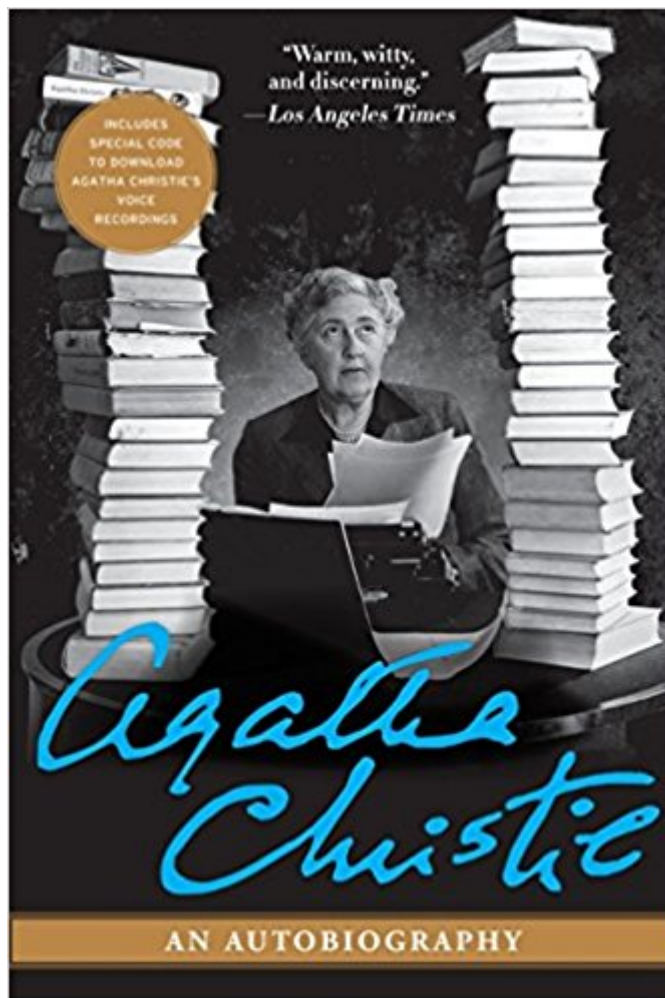


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# Autobiography, An



## Synopsis

Back in print in an all-new edition, is the engaging and illuminating chronicle of the life of the "Queen of Mystery." Fans of Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple and readers of John Curran's fascinating biographies Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks and Murder in the Making will be spellbound by the compelling, authoritative account of one of the world's most influential and fascinating novelists, told in her own words and inimitable style. The New York Times Book Review calls Christie's autobiography a "joyful adventure," saying, "she brings the sense of wonder...to her extraordinary career."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book proves as inspiring as it is charming and absorbing." (Boston Globe)  
"Brisk and admirable." | Capturing the experience of a generation too often made over-grim or over-glorious, it is the autobiography of a woman, not merely a writer." (Los Angeles Times)  
"Especially welcome." (Publishers Weekly)  
"Contains some wonderful treats....Christie writes with such wit and insight that all 542 pages fly." (Cleveland Plain Dealer)  
"A fun read, full of detail about upper-crust life in the Victorian era and about Christie's own surprise at finding herself a mystery novelist." (Charlotte News & Observer)  
"The history of a unique upbringing in a time long gone. It's a portrait of a childhood and young womanhood that vanished with World War I." (Pittsburgh Tribune-Review)  
"Christie writes with a wonderful dry wit. It is fascinating to see how people

she met became characters in her novels. (Daily American) "Joyful adventure. She brings the sense of wonder to her extraordinary career. (New York Times Book Review) "Agatha Christie is no longer merely one of my favorite writers. She is now one of my favorite people. (Chicago Tribune) "A delightful autobiography. Warm, witty and discerning. (Los Angeles Times) "Wonderfully easy to read and engrossing. (The Times (London)) "Agatha Christie's most absorbing mystery is the story of her own unusual life. She has put it all on record: her early romances; a broken (and a happy) marriage; strange events on the path to roaring success. (Daily Mail (London)) "A wonderful book written with a delight in the gradual unfolding of 75 years through the eyes of an exceptional old lady and writer. (Financial Times (London))

Millions of fans the world over got to know her beloved characters, Hercule Poirot, Miss Jane Marple, and the rest, yet for decades little was known about their creator. Dame Agatha Christie was a woman who scrupulously kept her private life hidden from view, dodging the press, granting no interviews, and even, for a brief time, famously disappearing. But shortly after the great lady's death, the silence was broken when *An Autobiography* was finally published. The witty, insightful, and immensely entertaining reflections of a marvelous talent, *An Autobiography* is as compulsively readable as Christie's novels. In her own inimitable style, a brilliant eccentric whose life encapsulated her times sheds light on her past, including her childhood in Victorian England, her volunteer work during World War II, and, of course, her phenomenal career. Agatha Christie's *An Autobiography* brings into sharp focus a beloved and enduring literary icon whose imagination continues to mesmerize readers to this very day.

