

Chapter 1 : NPR Choice page

*Curtain (Hercule Poirot Mysteries) [Agatha Christie] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Hercule Poirot returns to the scene of his first great case to solve another, which could be his last if he does not watch his step.*

Edit After a year apart Hercule Poirot, now crippled with arthritis, is reunited with his old companion Captain Hastings, who has since become a widower. When they receive a letter from Styles Court, the place where they solved their first murder together, it seems like fate and they readily accept. But Poirot is aware that he alone must work quickly before the murderer strikes again, even if it means putting his life on the line Plot summary Edit The murderer, identified by Poirot simply by the letter X, has been completely unsuspected of involvement in five previous murders, in all of which there was a clear suspect. Four of these suspects have subsequently died one of them hanged , but in the case of Freda Clay, who gave her aunt an overdose of morphine, there was considered to be too little evidence to prosecute. He merely makes it clear that X is in the house, which has been turned into a private hotel by the new owners: Colonel and Mrs Luttrell. Hastings makes certain discoveries in the next few days. Elizabeth Cole, another guest at the hotel, reveals to him that she is in fact the sister of Margaret Litchfield, who had confessed to the murder of their father in one of the five cases. Margaret had died in Broadmoor Asylum and Elizabeth feels stigmatised by the case. Later that day Hastings and several other people overhear an argument between Colonel Luttrell and his wife. Shortly afterwards, he wounds her with a rook rifle, apparently mistaking her for a rabbit. Hastings reflects that this is precisely the sort of accident with which X is associated, but Mrs Luttrell rapidly recovers. Hastings is concerned by the attentions paid to his daughter Judith by Major Allerton, whom he discovers is married but estranged from his Catholic wife. While he and Elizabeth are out with Stephen Norton, another guest and a birdwatcher, Norton sees something through his binoculars that seems to upset him. He falls asleep while waiting to poison Allerton, and feels differently about things when he awakes the next day. She has been poisoned with physostigmine sulphate, an extract from the Calabar bean that her husband has been researching. Norton, still evidently upset about what he has seen through the binoculars, asks Hastings for his advice, which is to confide in Poirot. Poirot arranges a meeting between them and says that Norton must not speak to anyone further of what he has seen. That night, Hastings is awakened by a noise and sees Norton “ with his dressing-gown, untidy grey hair and characteristic limp ” go into his bedroom. The next morning, however, Norton is found dead in his locked room with a bullet-hole perfectly in the centre of his forehead, the key in his dressing-gown pocket and a pistol remembered by a housemaid as belonging to him nearby. Apparently, X has struck again. Poirot takes Hastings over the evidence, pointing out that his belief that he saw Norton that night relies on loose evidence: Nevertheless, it seems that there is no one in the house who could have impersonated Norton, who was a short man. Hastings despairs that the mystery will ever be solved when Poirot himself dies that night, apparently of natural causes. He nevertheless leaves Hastings three conscious clues: John Greer Ervine that is now “ unluckily for readers of Curtain ” largely forgotten and a note telling Hastings to speak to his permanent valet, Georges. In the weeks that follow the death of Poirot, Hastings is staggered to discover that Judith has all along been in love with Dr Franklin, and is now marrying him and going with him to do research in Africa. Was Judith the murderer? Perhaps the murderer was Curtiss all along? Again and again Norton had demonstrated this ability, first by apparently clumsy remarks that goaded Colonel Luttrell to take a homicidal shot at his wife, and then by his careful manipulation of Hastings to resolve upon the murder of Major Allerton. Deprived of his prey twice, Norton turned to Mrs Franklin, who was soon persuaded to attempt the murder of her husband, after which she could be reunited with the wealthy and attractive Boyd Carrington. By an ironic twist of Fate, however, Hastings himself had intervened in this murder; by turning a revolving bookcase table while seeking out a book in order to solve a crossword clue coincidentally Othello again he had swapped the cups of coffee so that the one with poison in it was actually drunk by Mrs Franklin herself. Poirot knew all this but could not prove it. The only solution was for Poirot to murder Norton himself. He then gave him hot chocolate. Norton, arrogantly self-assured in the face of both the

accusation and the threat, insisted on swapping cups, but both contained the same sleeping pills that had previously been used by Poirot to drug Hastings; guessing that Norton would request the swap, Poirot had drugged both cups, knowing that his time taking the pills would give him a higher tolerance for a dose that would put Norton out. Poirot was the only short suspect at the house. His last wish is implicitly that Hastings will marry Elizabeth Cole:

