



The Monogram Murders: A New Hercule Poirot Mystery

By Sophie Hannah, Agatha Christie

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"I'm a dead woman, or I shall be soon . . ."

Hercule Poirot's quiet supper in a London coffeehouse is interrupted when a young woman confides to him that she is about to be murdered. Though terrified, she begs Poirot not to find and punish her killer. Once she is dead, she insists, justice will have been done. Later that night, Poirot learns that three guests at a London Hotel have been murdered, and a monogrammed cufflink has been placed in each one's mouth. Could there be a connection with the frightened woman? While Poirot struggles to put together the bizarre pieces of the puzzle, the murderer prepares another hotel bedroom for a fourth victim.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

S.J. Watson Interviews Sophie Hannah

S.J. Watson is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Before I Go to Sleep*.

SJ: In *The Monogram Murders*, you channeled the voice of the legendary Hercule Poirot. How was writing a longstanding character invented by someone else different from writing your own?

Sophie: Not as different as you might think. I know Poirot so well, from reading all the Christie Poirot novels lots of times. In a way, writing this book felt similar to writing about a real person I was very familiar with. It was a bit like writing an episode in the biography of someone I greatly admire.

SJ: What is your all-time favorite Agatha Christie mystery?

Sophie: That's a tough one. Currently, *Sparkling Cyanide* - so clever and surprising - but I change my mind all the time. My favorite Poirot novel is *After The Funeral*.

SJ: What kind of research did you do prior to sitting down and writing *The Monogram Murders*?

Sophie: I reread all the Christie Poirots, and I booked a week's holiday at Greenway, Agatha Christie's former holiday home in Devon. I hoped that inspiration would strike if I went there, and it did. On the first night there, I propped myself up in bed with my laptop, about five metres away from an enormous portrait of Agatha, and starting putting together my plot. By the time I left at the end of the week, I had the whole story in my mind and on my computer - every last detail. If I were a superstitious person, I would say that Agatha helped me...but of course I'm far too sensible and rational to suggest that! (Or am I?)

SJ: What do you think are some of the quintessential traits of an Agatha Christie mystery? Did you try to incorporate any into *The Monogram Murders*?

Sophie: I tried to incorporate what I think of as all the crucial ingredients of a Christie/Poirot novel: a gleeful delight in storytelling; an outlandish/apparently impossible opening scenario that is later revealed to be eminently possible; the perfect combination of ease and pleasure for the reader with a challenging intellectual puzzle; a profound intelligence that at no point makes the reader feel stupid or condescended to; the centrality of motive and psychology; the combination of a light/feel-good experience for readers with a sophisticated awareness of the dark depravity of human beings. Christie, more than any other crime writer, is able to include polar opposites in her novels - light-dark, easy-difficult - without either ever detracting from the other.

SJ: Do you think Agatha Christie would have been pleased with *The Monogram Murders*?

Sophie: I can't speak for her. I fervently hope so! Wherever she is, I hope she's pleased!

Review

“Sophie Hannah does an egoless, silky job of reviving Agatha Christie’s beloved Belgian detective Hercule Poirot...enough so to hope that Hannah turns to Miss Marple next.” (USA Today)

“Christie herself, some might say, could do no better.... Enough twists, turns, revelations and suspects to cook up a most satisfying red-herring stew. Literary magic.” (Washington Post)

“Does Sophie Hannah’s Poirot live up to our expectations? Yes, he does, and markedly so.... As tricky as anything written by Agatha Christie. The Monogram Murders has a life and freshness of its own. Poirot is still Poirot. Poirot is back.” (Alexander McCall Smith, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*)

“Perfect...a pure treat.” (Tana French, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *The Secret Place*)

“Terrific.... uncanny. As Hercule Poirot himself would say, ‘Bravo, Madame Hannah. Bravo.’ ” (Boston Globe)

“Sophie Hannah is a prodigious talent. I can’t wait to see what she does next.” (Laura Lippman)

“Sophie Hannah’s idea for a plot line was so compelling and her passion for my grandmother’s work so strong, that we felt that the time was right for a new Christie to be written.” (Mathew Prichard, grandson of Agatha Christie)

“Sharply written and rigorously plotted, this Poirot mystery rivals many of Christie’s own.” (NPR)

“Equal parts charming and ingenious, dark and quirky and utterly engaging...I was thrilled to see Poirot in such very, very good hands. Reading *The Monogram Murders* was like returning to a favorite room of a long-lost home.” (Gillian Flynn, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Gone Girl*)

“Sophie Hannah’s *The Monogram Murders* does Christie proud. Our favorite detective is back and in impeccable form!” (Charles Todd, *New York Times* bestselling author of *An Unwilling Accomplice*)

From the Back Cover

The bestselling novelist of all time.

The world’s most famous detective.

The literary event of the year—an all-new mystery featuring

Agatha Christie’s legendary hero Hercule Poirot.

Since the publication of her first novel in 1920, more than two billion copies of Agatha Christie’s books have been sold around the globe. Now, for the first time ever, the guardians of her legacy have approved a brand new novel featuring Dame Agatha’s most beloved creation, Hercule Poirot.

‘I’m a dead woman, or I shall be soon...’

Hercule Poirot's quiet supper in a London coffeehouse is interrupted when a young woman confides to him that she is about to be murdered. She is terrified – but begs Poirot not to find and punish her killer. Once she is dead, she insists, justice will have been done.

Later that night, Poirot learns that three guests at a fashionable London Hotel have been murdered, and a cufflink has been placed in each one's mouth. Could there be a connection with the frightened woman? While Poirot struggles to put together the bizarre pieces of the puzzle, the murderer prepares another hotel bedroom for a fourth victim...

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dennis Taylor:

The book *The Monogram Murders: A New Hercule Poirot Mystery* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable much more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make reading through a book *The Monogram Murders: A New Hercule Poirot Mystery* for being your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You can know everything if you like open up and read a book *The Monogram Murders: A New Hercule Poirot Mystery*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this publication?

Ronda Tollison:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book may be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the reserve untitled *The Monogram Murders: A New Hercule Poirot Mystery* can be very good book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Martin Hobson:

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