Of all the memoir/autobiography's I've read in the last YEAR - this one is the TOP FAVORITE. Ok, that might be because I'm a writer as well - and love to read about how other writer's go about the craft. But, writing aside - the woman has sold more books than any other novelist - OF ALL TIME. Her books are the most widely published behind Shakespeare and the Bible. I mean for that reason alone - you'd want to find out more about her. And for those of you who love Romance...after her first husband left her for another woman- she found love later in life with a much younger man and was married to him for the rest of her life! Happy Marriage late in life, the most popular novelist ever - and a wonderful writer of things such as what was happening in London after the war. This is a history book - a romance, and a 'how to be a writer' book. I absolutely LOVED it.

The masterly mistress of mystery wasn't always forthcoming about her life in this book, but what she did relate is usually charmingly told, easy reading and sometimes amusing. I read this when it first came out and I bought it again just to see if it was/is as pleasant a read as it was the first time around. It is. As for not being completely forthcoming, the author's disappearance, the topic of the '79 film with Vanessa Redgrave and Dustin Hoffman "Agatha." The incident is not mentioned in her book. When her publisher mentioned that to the writer she said, "It's my life and I'll tell it the way I want." This is a refreshingly good read, just don't expect it to be unbiased or totally factual.

she did it her way! you can almost see Agatha Christie sitting down wherever she is at the time and putting her life in words. if you are looking for the answer to where she was and why she went missing you may be disappointed. if you are looking for a well written book that is not done in the classic style of autobiographies but is more like someone is telling you their lifestory over times when you are comfortably sitting nearby listening to them. you will also find out many facts that might surprise you about the type of person she was and why and how she wrote as she did.

Agatha Christie had a long and fascinating life, but there are parts of her autobiography that could have used some real editing. She does have a good sense of humor and describes imagining her plots, but there are some very long winded parts. There are also some surprising sections that seem pretty politically incorrect in today's world.

I was a bit hesitant to read this at first. Knowing that it didn't cover her eleven missing days made me think it was essentially dishonest. But instead, I found it really enjoyable. It's better written than most of her novels. It's a string of loosely related anecdotes that are really quite entertaining. Most interesting is her remembrance of her Victorian childhood and Edwardian young adulthood, and her ability to contrast it with the mid-twentieth century. For example, she mentions that when she first married, everyone thought it extremely extravagant to have a car, but it was unthinkable for her class not to have servants. Interesting how fashions come and go about what it considered a necessity!

This is a most enchanting autobiography. Agatha Christie adopts a most conversational tone to tell the narrative of her life. She is both amusing and serious. There are pearls of wisdom throughout. Christie is not droll or melodramatic. She writes in an intriguing manner. Her life is interesting but not

unrealistic. The readings move along quite nicely. She doesn't dwell too much on the end of her first marriage. She is very much a realist. She is very practical. I highly recommend this book.

Regardless of whether you are a lover of mystery fiction, you will love this autobiography by arguably the most successful mystery writer of all time. Agatha Christie led a fascinating life during an enormously eventful time in history. Born during the reign of Queen Victoria, she lived, served and worked through two World Wars and through the major events of the 20th century, and all of her experiences are captured in her novels and in this wonderful autobiography. Mrs. Christie tells her story vividly and with great emotion, and truly captures in this eminently readable and humorous work, a feeling for the events that shaped and the people who populated her world. This is a new edition of a long-time favorite book that I re-read and share with others on a regular basis. I am always inspired by Mrs. Christie's indomitable spirit and courage, and her positive outlook, even during dark times of war, illness, financial worry and grief, all of which she handles with great dignity in her work. The great bonus in this new edition is the CD of Dame Agatha dictating portions of her work. It is absolutely fascinating to hear her clear and lovely voice at work, and provides additional insight into her writing process and, indeed, to her personality.

Just finished reading this book and it has been placed onto my "all-time favorites" list. She was an absolute master in using the English language to describe people, places, situations and her thoughts. It is witty, humorous in spots and entertaining.

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