

Death on the Nile

By: Agatha Christie

About the Book: *Death on the Nile* is a classic mystery novel by Agatha Christie, featuring detective Hercule Poirot, published in 1937. Set on a luxury cruise down the Nile River in Egypt, the story follows Poirot as he investigates the murder of a wealthy heiress, Linnet Ridgeway, uncovering a complex web of love, jealousy, and betrayal among the passengers, many of whom have secrets and motives for murder. The novel is known for its exotic setting, intricate plot, and classic whodunit structure, exploring themes of obsession, greed, and deception.

About the author: Agatha Christie (1890–1976) was an English writer widely regarded as one of the greatest mystery novelists of all time. She wrote 66 detective novels and created famous characters such as Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, with works including *Murder on the Orient Express* and also *And Then There Were None*. Her books have sold over two billion copies worldwide, making her one of the best-selling authors in history. *Endless Night* is a 1967 Agatha Christie novel and was one of her personal favorites.

Characters:

- Hercule Poirot: A renowned private detective
- Colonel Johnnie Race: Poirot's friend and a Secret Service agent
- Linnet Doyle (née Ridgeway): a wealthy heiress
- Simon Doyle: Linnet's not very intelligent new husband and former land agent
- Jacqueline de Bellefort: Linnet's former friend and Simon's ex-fiancée, English-born but raised in South Carolina
- Louise Bourget: Linnet Doyle's greedy and secretive new maid
- Andrew Pennington: one of the two shady American trustees of Linnet Doyle
- James Fanthorp: A young solicitor and the nephew of Linnet's English trustee, who is secretly investigating Pennington
- Mrs Allerton: A kind middle-aged passenger who is affectionate to her son
- Tim Allerton: A mistrustful and suspicious son of Mrs Allerton
- Carl Bessner: An Austrian physician who serves as the doctor-on-scene during the mystery
- Mr Ferguson: (Lord Dawlish) A Communist and renounced his aristocratic heritage
- Guido Richetti: Talkative and hot-tempered Italian archaeologist
- **Fleetwood: engineer on the *Karnak*, ex-lover of Marie and Louise's predecessor as Linnet's maid**
- Marie Van Schuyler: arrogant and snobbish elderly American socialite, who struggles with kleptomania
- Miss Bowers: loyal nurse of Miss Van Schuyler, who takes care of her medically while also ensuring her 'idiosyncrasies' do not cause embarrassment
- Cornelia Robson: A young and impoverished cousin of Miss Van Schuyler, who serves as her companion
- Salome Otterbourne: flamboyant, oft-inebriated author of romance novels
- Rosalie Otterbourne: unhappy daughter of Mrs. OtterbourneGaston Blondin, proprietor of a restaurant and an acquaintance of Poirot
- Jules, Maître d'hôtel of a restaurant who works for Monsieur Blondin
- George Wode, previous owner of Wode Hall, who went bankrupt and sold his house to Linnet
- Sterndale Rockford, Linnet's other American Trustee and Pennington's business partner
- Mr Burnaby, pub landlord who gossips about Linnet
- William Carmichael, uncle of James Fanthorp and Linnet's English solicitor

- Mr Pierce, Linnet's architect
- Ned Robson, Cornelia Robson's deceased father, who was almost forced into bankruptcy by Linnet's father
- Mrs Robson, Cornelia Robson's widowed mother
- Mrs Leech, acquaintance of Mrs Allerton and Tim, who lost a ring in [Mallorca](#)
- Toby Bryce, acquaintance of Linnet Doyle
- Lord Charles Windlesham, rejected suitor of Linnet Doyle, said to be too old for her
- Joanna Southwood, close friend of Linnet Doyle and a distant cousin of the Allertons
- Leopold Hartz, American millionaire and the deceased maternal grandfather of Linnet Doyle
- Melhuish Ridgeway, Linnet Doyle's deceased father, whose business deals with his wife's money made him a very wealthy man
- Anna Ridgeway (née Hartz), Linnet's deceased mother and the only daughter of the millionaire Leopold Hartz
- Marie, former maid of Linnet Doyle who had an affair with the already-married Fleetwood

