



# Hercule Poirot: The Complete Short Stories

*Agatha Christie*

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## **Hercule Poirot: The Complete Short Stories** Agatha Christie

All 51 Hercule Poirot short stories presented in chronological order in a single volume - plus a bonus story not seen for more than 70 years. 'My name is Hercule Poirot and I am probably the greatest detective in the world.' The dapper, moustache-twirling little Belgian with the egg-shaped head, curious mannerisms and inordinate respect for his own 'little grey cells' has solved some of the most puzzling crimes of the century. Appearing in Agatha Christie's very first novel in 1920 and her very last in 1975, Hercule Poirot became the most celebrated detective since Sherlock Holmes, appearing in 33 novels, a play, and these 51 short stories. Arranged in their original publication order, these short stories provide a feast for hardened Agatha Christie addicts as well as those who have grown to love the detective through his many film and television appearances. This new edition now also includes Poirot and the Regatta Mystery, an early version of an Agatha Christie story not published since 1936!

## **Hercule Poirot: The Complete Short Stories Details**

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# **From Reader Review Hercule Poirot: The Complete Short Stories for online ebook**

## **Nandakishore Varma says**

Containing all the Poirot stories in one place, this is an absolute treasure for any Christie fan. It also contains the chronology of the stories, and information on the multiple versions of the same story.

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## **Dhiraj Sharma says**

Along with the novels of Hercule Poirot, Agatha Christie also wrote several short stories of HP which appear as compilations in several books.

This compendium makes your search for short stories much easier.

I bought this book from a book store in Park Street when I was on tour to Kolkata..Oxford it was if I remember correctly.

Read these stories in case you don't have much time to spare each day to read a full length novel, read these even if you have ample time at your hands.

Let me assure you that the thrill, suspense and excitement of these short stories is no way short by any means from the full blown novels of Monsieur Poirot.

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## **Vikas Singh says**

A must read for every Christie fan. The collection includes every single short story featuring Hercule Poirot. The stories have over time appeared as part of various collections. Finally they all have been compiled in one place. The cover is the illustration by renowned artist W.Smithson Broadhead who was specially commissioned by Bruce Ingram , editor of Sketch in which many of Christie's early stories appear

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## **Shirley says**

I have always been a fan of Sherlock Holmes and my interest in Hercules Poirot cases had been limited to the few television serials that i had seen as a child. After reading this book i must say that I am totally awed. I do confess that both the detectives have a different style of working and yes this book may not provide you an exhaustive or detailed account into Poirot's adventures , but it gives you a glimpse into the world of his 'Grey cells' so to speak. Thoroughly enjoyable and engaging. Agatha Christie creates a whole new world through her writing and one tends to get so engulfed in it that time just passes by in a jiffy. I loved the excitement that builds up as you read the case develop and the anticipation would keep you awake all night. It's an easy read and great book (though little too big) to carry on a weekend by the beach or to read on a rainy day. You would love it.

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## Mo says

I don't generally like reading short stories. I don't feel that there is adequate time for the characters to be properly developed. That is not a problem in a book such as this, because we already know all about Hercule Poirot. Each story felt like another chapter in his life, and I was able to enjoy them quite easily.

I've been reading this collection off and on for the past year or so, whenever I had just a little snippet of time. I was amazed when I discovered I had read the final page. It felt like this book should have gone on endlessly!

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## Brian Poole says

Hercule Poirot is justifiably Agatha Christie's most famous creation.

Hercule Poirot: The Complete Short Stories is a comprehensive chronicle of the detective's life in short fiction. While the numerous Poirot novels are among Christie's best and popular works, the character excelled in the short format, offering a distillation of what makes him great in concise bites.

Published from the 1920s through the 1940s, the tales in *The Complete Short Stories* present a full portrait of the Belgian police inspector enjoying a retirement career as a celebrity crime stopper in London. Poirot's character emerges quite distinctly. His precision, fastidious attention to his appearance, obsession with neatness and order and fetishistic care of his prominent moustaches are constants. He's always the smartest person in the room, able to wring meaning from nuanced observation of a scene's minutiae. Though he's sometimes shown to disdain pedestrian acts such as looking for cigarette ash or loose threads, often Poirot's notice of such trivialities proved to be key to a case's resolution.

