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Agatha Christie

## The Mousetrap

## The Mystery of the Blue Jar

Previously published in the print anthology *The Golden Ball and Other Stories*. Widow Joyce Lambert is poor and out of work. So fond is she of her little half-blind aging terrier, Terry—a gift from her late husband—that she will do just about anything to keep him.

## **The Murder on the Links**

Hercule Poirot is about to tuck into a very traditional English supper with his old friend Bonnington when a lone diner sparks his interest. Like clockwork, the man has eaten at the restaurant on Thursdays and Tuesdays for the last ten years, but no one on the staff knows his name. When “Old Father Time,” as they have fondly nicknamed him, suddenly stops coming, Poirot believes that he might have picked up the one essential clue that could shed light on this mysterious man. Could what Old Father Time ordered as his final meal provide the key?

## **The New York Times Book Review**

Seven people might have murdered Eric Crowther, the mysterious recluse who lived in the gaunt house whose shadow fell across the white cottage. In this novel Detective Chief Inspector Challenor and his son Jerry travel across Europe to unravel a chaos of clues.

## **Death Comes as the End**

The Man in the Brown Suit is a work of detective fiction by British writer Agatha Christie, first published in the UK by The Bodley Head on 22 August 1924 and in the US by Dodd, Mead and Company later in the same year. Anne Beddingfeld is on her own and ready for adventures when one comes her way. She sees a man die in a tube station and picks up a piece of paper dropped nearby. The message on the paper leads her to South Africa as she fits more pieces of

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the puzzle together about the death she witnessed. There is a murder in England the next day, and the murderer attempts to kill her on the ship en route to Cape Town

### **Murder in the Crooked House**

“Writing Crooked House was pure pleasure and I feel justified in my belief that it is one of my best.”

--Agatha Christie Described by the queen of mystery herself as one of her favorites of her published work, Crooked House is a classic Agatha Christie thriller revolving around a devastating family mystery. The Leonides are one big happy family living in a sprawling, ramshackle mansion. That is until the head of the household, Aristide, is murdered with a fatal barbiturate injection. Suspicion naturally falls on the old man's young widow, fifty years his junior. But the murderer has reckoned without the tenacity of Charles Hayward, fiancé of the late millionaire's granddaughter.

### **Next to a Dog**

Agatha Christie's famous Miss Marple mystery, reissued with a striking new cover designed to appeal to the latest generation of Agatha Christie fans and book lovers. Lymstock is a town with more than its share of shameful secrets - a town where even a sudden outbreak of anonymous hate-mail causes only a minor stir. But all that changes when one of the recipients, Mrs Symmington, commits suicide. Her final note said 'I can't go on'. Only Miss Marple

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questions the coroner's verdict of suicide. Was this the work of a poison-pen? Or of a poisoner?

### **Crooked House**

Previously published in the print anthology *The Regatta Mystery and Other Stories*. The narrator is startled by a vision in his mirror: He sees a man with a scarred neck strangling a beautiful blonde. He later meets the woman in his vision, Sylvia, and notes her fiancé's scarred neck. He tells her of his premonition, and the engagement is broken off. But is that all there is to it?

### **The Secret of Chimneys**

A practical joke goes chillingly, murderously wrong in Queen of Mystery Agatha Christie's classic detective story, *The Seven Dials Mystery*. Gerry Wade had proved himself to be a champion sleeper, so the other houseguests decided to play a practical joke on him. Eight alarm clocks were set to go off, one after the other, starting at 6:30 a.m. But when morning arrived, one clock was missing and the prank then backfired, with tragic consequences. For Jimmy Thesiger in particular, the words "Seven Dials" were to take on a new and chilling significance. . . .

### **Tape Measure Murder**

There's a dead body in his bathtub, wearing nothing but a pair of pince-nez spectacles. Enter Lord Peter Wimsey, the original gentleman sleuth, who debuted

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in this 1923 novel.

