

# NATIONAL CRIME READING MONTH



## JUNE 2015

*A nationwide celebration of crime writing – your favourite authors are already planning Murders in Libraries, Bodies in Bookshops and Strawberries and Crime at Village Fetes! To find out what is happening near you, visit [www.nationalcrimereadingmonth.co.uk](http://www.nationalcrimereadingmonth.co.uk)*

# AGATHA CHRISTIE 1890-1976



**Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie**, was an English [crime novelist](#), [short story writer](#), and [playwright](#). She also wrote six [romances](#) under the name Mary Westmacott, but she is best known for the 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections she wrote under her own name, most of which revolve around the investigations of such characters as [Hercule Poirot](#) and [Jane Marple](#),. She also wrote the world's longest-running play, [The Mousetrap](#).

Born into a wealthy upper-middle-class family in [Torquay, Devon](#), Christie served in a hospital during the [First World War](#), before marrying and starting a family in London. She was initially unsuccessful at getting her work published; but

in 1920 [The Bodley Head](#) press published her novel [The Mysterious Affair at Styles](#), featuring the character of Hercule Poirot. This launched her literary career.

The [Guinness Book of World Records](#) lists Christie as the best-selling novelist of all time. Her 66 novels have sold roughly 2 [billion](#) copies, and her [estate](#) claims that her works come third in the rankings of the world's most-widely published books, behind [Shakespeare's](#) works and the [Bible](#) – having been translated into at least 103 languages.

*"Very few of us  
are what we seem."  
— Agatha Christie*



