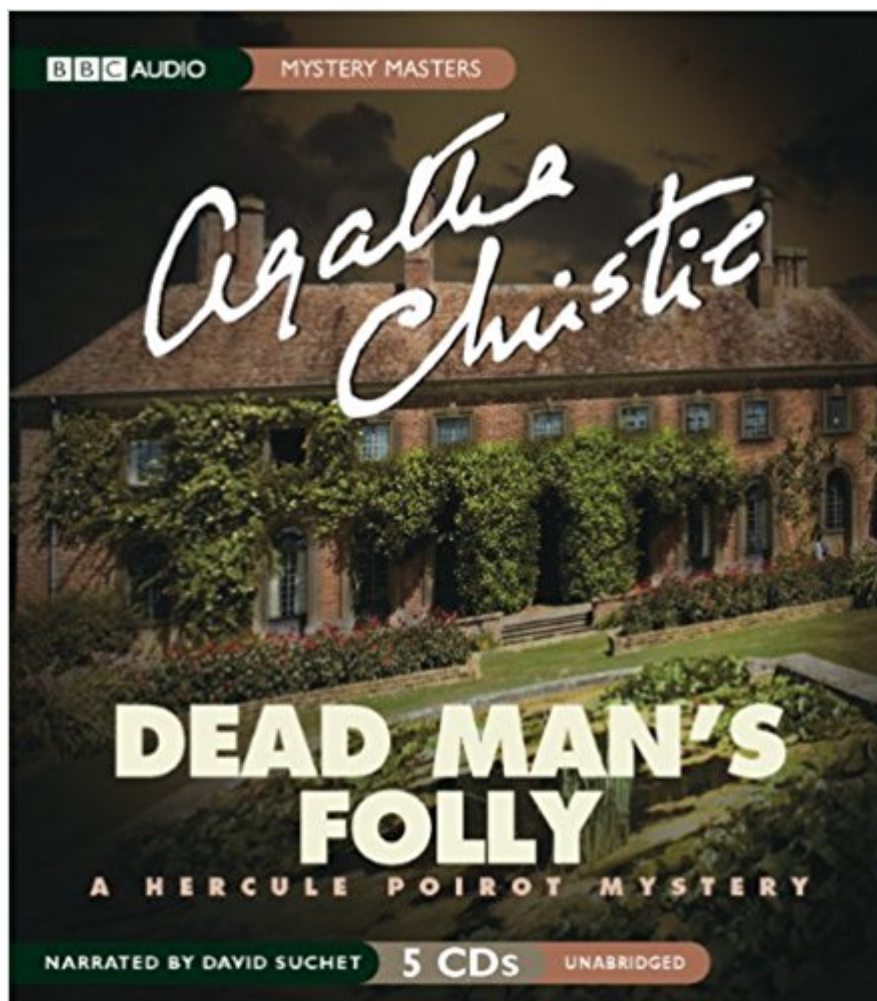


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Dead Man's Folly: A Hercule Poirot Mystery (Mystery Masters)



Synopsis

While organizing a murder mystery game for a village festival, an inescapable feeling of dread settles on crime novelist Adriane Oliver. In desperation, she summons her old friend Hercule Poirot. Her instincts are proved correct when the “pretend” victim is discovered with an all-too-real rope wrapped around her neck. The two sleuths soon discover that in murder hunts, whether mock or real, everyone is playing a part.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

‘The infallibly original Agatha Christie has come up, once again, with a new and highly ingenious puzzle-construction.’ New York Times ‘The solution is of the colossal ingenuity we have been conditioned to expect.’ Times Literary Supplement --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Sir George and Lady Stubbs, the hosts of a villagefete, hit upon the novel idea of staging a mockmurder mystery. In good faith, Ariadne Oliver, thewell-known crime writer, agrees to organize theirmurder hunt.Despite weeks of meticulous planning, at the lastminute Ariadne calls her friend Hercule Poirot forhis expert assistance. Instinctively, she senses thatsomething sinister is about to happen. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Like most writers with long, successful careers, Agatha Christie both stuck to the tried-and-true

