

Agatha Christie's Poirot Episode Guide

Episodes 001–075

Last episode aired Wednesday November 13, 2013





© 2013 www.tv.com



© 2013 www.itv.com



© 2013 wikipedia.org

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

The summaries and recaps of all the Agatha Christie's Poirot episodes were downloaded from <http://www.tv.com> and <http://www.itv.com> and <http://wikipedia.org> and processed through a perl program to transform them in a \LaTeX file, for pretty printing. So, do not blame me for errors in the text ☺

This booklet was \LaTeX ed on June 28, 2017 by footstep11 with create_eps_guide v0.59

Contents

Season 1	1
1 The Adventure of the Clapham Cook	3
2 Murder in the Mews	5
3 The Adventure of Johnnie Waverly	7
4 Four and Twenty Blackbirds	9
5 The Third Floor Flat	11
6 Triangle at Rhodes	13
7 Problem at Sea	15
8 The Incredible Theft	17
9 The King of Clubs	19
10 The Dream	21
Season 2	23
1 Peril at End House (1)	25
2 Peril at End House (2)	27
3 The Veiled Lady	29
4 The Lost Mine	31
5 The Cornish Mystery	33
6 The Disappearance of Mr Davenheim	35
7 Double Sin	37
8 The Adventure of the Cheap Flat	39
9 The Kidnapped Prime Minister	41
10 The Adventure of the Western Star	43
11 The Mysterious Affair at Styles (1)	45
12 The Mysterious Affair at Styles (2)	47
Season 3	49
1 How Does Your Garden Grow?	51
2 The Million Dollar Bond Robbery	53
3 The Plymouth Express	55
4 Wasps' Nest	57
5 The Tragedy at Marsdon Manor	59
6 The Double Clue	61
7 The Mystery of the Spanish Chest	63
8 The Theft of the Royal Ruby	65
9 The Affair at the Victory Ball	67
10 The Mystery of Hunter's Lodge	69
Season 4	71
1 The ABC Murders (1)	73
2 The ABC Murders (2)	75
3 Death in the Clouds (1)	77
4 Death in the Clouds (2)	79

5	One, Two, Buckle My Shoe (1)	81
6	One, Two, Buckle My Shoe (2)	83

Season 5 **85**

1	The Adventure of the Egyptian Tomb	87
2	The Underdog	89
3	Yellow Iris	91
4	The Case of the Missing Will	93
5	The Adventure of the Italian Nobleman	95
6	The Chocolate Box	97
7	Dead Man's Mirror	99
8	Jewel Robbery at the Grand Metropolitan	101

Season 6 **103**

1	Hercule Poirot's Christmas	105
2	Hickory Dickory Dock	107
3	Murder on the Links	109
4	Dumb Witness	113

Season 7 **115**

1	The Murder of Roger Ackroyd	117
2	Lord Edgware Dies	119

Season 8 **121**

1	Evil Under the Sun	123
2	Murder in Mesopotamia	127

Season 9 **129**

1	Five Little Pigs	131
2	Sad Cypress	135
3	Death on the Nile	137
4	The Hollow	141

Season 10 **143**

1	The Mystery of the Blue Train	145
2	Cards on the Table	147
3	After the Funeral	149
4	Taken at the Flood	151

Season 11 **153**

1	Mrs McGinty's Dead	155
2	Cat among the Pigeons	157
3	Third Girl	161
4	Appointment with Death	163

Season 12 **165**

1	Three Act Tragedy	167
2	Hallowe'en Party	169
3	Murder on the Orient Express	173
4	The Clocks	177

Season 13	179
1 Elephants Can Remember	181
2 The Big Four	183
3 Dead Man's Folly	187
4 The Labours of Hercules	189
5 Curtain: Poirot's Last Case	191

Actor Appearances	195
--------------------------	------------

Season One

The Adventure of the Clapham Cook

Season 1

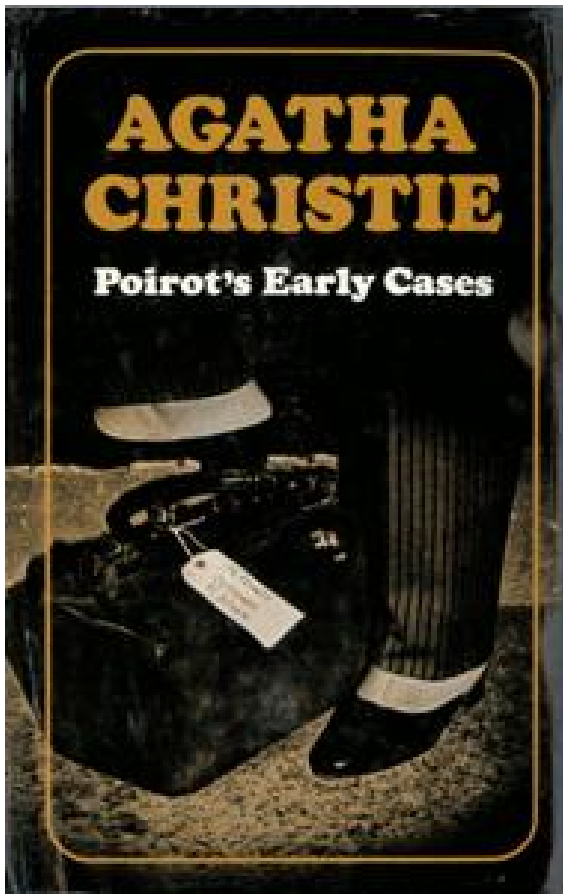
Episode Number: 1

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Sunday January 8, 1989
Writer: Clive Exton, Agatha Christie
Director: Edward Bennett
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Recurring Role: Richard Bebb (Cameron)
Guest Stars: Antony Carrick (Todd), Nicholas Coppin (Police Constable), Dermot Crowley (Arthur Simpson), Freda Dowie (Eliza Dunn), Brigit Forsyth (Ernestine Todd), Jona Jones (Police Constable), Phillip Manikum (Police Sergeant), Katy Murphy (Annie), Brian Poyser (Salvation Army Speaker), Danny Webb (Porter), Frank Vincent (II) (Purser)
Summary: Mrs Ernestine Todd, from Clapham, asks Poirot to help her find her cook, Eliza, who has vanished without trace. Poirot likes to take on only big and important cases, so at first he feels slighted by being called on to work on such a trivial matter. But he agrees to visit Mrs Todd's house, and after he has seen the contents of the missing cook's trunk, Poirot decides the case might prove to be worthy of his great talents, after all.

