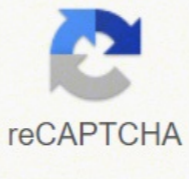




I'm not robot



Next

Agatha christie orient express summary

Hercule Poirot, private detective and retired Belgian police officer, boards the Taurus Express train to Stamboul (Istanbul). On the train there are two other passengers, Mary Debenham and Colonel Arbuthnot. The two act as if they are strangers, but Poirot observes behavior that suggests that they are not. Poirot is suspicious of the couple. The train arrives in Stamboul and Poirot checks in at the Tokathian Hotel. As soon as Poirot arrives he receives a telegram summoning him back to London. While waiting at the hotel for the next train, Poirot bumps into an old friend, M. Bouc, head of the Wagon Lit. M. Bouc arranges a space for Poirot on the Orient Express. In the dining room of the Tokathian Hotel, Poirot first spots Ratchett and Hector McQueen eating dinner. Poirot know that Ratchett is an evil man and he describes him to M. Bouc as an animal. Poirot board the Orient Express. He is forced to ride in a second-class cabin because the train is unusually full. Ratchett and Hector McQueen are also aboard the train. Ratchett approaches Poirot and asks if he will work for him, Ratchett tells Poirot he has been receiving threatening letters and that someone is trying to kill him. Poirot refuses the case. M. Bouc has taken the last first class cabin, but arranges to be moved to a separate coach and gives Poirot his space in first class. The first night Poirot sleeps in first class, he observes some strange occurrences. Early in the morning, Poirot is wakened by a cry from Ratchett's compartment next to him. The wagon lit conductor responds knocks on Ratchett's door and a voice from inside responds, "Ce n'est rien. Je me suis trompe" (It is nothing, I am mistaken). Poirot has difficulty sleeping because there is a peculiar silence on the train. Mrs. Hubbard rings her bell and tells the conductor a man is in her room. Poirot rings his bell for water and is informed by the conductor that the train is stuck in a snow bank. Poirot hears a loud thump next door. The next morning, the train still stopped. M. Bouc informs Poirot that Ratchett has been murdered and the murderer is still aboard the train. Poirot tells M. Bouc he will investigate the case. Poirot first examines Ratchett's body and compartment. Ratchett has twelve stab wounds. The window is left open in Ratchett's compartment, presumably to make the investigators think the murderer escaped out the window, but there are no footprints outside the window in the snow. A handkerchief with the initial "H" is found in the compartment, a pipe cleaner, a round match different from the matches Ratchett used and a charred piece of paper with the name "Armstrong" on it. The piece of paper with the word Armstrong on it helps Poirot figure out who Ratchett really is and why someone would want to murder him. A few years back, a man named Cassetti kidnapped a three-year old girl, Daisy Armstrong. Cassetti collected a ransom from the wealthy Armstrong family, but killed the child anyways. Poirot concludes that Ratchett is Cassetti. The interviews start with the Wagon Lit conductor, then Hector McQueen. Poirot knows that McQueen is involved with the case because he knows about the Armstrong note found in Ratchett's compartment, Hector is surprised that Poirot found the note because he thought it had been completely destroyed. He interviews Masterman and then Mrs. Hubbard. Mrs. Hubbard claims that the murderer was in her cabin. All of the passengers give Poirot suitable alibis during their interviews, although a few suspicious elements are brought to light: many passengers observed a woman in a red kimono walking down the hallway the night of the murder, but no one admits they have a red kimono. Mrs. Hubbard tells Poirot she had Greta Ohlsson lock the communicating door between she and Ratchett. Hildegarde Schmidt bumped into a stranger wearing a Wagon Lit jacket. Poirot checks every passenger's luggage. During the check he notices a few interesting things: the label on Countess Andrenyi's luggage is wet, a Wagon Lit uniform is found in Hildegarde Schmidt's bag and, lastly, the red kimono is found in Poirot's own luggage. After the luggage check, Poirot, Dr. Constantine and M. Bouc review the facts of the case and develop a list of questions. With the evidence and questions in mind, Poirot sits and thinks about the case. When he surfaces from a somewhat trance-like state, Poirot has discovered the solution to the case. Before he reveals this solution in full, he calls in several people and reveals their true identities. Poirot discovers Countess Andrenyi is Helena Goldenberg, aunt of Daisy Armstrong. She wet her luggage label and obscured her name, in an effort to conceal her identity. Also, Mary Debenham was Daisy's governess, Antonio Foscanelli was the Armstrong's chaffer, Masterman the valet, and Greta Ohlsson was Daisy Armstrong's nurse. Princess Dragomiroff claims her handkerchief from Poirot, the same found in Ratchett's compartment. Poirot gathers all of the passengers into the dining car and propounds two possible solutions. The first solution is that a stranger entered the train at Vincovci and killed Ratchett. The second solution is that all of the passengers aboard the Orient Express were involved with the murder. He argues that twelve of the thirteen passengers, all close to the Armstrong case, killed Ratchett to avenge the murder of Daisy Armstrong. Mrs. Hubbard, revealed as Linda Arden, admits that the second solution is correct. Poirot suggests that M. Bouc and Dr. Constantine tell the police that the first solution is correct to protect the family. M. Bouc and Dr. Constantine accept Poirot's suggestion. Book Reviews / BooksA much delayed the Murder on the Orient Express book review...Despite having read voraciously for as long as I can remember, there is still many-a-book I'm yet to pick up. I'm hoping to get through a number of them this year – both classic and contemporary – and while I've accepted the fact that I'll probably be buried with a coffin full of books I never got around to reading, I'll do my damndest to get through as many as I can while I'm still around to do so.As a book blogger, we're often presumed to have read almost everything, and people are often shocked when I admit to not having read a much-loved novel or writer. One person in particular who often crops up when I lament the authors I'm yet-to-read