



Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks: Fifty Years of Mysteries in the Making

By John Curran

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Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks is the fascinating exploration of the contents of Agatha Christie's long hidden notebooks, including illustrations, analyses, and two previously unpublished Hercule Poirot short stories. Not only will Christie's legions of ardent fans find a treasure chest of new material from the author of such classics as *And Then There Were None*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, and *Death on the Nile*, but *Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks* is also a must-read tutorial for writers who want to learn the intricacies of constructing crime novels.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Curran, longtime literary adviser to the Agatha Christie estate, painstakingly describes and excerpts the private notebooks of one of the most influential names in detective fiction. Casual or even moderately well-versed fans of Christie may find themselves overwhelmed by the sheer volume of minutiae Curran extracts from the 73 notebooks the author maintained. His effort, however, is admirable: the majority of the notebook entries lack dates and often jump between novels and stories written years apart, and Christie's handwriting is at times akin to shorthand. The most fascinating aspect of the notebooks is the rare glimpse they allow into the mind of a writer, especially one as imaginative as Christie, who, though not a prose stylist, was expert at devising intricate plots. For example, in the notebooks, she poses questions to herself (how should all this be approached? Who is killed? and Someone shot or stalked at school Sports?) while mapping out the novel *Cat Among the Pigeons*. The inclusion of two rare short stories featuring Hercule Poirot makes this an appealing read for Christie-philes. B&w photos. (Mar. 1)

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Review

"The most fascinating aspect of the notebooks is the rare glimpse they allow into the mind of a writer, especially one as imaginative as Christie....An appealing read for Christie-philes." (Publishers Weekly)

"A must-have for any ardent fan of Miss Marple or Hercule Poirot." (Washington Post)

"A must for all Christie fans." (Newark Star-Ledger)

"Provides a unique look into the mind and working habits of one of the world's most successful authors." (Tulsa World)

"Meticulously detailed and scrupulous in its judgments." (Strand magazine on Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks)

"A meticulously detailed study that is packed with shrewd perceptions about Christie's fiction....Curran has produced an enthralling miscellany of a book, in which her fans will rummage to their heart's content." (Sunday Times (London))

"Many of Curran's discoveries will shape how Christie is read in future....This book is fascinating." (The Independent on Sunday)

"[Curran] has organized his material as efficiently as an Agatha Christie mystery....[His] enthusiasm for his subject carries us along." (Irish Times)

From the Back Cover

A fascinating exploration of the contents of Agatha Christie's seventy-three private notebooks, including illustrations and two unpublished Poirot stories

When Agatha Christie died in 1976, at age eighty-five, she had become the world's most popular author. With sales of more than two billion copies worldwide, in more than one hundred countries, she had achieved the impossible—more than one book every year since the 1920s, every one a bestseller.

So prolific was Agatha Christie's output—sixty-six crime novels, twenty plays, six romance novels under a pseudonym and more than one hundred and fifty short stories—it was often claimed that she had a photographic memory. Was this true? Or did she resort over those fifty-five years to more mundane methods of working out her ingenious crimes?

Following the death of Agatha's daughter, Rosalind, at the end of 2004, a remarkable legacy was revealed. Unearthed among her affairs at the family home of Greenway were Agatha Christie's private notebooks, seventy-three handwritten volumes of notes, lists and drafts outlining all her plans for her many books, plays and stories. Buried in this treasure trove, all in her unmistakable handwriting, are revelations about her famous books that will fascinate anyone who has ever read or watched an Agatha Christie story.

How did the infamous twist in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* really come about? Which very famous Poirot novel started life as an adventure for Miss Marple? Which books were designed to have completely different endings, and what were they? What were the plot ideas that she considered but rejected?

Full of details she was too modest to reveal in her own autobiography, this remarkable new book includes a wealth of excerpts and pages reproduced directly from the notebooks and her letters, plus, for the first time, two newly discovered complete Hercule Poirot short stories never before published.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kenneth Sisk:

Now a day folks who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not involve people to be aware of each facts they get. How people have to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Examining a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information specifically this Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks: Fifty Years of Mysteries in the Making book because this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it everybody knows.

Antoine Anderson:

The feeling that you get from Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks: Fifty Years of Mysteries in the Making could be the more deep you looking the information that hide into the words the more you get serious about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to know but Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks: Fifty Years of Mysteries in the Making giving you thrill feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood simply by anyone who read this because the author of this book is well-known enough. This book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having that Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks: Fifty Years of Mysteries in the Making instantly.

Ester Beckles:

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Nicholas Ko:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to you is Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks: Fifty Years of Mysteries in the Making this book consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The words styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some study when he makes this book. That is why this book acceptable all of you.

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