**Agatha Christie – Life, Works & Legacy**

**Overview & Early Years**

* **Full name**: Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie (née Miller), born **15 September 1890** in Torquay, Devon, England; died **12 January 1976** in Wallingford, Oxfordshire. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agatha_Christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Encyclopedia Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Agatha-Christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* Largely educated at home, encouraged by her mother and well read from a young age. [HISTORY](https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/september-15/agatha-christie-is-born?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Biography](https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/agatha-christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Literary Career & Style**

* A defining voice in the **Golden Age of Detective Fiction**, Christie created over **66 detective novels**, **14 short story collections**, and numerous plays, under her own name and the pseudonym **Mary Westmacott**. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agatha_Christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Encyclopedia Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/question/What-is-Agatha-Christie-known-for?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* Famous for her ingenious plots, red herrings, complex puzzles, and unexpected twists, she penned iconic detectives like **Hercule Poirot** and **Miss Marple**. [The New Yorker](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2010/08/16/queen-of-crime?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agatha_Christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Iconic Detectives & Works**

* **Hercule Poirot** debuted in *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (1920) and stars in many novels until his final case, *Curtain*, published posthumously. [Encyclopedia Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Agatha-Christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Wikipedia+1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agatha_Christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Vedantu](https://www.vedantu.com/biography/agatha-christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* **Miss Marple** first appeared in *The Murder at the Vicarage* (1930), featuring in a collection of novels and short stories such as *Sleeping Murder*, released posthumously. [Wikipedia+1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agatha_Christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* Among her best-known works: *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Death on the Nile*, *And Then There Were None* (the best-selling mystery novel, with over 100 million copies sold worldwide), *The Mousetrap* (the longest-running play). [Encyclopedia Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Agatha-Christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Wikipedia+1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/And_Then_There_Were_None?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[GradeSaver](https://www.gradesaver.com/author/agatha-christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Sun Signs](https://www.sunsigns.org/famousbirthdays/profile/agatha-christie/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Personal Life & Intrigue**

* Christie’s life mirrored her mysteries in drama: her mother died in 1926, she suffered greatly, and later **disappeared for 11 days**, prompting a national manhunt before being found under a false identity. [Encyclopedia Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Agatha-Christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[The Times](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/agatha-christies-life-was-as-scandalous-as-her-stories-by-lucy-worsley-j6lrh6s87?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[HISTORY](https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/september-15/agatha-christie-is-born?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Cadena SER](https://cadenaser.com/nacional/2025/04/23/agatha-christie-desaparecida-allan-poe-asesinado-y-otros-misterios-sin-resolver-cadena-ser/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* Married **Archibald Christie** (1914–1928), with whom she had a daughter, Rosalind. She later married archaeologist **Sir Max Mallowan** in 1930 and joined him on archaeological digs—experiences she incorporated into her fiction. [Encyclopedia Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Agatha-Christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[ThoughtCo](https://www.thoughtco.com/biography-of-agatha-christie-4777199?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Biography](https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/agatha-christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[The Times](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/agatha-christies-life-was-as-scandalous-as-her-stories-by-lucy-worsley-j6lrh6s87?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* Her first-hand knowledge of poisons came from her WWI role as a hospital dispenser — something she wove into many plots. [Encyclopedia Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Agatha-Christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[ThoughtCo](https://www.thoughtco.com/biography-of-agatha-christie-4777199?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Honors & Legacy**

* She earned the title **Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE)** in 1971 for her literary achievements. Earlier, in 1956, she had been made **Commander of the Order (CBE)**. [Vedantu](https://www.vedantu.com/biography/agatha-christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Sun Signs](https://www.sunsigns.org/famousbirthdays/profile/agatha-christie/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* Christie remains one of the **best-selling authors of all time**, with over **2 billion** books sold globally in multiple languages. Her works have inspired countless adaptations across stage, film, television, and even games. [The New Yorker](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2010/08/16/queen-of-crime?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agatha_Christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[GradeSaver](https://www.gradesaver.com/author/agatha-christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Sevenov](https://sevenov.com/agatha-christie/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* *The Mousetrap* has been performed continuously in London since 1952, earning a Guinness record. [Encyclopedia Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Agatha-Christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Vedantu](https://www.vedantu.com/biography/agatha-christie?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
* Her legacy is celebrated through memorials like a blue plaque on her home and her estate **Greenway**, now managed by the National Trust. [Sevenov](https://sevenov.com/agatha-christie/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)[Sun Signs](https://www.sunsigns.org/famousbirthdays/profile/agatha-christie/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Quick Reference Table**

| **Category** | **Highlights** |
| --- | --- |
| **Born / Died** | 1890–1976 |
| **Genre & Style** | Detective fiction, master puzzles, red herrings, surprise endings |
| **Iconic Characters** | Hercule Poirot & Miss Marple |
| **Key Works** | *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, *And Then There Were None*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *The Mousetrap* |
| **Drama & Disappearance** | Missing for 11 days during emotional turmoil |
| **Honors** | DBE (1971), CBE (1956) |
| **Legacy** | 2B+ books sold, continuous stage show, widespread adaptations |