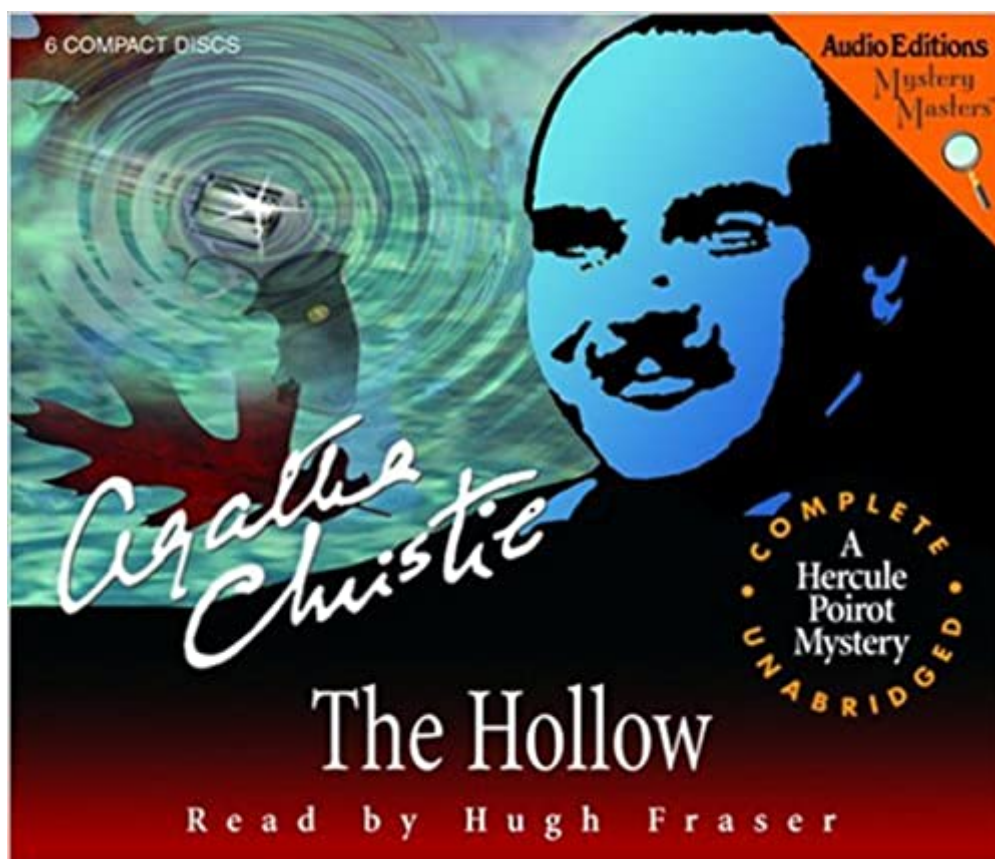


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Hollow: A Hercule Poirot Mystery (Mystery Masters)



Synopsis

Hercule Poirot arrives at The Hollow for a weekend luncheon just in time to see Gerda Christow standing, revolver in hand, over the body of her husband. It seems obvious that she has killed her wayward spouse, but Poirot doesn't believe things are that simple. What does Christow's death have to do with his current and former lovers, both of whom are nearby? What secrets are the weekend guests hiding in this case of love, deceit, mystery, and death?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Fans... who have relished the Poirot mysteries provided in previous Audio Editions unabridged editions will further welcome Five Little Pigs." -- Library Bookwatch, December 2004

A far-from-warm welcome greets Hercule Poirot as he arrives for lunch at Lucy Angkatell's country house. A man lies dying by the swimming pool, his blood dripping into the water. His wife stands over him, holding a revolver. As Poirot investigates, he begins to realize that beneath the respectable surface lies a tangle of family secrets and everyone becomes a suspect. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Really fun read with lots of misdirection to keep readers on their toes. It's a little different from Christie's earlier books, and Poirot is more in the background than usual, even though he was an eye witness. This story is very much character driven and the characters well drawn and fascinating.

