

# Agatha Christie



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11”A”

# Childhood and Family

Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller was born on 15 September 1890 at Torquay in the United Kingdom. *She had an elder sister named Margaret Frary and older brother Louis Montant.* The youngest of three siblings, she was educated at home by her father. Her mother was a great storyteller and did not want to teach her beloved younger daughter to read until she was eight years old. But the girl, out of boredom, independently learned to read at the age of five.



She spent much of her childhood apart from other children, although she devoted much time to her pets. In addition, she made up imaginary friends for herself, played with her animals, attended dance classes and began writing poetry. She grew up in a family environment full of stories—from the dramatic, suspenseful tales her mother told her at bedtime to her elder sister's frightening creations she recalled her childhood as “very happy”.





Both her parents were settlers from the America. In 1901, at the age of eleven, Agatha lost her father: he died, having suffered several heart attacks associated with the appearance of his financial difficulties. *After the death of her husband, her mother Clara was in despair and Agatha became her mother's closest friend and helper. Clara and Agatha continued to live together in their Torquay home, Madge had moved to Abney Hall in Cheadle, Cheshire, with her new husband, and Monty had joined the army and been sent to South Africa.*

Due to lack of money, the family began to think about selling a home in Asheville, *but soon there was a way out.* At the age of fifteen, Agate was granted a pension, from which she started taking piano and singing lessons. When she was 16, 1906, she moved to Paris for a time to study vocals and piano. *Only her painful shyness and stage fright prevented her from becoming*



# TEST TIME BIGGERS

- She was born in a ... family was the ... child in the family.
  - 1) poor - only
  - 2) wealthy - second
  - 3) wealthy - third
- He got educated at ... :
  - 1) school
  - 2) home
  - 3) she was uneducated
- At the young age she was very talented in ... :
  - 1) playing musical instruments and stage art
  - 2) writing short novels
  - 3) she was bad at everything

The first time Agatha married ~~at the age of 24~~ on Christmas Eve in 1914 was Colonel Archibald Christie, a pilot of the Royal Flight Corps, whom she met in 1912 when he was still a lieutenant. And soon after his marriage, on December 27, 1914, Archie returned to military service in France and during the war the spouses barely saw each other. During the First World War, Agatha worked as a nurse in a volunteer medical unit in the International Red Cross Hospital. *She liked this profession and she spoke of her as "... one of the most rewarding professions that anyone can follow"*. She also worked as a pharmacist in a pharmacy, which subsequently left an imprint on her work: 83 crimes in her works were committed by means of poisoning.



Christie wrote her first short story, *The House of Beauty* (an early version of her later-published story *The House of Dreams* while recovering in bed from illness. This was about 6,000 words on the topic of "madness and dreams", a subject of fascination for her. *Biographer Jane Morgan commented that, despite "infelicities of style", the story was nevertheless "compelling".* Other stories followed, most of them illustrating her interest in spiritualism and the paranormal. These included "The Call of Wings" and "The Little Lonely God". Magazines rejected all her early submissions, made under pseudonyms, although some were revised and published later, often with new titles.



On August 5, 1919, the couple had a daughter, Rosalind (the only daughter of Agatha Christie). This period was the beginning of the creative path of Agatha Christie

In 1920, her first novel, *The Mysterious Occasion in Stiles*, was published. There is an assumption that the reason for Kristi's appeal to the detective story was a dispute with her older sister Madzh *who had already proved herself as a writer*, *that she, too, could create something worthy of publication*. Only in the seventh publishing house, the manuscript was printed in an edition of 2,000 copies. An aspiring writer earned £ 25.