### **Towards Zero**

“The classic trifecta of talent, heart, and a bone-deep sense of storytelling....A masterful performance, deftly rendered and deeply satisfying. For days on end, I woke with this story on my mind.” — David Wroblewski “A new Tom Franklin novel is always a reason to get excited, but *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter* is more—a cause for celebration. What a great novel by a great novelist.” —Dennis Lehane A powerful and resonant novel from Tom Franklin—critically acclaimed author of *Smok and Hell at the Breech*—*Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter* tells the riveting story of two boyhood friends, torn apart by circumstance, who are brought together again by a terrible crime in a small Mississippi town. An extraordinary novel that seamlessly blends elements of crime and Southern literary fiction, *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter* is a must for readers of Larry Brown, Pete Dexter, Ron Rash, and Dennis Lehane.

### **The Sittaford Mystery**

“Reading a perfectly plotted Agatha Christie is like crunching into a perfect apple: that pure, crisp, absolute satisfaction.” —Tana French, *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Dublin Murder Squad* novels An all-new collection of winter-themed stories from the Queen of Mystery, just in time for the holidays—including the original version of “Christmas

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Adventure,” never before released in the United States! There’s a chill in the air and the days are growing shorter . . . It’s the perfect time to curl up in front of a crackling fire with these wintry whodunits from the legendary Agatha Christie. But beware of deadly snowdrifts and dangerous gifts, poisoned meals and mysterious guests. This chilling compendium of short stories—some featuring beloved detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple—is an essential omnibus for Christie fans and the perfect holiday gift for mystery lovers. “Agatha Christie [is] the maestro of murder tales.” —People

### **Crooked House**

Previously published in the print anthology *The Harlequin Tea Set and Other Stories*. Claire Halliwell lives a quiet country life with her dogs. A conscientious and popular parish worker, she takes everything in her stride—even when Sir Gerald Lee, the man she loves, marries Vivien, a glamorous city girl. When Claire learns that Vivien is having an affair, her sense of duty to Gerald is stretched to the limit!

### **A Talent to Deceive**

*A Talent to Deceive* is an analysis of Agatha Christie's masterful solutions, of her strategems of deception, and of her unmatched ability to divert the reader's attention from the matter of real importance.

### **In a Glass Darkly**

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Set during the dark days of World War II, Agatha Christie's *N or M?* puts two most unlikely espionage agents, Tommy and Tuppence Beresford, on the trail of a pair of Nazi spies who have murdered Britain's top agent. World War II is raging, and while the RAF struggles to keep the Luftwaffe at bay, Britain faces a sinister threat from "the enemy within"—Nazis posing as ordinary citizens. With pressure mounting, the intelligence service appoints two improbable spies, Tommy and Tuppence Beresford. Their mission: to seek out a man and a woman from among the colorful guests at Sans Souci, a seaside hotel. But this assignment is far from an easy stroll along the promenade—*N* and *M* have just murdered Britain's finest agent and no one can be trusted.

### **Sparkling Cyanide**

Miss Politt has been waiting and waiting outside Laburnum Cottage for Mrs. Spenlow, to no avail. She nervously acquires the help of her next-door neighbor, whose gumption and persistence reveal that Mrs. Spenlow is dead on the hearthrug. The whole of St. Mary Mead is convinced the murderer is Mr. Spenlow, who shows no emotion upon his wife's sudden death, but, with characteristic diligence, Miss Marple reveals that it is perhaps not that simple.

### **Murder for Christmas**

Melodrama; 5 male roles, 3 female roles.

### **The Mysterious Affair at Styles**

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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. 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

### **Crooked House**

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## **The Mysterious Affair at Styles**

True love is in store for one gruff cowboy in New York Times bestselling author Diana Palmer's new Wyoming Men romance Cort Grier is no ordinary rancher. Despite his vast wealth, he still works the land with his own bare hands, unlike his troublesome new neighbor, Mina Michaels. Fiery, beautiful Mina infuriates and entrances Cort, awakening feelings he'd thought long buried. But he knows falling for a city girl can lead only to heartbreak... Bestselling author Mina hardly expects to meet a man like the ones in her novels. But roguishly handsome Cort is an alpha hero through and through, from his stubborn streak to the fierce way this rugged cowboy protects his heart. When one sizzling kiss leads to another, can Mina convince Cort to open his world to her—now and forever?

