessing.

Her ability to craft tightly plotted stories with fair play clues—where the reader has all the necessary information to solve the mystery—began with this first novel.

Critical Reception and Legacy

Initially, Styles received positive reviews for its clever plot and engaging characters. Over time, it has been recognized as a classic example of early 20th-century detective fiction. The novel's success paved the way for Christie's prolific career, and it remains a popular choice among fans and scholars alike.

Many readers appreciate Styles for its straightforward yet intricate narrative, offering a glimpse into Christie's developing talent and her innovative approach to storytelling.

Other Notable Early Works

While *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* was Christie's first published novel, she also wrote several short stories and plays early in her career. Some notable early works include:

- Short stories published in magazines like *The Grand Magazine* and *The London Magazine*.
- The play *The Witness for the Prosecution*, which was adapted into a successful film and stage production.

These early efforts helped Christie refine her craft before publishing her first novel, and they contributed to her understanding of pacing, character development, and plot design.

Conclusion: The Enduring Impact of Christie's First Book

In summary, Agatha Christie's first book, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, marks the beginning of a legendary literary career. It introduced the world to Hercule Poirot, set the standards for detective fiction, and established Christie's reputation as a master storyteller. The novel's clever plotting, well-drawn characters, and innovative approach continue to influence mystery writers and delight readers to this day.

For fans of detective fiction and newcomers alike, exploring *Styles* offers not only entertainment but also an appreciation of the craftsmanship behind one of the most enduring figures in literary history. As the foundation of her prolific career, this debut exemplifies the qualities that made Agatha Christie a timeless figure in the genre—creativity, meticulousness, and an unerring sense of suspense.

Whether you're revisiting her works or discovering her for the first time, understanding her first book provides invaluable insight into the origins of her captivating universe of mysteries.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the first book written by Agatha Christie?

Agatha Christie's first published novel is '*The Mysterious Affair at Styles*', released in 1920.

Which detective character made his debut in Agatha Christie's first book?

Detective Hercule Poirot debuted in '*The Mysterious Affair at Styles*'.

How was Agatha Christie's first book received by critics and readers?

'*The Mysterious Affair at Styles*' was well-received, establishing Christie as a prominent mystery writer and introducing her signature detective character.

Are there any notable themes or elements in Agatha Christie's first book?

Yes, the novel features classic elements of her work, such as a confined setting, a closed circle of suspects, and the brilliant detective solving the case through logical deduction.

Is '*The Mysterious Affair at Styles*' available in modern

editions?

Yes, 'The Mysterious Affair at Styles' is widely available in various editions, including paperback, e-book, and audiobook formats.

Additional Resources

First Book of Agatha Christie: An Introduction to the Queen of Crime's Literary Debut

The first book of Agatha Christie marks the beginning of a literary journey that would eventually establish her as one of the most influential and best-loved authors in the mystery genre. Known worldwide for her intricate plots, memorable characters, and pioneering contributions to detective fiction, Christie's debut novel offers a fascinating glimpse into her early storytelling style and the foundations of her enduring legacy. In this article, we will explore the origins of her first book, its plot, characters, themes, and its significance within her prolific career.

The Context Behind Agatha Christie's First Novel

Agatha Christie's Early Life and Literary Aspirations

Born in 1890 in Torquay, England, Agatha Christie's early life was marked by a love of reading and storytelling. Educated in a private environment, she developed a keen interest in literature, especially in the detective and mystery genres that were gaining popularity in the early 20th century. Her early attempts at writing reflected her fascination with puzzles and logic, which would become hallmarks of her later work.

The Literary Scene and Influences

When Christie published her debut novel, the detective fiction landscape was already populated by writers like Arthur Conan Doyle, Edgar Allan Poe, and G.K. Chesterton. These authors set the stage for a new wave of detective stories that emphasized clever plots, logical deduction, and engaging characters. Christie's initial work was both a product of this environment and a fresh take that would eventually distinguish her from her predecessors.