Poirot is not interested in investigating some of the cases which appear in the newspapers and which Hastings tries to bring to his attention. These include a bank clerk who disappears with fifty thousand pounds of securities, a suicidal man and a missing typist. He is put on the spot though when visited by a Mrs. Todd who is determined that he investigate her missing cook. With some humour, and to avoid an argument, he agrees to take on the trivial case. Eliza Dunn, a middle-aged woman, walked out of her job and the Todd's house in Clapham two days ago without working her notice and has not communicated with her employer since, except for sending for her trunk that day. Interviewing the maid in the house, Poirot finds out that the trunk was already packed, meaning that Eliza had planned to leave even though her departure was swift. The other occupants of the house are Mr. Todd, who works in the city, and their lodger, Mr. Simpson, who works in the same bank at which Mr. Davis worked. Struck by this coincidence as he is, Poirot cannot see a connection between an absconding bank clerk and a missing cook. Poirot places advertisements in the newspaper enquiring as to the whereabouts of Eliza and several days later he is successful in locating her when she visits Poirot's rooms. She tells him a story of having come into a legacy of a house in Carlisle and an income of three hundred pounds a year, dependent upon her taking up the offer and immediately leaving domestic service. This legacy was communicated to her by a man in the street that approached her as she was returning to the Todd's house one night, the man supposedly having come from there to see her. The money came from a friend of her late grandmother who had settled in Australia and married a wealthy settler. Eliza had immediately taken the train north and a couple of days later received her belongings from Clapham, although wrapped in paper parcels and not in her old trunk, which she supposes had been kept behind by Mrs. Todd in a fit of pique. Poirot rushes back to Clapham with Hastings and explains matters on the way. Simpson knew what his colleague Davis was up to at the bank. He killed the man for the securities and needed an old, inconspicuous trunk in which to hide the body and that meant diverting Eliza out of the way. It was Simpson in disguise that approached her in the street. On arriving at Clapham, Simpson has already disappeared but is traced to an ocean liner bound for the US. The trunk with Davis' body inside is located at

a Glasgow railway station. Poirot views the link between a disappearing cook and a murder to be one of his most interesting cases, and he frames the cheque sent by Mr. Todd for his consulting fee as a reminder of it.



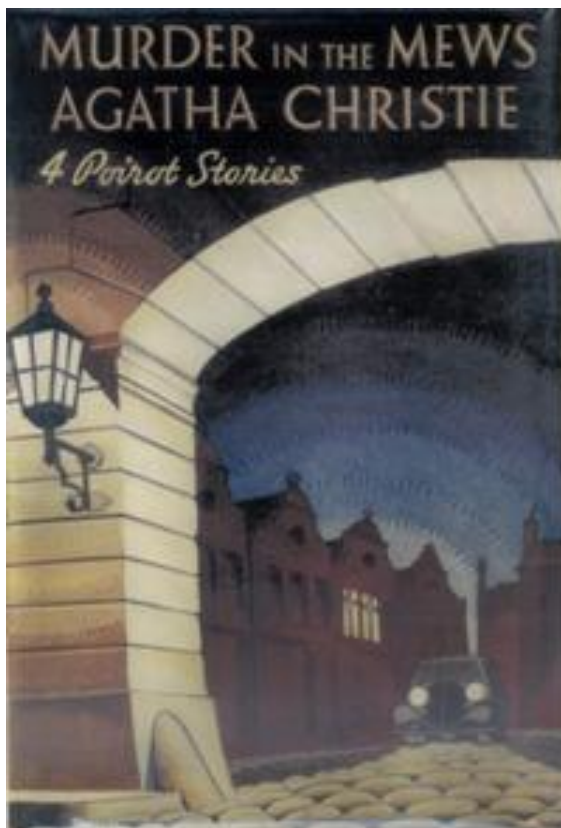
Murder in the Mews

Season 1

Episode Number: 2

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Sunday January 15, 1989
Writer: Clive Exton, Agatha Christie
Director: Edward Bennett
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Gabrielle Blunt (Mrs Pierce), Christopher Brown (III) (golfer), Bob Bryan (barman), Barrie Cookson (Dr Brett), John Cording (Inspector Jameson), Nicholas Delve (Freddie), James Faulkner (Major Eustace), Juliette Mole (Jane Plenderleith), Moya Ruskin (singer), Beccy Wright (maid), David Yelland (Laverton West)
Summary: It occurs to Hastings that with fireworks going off all around London on November 5th (Bonfire Night), no one would take much notice of a shooting. And within hours Poirot finds himself investigating a violent death in Hastings's own mews garage. At first, it seems as if a young lady who was about to marry a self-important member of parliament killed herself - but Poirot is not happy with the suicide theory. So if it was murder, who is the killer?



Japp asks Poirot to join him at a house in Bardsley Garden Mews where a Mrs. Barbara Allen shot herself the previous evening — Guy Fawkes Night — the moment of death being disguised by the noise of fireworks. Once there they find that the doctor thinks there is something strange about the death of the woman, a young widow. Mrs. Allen was found by a housemate, Miss Jane Plenderleith, who had been away in the country the previous night. The victim was locked in her room and was shot through the head with an automatic, the weapon being found in her hand. The doctor however points out that the gun is in her right hand while the wound is above the left ear — an impossible position to shoot with the right hand. It looks as if this is a murder made to look like suicide - and by an unusually incompetent murderer with poor attention to detail. They interview Miss Plenderleith and find out that Mrs. Allen was engaged to be married to Charles Laverton-West, an up-and-coming young MP but, although the pistol was the dead lady's, she cannot think of a reason why she should use it to commit suicide.

Japp and Poirot find further clues: the gun has been wiped clean of fingerprints and large sums of money have been withdrawn from Mrs. Allen's bank account on several occasions but there is no trace of money in the house. They also find from a neighbour that Mrs. Allen had a gentleman caller the previous evening whose description

doesn't tally with that of her fiancé. Feeling that Miss Plenderleith is keeping something back, they ask her about this male visitor and she suggests that it was Major Eustace — a man that Mrs. Allen knew when she was in India and who she has seen on several occasions in the past year. She got the feeling that Mrs. Allen was afraid of the man and Japp and Poirot suggest that Major Eustace was blackmailing her — an idea which meets with approval from Miss Plenderleith. Poirot points out though that it is unusual for blackmailers to kill their victims, normally it is the opposite way round. Japp, as part of his look round the house, searches a cupboard under the stairs which contains items such as umbrellas, walking sticks, tennis racquets, a set of golf clubs and a small attaché-case which Miss Plenderleith hurriedly claims is hers. The two men sense Miss Plenderleith's heightened tension.

Miss Plenderleith proves to have an impeccable alibi for the time of the death and Poirot and Japp interview Charles Laverton-West. He is stunned to find out that a murder investigation is taking place and admits that he himself has no sound alibi. They also try to see Major Eustace and hear that he has gone off to play golf. Mention of this suddenly makes Poirot see everything clearly. Managing to get hold of Eustace later on, they notice that he smokes a brand of Turkish cigarette whose stubs were found in the mews house, even though Mrs. Allen smoked a different kind. They also prove that he wore a set of cufflinks, a damaged part of which was found in the room where Mrs. Allen died and Japp arrests him for murder.

On a pretext, Poirot makes Japp call at the mews house and while they are there Poirot sneaks another look at the cupboard under the stairs and sees that the attaché-case has gone. As Miss Plenderleith has just come back from playing golf at Wentworth, they go there and find out that she was seen on the links with the case. Later investigations show that she was seen to throw the item into the lake there. The police retrieve it but find nothing in it. Poirot asks Japp and Miss Plenderleith to call at his flat and they tell her of Eustace's arrest. Poirot then tells her of his real conclusions. From clues concerning missing blotting paper, Poirot deduces that Mrs. Allen had written a letter just before she died, which if she killed herself, would indicate a suicide note. He postulates that Miss Plenderleith came home, found her friend dead, driven to kill herself by the actions of her blackmailer and was determined to avenge her — this wasn't a murder made to look like suicide but a suicide made to look like murder and thereby entrapping the blackmailer. Miss Plenderleith placed the gun in Mrs. Allen's right hand, despite the fact that she was left-handed, and the purpose of her trip to Wentworth was to hide there the dead lady's golf clubs — left-handed clubs, the attaché-case being a red herring to put the police off the trail. Convinced that Major Eustace will be imprisoned for his other crimes, she agrees to tell the truth and save the man from the gallows.