**N or M?**

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The coroner's verdict: suicide, after beautiful heiress Rosemary Barton dies from drinking a cyanide-laced glass of champagne at her own birthday party. Her husband George doesn't believe it, based on two anonymous letters that suggest murder. But who has a motive? Rosemary's lover or the lover's spurned wife, her penniless sister, or even George or his secretary? One year after her death, six gather for dinner in remembrance. The plan is to trap the killer, but instead, death strikes again!

### **Whose Body?**

A holiday anthology for mystery fans highlights the works of such well-known favorites as Agatha Christie, Georges Simenon, Stanelly Ellin, and Ellery Queen. Reissue.

### **Five Little Pigs**

God created life on countless worlds. On earth, in hominids and men, he created circuits of neurons to give us more than a hundred instincts-far more instincts than any animal. Researching primitive life in the desert, two scientists find a huge and welcome cave. God sends them an urgent message inside the cave. In our brains, he created circuits of neurons to give us more than a hundred powerful instincts-far more than any animal. These instincts let hominids and stone-age men survive. But for humans living in cities for over 5,000 years, for people today with technological weapons-the instincts can make of man a monster. The Archangel shows what our circuits are-

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and warns that now they can destroy us. Recommended reading at home for parents to give to their school-children.

### **Four-and-Twenty Blackbirds**

Nearly 4,000 years ago in Egypt, Nofret, the beautiful concubine, was murdered. The possible murderers in the master's family were the next to die.

### **The Crooked House**

One of Agatha Christie's own ten favorite novels, *Towards Zero* puts Superintendent Battle and Inspector Leach on the case as they investigate the murder of an elderly widow. What is the connection among a failed suicide attempt, a wrongful accusation of theft against a schoolgirl, and the romantic life of a famous tennis player? To the casual observer, apparently nothing. But when a house party gathers at Gull's Point, the seaside home of an elderly widow, earlier events come to a dramatic head. As Superintendent Battle discovers, it is all part of a carefully laid plan—for murder.

### **The Moving Finger**

A quiet English village is plagued by a fiendish serial killer in *Queen of Mystery* Agatha Christie's classic thriller, *Murder is Easy*. Luke Fitzwilliam does not believe Miss Pinkerton's wild allegation that a multiple murderer is at work in the quiet English village of Wychwood and that her local doctor is next in line.

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But within hours, Miss Pinkerton has been killed in a hit-and-run car accident. Mere coincidence? Luke is inclined to think so—until he reads in the Times of the unexpected demise of Wychwood's Dr. Humbleby....

### **The Submarine Plans**

Collins brings the Queen of Crime, Agatha Christie, to English language learners. Agatha Christie is the most widely published author of all time and in any language. Now Collins has adapted her famous detective novels for English language learners. These readers have been carefully adapted using the Collins COBUILD grading scheme to ensure that the language is at the correct level for an intermediate learner. This book is Level 4 in the Collins ELT Readers series.

Level 4 is equivalent to CEF level B2 with a word count of 20,000 - 26,000 words. Each book includes: - Full reading of the adapted version available for free online- Helpful notes on characters- Cultural and historical notes relevant to the plot- A glossary of the more difficult words- Free online resources for students and teachers at [www.collinselt.com/readers](http://www.collinselt.com/readers)

The plot: The Leonides family live together in a large and crooked house in a wealthy London suburb. When the elderly millionaire Aristide Leonides is murdered with a fatal injection, the family reluctantly suspect his glamorous, young second wife. Charles Hayward, who is engaged to the late millionaire's granddaughter, observes the family closely and makes a terrible and shocking discovery About Collins ELT Readers Collins ELT Readers are divided into 4 levels: Level 1 - elementary (A2) Level 2 - pre-

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intermediate (A2-B1)Level 3 - intermediate (B1)Level 4 - upper intermediate (B2) Each level is carefully graded to ensure that the learner both enjoys and benefits from their reading experience.