The Journey to Publication

Christie's first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, was published in 1920. It was initially rejected by several publishers before finally being accepted by The Bodley Head, a London-based publishing house. The publication marked the beginning of her illustrious career and introduced the world to her iconic detective, Hercule Poirot.

An In-Depth Look at *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*

Overview and Plot Summary

The Mysterious Affair at Styles is set during World War I and introduces readers to Hercule Poirot, a

Belgian refugee residing in England. The story revolves around the murder of Emily Inglethorp, a wealthy woman living at Styles Court. Her death appears to be a straightforward case of poisoning, but Poirot's keen intellect unravels a complex web of motives, secrets, and deception.

The novel follows the classic "locked-room" mystery trope, where the victim is found dead under seemingly impossible circumstances, and the detective must deduce the sequence of events leading to the crime. The plot is tightly woven, with clues carefully distributed throughout the narrative, encouraging readers to engage in the puzzle-solving process.

Main Characters

- Hercule Poirot: The meticulous Belgian detective known for his "little grey cells" and logical approach to solving crimes.
- Captain Arthur Hastings: The narrator and Poirot's loyal friend, who assists in the investigation.
- Emily Inglethorp: The victim, a wealthy and influential woman whose murder sets the story in motion.
- Alfred Inglethorp: Emily's suspicious and potentially motivated husband.
- Mary Cavendish: Emily's stepdaughter, with her own secrets and motives.
- John Cavendish: Emily's son, who is also entangled in family tensions.
- Evelyn Howard: A governess with mysterious connections.

Themes and Literary Significance

The Mysterious Affair at Styles establishes many themes that Christie would explore throughout her career:

- Deception and Motive: The novel delves into human motives, greed, jealousy, and revenge.
- Logical Deduction: Poirot's method emphasizes the importance of evidence and reasoning over intuition.
- Class and Society: The aristocratic setting reflects social hierarchies and tensions of the time.

This debut not only introduced Hercule Poirot but also demonstrated Christie's mastery in crafting puzzles that challenge both characters and readers, setting a new standard for detective fiction.

The Literary Style and Innovations of Christie's First Book

Narrative Technique

Christie's narrative employs a third-person perspective, primarily through the eyes of Captain Hastings, which allows readers to follow the investigation closely. Her writing style balances detailed descriptions with brisk pacing, maintaining suspense throughout.

Innovations in Detective Fiction

- Character-Driven Plot: Unlike many of her predecessors, Christie focused heavily on character psychology and motives, adding depth to her mysteries.
- Red Herrings and Twists: Her skill in planting false clues and surprising revelations kept readers guessing until the final pages.
- Logical Deduction Over Action: The emphasis on intellectual puzzle-solving over physical action

was innovative at the time and became a hallmark of her work.

Impact on the Genre

Christie's debut book demonstrated that detective stories could be both intellectually stimulating and accessible. Her approach influenced countless writers and helped shape the modern detective novel.

The Reception and Legacy of *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*

Initial Critical Response

Although initial reviews were mixed, with some critics feeling the novel was conventional, it was generally well-received by mystery enthusiasts. Over time, the book gained recognition as a classic and a blueprint for future detective stories.

Commercial Success and Cultural Impact

The novel's success paved the way for numerous sequels and the development of Christie's signature detective archetypes. Hercule Poirot became a cultural icon, inspiring adaptations in film, television, and stage.

Legacy in Detective Fiction

Today, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* is regarded as a seminal work in detective literature. It marked the debut of a writer whose influence extended beyond her novels, shaping the conventions and expectations of the genre.

The Evolution of Agatha Christie's Career Post-First Book

From Debut to Legend

Following her first novel, Christie's career skyrocketed. She published over 70 detective novels, numerous short stories, and several plays, including *The Mousetrap*, which holds the record for the longest-running theatrical production.

Development of Her Iconic Characters

- Hercule Poirot: Appeared in 33 novels and numerous short stories.
- Miss Marple: A sharp-witted amateur detective introduced later, reflecting her interest in village life and human nature.