The Adventure of Johnnie Waverly

Season 1
Episode Number: 3
Season Episode: 3

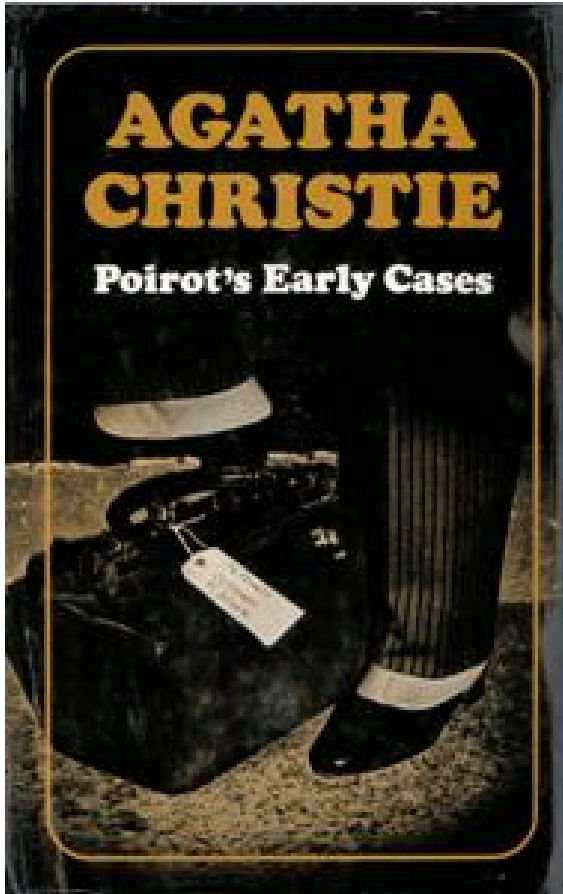
Originally aired: Sunday January 22, 1989
Writer: Clive Exton, Agatha Christie
Director: Renny Rye
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon)
Guest Stars: Sandra Freeman (Miss Collins), Patrick Jordan (Tredwell), Dominic Rougier (Johnnie Waverly), Geoffrey Bateman (Marcus Waverly), Samantha Beckinsale (Barmaid), Julia Chambers (Ada Waverly), Patrick Connor (Hughes), Carol Frazer (Jessie Withers), Jona Jones (Constable), Jonathan Magnanti (Policeman), Phillip Manikum (police sergeant), Robert Putt (Rogers)
Summary: Marcus Waverly, an English country squire, calls on Poirot for help in dealing with anonymous letters threatening to kidnap his son, Johnnie. Hastings is deeply shocked by the thought of people going around kidnapping children, and it becomes a race against time to find out who the mystery letter writer is. Of course, there is a lot more to the mystery than kidnap threats.

Poirot is called in to investigate the kidnapping of three-year old Johnnie Waverly, the son of Marcus Waverly from his old family home, Waverly Court in Surrey. For several days prior to the kidnapping, the family received anonymous letters which threatened to take the boy unless twenty-five thousand pounds was paid. Mr. Waverly took the letters to the police who took little interest until a final letter was received which stated that the boy would be kidnapped at twelve o'clock the next day. On the day that the threat was due to take place, Mrs. Waverly was mildly poisoned and a note was left on Mr. Waverly's pillow which stated, "At Twelve O'Clock". Horrified that there was someone inside the house who was involved, Mr. Waverly sacked all of the staff except for his long-time Butler, Tredwell and Miss Collins, his wife's trusted secretary-companion.

At the appointed time, Mr. Waverly, his son and Inspector McNeil of Scotland Yard were in a locked room in the house with police posted in the extensive grounds. Dead on twelve, the police found a tramp sneaking toward the house who had on him cotton wool, chloroform and a post-kidnap note ready to plant. Mr. Waverly and the Inspector dashed outside to see what was happening and the boy was taken then — driven off in a car through a now unguarded gate. The astonished people then heard the village clock chiming twelve and realised that the main clock in the house had been put forward by ten minutes. A car with a small child in it was stopped some time later but found not to be the one that the police were looking for. The tramp claims he was employed by Tredwell but the butler has an alibi for the time that he was supposedly meeting the tramp as he was in the house with Mr. Waverly at the time.

Poirot travels to Waverly Court and is told of the existence of a Priest hole. In it, he finds the footprint of a small dog in one corner but no one knows of any such creature small enough in the house. After questioning the child's sacked nurse, Tredwell and Miss Collins, Poirot concludes his investigation and confronts Mr. Waverly. He 'kidnapped' his own son to get money from his rich but very careful wife. The poisoning of the wife to incapacitate her, the note on the pillow and the re-setting of the clock point to an inside job and only Mr. Waverly could sack all of the servants to reduce the level of protection around the child. Tredwell was in on the matter being a devoted servant of his master and he did indeed employ the tramp. The footprint of the 'dog' in the priest's hole was that from a toy kept there to amuse the boy until he could be spirited away

afterwards. A shamefaced Mr. Waverly confesses to Poirot and reveals that the child is presently with his old nurse.



Four and Twenty Blackbirds

Season 1

Episode Number: 4

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired:	Sunday January 29, 1989
Writer:	Russell Murray, Agatha Christie
Director:	Renny Rye
Show Stars:	Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars:	Tony Aitken (Tommy Pinner), Holly de Jong (Dulcie Lane), Geoffrey Larder (Harry Clarke), Clifford Rose (Makinson), Charles Pemberton (Stooge), John Bardon (Lavatory Attendant), Cheryl Hall (Molly), Denys Hawthorne (Bonnington), Richard Howard (George Lorrimer), Marjie Lawrence (Irene Mullen), Philip Locke (Cutter), Andrew Mackintosh (Doctor), Hilary Mason (Mrs Hill), Stephen Pruslin (Pianist), John Sessions (Radio Voices), Guy Standeven (Vicar), Peter Waddington (Forensic), Su Elliott (Edith)
Summary:	At a London restaurant where he often goes to eat, Poirot notices that another of the regular customers has dramatically changed his diet. Meanwhile, old Anthony Gascoigne lies dying in Brighton, and his estranged twin brother Henry falls to his death. A tragic accident, or murder? Poirot sees connexions and he decides the answer to the mystery lies in a blackberry pie.

Poirot is eating out with a friend, Henry Bonnington, and the conversation turns to people's habits. Bonnington eats regularly in the restaurant that they are in and he points out a white-bearded man as evidence of his theories. This man eats the same meal there on Tuesdays and Thursdays and always orders much the same items as part of his three-course meal. The waitress brings their meals and confirms Bonnington's view of the man — except that the previous week he also came in on Monday and ordered things he'd never ordered before. Poirot's curiosity is piqued.

