

AN ODE TO: AGATHA CHRISTIE

By Charlotte Liebelt

As one of the world's most famous crime writers – often dubbed the 'Queen of Crime' – Agatha Christie will be a name well known to many students in our department. Personally, I first became familiar with her work through one of the many TV versions of the Miss Marple series. Miss Marple is one of her most famous creations; an elderly spinster who hardly gets out of her village but who has an incredibly sharp mind and an almost infinite knowledge of human nature. After the first episode I was hooked and now I have read almost every novel she has written.



David Suchet as Hercule Poirot

The reason for my love of her stories is simple: they are exciting, but not frightening. Terrible murders take place, but the stories are not about the gruesomeness and bloodiness of it all. Rather, it is about the psychology of all of the characters involved – not just the murderer. In this sense, it is a classic 'whodunit': the type of stories the British seem to have made their own.

Agatha Christie died in 1976, and her stories are still as popular as ever. This is shown by the huge number of her books that are still sold all around the world, but also by the fact that her stories continue to be filmed. Besides Miss Marple, her most famous character is undoubtedly the Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot. His famous 'little grey cells' have been able to solve the most baffling crimes, and his sometimes annoying mannerisms have driven even his creator to despair at times. His popularity, however, has not diminished. Many famous actors have played Hercule Poirot in TV adaptations of the novels (Peter Ustinov and Albert Finney, amongst others) but it is David Suchet who is generally regarded as the right man for the job. At the moment, he has been portraying the Belgian sleuth for 22(!) years. It is, however, all about to end: Agatha Christie's final novel featuring Poirot, 'Curtain', will be filmed along with four other remaining Poirot stories. 'Curtain' was published, at the express wishes of the author, after her death, and it is one of the most intriguing stories I have ever read. 'Curtain', and the other four stories, will go in production this year. I, for one, cannot wait to see the result.

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♥Wishing loads of love to all anglophiles!♥