## **Wyoming Heart**

A wealthy Greek businessman is found dead at his London home

## **Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter**

Dying to read Agatha Christie for the first time or to re-read one of her classic mysteries but don't know where to start? This fully authorized and comprehensive guide to the Queen of Mystery includes an introduction by award-winning Agatha Christie expert John Curran with features on each of her classic detectives including Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot and Tommy & Tuppence; guides to reading each of her series and her stand-alone novels; and an A to Z of Agatha Christie. Interspersed throughout are quotes from Christie, a list of the Christie novels that were her personal favorites and three of her classic short stories: *The Affair at the Victory Ball*, *Greenshaw's Folly* and *A Fairy in the Flat*. Clues to Christie Table of Contents: "Agatha Christie: An Introduction" by John Curran; *The Hercule Poirot Mysteries*; "The Affair at the Victory Ball"; *The Miss Marple Mysteries*; "Greenshaw's Folly"; *The Tommy and Tuppence Mysteries*; "A Fairy in the Flat"; *Agatha Christie's Stand-Alone Mysteries and Short-Story Collections*; *The Queen of Mystery's Personal*

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Favorites; Ten Other Ways to Read Agatha Christie; "On Agatha Christie and Poisons"; The A to Z of Agatha Christie

### **Clues to Christie**

At the request of George Lomax, Lord Caterham reluctantly agrees to host a weekend party at his home, Chimneys. A murder occurs in the house, beginning a week of fast-paced events with police among the guests. The novel introduces the characters of Superintendent Battle and Lady Eileen "Bundle" Brent.

### **The Pale Horse**

Monsieur Renault dies on a golf course just days after sending a plea for help to detective Poirot. Since Renault possessed a plundered fortune, a scorned wife, a mistress, and an estranged son, there is no lack of suspects. It's up to Poirot to put the police onto the culprit before more murders occur.

### **The Man in the Brown Suit**

The Sittaford Mystery is Dame Agatha at her most intriguing, as a séance in a snowbound house predicts a particularly grisly murder. In a remote house in the middle of Dartmoor, six shadowy figures huddle around a table for a seance. Tension rises as the spirits spell out a chilling message: "Captain Trevelyan . . . dead . . . murder." Is this black magic or simply a macabre joke? The only way to be certain is

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to locate Captain Trevelyan. Unfortunately, his home is six miles away and, with snowdrifts blocking the roads, someone will have to make the journey on foot.

...

### **Midwinter Murder**

'Laura Thompson's outstanding biography . . . is a pretty much perfect capturing of a life' - Kate Mosse It has been 100 years since Agatha Christie wrote her first novel and created the formidable Hercule Poirot. In this biography, Laura Thompson describes the Edwardian world in which she grew up, explores the relationships she had, including those with her two husbands and daughter, and investigates the mysteries still surrounding Christie's life - including her disappearance in 1926. Agatha Christie is a mystery and writing about her is a detection job in itself. But, with access to all of Christie's letters, papers and writing notebooks, as well as 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 her private life as well. First published in 2007 as 'Agatha Christie: An English Mystery', this is a fully updated edition with a new introduction by the author

### **In the Never-Never-Converse with an Archangel**

A fiendish LOCKED ROOM MYSTERY from the Japanese master of the genre. Never before available in

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English. By the author of the acclaimed Tokyo Zodiac Murders. The Crooked House sits on a snowbound cliff overlooking icy seas at the remote northern tip of Japan. A curious place for the millionaire Kozaburo Hamamoto to build a house, but even more curious is the house itself - a disorienting maze of sloping floors and strangely situated staircases, full of bloodcurdling masks and uncanny, lifesize dolls. When a man is found dead in one of the mansion's rooms, murdered in seemingly impossible circumstances, the police are called. But they are unable to solve the puzzle, and powerless to protect the party of house guests as more bizarre deaths follow. Enter Kiyoshi Mitarai, the renowned sleuth, famous for unmasking the culprit behind the notorious Umezawa family massacre. Surely if anyone can crack these cryptic murders he will. But you have all the clues too - can you solve the mystery of the murders in The Crooked House first?

