



The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding

Agatha Christie

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The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding Agatha Christie

Agatha Christie's seasonal Poirot and Marple short story collection, reissued with a striking new cover designed to appeal to the latest generation of Agatha Christie fans and book lovers.

The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding (a.k.a The Theft of the Royal Ruby)

The Mystery of the Spanish Chest

The Under Dog

Four and Twenty Blackbirds

The Dream

Greenshaw's Folly

The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding Details

Date : Published December 2002 by Harper (first published October 24th 1960)

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Author : Agatha Christie

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Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Short Stories, Holiday, Christmas, Classics

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From Reader Review The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding for online ebook

Tim Orfanos says

Πρ?κειται για μια εξαντλημ?νη στα ελληνικ? συλλογ? απ? ιστορ?ες της Κρ?στι με ?ρωα, μ?νο, τον πασ?γνωστο ντετ?κτιβ Ηρακλ? Πουαρ?, ?που εν? εξιτ?ρουν τον αναγν?στη δεν πε?θουν ?λες για την αληθοφ?νει? τους.

Η συλλογ? ε?ναι αρκετ? ενδιαφ?ρουσα και γοητευτικ?, ωστ?σο, οι πιο σημαντικ?ς ιστορ?ες ε?ναι 'Το μυστ?ριο της Ισπανικ?ς κασ?λας', η οπο?α θεωρε?ται απ? τις δυσκολ?τερες και πιο αγαπημ?νες υποθ?σεις του Πουαρ? (σε αυτ?ν γνωρ?ζει τον συνταγματ?ρχη Ρης που, αργ?τερα, τον βοηθ? στο 'Εγκλ?μα στο Νε?λο') και 'Ο αποδιοπομπα?ος' ?που η Κρ?στι (και κατ'επ?κταση ο Πουαρ?) χρησιμοποιε? τη τ?χνη της ?πνωσης ως καινοτομικ? στοιχε?ο για τη διαλε?κηση του εγκλ?ματος.

Οφε?λω να ομολογ?σω ?τι, εν? ως καλοκαιριν? αν?γνωσμα ταιρι?ζει 'γ?ντι', συγκριτικ? με τις υπ?λοιπες συλλογ?ς ιστορι?ν της συγγραφ?α, υπολε?πεται σημαντικ?.

Βαθμολογ?α: 3,8/5 ? 7,6/10.

Daniel says

I jos jedna fina kolekcija kracih price o M. Poarou (mada se mis Marpl usunjala kao uljez u zadnjoj price :P). Mada ove kolekcije imaju sve manje i manje price: kod ove samo 6, sto nije ni lose posto ima vise mesta da nas uvuce u svaku.

Po meni naj price jeste prva po kojoj kolekcija i nosi ime. Daleko od toga da je najbolja misterija ali ljubav i detalji kojej je mis Agata ubacila iz ljubavi prema starom dobro engleskom bozicu cini ovu pricu izuzetno zabavnom za citanje. Plus budem nostalgican za nesto sto nisam ni doziveo. Svaka cast.

Sem toga sta reci sem da imamo fine price majstora svog zanata i ne trba ih zaobici.

Sumit RK says

A short story collection featuring 6 stories incl The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding, The Mystery of the Spanish Chest, The Under Dog, Four and Twenty Blackbirds, The Dream and Greenshaw's Folly.

All the stories were good. But of all the stories, The Mystery of the Spanish Chest, The Under Dog ,The Dream and Greenshaw's Folly really stood out. The plot, the characters and the main mystery, all were truly excellent and unique. If you are a Poirot fan and if you enjoy short stories, you will surely enjoy this one.

Vikas Singh says

A collection of six short stories, five of them featuring Hercule Poirot and one with Miss Marple. The first story -The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding is Christie's tribute to the wonderful time she had during Christmas time at her brother in laws house. The last story Greenshaw's folly is the one Christie wrote to raise money for her local church. Compared to her other stories, the plots here are weaker but they still hold your attention. Average read

Issa Deerbany says

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Vitor Martins says

Esse foi meu primeiro contato com Agatha Christie. Não foi um livro surpreendente mas me deixou bem curioso pra ler os casos mais famosos da autora!

É difícil avaliar livros de contos porque sempre tem uns que se sobressaem mais do que outros mas acho que nesse compilado todos seguem o mesmo nível. "O mistério da Arca Espanhola" foi meu favorito!

Só me decepcionei um pouco porque achei que seriam contos de natal mas só o primeiro (que da titulo ao livro) tem essa temática.

Ainda assim, estou ansioso pra ler mais Agatha Christie em 2016!