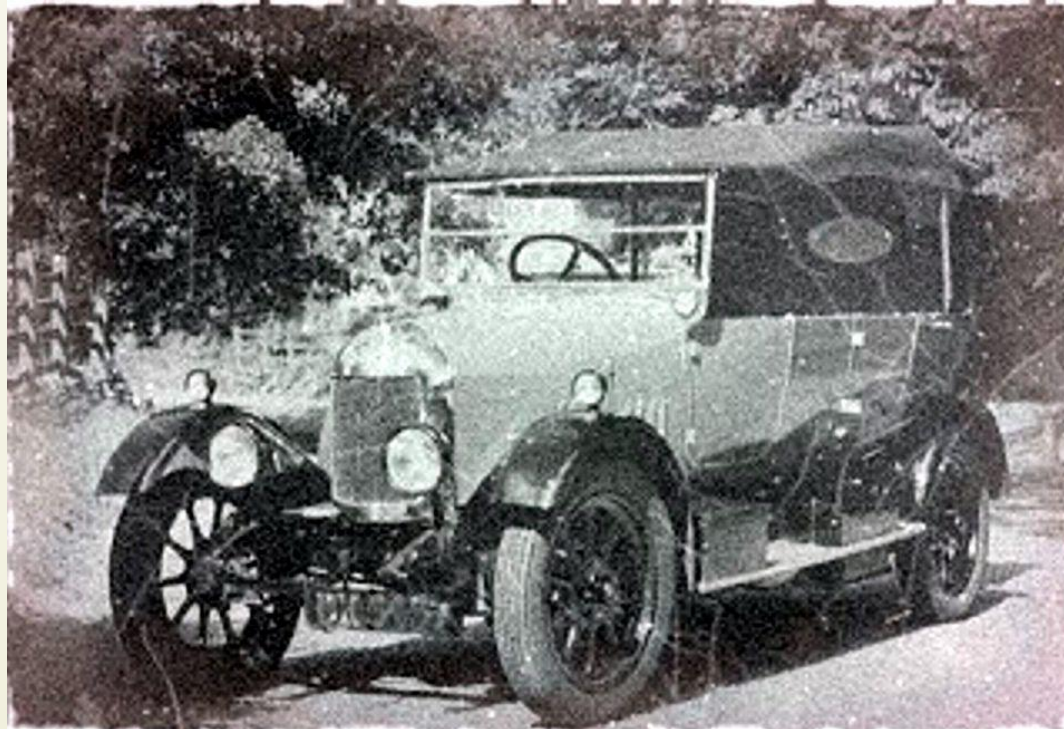


# ANOTHER SHORT TEST N\_WORD

- The most popular way of assassination in her novels is ... :
  - 1) Throat cutting
  - 2) Heart attack
  - 3) Poisoning
- The theme of her first short story is ... :
  - 1) Love and friendship
  - 2) mysterious murder
  - 3) madness and dreams
- In 1919 the Christie's had a ... :
  - 1) Biggest literature meeting in England
  - 2) a son named Richardo
  - 3) a daughter named Rosalind

# Strange Disappearance

- ❑ In late 1926, Archie asked Agatha for a divorce. On 3 December 1926, the Christies quarrelled, and Archie left their house, which they named Styles in Sunningdale.
- ❑ That same evening, around 9:45 pm, Christie disappeared from her home, leaving behind a letter for her secretary saying that she was going to Yorkshire. Her car, a Morris Cowley, was later found at Newlands Corner, perched above a chalk quarry, with an expired driving licence and clothes.



- Her disappearance caused an outcry from the public. The Home Secretary, William Joynson-Hicks, pressured police, and a newspaper offered a £100 reward. Over a thousand police officers, 15,000 volunteers, and several aeroplanes scoured the rural landscape. *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle even gave a spirit medium one of Christie's gloves to find the missing woman.* Christie's disappearance was featured on the front page of *The New York Times*. Despite the extensive manhunt, she was not found for 10 days. On 14 December 1926, she was found at the Swan Hydropathic Hotel (now the Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate, Yorkshire, registered as Mrs Teresa Neele (the surname of her husband's lover).



- Christie's autobiography makes no reference to her disappearance. Two doctors diagnosed her as suffering from amnesia (*see fugue state. The state, when the person suddenly have a strange urge to move to a new place, while forgetting all his past life.*
- Yet there is an another theory. She checked in at the hotel under the name of her husband's beloved, spent time playing the piano, spa treatments, visiting the library.
- In her novel Unfinished Portrait, published in 1934 under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott, Agatha Christie described events similar to her own disappearance.

## MRS. CHRISTIE FOUND AT HARROGATE

Dramatic Re-union With Husband  
in Famous Hydro.

**"HER MEMORY GONE"**

How Missing Novelist Spent Time While  
Police and Public Looked for Her

Mrs. Christie, the missing inventor of detective stories, was traced last night to the Hydro, Harrogate, by her husband, Colonel Christie.

In an interview after a dramatic meeting between the pair, Colonel Christie told the DAILY HERALD that his wife had suffered from the "most complete loss of memory." She did not even recognize him, he added.



