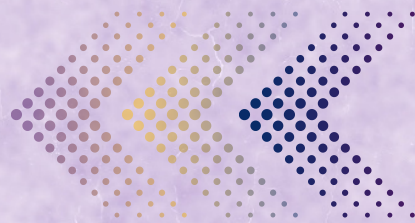




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5th Issue | VOLUME 1 : JULY 2026

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BULLETIN



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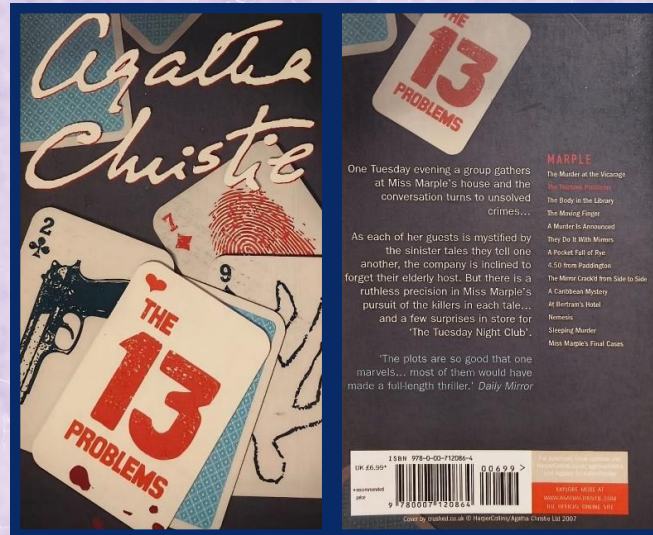
eISSN : 2976-257X

Published Date : 7 July 2026

NEWS AND ARTICLES

BOOK REVIEW: THE THIRTEEN PROBLEMS

Author: Bebe Norlita Mohamed



Agatha Christie's *The Thirteen Problems* (also published as *The Tuesday Club Murders*) is an engaging collection of detective stories that highlights the author's mastery of mystery fiction while introducing readers to the perceptive and quietly brilliant Miss Jane Marple, one of Christie's most memorable detectives.

Rather than being a traditional novel-length mystery, this book of detective fiction is more of a collection of interconnected short stories, each of which features a meeting of the Tuesday Night Club, a group of friends who meet to discuss various crimes that remain unsolved. At each meeting, one of their number relates a mystery, and Miss Marple, who is often underestimated due to her age and seemingly innocent demeanor, provides solutions based upon her observations of human nature and her intimate knowledge of village life.

A notable strength of Agatha Christie's *The Thirteen Problems* is its ability to reveal how ordinary everyday situations can illuminate complex criminal motives. Through Miss Marple's keen observations, the stories reinforce the idea that human nature remains remarkably consistent regardless of setting or circumstance. While the short-story format limits extensive character development, it allows Christie to explore a wide range of crimes, motives, and social contexts, showcasing her talent for variation and precision. Miss Marple is portrayed as an interesting contrast to the detectives like Hercule Poirot, who used more formal investigation skills compared to the more intuitive skills of Miss Marple, who relied on her understanding of the nature of human weaknesses.

The collection of stories is portrayed as having a calm tone, which often uses a combination of irony and suspense. The writing of Christie is clear and simple, which helps to keep the attention focused on the puzzle. The social norms used in the stories are those of the period but also help to create a contrast between the respectable and the criminal. This is something that Christie manages to do subtly throughout the stories.

The Thirteen Problems is an important addition to the works of Agatha Christie, offering a refined approach to the short story mystery genre. The collection remains intellectually satisfying and enduringly relevant, appealing to readers who appreciate mysteries that value observation, logic, and insight into human behavior over sensationalism. After finishing this book, I'm fairly certain Miss Marple could solve international crime rings between sips of tea and mild gossip about the neighbours.

Published by:

Corporate Communication Unit, UiTM Mukah Campus

eISSN : 2976-257X

Published Date : 7 July 2026



Telephone/Fax

084-876100/084-876300



Email Address

korporat_swk@uitm.edu.my



Website

<https://sarawak.uitm.edu.my/>



Address

**Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)
Cawangan Sarawak Kampus Mukah,
KM 7.5 Jalan Oya,
96400 Mukah, Sarawak.**