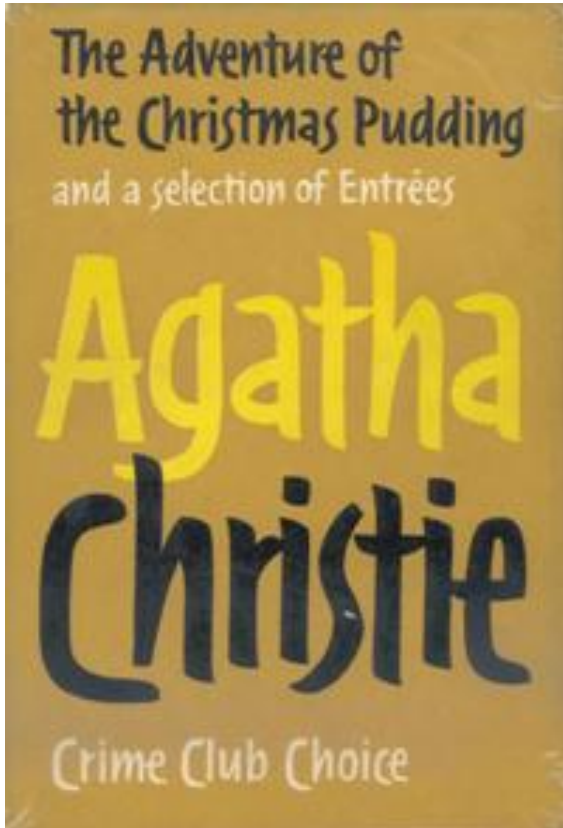
Three weeks later, Poirot and Bonnington meet by chance on a tube train and during the conversation Bonnington mentions that the bearded man has not been seen for a week. Bonnington's theory is that he has died and his change of habits on the Monday in question was as a result of being told bad news by his doctor. Poirot is not certain and starts to investigate. He easily finds the man's name from a list of recent deaths — Henry Gascoigne — and with a suitable introduction, meets the dead man's doctor. The man lived alone and died after an accidental fall downstairs at his house and was found after his milk bottles started to pile up on the doorstep. He died at approximately 10.00pm on the third and had eaten a meal a couple of hours before, at the same restaurant Poirot saw him in. He had a letter in the pocket of the dressing gown he was wearing that was postmarked the third and was part of the evening's delivery. This helps time the death. In response to the question of relatives, Poirot is told that Henry had a twin brother, Anthony, who died on the afternoon of the same day as his brother after a long illness and that their only surviving relative is a nephew, George Lorrimer. Poirot is interested in the dead man's teeth and it is confirmed that they were very white for their age...

After several calls of investigation, Poirot meets Lorrimer and accuses him of murder. Lorrimer's response proves the accusation has hit home.

Meeting Bonnington again, Poirot explains: Anthony left a large fortune to his dead, but estranged, brother. Lorrimer would eventually inherit but was impatient for the money. He actually murdered his uncle in the afternoon of the third upon hearing of the death of the twin and again,

in disguise, impersonated his uncle at the restaurant (the previous occasion on the Monday being a practice run). However he forgot to impersonate his uncle's eating habits and ordered different foods to those usually chosen, including blackberry tart for dessert. His uncle didn't eat food which stained the teeth whereas Lorrimer's teeth are stained. He further amended the postmark on the letter he had sent on the second to give a false time of death and then joined a bridge party in Wimbledon immediately after eating at the restaurant to give himself an alibi.

There is reference to the cricket match played in 1934, England vs Australia. Hastings reads from a newspaper mentioning that Verity took 14 wickets for 70 and 6 of them in the last hour.



The Third Floor Flat

Season 1

Episode Number: 5

Season Episode: 5

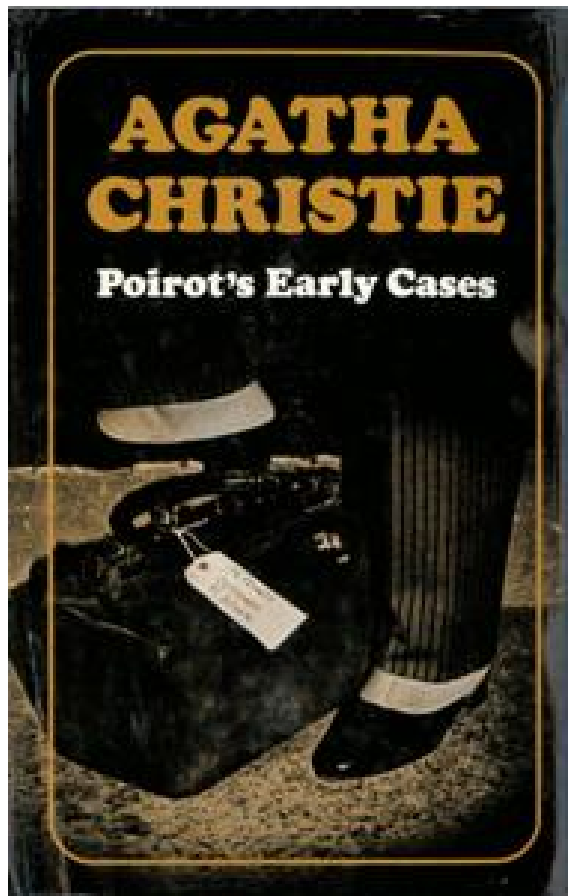
Originally aired: Sunday February 5, 1989
Writer: Michael Baker, Agatha Christie
Director: Edward Bennett
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Alan Partington (Inspector Flint), Helena McCarthy (Coffee Stall Owner), Norman Lumsden (Vicar), Jona Jones (Police Constable), George Little (Mr Dicker), Suzanne Burden (Patricia Matthews), John Golightly (Donovan the removal man), Josie Lawrence (Mrs Grant), Robert Hines (Jimmy), Amanda Elwes (Mildred), Susan Porrett (Trotter), James Aiden (Major Sadler), Gillian Bush Bailey (Mrs Sadler), Nicholas Pritchard (Donovan)
Summary: Poirot is feeling terribly bored, as he has had no murder cases at all for several weeks. He takes Hastings to see a new whodunnit at the theatre, to relieve the boredom. But just a few hours later, Poirot is disturbed in his own apartment by the strange shooting of Mrs Grant, a resident of his building, Whitehaven Mansions. Two young couples find the murdered woman's body in the third-floor flat two floors below Poirot's, and it soon appears that bigamy may be the key to the mystery. But is it?

Four young people, two women and two men, are returning after a night out to the home of one of the women — Patricia Garnett. She is annoyed as she cannot find the key to her flat on the fourth floor of her apartment block in her handbag. The porter doesn't have a spare key, nor is there a fire escape, but the suggestion is made that the two men, Donovan Bailey and Jimmy Faulkener, make their way up through the coal lift and let the women in.