Mrs. Christie

*"She does not  
know why she  
is here."*

*—Col. Christie*



Col. Christie

In 1930, traveling around Iraq, during excavations in Ur, she met her future husband, archaeologist Max Mallowen. He was younger than her fifteen years. *Were married on September 11, 1930, in the church of St. Cuthbert in Edinburgh.*

Agatha Christie said about her marriage that for an archaeologist a woman should be as old as possible, because then her value increases significantly. Since then, she periodically spent several months a year in Syria and Iraq in expeditions with her husband. *This period of her life was reflected in the autobiographical novel "Tell me how you live."* In this marriage, Agatha Christie lived for the rest of her life, until her death in 1976





Christie lived in Chelsea, first in Cresswell Place and later in Sheffield Terrace. Both properties are now marked by blue plaques. In 1934, she and Max Mallowan purchased Winterbrook House in Winterbrook, a hamlet adjoining the small market town of Wallingford, then within the bounds of Cholsey and in Berkshire. This was their main residence for the rest of their lives and the place where Christie did most of her writing. This house, too, bears a blue plaque.

# Death

- Dame Agatha Christie died on 12 January 1976 at age 85 from natural causes at her home Winterbrook House. She is buried in the nearby churchyard of St Mary's, Cholsey, having chosen the plot for their final resting place with her husband Sir Max some ten years before she died.





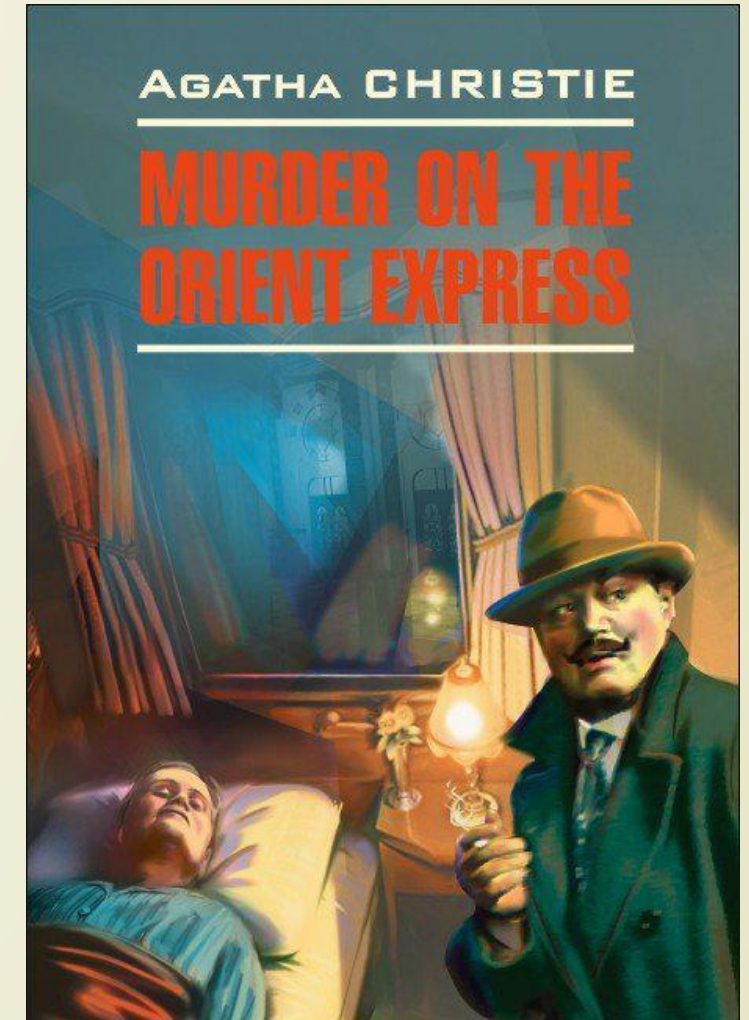
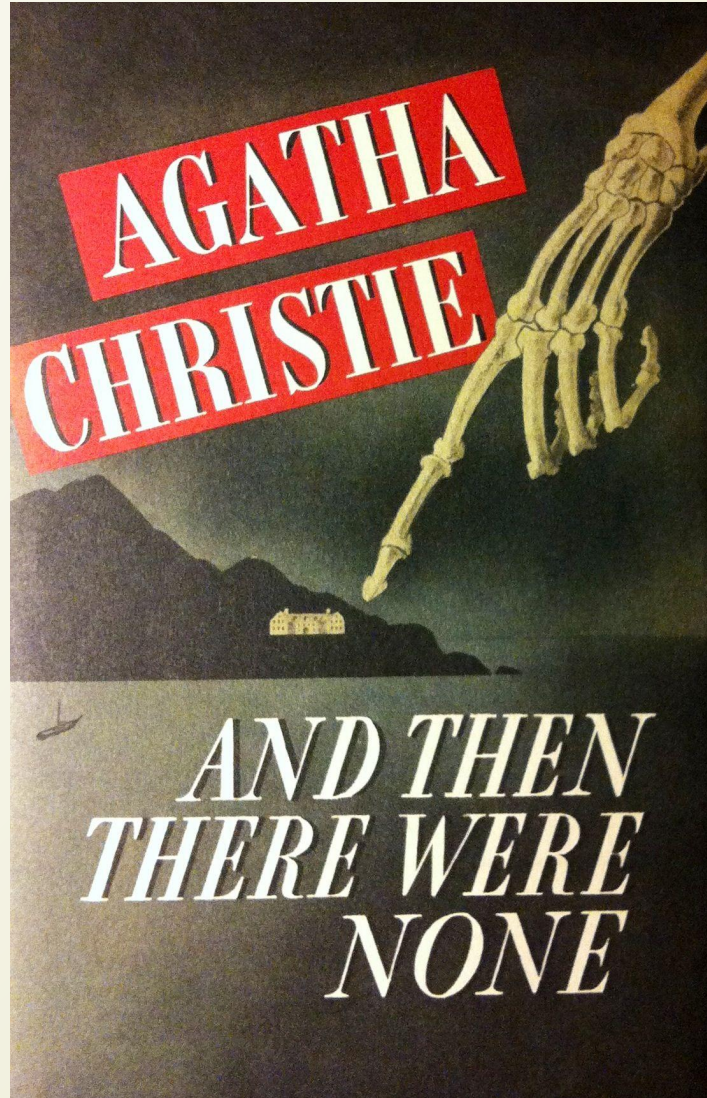
# TESTS IS SO FUCKING GOOD



