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Five Little Pigs



Synopsis

A brand new publication of this crime classic read by Hugh Fraser who plays Captain Hastings in the Poirot TV series, designed to follow the new look Hercule Poirot titles for the 21st Century. Beautiful Caroline Crale was convicted of poisoning her husband, yet there were five other suspects: Philip Blake (the stockbroker) who went to market; Meredith Blake (the amateur herbalist) who stayed at home; Elsa Greer (the three-time divorcee) who had roast beef; Cecilia Williams (the devoted governess) who had none; and Angela Warren (the disfigured sister) who cried 'wee wee wee' all the way home. It is sixteen years later, but Hercule Poirot just can't get that nursery rhyme out of his mind...

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Customer Reviews

"Mrs Christie as usual puts a ring through the reader's nose and leads him to one of her smashing last-minute showdowns" *Observer* "The answer to the riddle is brilliant" *Times Literary Supplement*

Beautiful Caroline Crale was convicted of poisoning her husband, but just like the nursery rhyme, there were five other "little pigs" who could have done it: Philip Blake (the stockbroker), who went to market; Meredith Blake (the amateur herbalist), who stayed at home; Elsa Greer (the three-time divorcee), who had her roast beef; Cecilia Williams (the devoted governess), who had none; and Angela Warren (the disfigured sister), who cried all the way home. Sixteen years later, Caroline's daughter is determined to prove her mother's innocence, and Poirot just can't get that nursery rhyme out of his mind.

--This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

This is one of my favorite Poirot mysteries because in it all he has is "the psychology" and the "little grey cells" to decipher the mystery. Carla Larchmont comes to Poirot with a request. She tells him that her real name is Carolyn Crale and that her mother, of the same name, was accused and convicted of murdering her father, the famous painter, Amyas Crale. Carla shows him a letter written by her mother, to be given to her on her 21st birthday, that states that she did not kill Crale. Carla has a fiancée who says nothing but whom she believes thinks that there may be a streak of madness in her family. She wants Poirot to discover a sixteen year old truth. There are five people (five little pigs, as Poirot imagined them) who could have killed Crale: his two best friends and brothers Meredith and Phillip Blake, Elsa Greer, the 20 year old girl posing for Crale for a painting who lets it be known that he plans to leave Carolyn and their child for her, Angela Warren, Carolyn's teen-age half-sister whom Carolyn disfigured in a fit of jealous rage when she was a baby and Angela's governess, Miss Williams. Poirot asks each to write an account of the day before and day of the murder. It is after reading those letters that Poirot divines the murderer and in the final denouement brings all the principals plus Carla and her fiancée together to reveal the murderer and the motive. First rate Christie

What a fantastic read- no Hastings, no sidekicks, no matter! I love how Agatha Christie always manages to keep things fresh. Some might not like this book because it falls away from its usual format and focuses on a mystery that is decades old. The accused has already been convicted and died at this point, and the daughter of the accused has sought Poirot's help to clear her mother's name. Although Poirot is in the whole book, we hardly see him because most of the book happens in the past. I find this book refreshing because beyond the mystery is a very deep love story, something Christie has touched on in the past but not in depth. It is a very satisfying read that follows sound logic, but also explores the emotional side a lot more.

I first read this book when I was a child. The characters, some of whom were casually cruel have remained vivid in my mind. Agatha Christie was such an acute observer of behavior. I think perhaps that is why she is widely read as time passes. The styles, houses and landscapes change, but human nature is consistent. Is it interesting to read something so vivid from my childhood with an adult's experience. My perspective is somewhat different but Ms. Christie's writing stands the test of time. In this novel Poirot conducts an investigation of a murder so long in the past that there is no

physical evidence existent. Even the estate has been reworked, some of the structures no longer exist. He has been asked by the daughter of a woman convicted of murder to find out what really happened. The young woman has received a letter from her mother now deceased stating her innocence. She wishes to know the truth before she marries. Poirot agrees to reconstruct the crime from the memories of those who were there. To succeed he must weed through the lies, misperceptions and memory lapses of the witnesses. The people in question although members of the British upper class were living in an unconventional way as the young women's father, a famous painter was working on a portrait of his young mistress in the house he shared with his wife and family. Understandably, tensions ran high and a dead body was the result. As I work my way back through the "golden age" mysteries I am amazed at how well many of these writers wrote. There are elements of prejudice and intolerance in some of these works that are intolerable now but the plots the wit and the puzzles endure.

Agatha Christie, greatest mystery in the world, in history, is back again with yet another case for her top detective, Hercule Poirot. Reading this, I thought I may have found a dud Christie story, and I was wrong. This story is set in the 1960's, when Poirot is really starting to get up there in years. Carla Crale has recently found out a horrible secret about her past. Sixteen years ago, her mother was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of her husband, and died only a year into the sentence. But before her death, she wrote her daughter a letter claiming she was innocent. Carla engages Poirot to prove her mother's innocence and determine what really happened. The book has a smaller cast than most Poirot novels, with only six major characters. It doesn't really give the reader much room for red herrings and puzzlement. Yet, the solution to this mystery was as satisfying as any other Poirot novel I've read.

I'm not going to bother with an overview of the story, I'm sure enough have done that already. Years ago, thanks to my English/Lit teacher, I developed a love for her books, starting with "And then there were none" (known as "10 little indians" at that time). Anyone who loves a good mystery should definitely read this, as well as her other novels. It doesn't matter whether you're 14 or 80, her books are a perfect read. She will keep you guessing til the end, and when you think you've got it figured out, you'll find out you were completely wrong. In most mystery novels (by other authors), I can figure it out fairly quickly. And most of them now have romance involved as well. While I don't mind romance & mystery together, I also like reading solely about a mystery. I don't need romantic adventures in every book, if you catch my drift. And I'm thankful Ms. Christie writes solely about the

mystery without the need to throw any romantic entanglements in there. Conclusion- Mrs. Christie never disappoints and you'll never feel bored while reading her work. Fair warning, you will not want to put the book down. Have I mentioned she's an amazing author? She's the queen of mystery for a reason. Read the book, I promise you won't regret it.

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