SheriC (PM) says

As much as I love audiobooks, I've never been a fan of dramatizations. HOWEVER, I have to make an exception for this BBC Radio 4 dramatization of The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding. I don't know that it was much of a mystery – I could spot whodunnit as soon as the characters were introduced, but it was still fun, fun, fun. This is only the second Poirot that I've read, but I can see why he has such a following.

Audiobook from my public library, via Overdrive. Full cast production was great.

I read this for **The 16 Tasks of the Festive Season**, for Square 10, December 21st: Book themes for **Pancha Ganapati**: *Read anything involving a need for forgiveness in the story line; a story about redemption –OR– Read a book whose cover has one of the 5 colors of the holiday: red, blue, green, orange, or yellow –OR– Read a book involving elephants.* This book has both red and green on the cover.

David Schaafsma says

The home stretch of my Poirot run! #33, and the story, “The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding” (a.k.a. The Theft of the Royal Ruby) is not a story I would normally want to read in August. Well, I guess I might never want to read a light-hearted family tale set at Christmas-time, truthfully. Oh, with a murder, of course, but hey, it’s Christmas, so it’s the least grisly murder mystery. The story is part of a short story collection, which I read quickly, not that interested in most of them, and not a mystery short story fan, but you know, I made a commitment to read all these Poirot books.

“The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding” is really a novella, the first and longest in the collection. Hercules Poirot is invited to attend Christmas at a house where a ruby is missing. All the kids in the house challenge Poirot by setting up a subplot. Poirot solves the case and teaches the kids a lesson.

“The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding” was the only one set during Christmas. In Christie’s foreword Christie she explains how her childhood Christmases spent in Abney Hall inspired the story. As with many Christmas stories, it feels nostalgic and sentimental, a mystery directed to a perhaps younger audience, for the first time in my experience with Christie. The 70 year old Christie, writing this now in 1960, makes a couple digs at beatnik culture of the time evident in England. Dame Christie was no beatnik, in case you were wondering. Christie’s characters here are forgettable, but she is ever the cleverest plot-master (she would prefer plot-mistress, I think), so the resolution of this little harmless story adds a star.

Phrynne says

A nice little collection of short stories, mostly starring Hercule Poirot and one about Miss Marple. The title story about the Christmas pudding was the best one with a clever idea and a number of possible murderers. A couple of the other stories were not so effective. I must admit I do not really enjoy short stories. I always feel they stop just when I want them to get going. These ones however were not bad!

Mizuki says

The first story about the Christmas Pudding is great! If you wanted to make Mr. Poirot feel at home, what can be better than stirring up a murder mystery for him during his Christmas holiday? And all these old fashioned British Christmas customs are so endearing!

However, the rest of the stories are still...very standard, not bad but nothing special. I even DNF-ed one of the stories. So, 3 stars only.

Cristiana de Sousa says

3.5?

Uma ótima leitura para esta época do ano, com um toque de suspense ideal. Super divertido de se ler. Os contos são curtos mas muito bem conseguidos. Aconselho e muito.

Litzy says

acabo el 2015 con Agatha christie. Mi mejor descubrimiento del año. haber como comenzamos 2016. FELIZ AÑO a TODOS !!! HAPPY NEW YEAR! (? ³?)♥

Aylavella says

5 historias cortas de la magnífica Agatha Christie. Una delicia reecontrarse con Poirot (4 historias) y Miss Marple (1 historia).
Entretenido, en la línea de esta autora.

Tamsien West (Babbling Books) says

3.5 stars. A fun collection of crime mysteries solved by Hercule Poirot, with a bonus one solved by Miss Marple. Sadly only one story in the collection of 6 is actually set at Christmas time, so this wasn't as 'Christmassy' as I was hoping. Overall the stories are well structured for such short crime snippets, revealing and resolving themselves in Christie's signature dramatic style.

As with all Christie's novels the attitudes towards servants being best when they have no discernible personality, and the general sexism throughout, bother me. I understand that those were the prevailing attitudes of the time, and Christie was certainly writing to her intended audience. Despite this these elements are emphasized or highlighted in every tale. They are not background issues or overarching themes that I am picking up on through deep analysis.

Overall, if you are looking for a Christmas crime collection to read during the holiday season there are certainly more targeted volumes available. For lovers of Poirot and Marple however these little tales from later in their fictional 'careers' would certainly be of interest.