- The cause of her disappearance :
  - 1) Mental disorder
  - 2) She was just tired of her husband
  - 3) She was kidnapped
- After her disappearance she was found :
  - 1) The next day
  - 2) About 2 weeks later
  - 3) She wasn't found at all
- Her second husband was a ... :
  - 1) Novelist
  - 2) Detective
  - 3) Archeologist

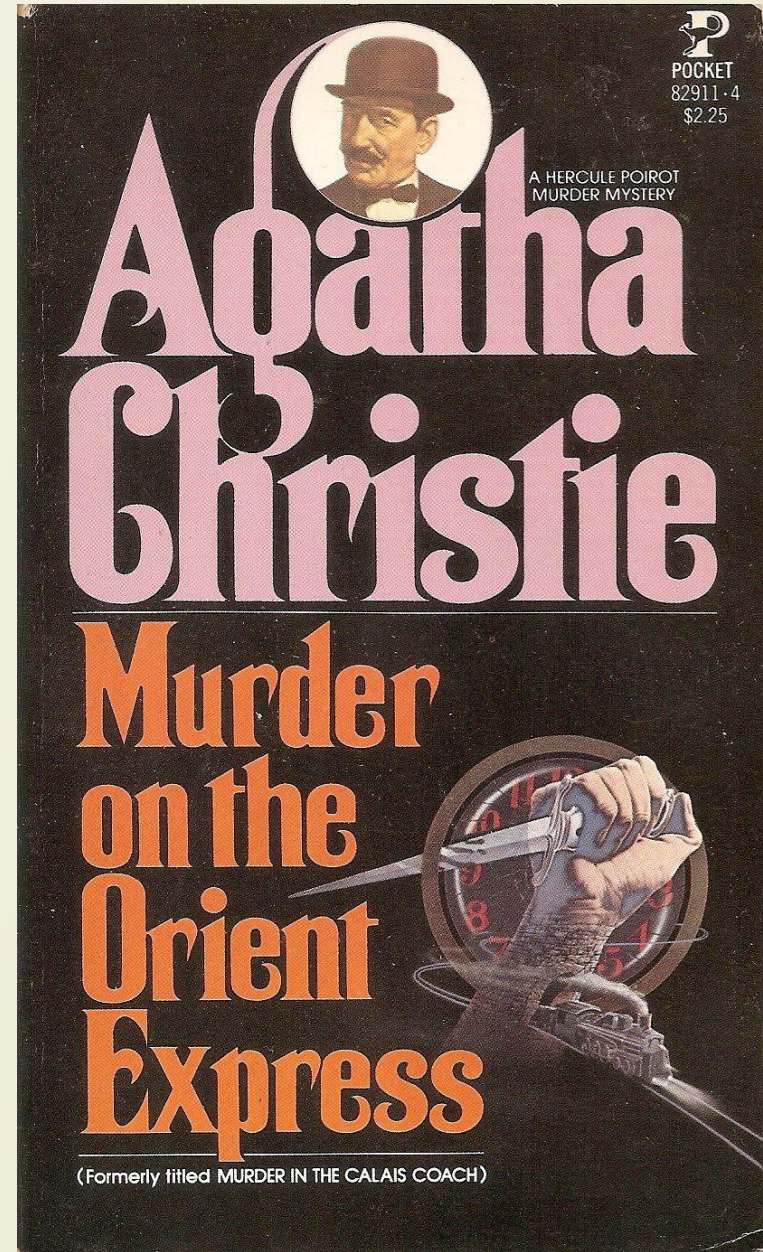
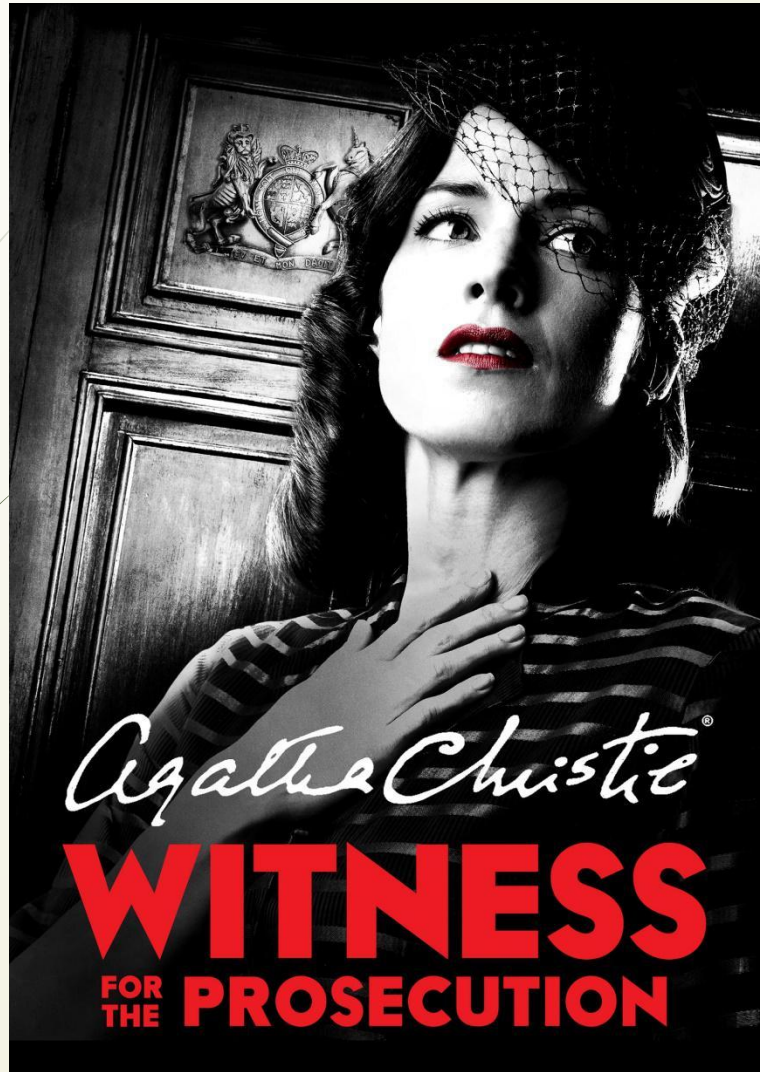


# Novels

- In total Agatha Christie wrote 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections. Christie's reputation as "The Queen of Crime" was built upon the large number of classic motifs that she introduced, or for which she provided the most famous example. Culprits in Christie's mysteries have included children, policemen, narrators, already deceased individuals, and sometimes comprise no known suspects (*And Then There Were None*) or all of the suspects (*Murder on the Orient Express*).



