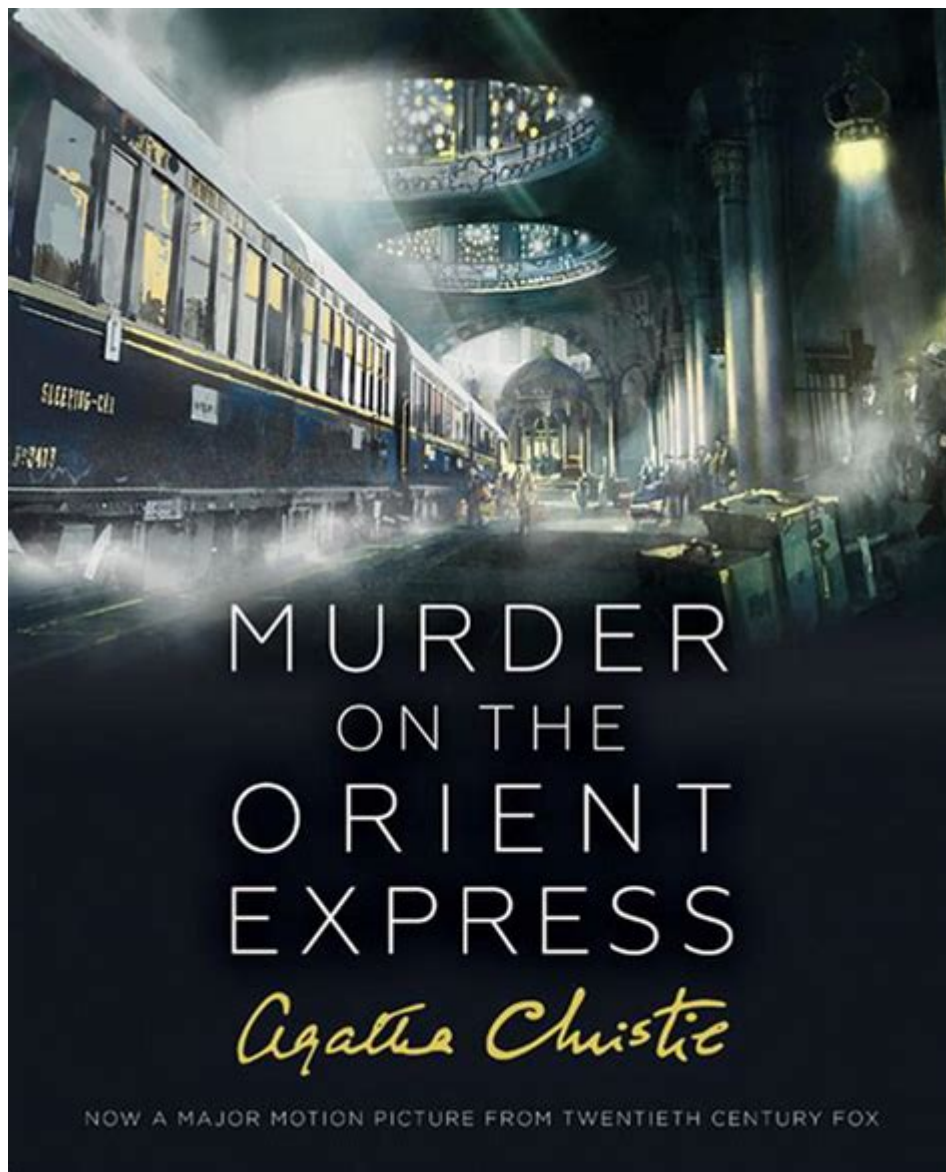


# Murder On The Orient Express Agatha Christie



Murder on the Orient Express, one of Agatha Christie's most acclaimed novels, is a masterful blend of intrigue, suspense, and psychological depth. First published in 1934, the story takes readers on a thrilling journey aboard the luxurious Orient Express train, where a murder occurs in a confined space, leading to a captivating investigation. Christie's brilliance shines through her complex characters and intricate plot, making this novel a timeless classic that continues to enthrall readers around the globe.

## Overview of the Plot

Murder on the Orient Express revolves around the famous Belgian detective

Hercule Poirot, who finds himself aboard the Orient Express traveling from Istanbul to Calais. The train is filled with a diverse cast of characters, each with their own secrets and motives. The plot thickens when a wealthy American passenger, Samuel Ratchett, is found murdered in his compartment, stabbed multiple times.