Not a humble rector or little old lady in the bunch. It deserves to be better known than it is, but is perhaps overlooked because Poirot is not as central to the story as usual. But his little gray cells are in fine form, don't worry. He soon untangles all the misdirection and red herrings to discover "who dunnit." Part mystery and part drawing room comedy, it has a different pace from many of Christie's books, but may be one of best.

This is the most psychological of the Agatha Christie's that I've read so far (and I've read a lot). I agree that with other reviewers (and with Christie herself) that the late addition of Poirot changes the book into a much more wooden read. Not only is Poirot's character not used in his green-cat-eyed best, but the book becomes almost mechanical in its treatment of the mystery. I still give it 4 stars because I love the first part of the book. I realized, like others, somewhere in the middle of the book that I had read this in the past when I was a Christie harlot in my teens. Now, I am rereading Christie with a greater appreciation of her apt insights into psychology and life in general. Where in the past, I had to take these descriptions on faith, I can now recognize them as true within my own experience. Don't read it if you're looking for a straight mystery. There are many better Christie books for that. But if you're into Christie for all the aphoristic bits, then the first half of the book will satisfy.

Most Christie fans think that her books from the late 1920s through the mid-1940s were her best. This book was first published in 1946 when Christie was 56 years old and starting to flag a bit, although she still had another 25 years worth of writing in her! I think of the Poirot novels as falling into two categories: Those where Poirot is involved from the beginning -- often accompanied by Colonel Hastings -- and those where a good part of the story has been told -- often including the murder -- before Poirot makes his appearance (sans Hastings). This novel is of the second type. In fact, Poirot makes very little effort to solve the case by carrying out an investigation, waiting instead for the various suspects to come to see him. He is so passive that his sudden trip at the end of the novel from the countryside where the mystery is set into London to confront the murderer seems rather abrupt. Although the mystery is satisfying and the story is interesting, the resolution is not the best. In addition to Poirot's somewhat under motivated appearance at the crucial moment, it seems odd that [QUASI-SPOILER ALERT] the murderer would both have poison available and have the presence of mind to slip it into the tea of the person who is confronting the murderer. Nevertheless, this is certainly a very good, if not quite great, Christie and these Black Dog editions are terrific bargains at less than \$10 on .

I actually liked the fact that Poirot is a fairly minor character here- think the author should have written more of her books this way especially since she seemed to get burnt out on him. Specifically as others have pointed out there was much more focus on the characters and their backgrounds and motivations. There was much less focus on drama and detective work. I liked that the inspector Poirot does inevitably work with is not the traditional bumbling buffoon whose sole purpose is to serve as a punching bag for Poirot. Definitely a different kind of Christie book.

A strange bunch of characters meet at a home in the English countryside. One gets murdered. Each of the personalities is really fleshed out so that you can see them in the mind's eye, even the murder victim. That is what I really enjoyed about this novel. Hercule Poirot just happens to be occupying a cottage next door, so he is involved. It takes him a while, but he figures it all out and solves the case. A real page-turner.

This is one of Christie's best, perhaps more a novel than a mystery. It centers on the somewhat muddled relations between Dr. John Christow and three women - his wife and two lovers. Each has a motive for killing him, and he is found shot to death. There are other characters, of course, including some other women, including the entertainingly bewildering Lucy Angkatell. Christie builds up atmosphere and keeps things moving just enough to keep the reader interested. Hercule Poirot is the detective, but he is really peripheral to the story and could easily have been left out.

Agatha Christie--- always dependable. Tightly written and twisty as a pretzel. Astonishing to me that after reading mysteries (as desert, not meat and veg), for 60 years, that I still return to Agatha as a much loved, dependable friend. It's the plots!

There are no bad Agatha Christie books so just go ahead and read this one. :-) As always, there story is wonderful and the characters thoroughly engaging. It's interesting to watch the characters involved learn the truth about themselves. I enjoyed this book very much.

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