1. The Adventures of the Christmas Pudding - The title tale begins with a jewellery heist, a lover, a Prince from an unspecified foreign land, and an invitation to Christmas at an English country house. The stage is set for murder, and there are only a limited set of people in the house who could have committed the crime. Of all the tales I found this one the most far-fetched, and the title seems awkwardly disconnected from the plot.
2. The Mystery of the Spanish Chest - A husband is found dead inside a large chest, where he has been hidden while his wife and closest friends dine, unknowingly, in the same room. There is jealousy, intrigue, and everyone seems to have a motivation but not the means to have done the deed.
3. The Under Dog - The longest of the collection at just under 80 pages, this story is the most complex. Like the first two tales it concerns a household, and in this the patriarch has been murdered. The police have arrested someone, but the wife of the murdered man insists they have got it wrong. Poirot stays in the house to investigate, learning about the lives and quirks of everyone inside, and to test his theories, behaving

increasingly erratically. I enjoyed the story even if the 'repressed lower classes' themes were really out in force.

4. Four and Twenty Blackbirds - A clever little tale where food reveals the clues. An eccentric old man dines at the same restaurant twice a week on the same days at the same time. Until one week he dines on a different day, then disappears. Poirot must unravel the clues about dining habits to solve the disappearance.

5. The Dream - Probably the most irritating of the six, and certainly my least favourite. An eccentric billionaire contacts Poirot to ask for assistance in interpreting a recurring dream he has been having about committing suicide at a specific time of day. I found this whole story ridiculous and didn't enjoy any of the characters introduced.

6. Greenshaw's Folly - This tiny tale reminded me in some ways of Dickens' Great Expectations, an elderly woman living in a crumbling old mansion with only a servant or two, and then the controversy of her will. Being a Miss Marple tale the style is a little different to the others in this collection, and she, as always, simply happens to be in the right place at the right time to assist with interpreting the strange events that occur.

zahra haji says

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Austra says

Ai, šis bija tik jauki! ?tri las?mi un interesanti. St?sti k? t?di nav mana m???k? dai?literat?ras forma, bet ar krimin?lst?stiem man probl?mu nav, k? izr?d?s. K?rt?jais pier?d?jums, ka labs rakstnieks pat 20 lappus?s var uzburt izteiksm?g?ku ainu, nek? daži labi skribenti 3 s?jumos.

Brooklyn Tayla says

These short stories were all exquisite - I couldn't choose a favourite one, for I loved them all. Poirot and Aunt Jane Marple never disappoint, nor does their creator, Agatha Christie. Each mystery was fabulous as they were intriguing! I recommend this to any fan of 'cozy crime', or anyone who's just looking for a great set of mysteries to read :)

Suvi says

Around Christmastime, I figured it'd be nice to start a tradition and read something light and Christmasy (but not fluffy), and Christie knocked on my door again. Because the collections have a confusing publication history, I noticed I had actually read some of the stories before in another collection, but I couldn't remember the murderers anymore, so a reread was in order.

The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding was the only one set during Christmas, and in her foreword Christie explains how her childhood Christmases spent in Abney Hall inspired the story, and why she wanted to dedicate the book to its memory. The story does feel very nostalgic prior to things starting to get awry (the description of the Christmas feast made my mouth water), and thanks to the conclusion it's also one of the best ones. It really turns on its head all the expectations one has of a crime story.

The other one I liked was *The Dream*, where an eccentric millionaire needs Poirot's help, because he has been having a concurring dream where he shoots himself. Soon enough, the man is found dead. The whole case is a little bizarre and mystical, and the conclusion is fantastic. So much so, that this was my absolute favorite story of the collection.

The Under Dog is slightly drawn out and boring, but as for the rest, they're pretty decent with great twists. In all six stories, hints are spread throughout and some of them are even so obvious when you notice them afterwards, that you feel kind of stupid not to have seen them. Christie takes the idea of secrets behind one's demeanor even further, and it's a recurring theme of the collection. The tiny tidbits about the social realities of the era aren't absent either, as is evident from Poirot's ponderings about the butler:

"This Parsons, then, he will have the characteristics of his class, he will object very strongly to the police, he will tell them as little as possible. Above all, he will say nothing that might seem to incriminate a member of the household. A house-breaker, a burglar, he will cling to that idea with all the strength of extreme obstinacy. Yes, the loyalties of the servant class are an interesting study."

We also learn that Poirot likes curvy women. Actually, "[h]e liked them lush, highly coloured, exotic. There

had been a certain Russian countess – but that was long ago now. A folly of earlier days". Really? Tell me more. The fact that something this substantial is revealed about Poirot's past, or that he doesn't mind being kissed under the mistletoe by Bridget, caught me off guard. Is this the Agatha Christie Christmas spirit we're seeing?

Poonam says

Another Christmas Mystery- involving a theft of a Royal Ruby. Quiet transparent as to the culprit but a good read.

Masoud Irannejad says

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Greenshaw's Folly? The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding

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