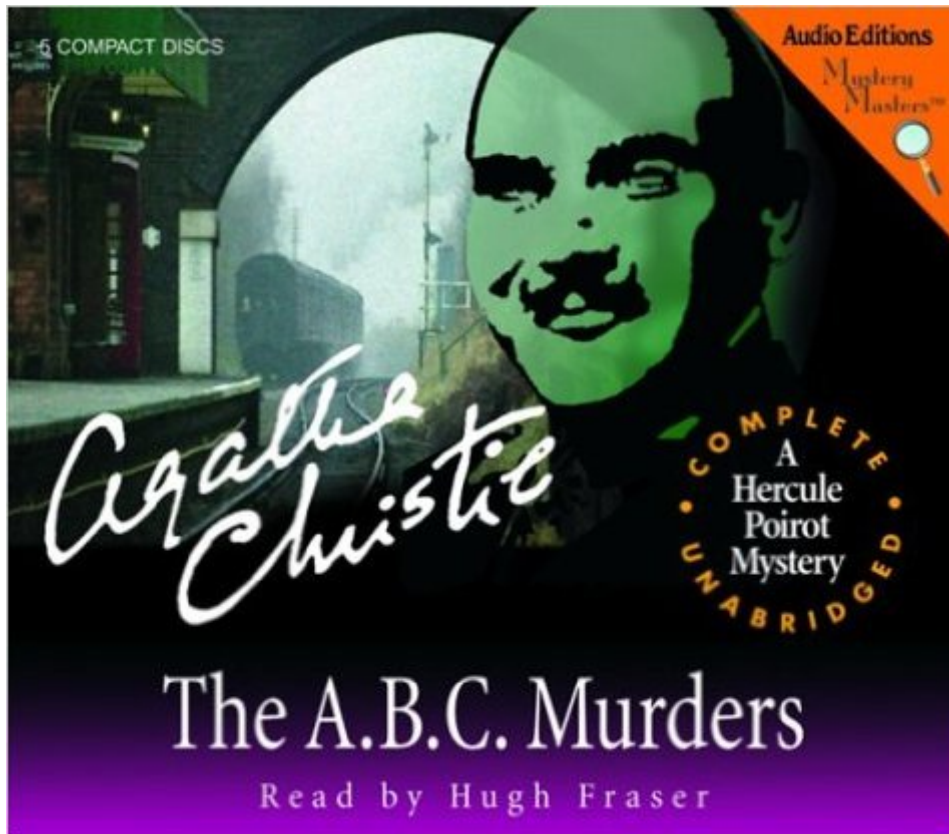


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The A.B.C. Murders: A Hercule Poirot Mystery



Synopsis

Mustachioed sleuth Hercule Poirot receives a letter challenging him to solve a murder that has yet to be committed. The clues? A date and a location, and the signature A.B.C. Soon Alice Ascher is killed in Andover, an open A.B.C. railway guide near her body. Next it's Betty Barnard, strangled in Bexhill. Can Poirot find the serial killer before he — or she — goes through the entire alphabet?

Book Information

Series: Mystery Masters

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (213 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,474,053 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #130 inÂ Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (C) > Christie, Agatha #775 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction >

Classics #4668 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

Customer Reviews

Christie's A.B.C. Murders is a nice, readable, read-while-you-travel sort of mystery novel. It probably won't leave a lasting impression on you (I had to reread it myself before I wrote this review), and it doesn't stand out among many other other Christie books. If you're a Christie fan, as I am, you'll get to this one in due course. If you're new to the world of Agatha Christie and are looking for a first taste, I recommend "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" or "And then there were none" first. Still, there are a few nice little novelties in the plot and book that give it some character over other Poirot stories: First, the murderer sends a warning letter to Poirot before each murder, as a sort of challenge to the detective to see if he can prevent them. In addition, the narration is different - jumping back and forth between Hastings telling the story first hand and occational third person narration. Another small point I found amusing is the Sherlock Holmes reference - possibly a small attempt by Christie to compare herself with England's other master mystery writer. Unfortunately, all of these devices have a limited impact on the plot. Christie throws a red herring at the reader that is

so emphasized and overexposed that it has very little credibility and loses its effectiveness. Also, it seems as though much of the narration is filler, waiting for the next murder to take place. Characters spend way too much time talking about thinking about the murders, rather than actually doing any thinking about them. You get the sense that Christie is stalling, because she can't have any meaningful occurrences between the murders, and she has to write something or the book would be too short.

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