Questions:

1. What were your first impressions of Hercule Poirot in this novel?
2. What aspects of the Nile River setting made the story more engaging or suspenseful? How does the isolated setting of the riverboat contribute to the mystery?
3. Which character did you find the most interesting, and why?
4. Did your opinions of any characters change as the story unfolded?
5. Were there any clues you noticed before Poirot revealed the solution? Which ones?
6. Did Agatha Christie successfully misdirect you? If so, what fooled you the most?
7. How does Christie balance character development with the mystery plot?
8. What role do wealth, privilege, and social status play in the novel?
9. How does jealousy influence the decisions and relationships between characters?
10. Which relationships in the novel seemed genuine, and which seemed driven by personal gain?
11. How does Christie explore the idea that appearances can be deceiving?
12. What moral dilemmas does Poirot face during his investigation?
13. Did you agree with Poirot's handling of justice at the end of the novel? Why or why not?
14. Which secondary character added the most to the story?
15. How does *Death on the Nile* compare with other Agatha Christie novels?
16. What scene did you find the most memorable, and why?
17. Were you satisfied with the ending? Did it feel surprising yet fair?
18. If you could ask Agatha Christie one question about this novel, what would it be?
19. At what point did you think you understood what had happened?
20. How does Christie portray revenge versus justice?
21. Did Poirot's understanding of human nature contribute more to solving the case than physical evidence?
22. How does Poirot treat suspects differently from a typical police investigator?

23. How important is Egypt itself to the story beyond being an exotic backdrop?
24. How does traveling together on the riverboat change the relationships between the characters?
25. What does the vacation setting add to the contrast between beauty and violence?
26. Which character do you think deserved a different outcome?
27. If you were one of the passengers, who would you have suspected first and why?
28. Which decision by a character ultimately had the greatest impact on the story?
29. What do you think is the novel's central message?
30. Is there anyone in the novel you would describe as morally "good," or are all the characters flawed?

Book Recommendations:

- **The Bangalore Detectives Club by: Harini Nagendra**
When clever, headstrong Kaveri moves to Bangalore to marry handsome young doctor Ramu, she's resigned herself to a quiet life. But that all changes the night of the party at the Century Club, where she escapes to the garden for some peace and quiet--and instead spots an uninvited guest in the shadows. Half an hour later, the party turns into a murder scene. When a vulnerable woman is connected to the crime, Kaveri becomes determined to save her and launches a private investigation to find the killer, tracing his steps from an illustrious brothel to an Englishman's mansion. She soon finds that sleuthing in a sari isn't as hard as it seems when you have a talent for mathematics, a head for logic, and a doctor for a husband . . . And she's going to need them all as the case leads her deeper into a hotbed of danger, sedition, and intrigue in Bangalore's darkest alleyways.
- **Malice by: Keigo Higashino**
Acclaimed bestselling novelist Kunihiro Hidaka is found brutally murdered in his home on the night before he's planning to leave Japan and relocate to Vancouver. His body is found in his office, a locked room, within his locked house, by his wife and his best friend, both of whom have rock solid alibis. Or so it seems. At the crime scene, Police Detective Kyochiro Kaga recognizes Hidaka's best friend, Osamu Nonoguchi. Years ago when they were both teachers, they were colleagues at the same public school. Kaga went on to join the police force while Nonoguchi eventually left to become a full time writer, though with not nearly the success of his friend Hidaka. As Kaga investigates, he eventually uncovers evidence that indicates that the two writers' relationship was very different that they claimed, that they were anything but best friends. But the question before Kaga isn't necessarily who, or how, but why. In a brilliantly realized tale of cat and mouse, the detective and the killer battle over the truth of the past and how events that led to the murder really unfolded. And if Kaga isn't able to uncover and prove why the murder was committed, then the truth may never come out.
- **The sweetness at the bottom of the pie : a Flavia de Luce mystery by: Alan Bradley**
Eleven-year-old Flavia de Luce is an aspiring chemist. When her father is arrested for murder she begins a search for the truth that will lead her all the way to the King of England.