



The Life and Times of Hercule Poirot

Anne Hart

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"A lively fictionalized biography of Agatha Christie's most famous detective."

The unrivaled star of detective fiction: Agatha Christie's inimitable Hercule Poirot. From his flamboyant moustache to his trademark cane, Poirot has captivated millions of readers as they match wits with the master.

This affectionate "biography" provides a rare chance to meet Poirot up close -- his eccentricities, his passions, and the workings of his most famous cases across five tumultuous decades. Filled with marvelous details and little-known facts, this is a must-read for every Christie Fan.

The Life and Times of Hercule Poirot Details

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Beka says

I thought Miss Hart did a better job on Poirot's biography than she did on Miss Marple's. Besides just giving the plain facts about appearance, antecedents, and lifestyle, Miss Hart also delved into recurring friends and thoughts on Poirot.

xx Sarah xx (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

A must-read for all Poirot & Christie fans! I discovered Anne Hart with The Life and Times of Miss Jane Marple and just couldn't resist reading this book as well. Having read most of Poirot's "adventures", I found it very interesting to read about the chronology of it all. A great read!

Jill Hutchinson says

This book dragged a bit in the beginning but picked up after the first two chapters. The author covers all Poirot's cases in those first two chapters which, for those who have read the Poirot books, did not provide much new information. But then she started examining Poirot the man and his relationships with friends, the police, his "Watson" Cpt. Hastings and his *belle dame* Countess Vera Rostokoff.....and the book picked up speed and piqued my interest. I would recommend it for those who are fans of Christie and Poirot.

Judith says

It's Poirot you either love him or hate him. I love him.

Kavita says

Hercule Poirot is no longer merely a fictional character - he has a biography of his own now. If you have only ever read Agatha Christie's novels haphazardly like me, you might not have been able to get a full sense of Poirot's life in chronology. This is what Anne Hart has done with *The Life and Times of Hercule Poirot*. He arrived in England in 1916 as a refugee of the Great War, and made it his home. I guess that's one refugee the English were happy to welcome. He remains in the country until the *Curtain* spectacularly falls on his life.

Hart goes into detail about Poirot's life based on information gleaned from all the novels and short stories. She even delves into information dredged from other novels featuring other detectives in the Agatha Christie universe. She addresses the discrepancies in Poirot's character - for example, his age (he is close to retirement when he arrives in England and then continues to solve mysteries for another sixty or so years!)

Poirot's life, his relationships, and his eccentricities are a delight to read. You would be forgiven for believing, even if only for a moment, that you were reading about a real person.

I think this book is best enjoyed by fans, or at least those who have read most of the books. Hart manages to avoid spoilers completely, but I think that true enjoyment can only be obtained if you have already read the books from which she quotes regularly, in order to understand the context. If you don't like Poirot all that much and only read the novels for the great mysteries, don't bother to pick this up. This is definitely a very fond pro-Poirot biography.

What this book isn't is a deeply analytical look at the works of Agatha Christie and why she made Poirot the way he was. This is not about the author, her ideas, or her work at all. But what it is - an excellent biography of a much-beloved character - is done brilliantly. So read in the spirit of Poirot and look elsewhere for deeper understanding of his creator.

John Frankham says

A fairly interesting book about the books and short stories involving Hercule Poirot. A few chapters dealing with the books/stories in date order (without giving the endings away), the chapters on his friends - Capt Hastings, Miss Lemon, etc. And on his home, his work, his views and so on.

But somehow rather dull.

Richa says

A very well chronicled biography of Poirot. If any one has ever wondered about any aspect of Poirot's life and character, he or she will definitely find the answer here.

Miklos says

A readable biography of Hercule Poirot, Agatha Christie's insufferable and yet loveable Belgian detective. The book outlines Poirot's life, cases, and relationships across all the books and short stories about him.

Readers should note that while the author manages to keep the book spoiler free, the most well-read Poirot reader will glean more enjoyment out of the author's descriptions.