Innovations and Themes

Throughout her career, Christie explored various themes such as justice, morality, and the nature of evil, often challenging societal norms of her time.

Why The Mysterious Affair at Styles Remains Relevant Today

Timeless Puzzle-Solving

The novel's focus on logical deduction and carefully crafted clues continues to captivate mystery fans worldwide.

Cultural and Literary Significance

As the starting point of Christie's illustrious career, it provides insight into her creative genius and the evolution of detective fiction.

Educational Value

Many students and writers study her first book to understand narrative structure, character development, and the art of misdirection.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of Agatha Christie's First Book

Agatha Christie's *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* is more than just her first novel; it is a cornerstone of detective literature that set the stage for decades of storytelling excellence. With its clever plot, memorable characters, and innovative narrative techniques, it exemplifies why Christie's work continues to resonate with readers and adapt to new mediums. Her debut remains a testament to the power of logical reasoning, the thrill of mystery, and the enduring appeal of a well-crafted puzzle. As readers continue to explore her early work, they not only enjoy a compelling story but also gain insight into the origins of one of literature's greatest legacies.

[First Book Of Agatha Christie](#)

first book of agatha christie: The Mysterious Affair at Styles Agatha Christie, 2021-01-27
Agatha Christie's first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, was the result of a dare from her sister Madge who challenged her to write a story. The story begins when Hastings is sent back to England from the First World War due to injury and is invited to spend his sick leave at the beautiful Styles Court by his old friend John Cavendish. Here, Hastings meets John's step-mother, Mrs Inglethorp, and her new husband, Alfred. Despite the tranquil surroundings Hastings begins to realise that all is not right. When Mrs Inglethorp is found poisoned, suspicion falls on the family, and another old friend, Hercule Poirot, is invited to investigate.

first book of agatha christie: The Mysterious Affair at Styles Agatha Christie, 2023-12-17
The Mysterious Affair at Styles is a detective novel by British writer Agatha Christie. It was written in the middle of the First World War, in 1916, and in the United States in 1920 and in the United Kingdom in 1921. *Styles* was Christie's first published novel. It introduced Hercule Poirot, Inspector (later, Chief Inspector) Japp, and Arthur Hastings. Poirot, a Belgian refugee of the Great War, is settling in England near the home of Emily Inglethorp, who helped him to his new life. His friend Hastings arrives as a guest at her home. When the woman is killed, Poirot uses his detective skills to

solve the mystery. The book includes maps of the house, the murder scene, and a drawing of a fragment of a will. The true first publication of the novel was as a weekly serial in *The Times*, including the maps of the house and other illustrations included in the book. This novel was one of the first ten books published by Penguin Books when it began in 1935. This first mystery novel by Agatha Christie was well received by reviewers. An analysis in 1990 was positive about the plot, considered the novel one of the few by Christie that is well-anchored in time and place, a story that knows it describes the end of an era, and mentions that the plot is clever. Christie had not mastered cleverness in her first novel, as too many clues tend to cancel each other out; this was judged a difficulty which Conan Doyle never satisfactorily overcame, but which Christie would. One morning at Styles Court, an Essex country manor, its household wake to the discovery that the owner, elderly Emily Inglethorp, has died. She had been poisoned with strychnine. Arthur Hastings, a soldier from the Western Front staying there as a guest on his sick leave, ventures out to the nearby village of Styles St. Mary, to enlist help from his friend staying there - Hercule Poirot. Poirot learns that Emily was a woman of wealth - upon the death of her previous husband, Mr. Cavendish, she inherited from him both the manor and a large portion of his income. Her household includes: her husband Alfred Inglethorp, a younger man she recently married; her stepsons (from her first husband's previous marriage) John and Lawrence Cavendish; John's wife Mary Cavendish; Cynthia Murdoch, the daughter of a deceased friend of the family; and Evelyn Howard, Emily's companion. Poirot learns that per Emily's will, John is the vested remainderman of the manor - he inherits the property from her, per his father's will. However, the money she inherited would be distributed according to her own will, which she changed at least once per year; her most recent will favours Alfred, who will inherit her fortune. On the day of the murder, Emily had been arguing with someone, suspected to be either Alfred or John. She had been quite distressed after this, and apparently made a new will - no one can find any evidence that it exists. Alfred left the manor early that evening, and stayed overnight in the village. Meanwhile, Emily ate little at dinner and retired early to her room, taking her document case with her; when her body was found, the case had been forced open and a document removed. Nobody can explain how or when the poison was administered to her.