Chapter 2 : Hercule Poirot Series by Agatha Christie

Curtain: Poirot's Last Case is a work of detective fiction by British writer Agatha Christie, first published in the UK by the Collins Crime Club in September and in the US by Dodd, Mead and Company later in the same year, selling for \$

In An Autobiography, she admitted that she already imagined him to be an old man in At the time, however, she had no idea she would write works featuring him for decades to come. We left the main road and wound into the leafy fastnesses of the hills, till we reached a little hamlet and an isolated white villa high on the hillside. An alternative tradition holds that Poirot was born in the village of Ellezelles province of Hainaut, Belgium. Christie wrote that Poirot is a Catholic by birth, [29] but not much is described about his later religious convictions, except sporadic references to his "going to church". Apart from French and English, Poirot is also fluent in German. I have dealt with policemen all my life and I know. He could pass as a detective to an outsider but not to a man who was a policeman himself. As Poirot was often misleading about his past to gain information, the truthfulness of that statement is unknown. It was in he and I worked together "the Abercrombie forgery case" you remember he was run down in Brussels. Ah, those were the days Moosier. Then, do you remember "Baron" Altara? There was a pretty rogue for you! He eluded the clutches of half the police in Europe. But we nailed him in Antwerp thanks to Mr. Poirot admits that he has failed to solve a crime "innumerable" times: I have been called in too late. Very often another, working towards the same goal, has arrived there first. Twice I have been struck down with illness just as I was on the point of success. Nevertheless, he regards the case in "The Chocolate Box", [34] as his only actual failure of detection. Again, Poirot is not reliable as a narrator of his personal history and there is no evidence that Christie sketched it out in any depth. During his police career Poirot shot a man who was firing from a roof into the public below. Poirot also became a uniformed director, working on trains. So much had he become the rage that every rich woman who had mislaid a bracelet or lost a pet kitten rushed to secure the services of the great Hercule Poirot. On 16 July he again met his lifelong friend, Captain Arthur Hastings, and solved the first of his cases to be published, The Mysterious Affair at Styles. It is clear that Hastings and Poirot are already friends when they meet in Chapter 2 of the novel, as Hastings tells Cynthia that he has not seen him for "some years". Particulars such as the date of for the case and that Hastings had met Poirot in Belgium, are given in *Curtain*: After that case, Poirot apparently came to the attention of the British secret service and undertook cases for the British government, including foiling the attempted abduction of the Prime Minister. He moved into what became both his home and work address, Flat at 56B Whitehaven Mansions. Murders , Chapter 1. According to Hastings, it was chosen by Poirot "entirely on account of its strict geometrical appearance and proportion" and described as the "newest type of service flat". The Florin Court building was actually built in , decades after Poirot fictionally moved in. His first case in this period was "The Affair at the Victory Ball", which allowed Poirot to enter high society and begin his career as a private detective. Between the world wars, Poirot travelled all over Europe, Africa, Asia, and half of South America investigating crimes and solving murders. Most of his cases occurred during this time and he was at the height of his powers at this point in his life. However he did not travel to North America, the West Indies, the Caribbean or Oceania, probably to avoid sea sickness. It is this villainous sea that troubles me! The mal de mer "it is horrible suffering! She claims to have been a member of the Russian aristocracy before the Russian Rebellion and suffered greatly as a result, but how much of that story is true is an open question. Even Poirot acknowledges that Rossakoff offered wildly varying accounts of her early life. Poirot later became smitten with the woman and allowed her to escape justice. Poirot had never been able to rid himself of the fatal fascination that the Countess held for him. In The Nemean Lion, Poirot sided with the criminal, Miss Amy Carnaby, allowing her to evade prosecution by blackmailing his client Sir Joseph Hoggins, who, Poirot discovered, had plans to commit murder. Poirot even sent Miss Carnaby two hundred pounds as a final payoff prior to the conclusion of her dog kidnapping campaign. In The Augean Stables, he helped the government to cover up vast corruption. In Murder on the Orient Express, Poirot allowed the murderers to go free after discovering that twelve different people participated in the murder. The victim had been responsible for a disgusting crime which had led to the

