



ANG206- P2

The Moving Finger

Tutorial English class - First Semester of 2012

PROFESSEUR: JAN TABET

TIAGO CHEDRAOUI SILVA PIGEONHOLE: 214

February 02, 2012

Book: The moving finger

Questions

Who is sending anonymous letters? And why? Mr. Symmington was the responsible for the anonymous letters. He planned to kill his wife, and these letters were a way to disguise he was the real killer. So, he wrote all the letters in advance and started delivering them, until he could kill his wife.

When did the anonymous letters start? In the beginning of the book the main character received one anonymous letter, which, talking later to the doctor of the city he discovered that it wasn't the first letter received by people in Lymstosk, which is the small country city when the story takes place.

Did Mrs. Symmington really committed suicide? Or was she killed by someone?

Mrs. Symmington death was because she drank cyanide, which could have been put by someone or by herself. In the first time, we're lead to think that she committed suicide because of an anonymous letter received, which said that she had an affair outside of her marriage which resulted in a baby. We are induced to believe that it would be true and she decided to take out her life, or that it wasn't true but the husband would not believe.

Later, in the book we discovered that she was killed by her husband, which indeed was the anonymous writer of the letters. He created a death which seemed incidental. To foil the police, he copied the letters from another case which had a woman anonymous writer, so when the police saw the letters they suspected to

be a woman writer and not a man.

Indeed he put cyanide in the top cachet of the ones she took in the afternoon, and when she was dead he put cyanide in a cup of water, inducing us to think that she drank cyanide. He left a scrap of paper written with his wife's handwriting 'I can't go on', which was cut from a note she wrote a long time before.

How the mystery was solved? Later, a new letter was sent to Elsie Holland, who was in charge of the kids. The letter said that she must get out of the house and was warning her that all the city was laughing at her, because they knew she wanted to marry the husband of the dead woman. In the end of the letter, there was a menace remembering what happened to the other girl, who was killed.

The police man Nash, was sure that the letter was sent by another woman in the house, more specifically the nurse of the family, because he saw her typing the letter, but she denied everything.

However, proofs were against her, in the cupboard under the stairs of the house, where no one normally look into, there was found pages of an old book, from where the letters of anonymous letters have been cut. Also, a heavy pestle linked with the murder of house's maid disappeared from the doctor's house, who was brother of the accused girl.

Nevertheless, they got wrong woman! Indeed, the police suspected it was a woman regarding the kind of anonymous letters, but if this letters didn't have something related to the suicide, what if it was disguise to make us think that it was a suicide, while it was murder?

Miss Marple gave the clue, there wasn't anonymous letters. If they were all fake, why they were created? If we took out the letters from the problem what we got? A woman was dead, I who wanted to kill her? Her husband, so he could have his attractive young governess after his wife's death.

Why is Agnes, one of the maids, killed a week after Mrs. Symmington suicide?

In the afternoon of Mrs. Symmington suicide, Agnes has returned to home earlier because she quarreled violently with her boyfriend in the middle of a walk. Agnes expected that her boyfriend would return to apologize, so she waited in the kitchen, watching the front of the house through the window. The police thought that she discovered who was the anonymous writer, who had delivered the letters by himself. As she knew the identity of the killer, she was in a great danger. So, she was the next target.

However, later the police discover that there was no deliverer, and as she did not see anyone delivering the letters, she knew there was not an anonymous writer, which will lead us easily to the real killer.

Recommendation

Dear Aline,

You know how much I love Agatha Christie's books and I read a new one: "The moving finger" which is considered to be one of the ten best books written by her. This is a first person narrated story, which sometimes is very nice, but this time I felt a little annoyed. The narrator was not from police, indeed, he tries to discover the mystery,

but not all the time, which made me feel a little bored, because in a book of 250 pages about 70 were useless. These pages were giving time to things happen, and, for me, reading vague happenings aren't so nice.

However, this was another Agatha's masterpiece. She brightly linked everything in the book in a way that all its happenings were part of the solution, even the most detailed one. The murder was very well prepared, what makes the solution even more interesting!

Another thing, the detective of the book is Miss Marple, it was the first appearance of this character in Agatha's books, however, she almost does not participate in the story, but she has a crucial role in solving the mystery.

So, you should wait for a brightly detective story, which is a sort of Miss Marple cases, brightly but not the best type of books to read. If you love detective stories, you should get it. If you never read any Agatha's detective stories I shall recommend first "And then they were none", also called "Ten little niggers", and "The crooked house" if you don't like mysteries with detectives. Or a book with the detective called Hercule Poirot, which in my opinion is better than Miss Marple, as he leads you to peculiar thoughts.

Good reading, see you! Tiago