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- Christie built these tropes into what is now considered classic mystery structure: a murder is committed, there are multiple suspects who are all concealing secrets, and the detective gradually uncovers these secrets over the course of the story, discovering the most shocking twists towards the end.
  - Christie allows some culprits to escape earthly justice for a variety of reasons, such as the passage of time (retrospective cases), in which the most important characters have already died, or by active prescription. Such cases include **The Witness for the Prosecution, Murder on the Orient Express, The Man in the Brown Suit, Elephants Can Remember.**



**THE MAN IN  
THE BROWN SUIT**  
AGATHA CHRISTIE



**AGATHA  
CHRISTIE**

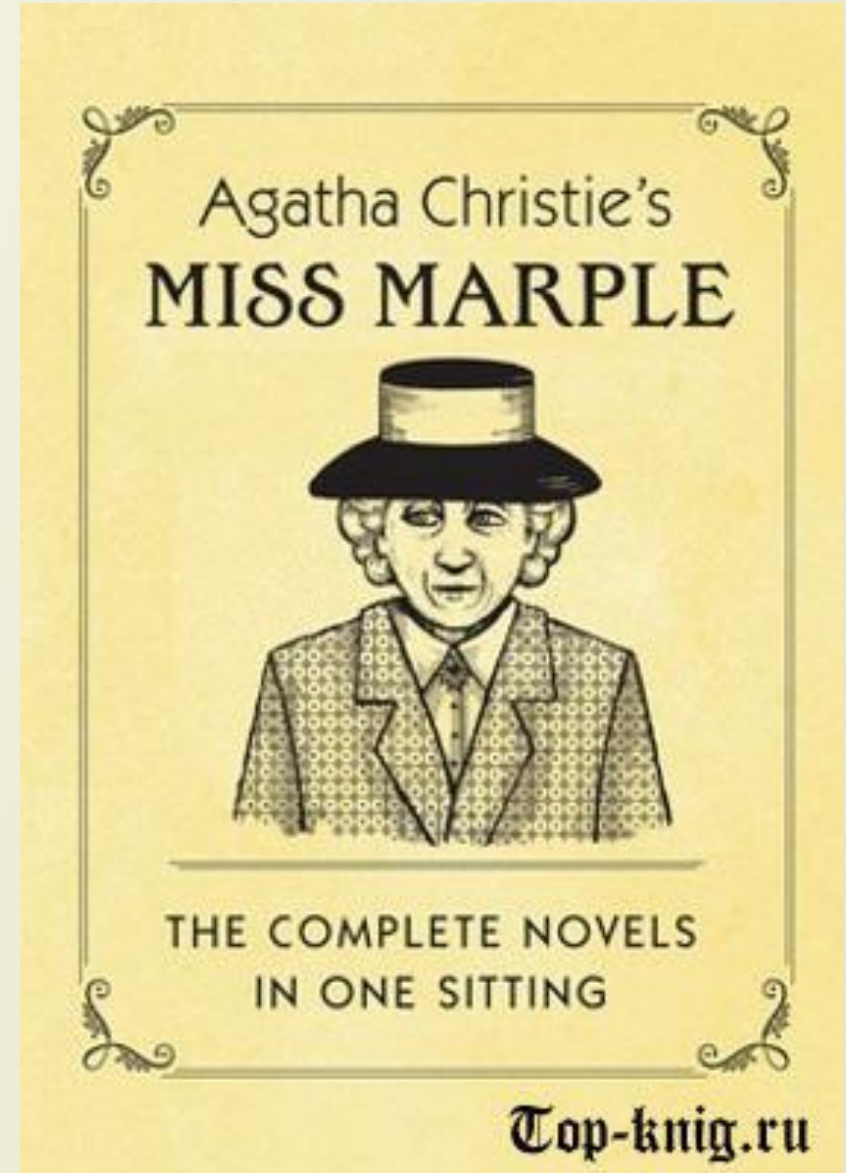
**Elephants Can  
Remember**



A Hercule Poirot story

# Hercule Poirot

- In 1920, Christie published his first detective novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, which had been rejected by British publishers five times before. Soon she gets a whole series of works in which the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot works: 33 novels, 1 play and 54 stories.
- Continuing the tradition of the English masters of a detective genre, Agatha Christie created a couple of heroes: intellectual Hercule Poirot and comedic, diligent, but not very clever Captain Hastings. If Poirot and Hastings were largely copied from Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, then old maid Miss Marple is a collective way. Miss Marple was Agathe's favourite character, the ideal of English lady.



# Agatha Christie in cinematography