Over the course of these stories, Poirot encounters any number of thieves, murderers, swindlers, cons, conspirators, saboteurs and thugs. The British gentry fall victim to any number of murderous devices, including several exotic poisonings and more than one attempt to pass a murder off as a locked room suicide. Poirot foils any number of clever theft schemes. Some cases aren't even mysteries, per se, but more general crime fiction, allowing Poirot to use his considerable mental gifts to thwart more subtle criminal schemes.

Poirot is all about method. He extols the virtue of an "orderly mind" and uses "the little grey cells" to make logical deductions of a scene's details. Christie doesn't shy away from the inevitable Sherlock Holmes comparisons, either. Indeed, more than one story addresses the comparison to Arthur Conan Doyle's very similar creation head-on. It was somewhat gutsy, but then, no one ever accused Christie of lacking ambition.

While Poirot's novel-length adventures provide complex, multi-layered plots with large casts, his short fiction appearances are admirably economical. Christie packed a lot of detail into a very few pages and a character like Poirot, with a well-known and colorful persona, can have major impact in a story without significant exposition regarding his character. With a few well-placed sentences, Christie imparted all a reader needed to know about Poirot to grasp his essence and could then move on to lean, well-crafted problems that Poirot could dispatch without needing novel-length exploration.

Included in the collection is a series called “The Labours of Hercules.” These are a series of twelve shorts, where Poirot selected a case thematically inspired by one of the famous adventures of his mythological namesake. They alone provide a strong cross-section of the diversity of Poirot’s adventures, boasting everything from a straight murder mystery to a political scandal. And as always, Christie embroidered these stories with well-placed twists that weren’t obvious but made perfect sense.

Other notable adventures include the disappearance of valuable bonds from a trans-Atlantic ship; a banker who seemed to disappear while on a short walk; a sailor who discovers a body in a train compartment; the theft of a movie star’s famous jewels; and a plot to kidnap the British prime minister. Other adventures included a country Christmas visit in search of a foreign royal’s stolen necklace; several mysterious deaths seemingly connected to the curse of an opened Egyptian tomb; a hidden will designed to test the ingenuity of the beneficiary; and a murder at a costume party.

In addition to the colorful rogues and hapless victims populating these stories, Poirot was accompanied by a number of recurring characters. The stories from the ‘20s tended to be narrated by Captain John Hastings, Poirot’s ex-military friend and confederate. Hastings was a “true blue” Brit, easily swayed by patriotism, awe of the nobility and a pretty face. While not a dullard, Poirot often treated him as though he were a slow child or favored pet. Hastings so frequently expressed jealousy or malicious glee at the possibility of Poirot being wrong, it was a wonder the friendship endured. A constant throughout the adventures was Inspector Japp of Scotland Yard. Japp was shown as smart and tenacious, and always happy and willing to accept Poirot’s assistance. After Hastings’s exit from the stories, Poirot was sometimes seen with George, his faithful, capable valet, and Miss Lemon, his prim, efficient secretary.

Hercule Poirot: The Complete Short Stories isn’t a brief affair. It clocks in at close to 900 pages in trade paperback, so it’s not necessarily the best starting point for casual fans or newcomers. For Poirot die-hards, however, it’s an essential volume containing all of the character’s shorts and novellas.

This review originally appeared on [www.thunderalleybcp.com](http://www.thunderalleybcp.com)

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## Courtney says

From "Poirot Investigates"

- 1) The Adventure of "The Western Star"
- 2) The Tragedy at Marsdon Manor
- 3) The Adventure of the Cheap Flat
- 4) The Mystery of Hunter's Lodge
- 5) The Million Dollar Bond Robbery
- 6) The Adventure of the Egyptian Tomb
- 7) The Jewel Robbery at the Grand Metropolitan
- 8) The Kidnapped Prime Minister
- 9) The Disappearance of Dr. Davenheim
- 10) The Adventure of the Italian Nobleman
- 11) The Case of the Missing Will
- 12) The Veiled Lady
- 13) The Lost Mine
- 14) The Chocolate Box

From "Dead Man's Mirror"

- 15) Dead Man's Mirror
- 16) The Incredible Theft
- 17) Murder in the Mews
- 18) Triangle at Rhodes