first book of agatha christie: *The Early Years* Agatha Christie, 2007-11 This is a facsimile edition of the first six books written by Agatha Christie.

first book of agatha christie: *The Mysterious Affair at Styles: Hercule Poirot's First Case (Special Edition)* Agatha Christie, 2021-02-10 *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* is a detective novel by British writer Agatha Christie. It was written in the middle of the First World War, in 1916, and first published by John Lane in the United States in October 1920[1] and in the United Kingdom by The Bodley Head (John Lane's UK company) on 21 January 1921.[2] *Styles* was Christie's first published novel. It introduced Hercule Poirot, Inspector (later, Chief Inspector) Japp, and Arthur Hastings.[3] Poirot, a Belgian refugee of the Great War, is settling in England near the home of Emily Inglethorp, who helped him to his new life. His friend Hastings arrives as a guest at her home. When the woman is killed, Poirot uses his detective skills to solve the mystery.

first book of agatha christie: *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* Agatha Christie, 2019-04-30 Agatha Christie's debut novel was the first to feature Hercule Poirot, her famously eccentric Belgian detective. A refugee of the Great War, Poirot is settling in England near Styles Court, the country estate of his wealthy benefactress, the elderly Emily Inglethorp. When Emily is poisoned and the authorities are baffled, Poirot puts his prodigious sleuthing skills to work. Suspects are plentiful, including the victim's much younger husband, her resentful stepsons, her longtime hired companion, a young family friend working as a nurse, and a London specialist on poisons who just happens to be visiting the nearby village. All of them have secrets they are desperate to keep, but none can outwit Poirot as he navigates the ingenious red herrings and plot twists that earned Agatha Christie her well-deserved reputation as the queen of mystery.

first book of agatha christie: *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* Agatha Christie, 2014-05-27 The debut of Mystery Writers of America Grand Master Agatha Christie and her remarkable Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot Invalided home from the Western Front, Arthur Hastings arrives at Styles

Court anticipating a relaxing sojourn in the English countryside. It turns out to be anything but. Late one night, Hastings is summoned to the locked bedroom door of Emily Inglethorp, mistress of the manor. A terrible commotion is happening inside, and by the time her family forces the door open it is too late—Emily is in the final, violent throes of strychnine poisoning and nothing can save her. As fate would have it, Belgium's most celebrated detective, a refugee from the war, resides in the neighboring village. Hercule Poirot may look, in the words of Hastings, like a "quaint dandyfied little man," but he possesses one of the finest minds in Europe and an extraordinary flair for solving the most baffling of cases. Half a dozen people—including Alfred, Emily's much younger second husband; her slacker stepsons, John and Lawrence; and Mary, her beautiful but bored daughter-in-law—had the means and the motive to poison Emily. While Hastings and the rest of Styles Court rush to judgment, Poirot painstakingly sifts through the clues and considers each of the suspects in turn. The answer at which he arrives will shock them all. Agatha Christie wrote *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* because her sister wagered that she could not plot a mystery. Not only did Christie win that bet, she created one of the greatest detectives in all of literature and established herself as the undisputed Queen of Crime. This ebook has been professionally proofread to ensure accuracy and readability on all devices.