is the much-loved Agatha Christie. And thus, when one of my favourite Bookstagrammers, Theartfulelle asked if I wanted to take part in an Agatha Christie read-along, I jumped at the chance and loved the chance to write this Murder on the Orient Express review.Given its popularity, we settled on Murder on the Orient Express, and, thankfully, though I watched the film adaptation a little over a year ago, I had little recollection of what actually happened.Murder on the Orient Express Book ReviewA wonderful whodunit from start to finish, Murder on the Orient Express has all the ingredients for a pacy and plot-driven read; atmospheric, with an isolated backdrop and an over-the-top cast of colourful characters. The pairing of the enigmatic Poirot on board the opulent Orient Express nods to the bygone era of the novel, and Christie writes in a wonderful fashion as she lingers over each of the characters in order to solve the mystery of who murdered the American tycoon onboard the luxury train.RELATED: Review: A Prayer for Owen Meany - John IrvingThe twist as the murder is solved is brilliantly imagined; and the ending offers readers a satisfying conclusion to a captivating case that unveils itself to be a battle of good versus evil.Murder on the Orient Express Book SummaryJust after midnight, a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. The luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year, but by the morning it is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside.Isolated and with a killer in their midst, detective Hercule Poirot must identify the murderer – in case he or she decides to strike again.About Agatha ChristieAgatha Christie is the best-selling author of all time. She wrote eighty crime novels and story collections, fourteen plays, and several other books. Her books have sold roughly four billion copies and have been translated into 45 languages. She is the creator of the two most enduring figures in crime literature-Hercule Poirot and Miss Jane Marple-and author of The Mousetrap, the longest-running play in the history of modern theatre.Further ReadingSparknotes have got a great analysis of Murder on the Orient Express. Better Reading have written a fab book review of Murder on the Orient Express and this from The Washington Post on why Murder on the Orient Express still thrills is well worth a read.Love this post? Click here to subscribe.Image © Theartfulelle Murder on the Orient Express, by Agatha Christie, is a classic detective novel about a murder committed in the middle of the night on a train traveling from the Far East to Europe. While the train is stuck in a snowdrift, the identities, motives and alibis of the passengers are investigated by the renowned Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. As Poirot delves into the mystery of what happened that fateful night, the book explores themes relating to the nature of justice, the power of family ties, and the inevitable triumph of logic.The novel begins with the world famous Belgian detective Hercule Poirot waiting to board a train for home. As he waits, he's observed by a young English woman (Mary Debenham) traveling to England, who looks at his eccentric appearance and considers him harmless. After he boards the train, he in turn observes a polite relationship developing between Miss Debenham and another British passenger, Col. Arbuthnot. Meanwhile, an urgent telegram summons him to England, where developments he predicted in a murder investigation there have come to fruition sooner than expected. As Poirot arranges to travel to London on the Orient Express, two things happen - he reunites with an old friend, M. Bouc, a manager of the Orient Express also traveling that night, and encounters an American (Ratchett) with eyes he later describes as similar to those of a caged animal.When Poirot and M. Bouc attempt to board the Orient Express, they learn that all the available compartments are booked. Poirot is placed temporarily in the compartment of a young American named MacQueen, who turns out to be Ratchett's secretary. The following day in the dining car, Ratchett (who is aware of Poirot's reputation) offers Poirot a job as his bodyguard, saying his life has been threatened. Poirot, in response to both Ratchett's manner and his face, refuses. The following morning, after a night of noisy disturbances and confusion, Ratchett is found murdered. M. Bouc, desperate to preserve the reputation of his train, begs Poirot to investigate. Poirot agrees.The remainder of the novel chronicles Poirot's investigations and their outcome. With the help of M. Bouc and a Greek doctor, he examines several clues found in the murdered man's compartment - a watch apparently broken at the time of the murder, a burnt note, a pipe cleaner, and a delicate ladies' handkerchief. He interviews each of the passengers, who include Miss Debenham and Col. Arbuthnot, an elderly Russian princess and her German maid, a talkative American widow, Ratchett's secretary and valet, a Hungarian diplomat and his wife, a Swedish missionary, an Italian car salesman, and an American detective. He also interviews the Conductor of the coach on duty at the time Ratchett was murdered. As Poirot is perplexed to discover, the passengers and Conductor give each other alibis, present contradictory facts, and deny involvement in the murder - even when the victim turns out to be the notorious kidnapper Cassetti, and even when the passengers and Conductor all prove to have had a connection with the Armstrongs, one of the families he (Cassetti) victimized.Eventually Poirot arrives at what he considers to be the truth - that the passengers and Conductor, because of their connection with the Armstrong family, and because Cassetti escaped justice for his crimes, took it upon themselves to administer that justice, and executed him in the way he should have been executed by the legal system. A passionate plea from one of the passengers (the mother of Mrs. Armstrong, a renowned actress posing as the talkative widow Mrs. Hubbard), convinces Poirot that true justice has indeed been served. He (Poirot) agrees to propose a second solution to the crime to the police, a solution that fits with all the clues and evidence but which lets all the members of the extended Armstrong family (including Miss Debenham and Col. Arbuthnot, who are in love and eager to marry) free to pursue their lives.

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