From "The Regatta Mystery"

- 19) The Mystery of the Bagdad Chest
- 20) How Does Your Garden Grow?
- 21) Yellow Iris
- 22) The Dream
- 23) Problem at Sea

From "The Labours of Hercules"

- 24) The Nemean Lion
- 25) The Lernean Hydra
- 26) The Arcadian Deer
- 27) The Erymanthian Boar
- 28) The Augean Stables
- 29) The Stymphalean Birds
- 30) The Cretan Bull
- 31) The Horse of Diomedes
- 32) The Girdle of Hyppolita
- 33) The Flock of Geryon
- 34) The Apples of the Hesperides
- 35) The Capture of Cerberus

From "Three Blind Mice"

- 36) The Third-Floor Flat
- 37) The Adventure of Johnnie Waverly
- 38) Four-and-Twenty Blackbirds

From "The Under Dog"

- 39) The Under Dog
- 40) The Plymouth Express
- 41) The Affair at the Victory Ball
- 42) The Market Basing Mystery
- 43) The Lemesurier Inheritance
- 44) The Cornish Mystery
- 45) The King of Clubs
- 46) The Adventure of the Clapham Cook

From "Double Sin"

- 47) Double Sin
  - 48) Wasps' Nest
  - 49) The Theft of the Royal Ruby
  - 50) The Double Clue
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## **Nishant Bhagat says**

One cannot review classics honestly, especially when they have attained a cult status. I am a very late reader of The Queen of crime. For a lifetime fan of Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot felt initially like a 'me too' character but soon enough starts growing on you. The clever references to Sherlock make you smile always. This is surely a collection of stories to be handed over from one generation to another! Must read for everyone

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## **Leslie says**

A treat for Christie fans! For those who don't care for her writing, the foibles of Hercule Poirot may grate on the nerves as they are more pronounced in these short stories than they were in her full-length novels.

Despite the fact that I hadn't read many of the stories before, I was familiar with them from my repeated viewing of David Suchet in "Poirot" on PBS. In fact, so familiar was I with the TV adaptations that I noticed all the variations from their plots when reading these originals!

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## **Fiona says**

I won a school prize once in my life: aged eleven, the primary school English prize. I was given my £10 book token, and instead of buying the dictionary I was supposed to get, I chose the complete Hercule Poirot short stories. I was aided and abetted by my mother, who approves of buying 800-page tomes as a treat, and I'm pretty sure my form tutor was likewise pleased--we're talking about the man who had spent the last year introducing me to the concept of Sherlock Holmes.

I read it over the summer, and this is still one of my favourite possessions. Agatha Christie has her flaws (and most of them involve foreigners), but she can write a story, and a situation, and a punchline, and she does it really well, again, and again, and again. Eleven-year-old me loved playing with the permutations. I love especially that she reuses character names, and tropes, and none of them are safe. Anyone could be the victim, and anyone (with two exceptions) could be the murderer.

The exceptions, of course, are (view spoiler) But even then, (view spoiler) Nobody's safe.

This book is everything I like about Agatha Christie, all put in one place so you can take a microscope to it, compare things directly. I loved it then, I love it now. The older I get, the more respect I have for it.

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## **Tammy says**

LOVED everything about this offering. Short stories are especially nice when you are reading more than one book at a time. It just doesn't get better than Hercule Poirot! The writing, suspense, humor and the deduction (which I seem to always get wrong) are nothing less than brilliant. Thanks again to the great AC ... Highly recommend!

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## **Bobby Underwood says**

Though I have *Murder in the Mews*, the mass market paperback which contains the title story, and three other great Poirot short stories by Agatha Christie, when I ran across this one some long while ago in Mogo on vacation, I had to have it. The introduction, called *Enter Poirot*, is by Christie herself, from *An Autobiography*, and it's nice that it's included. *The Affair at the Victory Ball* from 1923 begins a salvo of chronologically arranged Poirot short stories like no other.

Reading through this one took me quite some time after I acquired it, and now I return to it for brief periods to read one of them again. Because I've seen all the David Suchet adaptations on television over the years, which are wonderful, it was nice to note some small differences here and there in some stories. Overall, however, it was nostalgic reading these stories, and being able to picture the events playing out better because of having seen — many times — the adaptations starring Suchet as Poirot.