They go to the basement and make their way up. Exiting the lift, they find the kitchen in darkness and Donovan instructs Jimmy to remain where he is while he locates the light switch. He does so but the light fails to work and Donovan makes his way through the dark to the sitting room. He switches on that room's light and they suddenly realise that they have miscounted the floors and that they are in the flat below which, according to a pile of letters, seems to belong to a Mrs Ernestine Grant. They make their way up to the next floor again via the coal lift and let Pat and the second lady, Mildred Hope, into the former's flat. It is then that they notice that Donovan has cut himself as there is blood on his hand. He washes it off but cannot find a cut to explain the blood and voices his fears to Jimmy. Again using the coal lift, they return to Mrs Grant's flat below and soon spot a foot sticking out from under a curtain — it is the dead body of Mrs Grant. Back on the landing with the girls, they are discussing calling the police when a voice interrupts them, agreeing with their plan of action. It is the occupant of the fifth floor flat who introduces himself as Hercule Poirot, the famous detective that the four people have heard of. Going into Mrs Grant's flat, Poirot finds it curious that the light switch in the kitchen now works. He also sees that the red tablecloth disguises a patch of blood — it is this that Donovan touched to get the blood on his hand. The body was moved after death.

The police arrive and Poirot and the four people go back to Pat's flat where she makes them a much appreciated omelette. Inspector Rice questions them and tells them that Mrs Grant was shot with an automatic pistol some five hours earlier in the kitchen. They have found a note from someone signed "J.F." saying that he would be there at half-past-seven (the approximate time

of death), the pistol she was shot with and a silk handkerchief used to wipe the prints from the gun and which is named "John Fraser". Poirot is suspicious — why would the murderer wipe his prints and yet leave his own handkerchief as evidence behind?



The police leave but the Inspector gives Poirot permission to inspect the flat himself. He goes down there with Donovan and Jimmy. He immediately starts to search in the kitchen bin and soon finds a small bottle. He sniffs the corked top carefully but says that he has a cold and Donovan impetuously pulls the stopper out and sniffs the contents for him. The results are almost immediate — Donovan drops in a faint. Jimmy fetches his friend a drink and Donovan recovers and decides to go home.

Jimmy remains and Poirot tells him the case is solved. There is no such person as John Fraser as the letter and handkerchief were put there in purpose to hide the murderer's identity. The bottle in the bin was a ruse which Donovan fell for — it contained ethyl chloride and Poirot placed it there when he was apparently searching the bin. When Jimmy was getting the drink for his friend, Poirot searched Donovan's pockets and found two things — Pat's missing flat key which Donovan had abstracted earlier in the evening and a letter sent to Mrs Grant which arrived by the late evening post. Poirot had been struck by the fact that the light switch in the kitchen supposedly didn't work when later on there seemed nothing wrong with it. Donovan needed to get Jimmy out of the kitchen into the other room whilst he found the letter he was so desperately searching for and if he switched the light

on in the kitchen as soon as they arrived in the coal lift he wouldn't have had the opportunity as their "mistake" in counting the floors would instantly have been noticed.

The letter is from a firm of solicitors agreeing that the marriage between Donovan Bailey and Ernestine Grant some eight years before in Switzerland was entirely lawful. Donovan wanted to marry Pat but his previous marriage was stopping him. By chance his first wife moved into the same block as his proposed future wife and was threatening to tell Patricia about their marriage. To stop her, Donovan killed her earlier in the evening but had to return for the solicitor's letter which he knew was on the way but which had not yet arrived.

Triangle at Rhodes

Season 1
Episode Number: 6
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Sunday February 12, 1989
Writer: Stephen Wakelam, Clive Exton, Agatha Christie
Director: Renny Rye
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Yannis Hatziyannis (Purser), Tilemanos Emanuel (Customs Officer), Jon Cartwright (Commander Chantry), Sofia Olympiou (Good Woman), Dimitri Andreas (Greek Cashier), Anthony Benson (Skelton), Georgia Dervis (Greek Girl), Angela Down (Marjorie Gold), Al Fiorentini (Police Inspector), Stephen Gressieux (Italian Policeman), Timothy Kightley (Major Barnes), Annie Lambert (Valentine Chantry), George Little (Mr Dicker), Frances Low (Pamela Lyle), Patrick Monckton (Hotel Manager)
Summary: Poirot is staying at the Palace Hotel on the Aegean island of Rhodes. Among his fellow guests are an English couple, Commander and Mrs Chantry - and Poirot notices the beautiful Mrs Valentine Chantry flirting with other men. And then she is found dead, poisoned, and at once her husband is suspected. Is this a simple crime of passion, or is there some other motive at work? To solve the mystery, Poirot has to unravel a number of tangled relationships between those staying at the Palace Hotel. And he does not have the help of Hastings, who is not on the island.

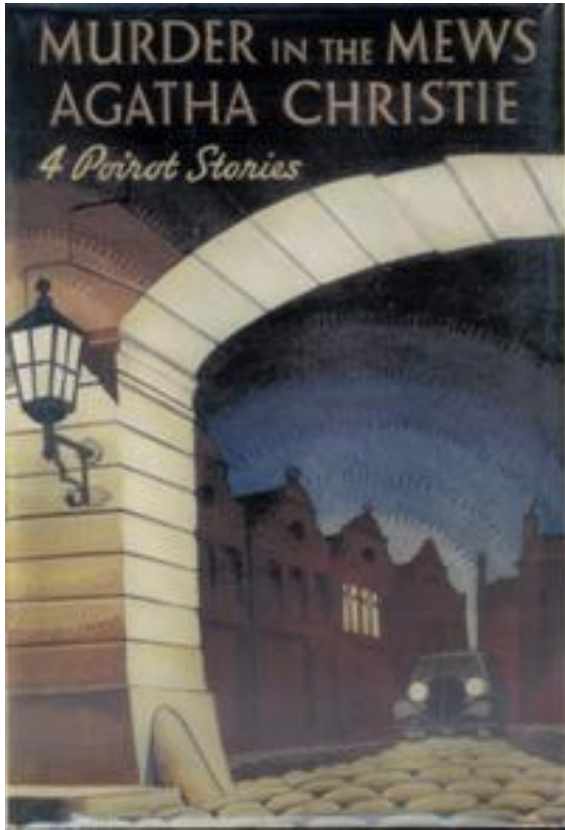
Wishing for a quiet holiday free from crime, Poirot goes to Rhodes during the low season in October where there are but a few guests. Aside from the young Pamela Lyall and Susan Blake there is Valentine Chantry, a consciously beautiful woman who seems to swoon under the attentions of Douglas Gold. This is done at the expense of his own wife, Marjorie, a mildly attractive woman, and Valentine's husband Tony Chantry.

This is the "triangle" that everyone observes, and it gets rather absurd with the two men vying for Valentine's favour. She seems to delight in the attention.

Marjorie soon wins the sympathy of many of the guests of the hotel as her husband is frequently in the company of Valentine, she confesses her own doubts about Valentine to Poirot. Poirot, however, warns her to flee the island if she values her life.

The event comes to a head one evening, beginning when Gold and Chantry have a loud argument. Valentine and Marjorie return from a drive, and the former is poisoned by the cocktail her husband gives her. Gold is immediately suspected, as the stropanthin that kills Valentine is found in the pocket of his dinner jacket. Poirot notices otherwise, seeing that Chantry puts it in Gold's pocket just as everyone's attention is on his dying wife.

