

AGATHA CHRISTIE

Agatha Christie was born on September 1890. She didn't go to school because her mother wanted to teach her at home. She studied the piano and singing in Paris.

She got married in 1914 to a pilot and they had one daughter, Rosalind. During the first World War, when she was working as a nurse, she began to write detective stories. In the hospital, she learnt a lot about drugs and poisons, and she used this information in her novels.

She published her first novel in 1920. The main character was a Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot. The book soon became a best-seller and made her famous.

In 1928, Agatha Christie mysteriously disappeared. The police found her two weeks later suffering from amnesia. She couldn't remember anything. This was front-page news in all newspapers in Britain, and even today nobody knows exactly what happened to her during those two weeks. Soon after that, she got divorced.

In 1929, Agatha went on holiday to Baghdad in Iraq. There she met and fell in love with her second husband, who was a famous archaeologist. They went home to England on the Orient Express. That was the title of the book too. She got married in 1930.

She travelled with her husband to the Middle East many times, and a lot of her later stories take place there, for example, *Murder on the Nile*. She also created the detective Miss Marple, and began to write plays. One of them, *The Mousetrap*, opened at a theatre in the West End of London in 1952, and is still on today – a world record, because they act this play over fifty years.

During her life she wrote nearly eighty detective stories. Agatha Christie's thrillers are famous for their surprise endings. You sometimes don't know who is the murderer until the last page. She also wrote nine plays and six romantic novels under the pen name of Mary Westmacott.

She died in January 1976, when she was eighty-six years old. Agatha