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The Mysterious Affair At Styles (BBC Audio Crime)



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Synopsis

It is 1916. Captain Hastings has been invalidated out of World War I and goes to convalesce at Styles Court, the family home of his great friend, John Cavendish. By an extraordinary coincidence, billeted in the village is a brilliant little retired detective with an egg-shaped head, who made a considerable impression on the Captain when he was in Belgium. Styles are not a happy household and in the blistering summer heat, tensions mount. Even so, the tragic murder which occurs is not expected. The entire family is drawn into the case but with their reluctant permission, Hastings calls upon the services of the diminutive Belgian. Thus begins one of the great partnerships and friendships in the history of crime. Fragments of a burnt will, a false black beard, and an empty packet of bromide powders—such are the seemingly unrelated details surrounding the murder. With a thoroughness that is to become legendary, Poirot commences his first investigation in England. John Moffatt stars as Hercule Poirot, Simon Williams as Captain Hastings, and Philip Jackson as Detective Inspector Japp, who already has reason to be indebted to the distinguished and unique hero of so many mysteries. 2 CDs. 2 hrs 30 mins.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Agatha Christie was born in 1890. During the World War I she worked as a hospital dispenser, where she gleaned the working knowledge of various poisons. Her first novel was *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, published in 1920, followed over the next six years by four more detective novels and a short story collection. However, it was not until the publication of *The Murder of Roger*

Ackroyd that Agatha Christie's reputation was firmly established. In 1930 the sharp-witted spinster sleuth Miss Marple made her first appearance in *Murder at the Vicarage*. In all, Agatha Christie published 80 crime novels and short story collections. As her play *The Mousetrap* (the longest-running play in the history of the theater) testifies, Agatha Christie's detective stories are likely to appeal for a long time to come. Agatha Christie was awarded a CBE in 1956 and was made a Dame of the British Empire in 1971. She died in 1976.

Agatha Christie was living with her Mother and sister Madge in 1916 in her home town of Torquay, when Madge bet her sister that she could not write a detective story, a new art form at the time.. Agatha got half way through and was stuck, when her Mother said "go away to the moors on a hiking holiday, clear your head and finish this "it's good so far!". Out of this holiday came Hercule Poirot, Captain Hastings and Inspector Japp who were to be in Christie novels for the next fifty years. It took four years to find a publisher for "The Mysterious Affair at Styles" and the novel was eventually published and copyrighted in 1920. During world war II Christie wrote Poirot's last adventure "Curtain". He's now a feeble old man living in Styles St Mary once again for this his final case. "Curtain" was kept in a bank vault and published after Dame Agatha's death in 1976. What is fascinating to me is this is early example of English detective fiction, coming as it did right after Sherlock Holmes. The art form was developing - this is a grand audio production with a large cast - "Styles" is timeless and historically important.

Love these audio presentations, it's like seeing a play in your mind. This one is very well done and keeps you guessing as Agatha always manages to do. Great enjoyment!

Loved, loved, loved this book. I am more of a Miss Marple fan than H. Poirot, but this book was great, I listened to it two times!! Beeanie4

I enjoyed this book very much.

I didn't notice the book was on two CD's. My error but don't let it be yours. This is nothing more than a very short story. It is a bad one at that as there is so much of the story chopped out, the book doesn't flow at all.

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