Poirot gives this information to the police, and points out to Pamela Lyall that she was focusing on the wrong triangle. The real triangle was between Valentine, Marjorie and Chantry. Chantry lost patience with his wife and killed her, fixing Gold with the blame of the death. And Poirot's warning to Marjorie Gold was not because he feared she would be murdered, but because he knew she was the type to commit one.



Problem at Sea

Season 1

Episode Number: 7

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Sunday February 19, 1989
Writer: Agatha Christie, Clive Exton
Director: Renny Rye
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Sheila Allen (Mrs Clapperton), Ben Aris (Captain Fowler), Geoffrey Beavers (Tolliever), Jack Chissick (Bates), Ann Firbank (Ellie Henderson), Melissa Greenwood (Kitty Mooney), Victoria Hasted (Pamela Creegan), Colin Higgins (Skinner), Roger Hume (General Forbes), Louisa Janes (Ismene), Caroline John (Mrs Tolliver), Panayotis Kaldis (First Hawker), Yorgos Kotanidis (Photographer), Stathis Mauropoulos (Second Hawker), John Normington (Colonel John Clapperton), James Ottaway (Russell), Dorothea Phillips (Kelly Morgan), Sheri Shepstone (Emily Morgan)

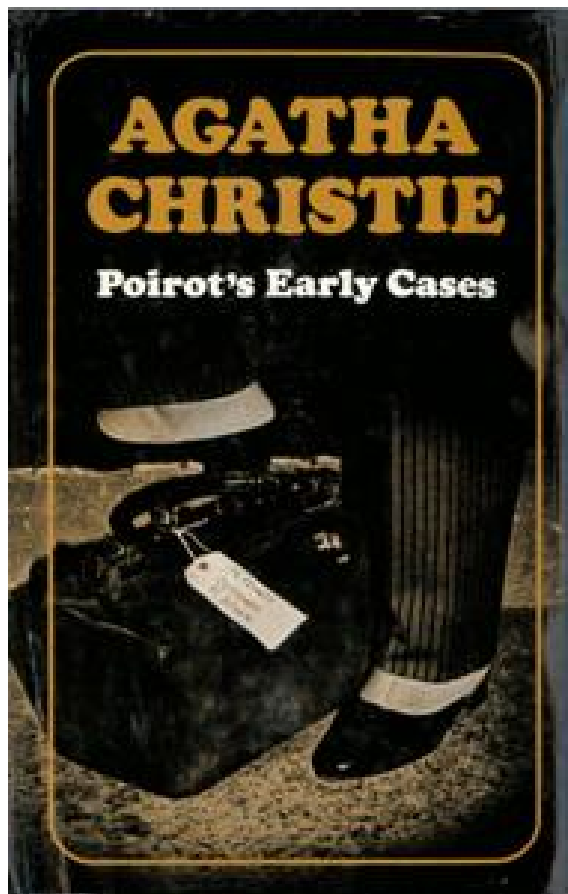
Summary: Poirot and Hastings are on board a ship steaming towards Alexandria, in Egypt. Poirot recovers from his usual sea-sickness to take an interest in some fellow-passengers, especially the Clappertons. The rich Mrs Clapperton is offensively rude to lesser mortals, while Colonel Clapperton is rumoured to be not a real colonel at all, but a retired music-hall performer. On arrival at Alexandria, Mrs Clapperton is found murdered in her cabin, and Poirot finds (as usual) quite a number of suspects.

Poirot is undergoing the trial of a sea voyage to Egypt, supposedly as a holiday. Not enjoying one bit the motion of the waves, he joins in the conversations of the other passengers. Among them is a General Forbes who is angrily dismissive of a man who calls himself Colonel Clapperton. He states that Clapperton is a former music hall performer who, injured during the war, got himself into a society lady's nursing home and then received her patronage to find him a job at the War Office. The other passengers on the boat are more sympathetic towards Clapperton, particularly as he demonstrates continuing patience with his difficult and demanding wife. She is something of a hypochondriac, complaining of her heart trouble but at the same time stating that she keeps extremely active, despite her husband's constant entreaties to take life easier. Even Poirot seems to incur her wrath when he responds a little too dryly to her conversation. Somewhat annoyed with him, she marches out of the smoking room where they have been conversing, dropping the contents of her handbag on the way. She leaves behind a piece of paper — a prescription for digitalin.

Two young girls on the boat, Kitty Mooney and Pamela Creegan, take a shine to the Colonel and decide to "rescue" him from his wife. They take him for a walk on the boat deck while his wife plays bridge, a game which the Colonel won't play. Later on, Poirot sees the Colonel demonstrating amazing card tricks to the two young girls who have taken him under their wing. Able to deal out hands of exact suits to the others, the Colonel makes them realise why he won't play cards — he would be able to cheat and win every time — or at least be suspected of doing so — and it would be better for him not to take part.

The boat reaches Alexandria and many of the company go ashore. Mrs Clapperton refuses, shouting to her husband from behind her locked cabin door that she has suffered a bad night and wants to be left alone. When everyone has returned later on, Mrs Clapperton is still not answering her door. A steward opens it for her worried husband and they find the lady dead — stabbed through the heart with a native dagger and money and jewellery stolen. Several bead

sellers were allowed on the boat at the port and they are questioned, particularly as one of their wares was found on the floor of the cabin. Poirot though is puzzled: the door to the cabin was locked from within and he cannot see a reason why Mrs Clapperton would open it to a bead seller, nor why such a person would murder her and lay himself so open to suspicion.



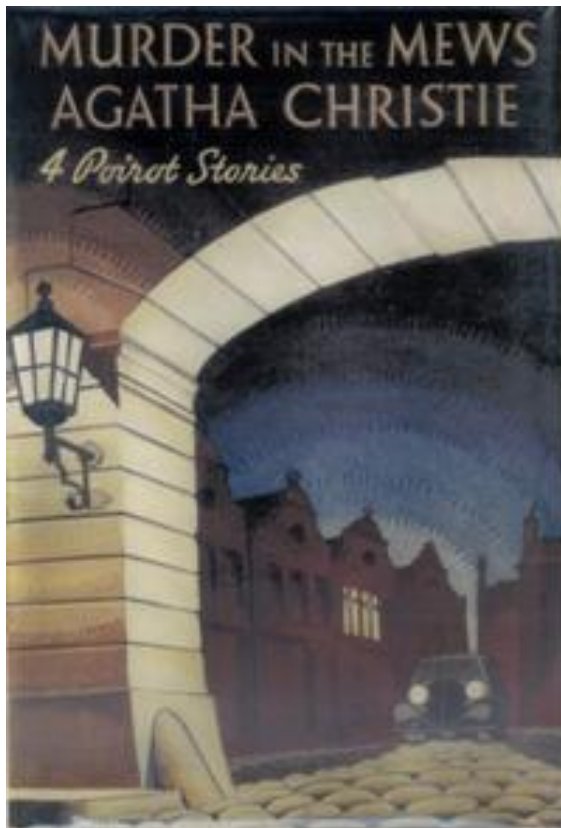
That evening, at Poirot's request, the other passengers are assembled in the lounge. Poirot addresses them and unwraps a ventriloquist's doll which speaks and repeats the words used by Mrs Clapperton from behind the locked cabin door to her husband. The man himself jumps up... and promptly collapses, dead of a heart attack.

