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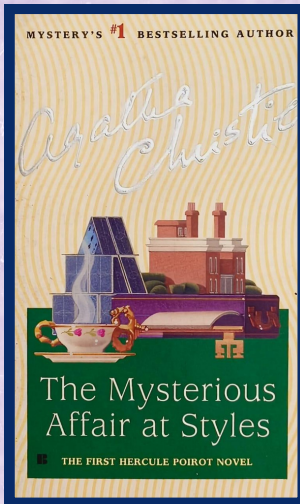
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NEWS AND ARTICLES

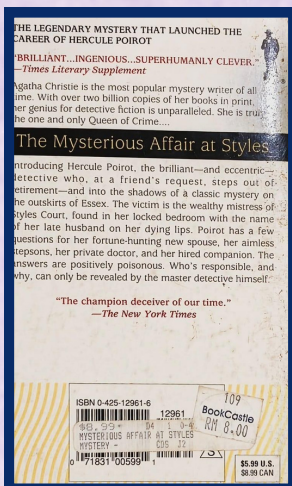
Book Review: The Mysterious Affair At Styles

Author: Bebe Norlita Mohamed



The Mysterious Affair at Styles by Agatha Christie is a compelling and accomplished debut that not only introduces one of the most iconic detectives in literary history, Hercule Poirot, but also establishes many of the conventions that would come to define the Golden Age of detective fiction. Set against the backdrop of World War I, we find ourselves in the peaceful English countryside at the English country estate known as Styles Court, where a sudden and suspicious death throws the place into chaos with the murder of its wealthy owner, Emily Inglethorp. Through the character of Captain Arthur Hastings, we are led on a journey into a well-crafted mystery that combines observation and investigation in a masterly way.

The greatest strength of The Mysterious Affair at Styles is undoubtedly its well-crafted plot, in which Christie skilfully crafts motives that are equally believable for all the suspects, none of whom are implausible in turn. Hercule Poirot is portrayed as a unique and interesting detective character, defined by his precision, confidence, and trust in logic and order, and his relationships with Hastings also add to the theme of how intuition and appearance can be deceptive. While the characters around Poirot may not be particularly well-rounded emotionally, they are well-written and function well within the strict framework of a mystery story. The writing style of Agatha Christie is simple, minimalistic, and functional, giving room for the intricacy of the plot to take center stage without any frills or excesses, which has helped to make this novel readable even today. While some of the social norms and expectations represented are certainly products of the time period in which this novel was written, they are not detrimental to the experience and add context to it.



Overall, The Mysterious Affair at Styles can be seen as a good and influential start to Agatha Christie's extensive writing career, and it is a well-made and intellectually engaging work that continues to hold value for a reader looking for a classic example of a detective story and an interesting and innovative detective character. Finally, The Mysterious Affair at Styles quietly demonstrates, in the final reveal, that while the residents of Styles can manage to overcomplicate absolutely everything, Hercule Poirot requires only his little grey cells, and possibly some flair, for the entire mystery to appear ridiculously simple.

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