deaths of no fewer than five people. There was no question of his guilt, but he had been acquitted in America in a miscarriage of justice. Considering it poetic justice that twelve jurors had acquitted him and twelve people had stabbed him, Poirot produced an alternative sequence of events to explain the death. After his cases in the Middle East, Poirot returned to Britain. Apart from some of the so-called "Labours of Hercules" see next section he very rarely went abroad during his later career. He moved into Styles Court towards the end of his life. While Poirot was usually paid handsomely by clients, he was also known to take on cases that piqued his curiosity, although they did not pay well. It has been said that the twelve cases related in *The Labours of Hercules* must refer to a different retirement, but the fact that Poirot specifically says that he intends to grow marrows indicates that these stories also take place before *Roger Ackroyd*, and presumably Poirot closed his agency once he had completed them. If the Labours precede the events in *Roger Ackroyd*, then the Ackroyd case must have taken place around twenty years later than it was published, and so must any of the cases that refer to it. One alternative would be that having failed to grow marrows once, Poirot is determined to have another go, but this is specifically denied by Poirot himself. Another alternative would be to suggest that the Preface to the Labours takes place at one date but that the labours are completed over a matter of twenty years. None of the explanations is especially attractive. In terms of a rudimentary chronology, Poirot speaks of retiring to grow marrows in Chapter 18 of *The Big Four* [43] which places that novel out of published order before *Roger Ackroyd*. He is certainly retired at the time of *Three Act Tragedy* but he does not enjoy his retirement and repeatedly takes cases thereafter when his curiosity is engaged. *I am Hercule Poirot*. The time when cases had drawn him from one end of England to the other was past. Beginning with *Three Act Tragedy*, Christie had perfected during the inter-war years a subgenre of Poirot novel in which the detective himself spent much of the first third of the novel on the periphery of events. In novels such as *Taken at the Flood*, *After the Funeral*, and *Hickory Dickory Dock*, he is even less in evidence, frequently passing the duties of main interviewing detective to a subsidiary character. *Crooked House* and *Ordeal by Innocence*, which could easily have been Poirot novels, represent a logical endpoint of the general diminution of his presence in such works. He assumes a genuinely inactive lifestyle during which he concerns himself with studying famous unsolved cases of the past and reading detective novels. He even writes a book about mystery fiction in which he deals sternly with Edgar Allan Poe and Wilkie Collins. In *Hickory Dickory Dock*, he investigates the strange goings on in a student hostel, while in *Third Girl* he is forced into contact with the smart set of Chelsea youths. In the growing drug and pop culture of the sixties, he proves himself once again, but has become heavily reliant on other investigators especially the private investigator, Mr. Goby who provide him with the clues that he can no longer gather for himself. *Nobody told me you were so old*. *Death* [edit] On the ITV television series, Poirot died in October [50] from complications of a heart condition at the end of *Curtain*: In both the novel and the television adaptation, he had moved his amyl nitrite pills out of his own reach, possibly because of guilt. He thereby became the murderer in *Curtain*, although it was for the benefit of others. Poirot himself noted that he wanted to kill his victim shortly before his own death so that he could avoid succumbing to the arrogance of the murderer, concerned that he might come to view himself as entitled to kill those whom he deemed necessary to eliminate. The "murderer" that he was hunting had never actually killed anyone, but he had manipulated others to kill for him, subtly and psychologically manipulating the moments where others desire to commit murder so that they carry out the crime when they might otherwise dismiss their thoughts as nothing more than a momentary passion. Poirot thus was forced to kill the man himself, as otherwise he would have continued his actions and never been officially convicted, as he did not legally do anything wrong. It is revealed at the end of *Curtain* that he fakes his need for a wheelchair to fool people into believing that he is suffering from arthritis, to give the impression that he is more infirm than he is. His last recorded words are "Cher ami! The TV adaptation adds that as Poirot is dying alone, he whispers out his final prayer to God in these words: Hastings reasoned, "Here was the spot where he had lived when he first came to this country. He was to lie here at the last.