Poirot explains: Mrs Clapperton was already dead when her husband, witnessed by Poirot, Kitty and Pamela, heard her "speak" to him from inside the cabin but it was her husband using his music hall act. He showed his card trick to the others to divert attention away from his real skill. Poirot's use of the doll in the lounge was helped by a stewardess behind a curtain providing the voice. Poirot is not surprised that Clapperton died of a weak heart — digitalin would have produced symptoms of dilated pupils which he didn't see in Mrs Clapperton but he did see in her husband and the prescription was for him.

The Incredible Theft

Season 1
Episode Number: 8
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Sunday February 26, 1989
Writer: Agatha Christie, David Reid, Clive Exton
Director: Edward Bennett
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Guy Scantlebury (Reggie Carrington), Albert Welling (Carlile), Phillip Manikum (Sergeant), Carmen du Sautoy (Joanna Vanderlyn), John Stride (Tommy Mayfield), Ciaran Madden (Lady Mayfield), Phyllida Law (Lady Carrington), John Carson (Sir George Carrington), Dan Hildebrand (Chauffeur)
Summary: Lord Mayfield, an aircraft manufacturer, invites Lady Vanderlyn (who is suspected of being a spy for the Germans) to his country house, and he has a plan to trap her. But when Lady Mayfield hears about her husband's plan, she sends for Poirot. Lord Mayfield's plan all seems to go horribly wrong, and Poirot has to tell a few home truths.



This episode is set just before the Second World War. Two Englishmen, Sir George Carrington and Lord Mayfield, are witnessing the secret unveiling of a prototype fighter aircraft code named "The Kestrel". It has been built by Lord Mayfield's company and is planned for defence against enemy aircraft. A talk between the two men gives Lord Mayfield the idea of trapping a suspected spy, Lady Vanderlyn, with an invitation to his country house where the Kestrel plans are held.

When Lady Mayfield hears about the invitation she is wary and decides to add Hercule Poirot to the party, telling him it is a matter of national security. Others invited are Sir George and Lady Carrington, with their son, and Lady Vanderlyn herself.

At dinner there are talks about politics and of how Lord Mayfield had once been accused of selling munitions to the Japanese which they used to bomb Shanghai, when invading China. After dinner some of the guests (including Poirot) play bridge, while Lord Mayfield and Sir George talk about the applications of 'The Kestrel'. Later, they go into Lord Mayfield's office to look at the Kestrel plans. Mayfield's chief assistant, Carlile, has laid out the plans for them, but the most important plan is missing. Carlile is baffled. Poirot arrives in the office, after a late night walk, saying that he will help in recovering this valuable document.

The prime suspect is of course Lady Vanderlyn, a known spy. Lord Mayfield confesses to Sir George that this is not the way he planned for the secret plans to be stolen.

Inspector Japp then appears on the scene to investigate. Poirot is amazed that Japp has arrived so quickly. Hastings says Sir George had spoken to Japp. He had told him a theft could be committed.

On his preliminary thoughts Poirot is sure the document will not be found in the possession of Lady Vanderlyn, as she was nowhere near the scene of the theft at any time. The police search her possessions and nothing is found.

The next morning, Lady Vanderlyn is getting ready to leave, as she is no longer suspected. As she gets into her car, Poirot notices Carlile, Mayfield's assistant, giving her a small suitcase. Poirot and Hastings follow the car. Hastings remembers that the residence of the German ambassador is not far away. Poirot and Hastings try to get to the residence before Lady Vanderlyn. They fail, but do see her handing over the suitcase to the guard at the gate.

Arriving back at Lord Mayfield's country house, Poirot announces to the Mayfields and Sir George Carrington that the plans have been safely delivered to the German ambassador. Sir George is furious, as one of England's best-kept secrets is now in the hands of the enemy. But Poirot explains that Lord Mayfield had planned the theft. Lady Vanderlyn had a specific piece of evidence that linked Lord Mayfield to sale of the ammunition sold a time ago to the Japanese. By giving her the plan, Mayfield had acquired that piece of evidence, a letter in Japanese.

The final twist is that Mayfield and Carlile had cleverly given Lady Vanderlyn a defective plan of "The Kestrel", which the Germans will find useless.

The King of Clubs

Season 1
Episode Number: 9
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Sunday March 5, 1989
Writer: Michael Baker, Agatha Christie
Director: Renny Rye
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Stuart St. Paul (Stuntman), Jeffrey Harmer (Assistant Director), Jonathan Coy (Bunny Saunders), Vass Anderson (Frampton), Abigail Cruttenden (Geraldine Oglander), Mark Culwick (Young Man), Niamh Cusack (Valerie St Clair), Avril Elgar (Mrs Oglander), Gawn Grainger (Ralph Walton), Jack Klaff (Prince Paul of Maurania), Cathy Murphy (Maid), David Swift (I) (Henry Reedburn), Rosie Timpson (Miss Deloy), Sean Pertwee (Ronnie Oglander)
Summary: Prince Paul of Maurania is engaged to marry a beautiful young English actress called Valerie St Clair. And then Valerie becomes the only witness to the murder of Henry Reedburn, a shady and overbearing film producer, at his house, and the police at once suspect her of being the killer. Prince Paul appeals to Poirot to save his intended from a possible murder charge, but in investigating the killing the great detective comes to the conclusion that Valerie has lied and is at least an accomplice. At the end, he finds he has a conundrum to ponder on - When is a murder not a murder?

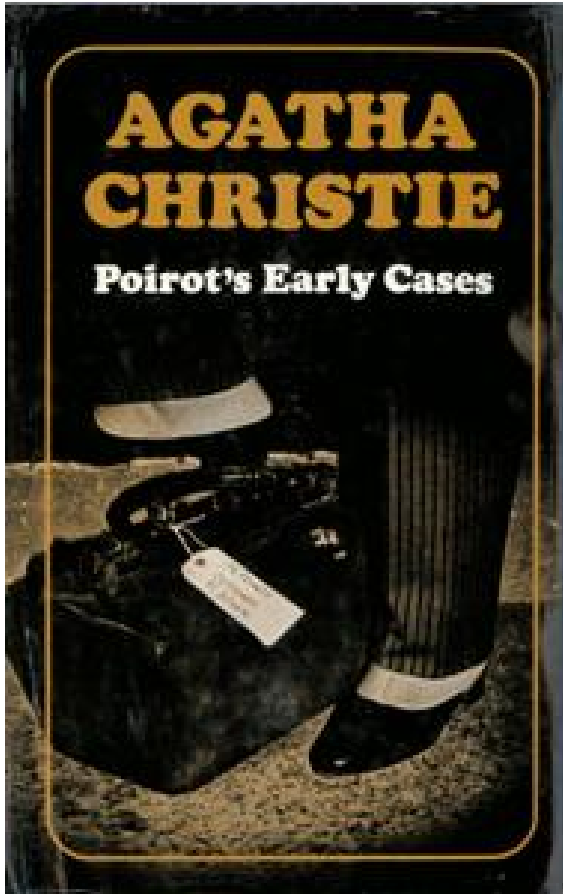
Poirot and Hastings visit a movie set on the invitation of Hastings's friend, Bunny Saunders, the director of the movie. After an argument between the movie's producer, Reedburn, and his leading actor, Ralph Walton, Walton is sacked. Poirot then meets Prince Paul of Maurania, an old acquaintance who is watching his fiancée, the movie's leading actress, Valerie St Clair. Ralph Walton gets drunk and decides to go to Reedburn's house to confront him. On his way there he nearly crashes into Bunny Saunders's car. Valerie St Clair is seen leaving the house in a hurry, followed a few seconds later by a man. She runs to a neighbour's house in shock and asks them to call the police.