As another nice review here mentions, being objective here is nearly impossible at this juncture. Sure, some of the stories aren't as good as the others, and these have taken on a legendary status for mystery lovers. But it doesn't matter, because there are so many wonderful moments that a cumulative effect begins to take place. All we remember is how much we love these Poirot mysteries, and how much affection we have for Hastings, Miss Lemon, and yes, Japp. Reading these stories is like visiting old friends.

We're on page 865 here when we get a fabulous bonus to all the stories we know so well — and perhaps a few we've forgotten. Here we come to a postscript, which is *Poirot and the Regatta Mystery*. In 1936 it appeared in both *The Chicago Tribune*, and across the pond, in *The Strand*. When Christie released it in book form, however, in 1939, she had reworked it into a Parker Pyne story! Here we have it in its original form, as a Hercule Poirot story. At the time of this printing in 1999, it had been over 60 years since the original Poirot version had been in print.

After this, we get a chronological appendix of Agatha Christie's short story publications between 1923 and 1971, both in America and in Britain, listing the dates, issue numbers, and magazines in which they appeared. And it isn't just Poirot, but Marple too, and Tommy and Tuppence, Parker Pyne, Harley Quin, non-series stories, and 6 children's stories! For someone trying to collect Christie in magazine form, it's invaluable, but for the average reader, it's simply cool to have it included.

It just doesn't get better than this for Poirot fans. It's big and thick — 50+ stories! — and encompasses all of Poirot in the short form. Great to own, fun to return to now and again, and highly recommended!

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## **Muhammad Shakhawat Hossain says**

I have always been a fan of detective stories and like thousands of other people, my childhood hero was Sherlock Holmes (I think deep down, he still is my hero!). This Hercule Poirot collection was the first time I tried Poirot and I **LIKED** him! Hercule Poirot is an eccentric old man with such a passion towards order and rational thoughts and he has such a nice sense of humour! This fat book has 51 stories and it took me quite a long time to finish it. I would say about 26-27 stories were really good. Sad that the rest of the stories were based on the similar plots and were repetitive. Otherwise, I would have gone for a '5 Stars'. The name



'Hercule' is derived from 'Hercules'/'Heracles', the demigod in Greek mythology. Christie wanted to see her detective mentally as strong as Hercules physically was. Thus comes the name. Like the Greek demigod, Hercule Poirot also did 12 'grand labours' and the stories are named after the 'Labours of Hercules'. The idea is a great one, no doubt but not all the 'labours' are 'great' equally. I'd like to mention some of my favorite stories from this collection like 'Cornish Mystery', 'The Incredible Theft', 'Under Dog', 'The Capture of Cerberus' etc. One other thing I must say. Agatha Christie was a very good observer of her time. She incorporated love, murder, poison, lust, cocaine, kidnap and what not in her stories. Also her writings are very spontaneous. Like I said, she was very smart lady. So, Holmes or Poirot? I think I won't go for a comparison between these two. They both are great detectives in their own style. They both use the 'rationalization' technique. While Holmes is a reckless one, Poirot is very 'reserved'. Solving a problem sitting in his armchair, that's more like Poirot. I enjoyed the read thoroughly. Viva La Poirot!

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### **Antonio Rosato says**

Non avendo mai letto niente su Hercule Poirot ho preferito comprare questo libro che contiene tutte le opere di Agatha Christie dedicate al celebre investigatore belga. Ebbene, devo dire che all'inizio sono stato quasi rapito e coinvolto dalle varie indagini e peripezie dei due protagonisti (Poirot ed il suo fido amico Hastings); in seguito, però, i racconti mi son sembrati un po' tutti uguali (cambiava la location ed i personaggi ma la trama era sempre la stessa). Penso, comunque, che possa anche essere colpa mia che ho letto il libro in un colpo solo...

[<http://rosatoeu.blogspot.it/2014/09/p...>]

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### **Roger Brunyate says**

#### **A Collection of Canapés**

It is ridiculous, of course, to read 51 mystery stories back to back with one another, yet I don't want to keep this useful collection on my "currently reading" shelf for ever. Hence the baptism of my new "hiatus" shelf. I imagine it will come in handy for some other story collections, as well as non-fiction books to which I expect to return. In this case, I have read (or re-read) the first five plus five more selected at random. There are about a dozen more that I read as a child.