## The Setting

- The Orient Express: A luxurious train service that connects Europe and the East, known for its opulence and comfort. The setting serves as a microcosm of society, where different social classes and backgrounds converge.
- Time Period: Set in the 1930s, the novel reflects the post-World War I era, a time marked by social changes and evolving attitudes toward justice and morality.

## Key Characters

The novel features a rich tapestry of characters, each adding depth to the narrative:

1. Hercule Poirot: The meticulous detective known for his keen observational skills and logical reasoning.
2. Samuel Ratchett (Cassetti): The victim, a businessman with a shady past, who had previously been involved in a notorious kidnapping case.
3. Mrs. Hubbard: A talkative American woman who claims to have witnessed suspicious activities on the train.
4. Professor Gerhard Hardman: A mysterious character with a military background who has a hidden agenda.
5. Countess Andrenyi: A glamorous and enigmatic character who captures the attention of other passengers.
6. Daisy Armstrong's Family: The backstory of the Armstrong family is crucial to understanding the motive behind Ratchett's murder.

## The Investigation

As Poirot steps in to solve the murder, he interviews each passenger, uncovering a web of lies and deceit. His investigation reveals that many of the passengers have connections to the Armstrong family, particularly Daisy Armstrong, the child who was kidnapped and murdered years earlier. The detective's methodical approach leads him to piece together the clues, revealing a shocking conspiracy.

## **Detective Techniques**

Poirot employs several techniques to solve the case:

- Interviews: Conducting thorough interviews with each passenger allows Poirot to gather different perspectives and identify inconsistencies in their stories.
- Observation: His acute powers of observation help him notice details that others overlook, such as the positioning of the body and the unique characteristics of the murder weapon.
- Psychology: Poirot uses his understanding of human psychology to assess motives and relationships between characters, leading to deeper insights into their actions.

## **The Clues**

Throughout the investigation, Poirot discovers several pivotal clues:

- The Timetable: The train schedule plays a critical role in establishing the timeline of events.
- The Weapon: A dagger found at the scene of the crime becomes a central piece of evidence.
- The Cigarette Case: A monogrammed cigarette case leads to a significant revelation about one of the passengers.

## **The Themes of the Novel**

Murder on the Orient Express delves into various themes that resonate with readers:

### **Justice and Morality**

The novel raises profound questions about the nature of justice. As Poirot uncovers the truth, he grapples with the moral implications of punishing the murderer. The story challenges the concept of legal justice versus personal justice, as the characters seek retribution for the wrongs done to Daisy Armstrong.

### **Class and Society**

Christie intricately weaves social commentary into the narrative, highlighting the disparities among the characters:

- Class Differences: The varied backgrounds of the passengers illustrate the class divisions of the time.
- Prejudice and Stereotypes: The characters' interactions reveal biases and assumptions based on nationality and social standing.

## **The Nature of Evil**

The novel explores the complexities of human nature and the motivations behind evil actions. Ratchett's character serves as a focal point for examining the consequences of past crimes and the impact they have on individuals and families.

## **The Conclusion and Revelation**

As Poirot pieces together the evidence, he ultimately presents two possible solutions to the murder—one that adheres to the law and another that embodies a more personal sense of justice. The passengers are faced with a moral dilemma: should they allow the law to take its course, or should they protect the conspirators who sought vengeance for a tragic injustice?

## **The Final Twist**

In a dramatic conclusion, Poirot reveals that all of the passengers played a role in the murder of Ratchett, who was, in fact, Cassetti, the man responsible for Daisy Armstrong's kidnapping and death. This shocking twist not only serves as a climactic moment in the story but also reinforces the novel's central theme of moral ambiguity.

## **Legacy and Adaptations**

Murder on the Orient Express has left an indelible mark on literature and popular culture. Its enduring appeal is reflected in several adaptations across different media:

- Film Adaptations: The novel has been adapted into films multiple times, with notable versions released in 1974 and 2017. Each adaptation brings a unique interpretation of Christie's work, showcasing the timeless nature of the story.
- Stage Productions: The play adaptations have also captured the essence of the original novel, bringing Poirot's investigation to life on stage.
- Influence on Mystery Genre: Christie's innovative narrative structure and character development have influenced countless authors in the mystery genre, establishing a blueprint for future detective stories.

## **Conclusion**

Murder on the Orient Express remains a quintessential work of detective fiction, showcasing Agatha Christie's unmatched storytelling skills and deep understanding of human psychology. The novel not only entertains but also provokes thought about justice, morality, and the complexities of human relationships. Its legacy continues to thrive, ensuring that Hercule Poirot's journey aboard the Orient Express will be remembered for generations to come.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the main plot of 'Murder on the Orient Express'?**

The novel follows detective Hercule Poirot as he investigates a murder that occurs on the luxurious Orient Express train. The victim, Samuel Ratchett, is found dead in his compartment, and Poirot must unravel the mystery by interviewing the train's passengers, each with their own secrets.