Chapter 3 : Curtain (Hercule Poirot, book 39) by Agatha Christie

Mysteries with the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. These can mostly be read as stand-alone in any order, but based on internal chronology The Mysterious Affair at Styles is the first Poirot story and Curtain was written to be the final Poirot story and should be read last.

Plot summary[edit] A specific person is unsuspected by police or family of the victims of involvement in five previous murders, in all of which there was a clear suspect. Four of these suspects have since died one of them hanged ; in the case of Freda Clay, who gave her aunt an overdose of morphine , there was too little evidence to prosecute. Poirot calls the recently widowed Hastings to join him in solving this case. Poirot alone sees the pattern of involvement. Poirot, using a wheelchair due to arthritis , and attended by his new valet Curtiss, will not share the name of the previously unsuspected person, using X instead. X is among the guests at Styles Court with them. The old house is a guest hotel under new owners, Colonel and Mrs Luttrell. The guests know each other, with this gathering initiated when Sir William Boyd-Carrington invites the Franklins to join him for a summer holiday stay. The five prior murders took place in the area, among people known to this group. Elizabeth Cole tells Hastings that she is a sister of Margaret Litchfield, who confessed to the murder of their father in one of the five cases. Margaret has died in Broadmoor Asylum and Elizabeth is stigmatised by the trauma. Three incidents occur in the next few days, showing the imprint of X. First, Hastings and others overhear an argument between the Luttrells. Shortly afterwards, Luttrell wounds his wife with a rook rifle , saying he mistook her for a rabbit. Mrs Luttrell recovers, and the incident has a good effect on their marriage. Next, Hastings is concerned that his daughter Judith spends time with Major Allerton, a married man. While Hastings and Elizabeth are out with birdwatcher Stephen Norton, Norton sees something through his binoculars that disturbs him. Hastings assumes it has to do with Allerton. He falls asleep while waiting to poison Allerton, relieved he took no action when he awakes the next day. She was poisoned with physostigmine sulphate , an extract from the Calabar bean that her husband researches. Norton is still concerned over what he saw days earlier when out with Hastings and Cole. Hastings advises Norton to confide in Poirot. That night, Hastings is awakened by a noise and sees Norton entering his bedroom. The next morning, Norton is found dead in his locked room with a bullet-hole in the centre of his forehead, the key in his dressing-gown pocket and a pistol nearby. When Hastings tells Poirot that he saw Norton return to his room the night before, Poirot says it is flimsy evidence, not having seen the face: Yet, there is no man in the house who could impersonate Norton, who was not tall. Poirot dies of a heart attack within hours. He leaves Hastings three clues: John Greer Ervine , and a note to speak to his longtime valet, Georges. She will marry him, and leave to do research in Africa. Ironically, Hastings had unwittingly intervened in Mrs. Poirot could not prove this. He sensed that Norton, who had been deliberately vague about whom he had seen through the binoculars, would hint that he had seen Franklin and Judith, to implicate them in the murder of Mrs Franklin, not inadvertent suicide as it was. Given his very weak heart, Poirot conceives that he must end the string of murders by killing Norton. Poirot invites Norton for hot chocolate: Norton, arrogant and self-assured, insists on swapping cups: Poirot moves the sleeping Norton back to his room using the wheelchair: Poirot could walk, one reason he needed a new valet who was unaware of that for this last case. Poirot then writes his story, and ceases to take his amyl nitrite heart medicine. He cannot say it was right to commit murder, but on balance he was sure he prevented yet more instigated by Norton. His last wish for Hastings is typical for Poirot, the matchmaker: He repeated the tale of the book being written some thirty years before and then stated that, "through it, Dame Agatha, whose recent work has shown a decline, is seen once more at the peak of her ingenuity. The seemingly artless, simplistic Christie prose is mined with deceptions. Inside the old, absurd conventions of the Country House mystery she reworks the least likely person trick with a freshness rivalling the originality she displayed nearly 50 years ago in The Murder of Roger Ackroyd. For the egotistic Poirot, hero of some 40 books it is a dazzlingly theatrical finish. He said, "No crime story of has given me more undiluted pleasure. As a critic, I welcome it, as a reminder that sheer ingenuity can still amaze. In fact, for a long-cherished idea, and as an exit for Poirot, this is oddly perfunctory in execution. Hastings became