formulas that her readers expected AND threw an occasional curve ball to keep things interesting. Since I loved her very revealing autobiography, I'm fascinated by her spoof of herself in the character of mystery writer Ariadne Oliver. The introduction of the daffy-but-shrewd Mrs. Oliver not only gave Christie a chance to poke fun at her own eccentricities (real and rumored) but also to make life hell for her brilliant, irritating detective - the egomaniacal Hercule Poirot. As for the plot, well it's a mystery, isn't it? Somebody gets murdered and the detective has to figure out who-dun-it and the other characters have to throw in as many monkey wrenches as they can to make sure that the crime isn't solved until the end of the book. Although I think Christie's stories were well and intelligently plotted, I read them for their charm and their realistic characters. Of course, you can argue that the bluff, good-natured country squire and the self-absorbed beauty and the acidulous spinster and the grand lady of the manor are stereotypes, but don't be surprised if old Agatha pulls the rug out from under you. Some of these folks are NOT what they seem! My only criticism is that (in my opinion) one of the main characters would NOT have gone along with the charade, but the author would counter that she HAS to or there will be no book. Irrefutable logic. I'm also intrigued by Miss Brewis - the hyper-efficient secretary who's in love with her boss and has a very poor opinion of his lovely, scatty wife. After the author's death, her widower married his long-time, devoted secretary. Coincidence or Dame Agatha getting in a sly dig at her husband? We'll never know.

Ariadne Oliver is asked to set up a fake murder scene and calls her friend, Hercule Poirot, because she has a bad feeling about it. Her worst fears come true as the girl who was to play murder victim ends up getting murdered. The police and Poirot and Mrs. Oliver work out the clues to figure out what is really going on. Well-written and good mystery with some twists.

One of my favorite Hercule Poirots. That's probably why I can read it so fast. When I was 12, my mother tried to get me in the habit of reading a book before I went to bed. I'm not sure why. I've been a bookworm since I could read, so I certainly didn't need any encouragement. I enjoyed TV mysteries and Nancy Drew, so someone - I don't know who - suggested Agatha Christie. I got three omnibus volumes of Christie - one Poirot, one Miss Marple, and one mixed (including the dreadful Tommy and Tuppence - yuck!). In the Poirot volume was "Dead Man's Folly." I have loved it ever since. Hercule Poirot receives a phone call from his friend, Ariadne Oliver, a mystery novelist. Something is up, but she can't or won't explain. He just has to come down to Nasse House in Nassecombe. Worried that something serious is wrong, Poirot heads for Nassecombe, a picturesque English village. Nasse House was formerly home of the Foliots, but the family has died

out and the house is now the property of the nouveau riche Sir George Stubbs and his apparently dim-witted, though beautiful, wife, Hattie. There is to be a fete (a type of festival or fair) and Mrs Oliver is in charge of planning the Murder Hunt - which is the problem. Mrs Oliver has the sense that someone is manipulating her somehow, though she is not sure who exactly is responsible. Poirot trusts Mrs Oliver's intuition. "And I know what you always say or look about intuition." [Mrs Oliver] "One calls things by different names," said Poirot. "I am quite ready to believe that you have noticed something, or heard something, that has definitely aroused in you anxiety. I think it is possible that you yourself may not even know just what it is that you have seen or noticed or heard. You are aware only of the result. If I may so put it, you do not know what it is that you know. You may label that intuition if you like." Poirot stays on, ostensibly to hand out prizes, but in actuality to do some detecting. How can he detect a crime that hasn't been committed? While the everything appears to be going well and people are enjoying themselves, there is a murder - of the girl playing the victim in the Murder Hunt. Her death is not the first and it will not be the last. I love it when Christie sets her mysteries in English villages. She does a lovely job of bringing the world to life, even while it was actually dying out. Another good portrayal of this is in "The Body in the Library," where murder strikes close to Miss Marple's home. If you've never read a Christie, this is a good one to start with. It's fun, easy to read, and makes you want to reread it so you can see what you missed the first time through. That's unusual - I've read quite a few mysteries where I had no intention of ever rereading them. This is not one of those. Highly recommended.

Ariadne Oliver is organizing a "murder hunt" (a treasure hunt of sorts in which clues are given with the object of solving a fictional murder) as part of a fete at a large manor house, but she feels an ominous sense that perhaps someone is planning a real murder at the same time and she has called in Poirot to see what he thinks. There are a lot of people involved in the planning of this "fete" (which is basically a village carnival), so there are many things going on all at the same time and a variety of relationships making themselves known between people, as Poirot makes his observations. The story has a bit of a house party feel, with all the people and visitors to the house. Poirot is assisted by Inspector Bland and Constable Hoskins, as he makes his inquiries . . . and Ms. Oliver helps as well in an unconscious kind of way. I will admit I was led completely astray on this one, and the reveal was quite unexpected. Entertaining murder mystery!

Poirot solves a convoluted mystery set in a country estate but full of foreigners, strangers, twists and turns. A good, solid read.

Dame Agatha has brought us and Poirot to a country estate where there is evil afoot. A foolish young woman is murdered and the beautiful mistress of the estate goes missing. Is the just arrived relative of the missing woman involved? Even Poirot is puzzled. The actors are from the author's handy collection of stock characters, the tale is slowing moving and there us a little too much reliance on luck.. Nerertheless, Dame Agatha's never failing cleverness and genius for misdirection make it all worthwhile.

always enjoy Christie books

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