first book of agatha christie: *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* Agatha Christie, 2018-08-15 *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* is a detective novel by Agatha Christie. It was written in the middle of the First World War, in 1916, and first published by John Lane in the United States in October 1920 and in the United Kingdom by The Bodley Head (John Lane's UK company) on 21 January 1921.[2] The US edition retailed at \$2.00 and the UK edition at seven shillings and sixpence *Styles* was Christie's first published novel. It introduced Hercule Poirot, Inspector (later, Chief Inspector) Japp, and Arthur Hastings.[3] Poirot, a Belgian refugee of the Great War, is settling in England near the home of Emily Inglethorp, who helped him to his new life. His friend Hastings arrives as a guest at her home. When the woman is killed, Poirot uses his detective skills to solve the mystery. This is also the setting of *Curtain*, Poirot's last case. The book includes maps of the house, the murder scene, and a drawing of a fragment of a will. The true first publication of the novel was as a weekly serial in *The Times*, including the maps of the house and other illustrations included in the book. This novel was one of the first ten books published by Penguin Books when it began in 1935. This first mystery novel by Agatha Christie was well received by reviewers. An analysis in 1990 was positive about the plot, considered the novel one of the few by Christie that is well-anchored in time and place, a story that knows it describes the end of an era, and mentions that the plot is clever. Christie had not mastered cleverness in her first novel, as too many clues tend to cancel each other out; this was judged a difficulty which Conan Doyle never satisfactorily overcame, but which Christie would. The story opens in England during the First World War at *Styles Court*, an Essex country manor. Upon her husband's death, the wealthy widow Emily Cavendish inherited a life estate in *Styles* as well as the outright inheritance of the larger part of the late Mr. Cavendish's income. Mrs. Cavendish became Mrs. Inglethorp upon her recent marriage to a younger man, Alfred Inglethorp. Emily's two stepsons, John and Lawrence Cavendish, John's wife Mary and Cynthia Murdoch, also live at *Styles*. John Cavendish is the vested remainderman of *Styles*; that is, the property will pass to him upon his stepmother's death, per his late father's will. Lawrence Cavendish would also come into a considerable sum of money. The income left to Mrs Inglethorp by her late husband would be distributed according to her will, which she changes at least once per year. If she has not changed her will since her marriage, her husband will inherit that income.[5] Cynthia does war-time work at the pharmacy in the nearby hospital. The residents of *Styles* wake to find Emily Inglethorp dying of strychnine poisoning. Hastings, a house guest, enlists the help of his friend Hercule Poirot, who is staying in the nearby village, *Styles St. Mary*. Poirot pieces together events surrounding the murder. On the day she was killed, Emily Inglethorp was overheard arguing with someone, either her husband Alfred or her stepson John. Afterwards, she seemed quite distressed and, apparently, made a new will - which no one can find. She ate little at dinner and retired early to her room with her document case. The case was later forced open by someone and a document removed. Alfred

Inglethorp left Styles earlier in the evening and stayed overnight in the nearby village, so was not present when the poisoning occurred. Nobody can explain how or when the strychnine was administered to Mrs. Inglethorp. Poirot clears Cavendish by proving it was Alfred Inglethorp who committed the crime, assisted by Evelyn Howard, who turns out to be his cousin with whom he is romantically involved, not his enemy.

first book of agatha christie: The Mysterious Affair at Styles Agatha Christie, Dragan Nikolic, Jelena Milic, 2015-01-06 In her first published mystery, Agatha Christie introduced readers to her Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot. When the wealthy mistress of Styles Court is murdered, Poirot is on hand to wade through the confusing clues and long list of suspects!

first book of agatha christie: The Murder of Roger Ackroyd Agatha Christie, 2006 Roger Ackroyd knew too much. He knew that the woman he loved had poisoned her brutal first husband. He suspected also that someone had been blackmailing her. Now, tragically, came the news that she had taken her own life with a drug overdose. But the evening post brought Roger one last fatal scrap of information. Unfortunately, before he could finish the letter, he was stabbed to death! To mark the 80th anniversary of Hercule Poirot's first appearance, and to celebrate his renewed fortunes as a primetime television star, this collection of facsimile first editions will be the perfect way to enjoy these books in their original form - 15 novels and one short story collection. Reproducing the original typesetting and formats of the first editions from the Christie family's own archive copies, these books sport the original covers which have been painstakingly restored from the best available copies, reflecting five decades of iconic cover design.