While this book is lighthearted and a nice companion piece for any Poirot lover, the book is notably lacking greater analysis of Poirot through his work. Christie is also missing throughout the book, as if Poirot was being read in a vacuum.

Overall, a sweet book to delight detective readers. But not much else.

Nandakishore Varma says

(At the outset - read this only if you are a diehard Poirot fan, like me; and after you have finished all the novels and stories. The book is remarkably spoiler-free, but there is an off-chance you may guess the solution to a few of the stories.)

Some fictional characters become larger than life as we follow them through various novels and stories. Sherlock Holmes, Bertie Wooster, Jeeves, James Bond - to name a few. Especially, detectives in popular fiction have the habit of outliving and upstaging their creators. Holmes is the most obvious example, but Poirot would be a close second.

This book does a fantastic job of chronicling the life and times of the famous Belgian detective with the magnificent moustaches and the egg-shaped head, the one who believed that the use of the "little grey cells" was more important than going down on all fours and rooting through cigarette ash; right from his arrival in England in 1916 to his death in 1974. (That his 58 years of existence resulted in only apparently about twenty years of physical ageing, we can put down to the relativity of fictional time vs temporal time - James Bond is chasing girls even now!) In his charmed life, Poirot solved a lot of intriguing mysteries, meeting with a lot of remarkable characters and moving through a changing world.

Apart from tracing Poirot's life journey, Anne Hart analyses the various facets of the famous detective ("The Detective Poirot", "The Domestic Poirot" etc) and his relationship to an alien country which he nevertheless loved. She also spends a lot of time on Arthur Hastings - Poirot's Watson - and the numerous police officers he was associated with; also on Mrs. Oliver, the mystery writer who was his companion in six novels and the Countess Vera Rossakkof, the gentlewoman "thief" for whom Poirot nurses a flame in his heart.

A must read for all Christie fans.

laurel says

I expected more, like analysis of the character, information about the culture of the decades in which Poirot operated, or maybe including more about the history of police in Britain and comparisons between real cases and Poirot's cases. The author wrote the biography as if Poirot were real but still maintained that he was Agatha Christie's creation. I'd prefer her to have stuck with one rather than both. On the plus side, I liked her including information about Poirot's friends and colleagues, such as Ariadne Oliver and Superintendent Battle being in non-Poirot stories. I'm also glad she didn't include the solutions to cases since I hadn't read some of the cases.

Tacey says

To paraphrase The Godfather, "just when you think you're out; they pull you back from in." Every series writer should be so lucky to have something like this written! I want to get every single Poirot story and read in the order presented in Hart's book. And take notes!

Shinde says

Biography of Lil Grey Cells. So often we get synced with our favorites. It seems incredible that they don't exist in flesh & blood, but only in imagination and print.

Like Sherlock, Watson, Howard Roark, Scarlett O'Hara.

Ayn Rand once published an edited scene from Fountainhead with a disclaimer, 'This did NOT happen to Howard. It is an fictional event'

Hart's book is a lovingly chronicled account of Papa Poirot, complete from his first look to last look, his idiosyncrasies, his unabashed un-subtle declarations (I am the greatest) his heartbreaks (Russian Rossakoff), his style statements (dapper, dandy), his enemies, his friends (Hastings & Japp) and his dietary quirks (blackberry sirops).

There is inevitable comparison with Sherlock.

Yet, it doesn't give us the grit & grime of Poirot's churning brain. Ye dil maange more!

Evelyn Morgan says

An amazing book for fans of Hercule Poirot. It helps to be familiar with Agatha Christie's novels before reading this "memoir" She gives no secrets away as to the solutions or anything, but only someone already fascinated with M. Poirot would enjoy reading Ms. Hart's book.

Alberta Adji says

A genious biography about Poirot's life.

It's written almost as detailed as an encyclopedia. Not to mention that Miss Hart did a well job in giving Poirot's eccentric habit! How I wish I could meet him alive!

A must-have book for all Agatha Christie's fans!
