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After The Funeral



Synopsis

A CD edition of this classic Christie read by Hugh Fraser, who plays Captain Hastings in the popular TV series. Beautiful packaging and cover designs that as an entire collection stand out not only as treasured audiobooks but as stunning, must have anthologies of Christie's passion with story telling. When Cora is savagely murdered with a hatchet, the extraordinary remark she made the previous day at her brother Richard's funeral suddenly takes on a chilling significance. At the reading of Richard's will, Cora was clearly heard to say: 'It's been hushed up very nicely, hasn't it... But he was murdered, wasn't he?' In desperation, the family solicitor turns to Hercule Poirot to unravel the mystery.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Keeps us guessing - and guessing wrongly - to the very last page" Liverpool Post

When Cora Lansquenet is savagely murdered with a hatchet, the extraordinary remark she made the previous day at her brother Richard's funeral suddenly takes on a chilling significance. At the reading of Richard's will, Cora was clearly heard to say, "It's been hushed up very nicely, hasn't it... But he was murdered, wasn't he?" In desperation, the family solicitor turns to Hercule Poirot to unravel the mystery. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is one of Agatha Christie's larger and more complex efforts. The array of suspects includes at

least eight or ten characters. The murders are linked to a large inheritance. Many of Christie's suspects are very disgusting or insipid. These include the hypochondriac Timothy with his continual whining about his health; George who pretends to be an investor, but is really just a compulsive gambler; and Michael, who pretends to be a good husband, but is really a serial philanderer. Seldom in Christie do we encounter so many unpleasant characters, or such a tangled web of clues and suspicions. We suspect that many of the heirs will go through their large inheritance very rapidly. Michael and Rosamond will finance very bad plays, pursuing their egotistical dream of becoming theatrical greats. George is already in deep debt to casinos, and will fritter away the rest of his inheritance at the dice table. Hercule Poirot explains that in this case physical evidence is not to be found, so he must approach the mystery by analysis of those characters who had opportunity and motive. The characters come to life through dialog -- pages and pages of it. The novel involves a series of set scenes with all the suspects given free rein to ramble on and on. Poirot says that, given enough aimless conversation, the killer will unwittingly reveal himself. So it proves in this case. Ms. Christie is a master of settings. We have the manor house, which figures several times. There's a lawyer's office where several scenes take place, a few posh London apartments, and a rustic little cottage in a small village. The novel was great fun. Agatha again contrasts the dignified and "classy" world of the old money and aristocracy against the grifters and opportunists that appear to be taking over English society. A case of the fine old gentry being displaced by very shallow, venal descendents. Such is the tension in a number of her novels. The old butler is a kind of choral character. He has seen the old and the new, the best and the worst -- the old world in collision with the new. That old butler is a fine "foil" expressing Agatha's own point of view. I liked it. Buy it. Read it.

I'm a confirmed Miss Marple fan myself, but that doesn't mean I can't enjoy watching Hercule Poirot pull a rabbit out of a hat. Although no spring chicken, he does a fine job here, especially considering that he isn't even called into the case until Chapter 7. The back story is a bit complicated, involving the large family of a prosperous Victorian manufacturer. The Man-Who-Made-The-Money is long since gone and so are most of his children. Then the remaining ones start dying off - some suspiciously, some violently. Looks like one of the younger generation may be clearing the deck for a large inheritance. But which one? The stuffy old family lawyer tries some detective work on his own, with predictable results. Finally (in Chapter 7) he calls in the heavy artillery - his old friend the semi-retired M. Poirot. Poirot in turn calls on HIS semi-retired buddy - the wonderful Mr. Goby. Mr. Goby's business is to collect information and there's not much he can't find out. He has a great deal

to say about the younger generation and the advantages and disadvantages of Big Brother governments. He speaks exclusively to various pieces of furniture and is one of my favorite Christie characters. The setting is post-WWII England and the older folks are grumbling about high taxes and labor unions and the lack of proper servants. The younger folks are choosing mates and pursuing careers and trying to get what they can out of their older relatives, while avoiding them like the plague. I especially enjoyed the two female cousins - two young women who seem as unlike as night and day and yet who have very similar attitudes toward their men. Poirot carefully, tirelessly shifts through the alibis and the motives and listens to all the people involved because he knows that eventually we ALL reveal ourselves in our conversation. In the end, it boils down to one thing. If no one is watching you, you can get away with murder.

Follows your typical Christie tropes. One guy plays detective and does all the grunt work and Poirot, who barely appears, shows up to solve the case before making a quick exit. The plot twist was ok but the plot itself was so painfully slow. So much weak filler that should have been cut and turned this into a boring read. I wouldn't recommend this at all and I would easily put this among one of the worst Poirot novels I've read.

All you have come to expect from Dame Agatha. Realistic characters, red herrings and the almost obligatory twist ending. An enjoyable read.

Wonderful story, an exciting plot, Agatha Christie was the best mystery writer in the whole wide world.

I had probably read "After the Funeral" before, but I often use whodunits as bedtime escape fiction reading and forget the details not long after finishing them. So I was happy to pay a few bucks to read this one on my Kindle. I agree with the reviewers who think this is neither the best nor the worst of the Poirot novels. I enjoyed the way the British class system played into the plot, and appreciated Christie's way with the different characters in the extended family at the heart of the book. My Kindle edition of "After the Funeral" came with extra content. I didn't find this mentioned on the product description page, so it was a pleasant surprise. The first bonus item - an "E-book extra" is an annotated list of all of Christie's Poirot novels and stories. I found it very helpful. The other extra was an essay by Charles Osborne which was adapted, somewhat awkwardly I thought, from his book *The Life and Crimes of Agatha Christie: A Biographical Companion to the Works of*

Agatha Christie. The book displays nicely on the Kindle; I no longer take this for granted after looking at a poorly formatted nonfiction book that displayed much more white space than words and being grateful I'd only acquired the sample and hadn't paid for the thing.

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