### **The Edge**

In Agatha Christie's gripping international thriller Destination Unknown, a woman at the end of her rope chooses a more exciting way to die when she embarks upon an almost certain suicide mission to find a missing scientist. When a number of leading scientists disappear without a trace, concern grows within the international intelligence community. And the one woman who appears to hold the key to the mystery is dying from injuries sustained in a plane crash. Meanwhile, in a Casablanca hotel room, Hilary Craven prepares to take her own life. But her suicide attempt is about to be interrupted by a man who will

offer her an altogether more thrilling way to die. . . .

## **The Seven Dials Mystery**

Previously published in the print anthology Poirot's Early Cases. Plans for England's new submarine have been stolen from the aspiring Prime Minister. Hercule Poirot is summoned to crack the case, but none of the witnesses' accounts are the same . . .

## **Murder Is Easy**

When an elderly priest is murdered, the killer searches the victim so roughly that his already ragged cassock is torn in the process. What was the killer looking for? And what had a dying woman confided to the priest on her deathbed only hours earlier? Mark Easterbrook and his sidekick Ginger Corrigan are determined to find out. Maybe the three women who run The Pale Horse public house, and who are rumored to practice the “Dark Arts,” can provide some answers?

## **Destination Unknown**

In Agatha Christie's classic, *Five Little Pigs*, beloved detective Hercule Poirot races to solve a case from out of the past. Beautiful Caroline Crale was convicted of poisoning her husband, but just like the nursery rhyme, there were five other “little pigs” who could have done it: Philip Blake (the stockbroker), who went to market; Meredith Blake (the amateur herbalist), who stayed at home; Elsa Greer (the three-time

divorcée), who had her roast beef; Cecilia Williams (the devoted governess), who had none; and Angela Warren (the disfigured sister), who cried all the way home. Sixteen years later, Caroline's daughter is determined to prove her mother's innocence, and Poirot just can't get that nursery rhyme out of his mind.

## **The White Cottage Mystery**

Witness for the Prosecution and Other Stories is a collection of eleven tantalizing tales of murder and other criminal pursuits—including the classic title story, the basis for the 1957 Oscar-nominated Billy Wilder film starring Marlene Dietrich, Tyrone Power, and Charles Laughton. A murder trial takes a diabolical turn when the wife of the accused takes the stand. . . . A woman's sixth sense—and a loaded revolver—signal premonitions of doom. . . . A stranded motorist seeks refuge in a remote mansion and is greeted with a dire warning. . . . Detective Hercule Poirot faces his greatest challenge when his services are enlisted—by the victim—in a bizarre locked-room murder. From the stunning title story (which inspired the classic film thriller) to the rarest gems in detective fiction, these eleven tales of baffling crime and brilliant deduction showcase Agatha Christie at her dazzling best.

## **Agatha Christie**

IN THE CHILLING TRADITION of Daphne du Maurier and with the acuity of Kate Atkinson comes an

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atmospheric psychological thriller about an isolated British village and the sinister abandoned house that holds the key to its most shameful secrets. Alison is as close to anonymous as you can get: she has no ties and no home, and her only anchors are her boyfriend and her small backroom job in publishing. Which is exactly how she wants it. Because once, Alison was a teenager named Esme who lived in a remote, dilapidated house by a bleak estuary with her parents and three siblings. One night something terrible happened in the family's crooked house, leaving Alison the only survivor. In order to escape from the horror she witnessed, she moved away from the village, changed her name, and cut herself off from her past. But now her boyfriend has invited her to a wedding being held in her old hometown, which means returning there for the first time since that night. She decides that she's never going to overcome the trauma of what happened to her without confronting it, so she accepts his invitation. But soon Alison realizes that the events of that night left their awful mark not just on her but on the entire village, and she begins to suspect that everyone there might somehow be implicated in her family's murder. Christobel Kent's *The Crooked House* is a haunting thriller about one woman's search for the truth about her past through a closed community full of dark secrets.

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