involved in the first Styles investigation in , at which time he was thirty years old. Poirot mentions that once in Egypt he attempted to warn a murderer before the person committed the crime. That case is the one retold in *Death on the Nile*. He mentions that there was another case in which he had done the same thing: Keeping the motif, Hastings and others work on a crossword puzzle with a clue whose answer is Iago , one of the main characters of the play. It was the last of her books to be published during her lifetime. Details are only very occasionally anachronistic such as the mentions of hanging , which had been abolished in Great Britain in 1797. Christie could not know how long she would live nor how popular Poirot would remain. The fifth paragraph in *Curtain* "Wounded in the war that for me would always be the war" the war that was wiped out now by a second and more desperate war" says Hastings marks the passing of time for Hastings, and the long friendship of the two men, as well as making a link to the first Poirot novel. Though publication was in 1975, and the novel was written over 30 years earlier, it remains to set the time period of the story, beyond summer time. The bit of arithmetic to show the story is set post-war starts from the marriage of Arthur Hastings and Dulcie Cinderella Duveen at the end of *The Murder on the Links* published in 1948, and some years needed for the births of their four children, of whom Judith, age 21, appears to be the youngest. The story was not rewritten to add more specific markers of the years post Second World War, such as car models, clothing styles, or world events. Hannah wrote a second such novel, *Closed Casket* , published in 1976 and also authorised by the Agatha Christie estate. Adaptation for television[edit] The novel was adapted in 1975 starring David Suchet as Poirot. Margaret Litchfield is hanged during the opening credits, whereas in the novel she dies in an asylum. Otherwise, the adaptation remains extremely faithful to the novel.

Chapter 4 : Curtain | Agatha Christie Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

The Queen of Mystery has come to Harper Collins! Agatha Christie, the acknowledged mistress of suspense"creator of indomitable sleuth Miss Marple, meticulous Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, and so many other unforgettable characters"brings her entire oeuvre of ingenious whodunits, locked room mysteries, and perplexing puzzles to Harper Paperbacks.

Chapter 5 : Agatha Christie Curtain: Books | eBay

Curtain (Hercule Poirot, book 39) by Agatha Christie - book cover, description, publication history.

Chapter 6 : Curtain (Hercule Poirot #42) by Agatha Christie

*The legendary detective saves his best for last as he races to apprehend a five-time killer before the final curtain descends in *Curtain: Poirot's Last Case*, the last book Agatha Christie published before her death.*

Chapter 7 : Poirot (TV Series ") - IMDb

*Hercule Poirot (UK: / ˈ ɛ ː ɛ ˈ ɹ k ju ˈ ɪ ɛ ˈ p w ɛ ˈ ɹ o ɛ ʃ /, US: / ˈ ɪ ˈ ɔ ɛ ˈ ɹ ɛ ˈ k ju ˈ ɪ p w ɛ ˈ ɹ o ɛ ʃ /; French: [ɛ ˈ ɛ ˈ k y l p w a ˈ ɔ]) is a fictional Belgian detective, created by Agatha Christie. Poirot is one of Christie's most famous and long-lived characters, appearing in 33 novels, one play (*Black Coffee*), and more than 50 short stories.*

Chapter 8 : "Poirot" Curtain: Poirot's Last Case (TV Episode) - IMDb

This whodunit series based on Agatha Christie's crime novels and short stories, is named after its star sleuth, Hercule Poirot, a famous former Belgian policeman, who settled for good in London after the war, soon so famous as an infallible private detective that he becomes a society figure in his own right.

Chapter 9 : Curtain: Poirot's Last Case (Audiobook) by Agatha Christie | www.nxgvision.com

DOWNLOAD PDF CURTAIN (HERCULE POIROT MYSTERIES)

The crime-fighting careers of Hercule Poirot and Captain Hastings have come full circle--they are back once again in the rambling country house in which they solved their first murder www.nxgvision.com Poirot and Great Styles have seen better days--but, despite being crippled with arthritis, there is nothing wrong with the great detective and his "little gray cells."