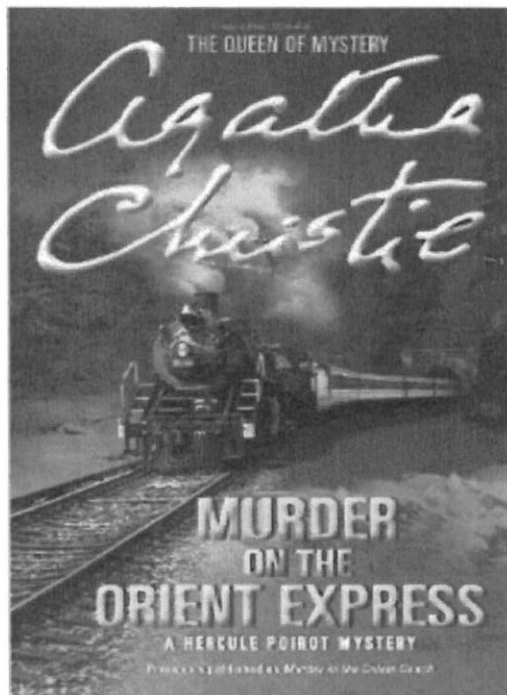


Classic Novel Review: *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie (1934)

By: Maureen Wallace



[Book cover of *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie]. Retrieved April 8, 2015, from <http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/c/agatha-christie/murder-on-orient-express.html>

Hercule Poirot planned to have a nice, leisurely trip home from Syria after working on his latest case. However, his plans quickly change when he is called back to London on urgent business. Poirot books a ticket on the famous Orient Express for what is supposed to be an uneventful journey home. That changes one morning when he wakes up to find

that Samuel Edward Ratchett, the rather unpleasant man in the cabin next to the Poirot, has been murdered. The murderer is still on the train, and it is up to Poirot to find out who killed Ratchett.

Murder on the Orient Express is the tenth novel in Agatha Christie's *Hercule Poirot* series. Despite being the tenth offering from the series, it is possible to follow along and enjoy the story without having read the previous installments. The narrative gets off to a slow start setting up the characters, location, and plot. However, once the action begins, the story quickly becomes exciting and engrossing. Christie sets up the plot in a way that keeps readers guessing the murderer's identity until the very end. All of the clues are presented at the beginning of the novel, as well as all of the characters and their motives, allowing readers to guess and create theories about who the culprit might be.

Murder on the Orient Express is a captivating and well-written mystery. It is no wonder why Agatha Christie is known as the Queen of Mystery. She truly was a master of her craft.