first book of agatha christie: The Mysterious Affair at Styles Agatha Christie, 2020-07-19 In her first published mystery, Agatha Christie introduces readers to the heroic detective, Hercule Poirot. This is a classic murder mystery set in the outskirts of Essex. The victim is the wealthy mistress of Styles Court. The list of suspects is long and includes her gold-digging new spouse and stepsons, her doctor, and her hired companion.

first book of agatha christie: The Mysterious Affair at Styles By Agatha Christie
Annotated Novel Agatha Christie, 2021-02-10 The Mysterious Affair at Styles is a detective novel by British writer Agatha Christie. It was written in the middle of the First World War, in 1916, and first published by John Lane in the United States in October 1920 and in the United Kingdom by The Bodley Head on 21 January 1921. Styles changed into Christie's first posted novel. It delivered Hercule Poirot, Inspector (later, Chief Inspector) Japp, and Arthur Hastings. Poirot, a Belgian refugee of the Great War, is settling in England near the house of Emily Inglethorp, who helped him to his new life. His pal Hastings arrives as a visitor at her domestic. When the lady is killed, Poirot makes use of his detective abilities to remedy the thriller. The e-book consists of maps of the house, the murder scene, and a drawing of a fragment of a will. The true first book of the unconventional became as a weekly serial in The Times, which include the maps of the house and different illustrations included inside the book. This novel was one of the first ten books posted through Penguin Books when it began in 1935.

first book of agatha christie: The Mysterious Affair at Styles Agatha Christie, 2017-09-30 The Mysterious Affair at Styles is a detective novel by Agatha Christie. It was written in the middle of the First World War, in 1916, and first published by John Lane in the United States in October 1920 and in the United Kingdom by The Bodley Head (John Lane's UK company) on 21 January 1921.[2] The US edition retailed at \$2.00 and the UK edition at seven shillings and sixpence Styles was Christie's first published novel. It introduced Hercule Poirot, Inspector (later, Chief Inspector) Japp, and Arthur Hastings.[3] Poirot, a Belgian refugee of the Great War, is settling in England near the home of Emily Inglethorp, who helped him to his new life. His friend Hastings arrives as a guest at her home. When the woman is killed, Poirot uses his detective skills to solve the mystery. This is also the setting of Curtain, Poirot's last case. The book includes maps of the house, the murder scene, and a drawing of a fragment of a will. The true first publication of the novel was as a weekly serial in The Times, including the maps of the house and other illustrations included in the book. This novel was one of the first ten books published by Penguin Books when it began in 1935. This first mystery

novel by Agatha Christie was well received by reviewers. An analysis in 1990 was positive about the plot, considered the novel one of the few by Christie that is well-anchored in time and place, a story that knows it describes the end of an era, and mentions that the plot is clever. Christie had not mastered cleverness in her first novel, as too many clues tend to cancel each other out; this was judged a difficulty which Conan Doyle never satisfactorily overcame, but which Christie would. The story opens in England during the First World War at Styles Court, an Essex country manor. Upon her husband's death, the wealthy widow Emily Cavendish inherited a life estate in Styles as well as the outright inheritance of the larger part of the late Mr. Cavendish's income. Mrs. Cavendish became Mrs. Inglethorp upon her recent marriage to a younger man, Alfred Inglethorp. Emily's two stepsons, John and Lawrence Cavendish, John's wife Mary and Cynthia Murdoch, also live at Styles. John Cavendish is the vested remainderman of Styles; that is, the property will pass to him upon his stepmother's death, per his late father's will. Lawrence Cavendish would also come into a considerable sum of money. The income left to Mrs Inglethorp by her late husband would be distributed according to her will, which she changes at least once per year. If she has not changed her will since her marriage, her husband will inherit that income.[5] Cynthia does war-time work at the pharmacy in the nearby hospital. The residents of Styles wake to find Emily Inglethorp dying of strychnine poisoning. Hastings, a house guest, enlists the help of his friend Hercule Poirot, who is staying in the nearby village, Styles St. Mary. Poirot pieces together events surrounding the murder. On the day she was killed, Emily Inglethorp was overheard arguing with someone, either her husband Alfred or her stepson John. Afterwards, she seemed quite distressed and, apparently, made a new will -- which no one can find. She ate little at dinner and retired early to her room with her document case. The case was later forced open by someone and a document removed. Alfred Inglethorp left Styles earlier in the evening and stayed overnight in the nearby village, so was not present when the poisoning occurred. Nobody can explain how or when the strychnine was administered to Mrs. Inglethorp. Poirot clears Cavendish by proving it was Alfred Inglethorp who committed the crime, assisted by Evelyn Howard, who turns out to be his cousin with whom he is romantically involved, not his enemy.