### **Who are the key characters in 'Murder on the Orient Express'?**

Key characters include Hercule Poirot, the meticulous Belgian detective; Samuel Ratchett, the murder victim; and several passengers such as Mrs. Hubbard, Colonel Arbuthnot, and Princess Dragomiroff, each of whom plays a crucial role in the unfolding investigation.

### **What themes are explored in 'Murder on the Orient Express'?**

The novel explores themes of justice, morality, and revenge. It raises questions about the nature of guilt and innocence, as well as the complexities of human motivations, as Poirot uncovers the truth behind the murder.

### **How does Agatha Christie build suspense in 'Murder on the Orient Express'?**

Christie builds suspense through her intricate plotting, the confined setting of the train, and the gradual revelation of each character's backstory. The closed environment creates tension, as Poirot must deduce the truth among a diverse group of suspects.

### **What is the significance of the ending in 'Murder on**

## the Orient Express'?

The ending is significant as it presents a moral dilemma. Poirot discovers that all the passengers conspired to kill Ratchett, who was actually a notorious criminal. He offers two solutions: one that leads to justice and another that allows the conspirators to escape punishment, prompting readers to reflect on the nature of justice.

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## **Murder On The Orient Express Agatha Christie**

*"And Then There Were None" or "Murder on the Orient Express"?*

Oct 15, 2015 · Murder On The Orient Express and And Then There Were None are both good in different ways in my opinion. Both books similarly involve a group of people in an enclosed, confined space (more so with Murder On The Orient Express). I wouldn't say they are your "typical" locked room mysteries because they are more than typical and average. Agatha ...

*NEW Murder on the Orient Express - The Agatha Christie ...*

Nov 13, 2017 · That's what sets Orient Express from other train mysteries from Christie such as The Mystery of the Blue Train or a murder on a plane like Death In The Clouds. The murder, the suspects, the interviews/interrogations, the clues/red herrings, and the drawing room-like denouement all takes place in that train, not outside.

### **The Orient Express (only for those who have already read it)**

May 11, 2016 · I found it interesting to read the WIKI page for Murder on the Orient Express. It describes journeys on the Orient Express which influenced Christie to write the novel, and it has some interesting snippets, such as the information that David Suchet had suggested that directors introduce religious elements into the adaptations of the novels.

*Book club questions for Murder on the Orient express ? — The ...*

Mar 5, 2017 · Hi I run a little book group and we are using two of Agatha Christie books the 1st And Then There Where None (these are availabe on Litlovers) But I can not find book club discussion questions for Murder on the Orient express can any one please help?

### **Murder on the Orient Express - Why is Colonel Armstrong refered ...**

Jul 27, 2017 · I have read Murder on the Orient Express dozens of times but only recently realized Colonel Armstrong is referred to by three different first names. Colonel Arbuthnot calls him Toby, Countess Andrenyi calls him Robert, and Mrs.

### **ABC Murders Computer Game - The Agatha Christie Community ...**

May 18, 2016 · I just finished playing The ABC Murders computer game. It was fun, but I liked the previous three Agatha Christie adventure games (And Then There Were None, Murder on the Orient Express, and Evil Under the Sun) better. The best part of the game for me was questioning the

suspects. I liked how the game gave you many different options of what to ask each ...

### **The first look reveal of the Murder on the Orient Express cast**

May 3, 2017 · Today, Entertainment Weekly revealed the first look images of the ensemble Murder on the Orient Express cast!

### **Clues Are Everywhere! - The Agatha Christie Community Forum ...**

Oct 10, 2017 · Have any of you been playing the new game, "Clues Are Everywhere," <https://www.cluesareeverywhere.com>, in connection with the new Murder on the Orient Express movie? There are some hints on a Entertainment Weekly cover, in a movie trailer, on movie posters, and even on Amazon.com's page for the movie tie-in edition.

### **Murder on the Orient Express - question on meaning of an ...**

May 7, 2015 · In Murder on the Orient Express, Poirot has made notes as to the passengers' evidence. Following one of the lines, is the abbreviation "N.B." - the context isn't spoilerish, so here it is:

### **Death on the Nile vs Murder on the Orient Express - The Agatha ...**

Jul 10, 2015 · Out of the two of the most famous Poirot Novels, which one do people prefer?

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