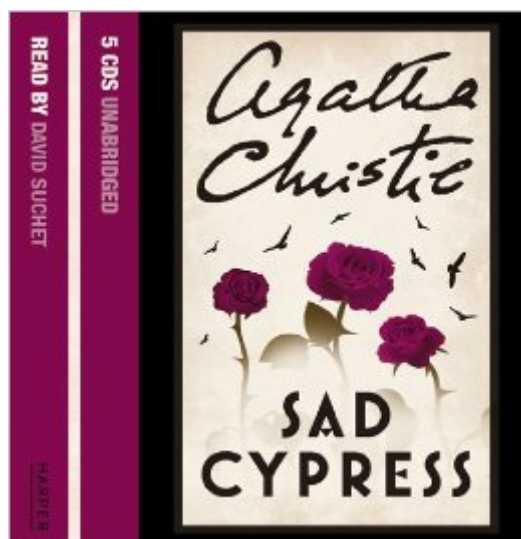


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Sad Cypress: Complete & Unabridged



Synopsis

Another classic Poirot story brought to life by Hugh Fraser. Beautiful young Elinor Carlisle stood serenely in the dock, accused of the murder of Mary Gerrard, her rival in love. The evidence was damning: only Elinor had the motive, the opportunity and the means to administer the fatal poison. Yet, inside the hostile courtroom, only one man still presumed Elinor was innocent until proven guilty: Hercule Poirot was all that stood between Elinor and the gallows...

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd; Unabridged edition (February 17, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 000715755X

ISBN-13: 978-0007157556

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 7.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (93 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,159,759 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

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Customer Reviews

Agatha Christie is renowned for creating apparently simple murder mysteries that unexpectedly twist for completely unexpected conclusions--and no where is this better seen than in *SAD CYPRESS*, a cleanly written tale about a romantic triangle that leads to murder with only one possible suspect. The novel opens with Elinor Carlisle actually in the dock, accused of double murder in an effort to hold the affections of her distant cousin and fiance Roderick Welman. When called into the case by a local doctor, Hercule Poirot discovers that Elinor behaves exactly as if she is guilty of the crime. Nonetheless, he agrees to investigate... and as Poirot works to uncover the truth, he finds that virtually everything about the crime indicates that Elinor did indeed commit the crimes--a circumstance which, almost perversely, makes him begin to question the guilt others have taken for granted. This is one of Christie's least known but most effective novels, a work that deserves to be ranked with the likes of *MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS*, *THE ABC MURDERS*, and *A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED*. The characters are among her most vivid, the story has an unpretentious atmosphere, and the solution is both absolutely reasonable and absolutely

unexpected. Christie writes with considerable clarity, and the simplicity of her approach makes the story all the more effective. An impressive work, sure to please both old fans and newcomers alike; recommended.

"Sad Cypress" deals with the eternal triangle which always ends with sadness for someone. In this case, Elinor Carlisle is the odd girl out as her fiancé and distant cousin Roderick Welman falls madly in love with his and Elinor's childhood friend, Mary Gerrard, after Mary returns from years abroad. The three of them had been great friends at Hunterbury, the lavish estate of Mary's aunt Mrs. Laura Welman. Mrs. Welman had hoped Elinor and Roderick would marry one day and live at Hunterbury. Mrs. Welman dies suddenly without leaving a will. As her next of kin, Elinor inherits all. Although Mrs. Welman had spoken frequently of providing for Roderick and Mary, the lack of a will leaves them without recourse. In the midst of all this upheaval, Elinor prepares lunch for Mary one day, and Mary dies of morphine poisoning. With suspicion falling heavily on Elinor, the body of Mrs. Welman is exhumed and found to also contain morphine poisoning. All fingers point to Elinor for having killed Mary out of jealousy and her aunt in order to get the full estate. Only one person, Dr. Peter Lord, believes in Elinor's innocence and he calls in the inimitable Hercule Poirot to investigate. An excellent courtroom sequence and outstanding characters make this one of Christie's best, in my opinion.

Something Christie did with this book makes it different from any of her others. It has been said (and rightly said) that she cared little about imagery and in-depth description of people and places, unless it was pertinent to the murders. The characters in Sad Cypress, however, are amazingly 3-D. In the right mood, one could actually cry over the injustice of Mary's death. Elinor's jealousy is another aspect that Christie captured perfectly. I was almost jealous FOR her! Besides stimulating the emotions, however, this book also works on the brain. That's probably what most Christie readers look for in her novels, so don't worry: 'it's' there. There's also something else, there, though, that isn't usually abundant in Christie's other stories. This time, prepare to feel AND think.

I'm an Agatha Christie Junkie. I'm in the process of reading all of her books - this is a personal goal of mine! Well, I am starting with the good ones first. I define good as those with above a 4.5 rating on and also mentioned frequently on the top best lists. This is definitely an overlooked gem! It often gets neglected due to the fame of "Ten Little Indians" and "Murder on the Orient Express". While this book may not have as big of a 'twist' as some of her other works, like "Who Murdered Rodger

Ackroyd" this book "Sad Cypress" is definitely one of her best written. The dialogue flows so smoothly. All of the characters are really fleshed out and interesting, if not likeable. You want to turn the page and learn more about them! As it stands, this is by far one of my favorites. The romance is intriguing. The main characters are very unique. The descriptions are very believable. At the end, you will probably say to yourself that you can see how this all happened. It is definitely something where all the pieces fit together. It is also quite different from the style of the other Agatha Christie works, so it stands out just a little bit.

This is Agatha Christie's only courtroom drama, and the mystery that unfolds is bracketed by scenes in court. She even presents evidence as if it were meant to appear in court, and Poirot is hired to help the defense prove that the one woman who could have committed the crime (or crimeS) in question didn't do it. The courtroom drama aspect of this novel isn't nearly as compelling as the mystery itself. Overall, it's not one of Christie's best, but loyal readers will still be kept guessing right up until the end. As for me, I am still guessing about what the heck the title could mean. The book offers no hint whatsoever, so any clues to THAT lingering mystery would be most welcome.

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