first book of agatha christie: Agatha Christie's Complete Secret Notebooks: Stories and Secrets of Murder in the Making John Curran, Agatha Christie, 2020-03-19 Agatha Christie's Complete Secret Notebooks brings together for the first time Secret Notebooks and Murder in the Making, two volumes that explore the fascinating contents of her 73 notebooks. This includes illustrations, deleted extracts, unused ideas, two unpublished Poirot stories and a lost Miss Marple. When Agatha Christie died in 1976, aged 85, she had become the world's most popular author. With sales of more than two billion copies worldwide in more than 100 countries, she had achieved the impossible - more than one book every year since the 1920s, every one a bestseller. So prolific was Agatha Christie's output - 66 crime novels, 20 plays, 6 romance books under a pseudonym and over 150 short stories - it was often claimed that she had a photographic memory. Was this true? Or did she resort over those 55 years to more mundane methods of working out her ingenious crimes? Following the death of Agatha's daughter, Rosalind, at the end of 2004, a remarkable secret was revealed. Unearthed among her affairs at the family home of Greenway were Agatha Christie's private notebooks, 73 handwritten volumes of notes, lists and drafts outlining all her plans for her many books, plays and stories. Buried in this treasure trove, all in her unmistakable handwriting, are revelations and details that will fascinate anyone who has ever read or watched an Agatha Christie story. Christie archivist and expert John Curran leads the reader through the six decades of Agatha Christie's writing career, unearthing some remarkable clues to her success and a number of never-before-published excerpts and stories from her archives. This book features Agatha's original ending of her very first book, The Mysterious Affair at Styles, painstakingly transcribed from her notebooks. It also includes a number of short stories from the archives reproduced in full, including the unpublished The Man Who Knew, How I Created Hercule Poirot, and an early draft for a Miss Marple story, The Case of the Caretaker's Wife.

first book of agatha christie: The Mysterious Affair at Styles Agatha Christie, 2021-04-12

The Mysterious Affair At Styles is Agatha Christie's first ever published novel and is the first to feature the famously eccentric detective Hercule Poirot, as well as other classic characters including Inspector Japp and Arthur Hastings. The sleuthing team investigates the murder of Emily Inglethorp, a caring woman who opened her home to people resettling after the Giant War. When this mysterious murder strikes Styles, the team must find the assailant before they strike again. Agatha Christie is the world's best-selling novelist of all time and this timeless whodunnit proves her well-deserved reputation as The Queen of Mystery. Filled with suspenseful plot twists and viable suspects ranging from the victim's much younger husband, to her resentful step-sons, one ultimate question remains... Who killed Emily Inglethorp?

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first book of agatha christie: The Mysterious Affair at Styles Agatha Christie, 2017-02-18 The Mysterious Affair at Styles (1920) By Agatha Christie Hercule Poirot's friend Hastings involves him in the mysterious poisoning of a lady married to a man 20 years her junior. Poirot examines the evidence in this novel, the first to introduce Poirot to his many fans. The book includes maps of the house, the murder scene, and a clue in the form of a fragment of a Will.

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