*Earlier Poirots: Austin Trevor, Peter Ustinov, Albert Finney*

This splendidly-priced collection contains stories first published as magazine pieces between 1923 and 1940. Christie first introduced her dapper Belgian detective Hercule Poirot in 1920, with her own debut novel *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. She bade him farewell with *Curtain*, her penultimate novel. But though published in 1976, this was written in the 1940s, and most of the later collections of Poirot stories drew from earlier material. So the seventeen-year span in this book essentially covers the working life of the former Belgian policeman from his retirement to England to the time of his final case. Almost all of them have been dramatized in the BBC series *Agatha Christie's Poirot*, together with several of the full-length novels, starring the incomparable David Suchet.

*David Suchet, the Poirot of the short stories on BBC*

I remember enjoying the story collections as a young reader. Christie's ingenuity is unmatched, not only in devising original twists but also in developing variations on a theme as she did in her collection *The Labours of Hercules*, all of which are reprinted here. Coming back to them again after the BBC versions, though, I find myself enjoying them much less. It is not that I recall the solutions; none of the stories have stuck in the memory like the best of the novels. It is more a matter of pacing. As compared to weekly television episodes of sufficient length to fill out the social milieu of each mystery, the mostly terse stories, read even two of three at a time, seem more like a diet of *canapés* that make you long to sit down for a leisurely meal. They contain enough to intrigue, albeit briefly, but not enough to satisfy.

*"Fact!" said General Forbes. "Heard it from old Bassington-ffrench. And he got it from old Badger Cotterill who's got it from Snooks Parker."*

*Miss Henderson nodded brightly. "That does seem to settle it!" she said.*

This tiny scrap of dialogue, from "Problem at Sea," says a lot about Christie's world, and also her understated sense of humor. For Hercule Poirot is a *society* detective, and almost all his cases involve members of the upper crust, bound by wealth and birth, schools, regiments, or clubs, attending the same house parties and social events, and with a fair sprinkling of vapid young things with nothing to do except play tennis and flirt. Even when Poirot's clients come from outside this circle, they are always at the top of their game: a middle-European prince, the ballet dancer who has taken London by storm, an American billionaire, a star of the silver screen. The brilliance of the BBC producers was to realize what scope this gives for production design, shot after shot of Art Deco style and interwar luxury, filled out with those British character actors who can make so much of tiny roles. But on the page, the supporting roles remain tiny, and the color and luxury is left to the imagination. This is not the case with a full-length novel, where even a minor character can be given depth, and we can immerse ourselves in an environment rather than dipping into it and moving on.

Mystery stories place a high premium on exposition; you need to know the facts of a case before you can solve it. Christie is skilled at this, but her skill is almost always obvious. There is generally some character who comes in early on and fills Poirot (and the reader) in on the facts. Sometimes the details are so compressed that they are difficult to remember, especially if this is the second or third story you have read that day. I found myself most interested in those stories such as "Triangle at Rhodes" or "Four and Twenty Blackbirds" which do not begin with a case at all, merely Poirot's suspicion that a crime is in the offing, because then the exposition, development, and resolution can proceed as a unified, organic whole.

Where Christie most truly shines is in her solutions, whose variety can be mind-boggling: the policeman did it, the narrator did it, they all did it, nobody did it, an apparent victim did it, and of course the butler did it. But these are in the novels, which typically develop multiple characters at such length that you can suspect and then exonerate several different people in turn. As Poirot is fond of reminding us, the important evidence is not the footprint or the cigar ash but "*the psychologie, mon ami.*" But the short story length (here typically 12–15 pages) is not sufficient for us to weigh up many characters at much depth; they tend to come over as stereotypes of their period and class. So instead of working out the solutions for ourselves, we start thinking how Poirot would work them out. Knowing Christie, knowing her detective, we do not approach each case from commonsense principles, but look for the twists from the outset. Being Christie, we usually guess wrong even so. But it is a curiously unsatisfactory way to approach a mystery.

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