Poirot is woken up by a phone call in the middle of the night from Prince Paul, who wants him to help Valerie, but as discreetly as possible. The next morning, Inspector Japp tells Poirot his theory that perhaps a gypsy is responsible, as Reedburn objected to them living nearby. Poirot and Hastings go to speak to Valerie St Clair, who says Reedburn was blackmailing her, but she did not kill him. She will not say what the blackmail was about. Reedburn had asked her to call, but when she arrived, he was dead. She saw someone hiding behind the curtain, was terrified and ran out of the house. Poirot also speaks to Madame Oglander, the neighbour who called the police. She says that her family were playing bridge - but Poirot does not believe her, as he finds a card is missing from the table, suggesting the cards were put there to support the story.

Hastings discovers that Ralph Walton did not arrive at Reedburn's house at all - he had crashed his car before getting there. In Reedburn's desk, Poirot finds some newspaper clippings, showing Valerie St Clair is the daughter of Madame Oglander, who has very dubious origins - the matter of the blackmail. Poirot visits the Oglander household again. He tells Madame Oglander she was not playing cards at all the night before. She admits to him that the Ogländers have kept Valerie's secret, so that she can marry the Prince, and asks him to keep the secret, too. Poirot promises to say nothing. But later, Poirot explains to Hastings that Valerie St Clair and her brother had visited Reedburn on the night he died, hoping to change his mind about the

blackmail. Reedburn refused, and in a moment of anger the brother punched Reedburn, who fell, hit his head, and died. So although there was no intent to kill, Valerie's brother committed an assault which led to death, and she is an accessory.

Poirot agonizes over what to do and decides he will not be pursuing the case any further. Japp has no more leads on the killer and closes the case, unsolved.



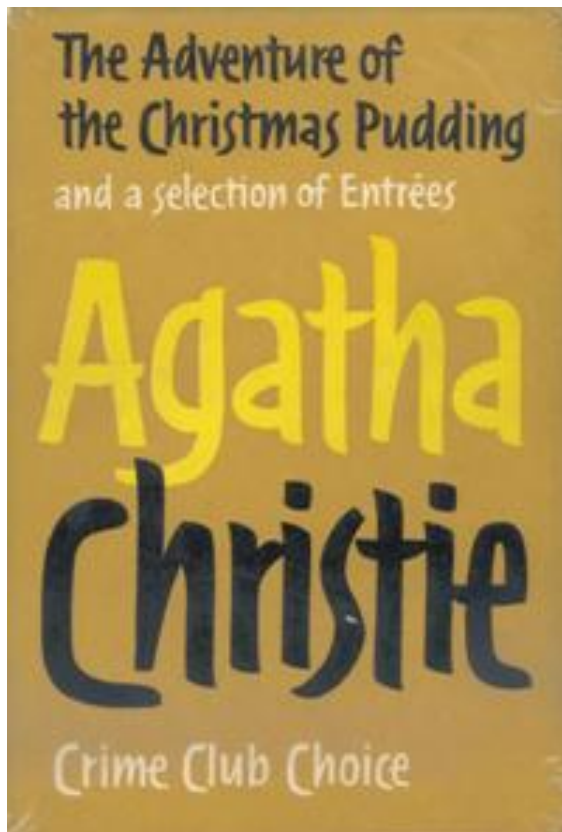
The Dream

Season 1

Episode Number: 10

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Sunday March 19, 1989
Writer: Agatha Christie, Clive Exton
Director: Edward Bennett
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Recurring Role: Richard Bebb (Voice of Newscaster)
Guest Stars: Donald Bisset (Mayor), Fred Bryant (Workman), Christopher Gunning (Bandmaster), Alan Howard (Hugo Cornworthy & Benedict Farley), Arthur Howell (Fencing Instructor), Paul Lacoux (Dr John Stillingfleet), George Little (Dicker), Neville Phillips (Holmes), Joely Richardson (Joanna Farley), Christopher Saul (Tremlett), Mary Tamm (Louise Farley), Martin Wenner (Herbert Chudley), Tommy Wright (First Watchman)
Summary: Millionaire business tycoon Benedict Farley, a well-known eccentric, consults Poirot about the bad dreams he has been having - he has dreamed repeatedly of killing himself. Sadly, Farley does not follow Poirot's good advice, and soon afterwards he is found dead. Poirot fails to believe in suicide - he suspects murder by hypnosis.



Poirot is summoned by letter to the home of reclusive and eccentric millionaire Benedict Farley. He is shown into the office of Farley's personal secretary, Hugo Cornworthy, but finds the millionaire himself alone in the darkened room. Poirot is made to sit in the light of a bright desk lamp and he is not impressed with the man, dressed in an old patchwork dressing gown and wearing thick glasses, feeling that he is stagy and a mountebank and doesn't possess the charisma he would expect from such a rich and powerful person. Farley tells him that he is troubled by a nightly dream in which he is seated at his desk in the next room and at exactly 3.28pm, he takes out the revolver he keeps in his desk drawer and shoots himself. Various doctors have been unable to explain this to him and he has now turned to the famous detective. Poirot wonders if he has enemies who would want to kill him but Farley knows of no one. Poirot asks to see the room where the dream is set but Farley refuses and Poirot therefore takes his leave. Before he goes Farley asks him for the letter he sent him to be returned and Poirot hands it over but then realises he handed over the wrong one and Farley didn't notice. The correct letter is exchanged.

A week later, an acquaintance, Dr Stillingfleet, phones Poirot and tells him that Farley has shot

himself. Poirot goes to the house and meets the doctor, a police inspector, the dead man's second wife, his daughter from his first marriage, Joanna and Hugo Cornworthy in whose office Poirot had had his meeting with Farley. Poirot tells them all of the reason for the previous visit. There is surprise on the part of some members of the party but Mrs Farley was told by her husband of the dreams and she confirms that he kept a revolver in his desk drawer. Her husband seems to have killed himself in precisely the way and at the time the dream foretold. Two visitors were outside his room waiting to see him. Farley spoke to them briefly to tell them he wouldn't be long and then went inside his room. After a considerable period of time, Cornworthy went in and found the dead body. No one could enter the room in the interim. There is a window with no climbable ledge and opposite the window is a blank wall. Poirot feels that the wall is important. He examines the room and finds a pair of extendable tongs which take his interest. He asks various questions of the people gathered there, one of which is to ascertain if Farley had bad eyesight without his glasses and he is told he had. Poirot has the solution: on his previous visit, he did not see Farley but a disguised Cornworthy. It was the secretary who sent the letter to Poirot and he gave the butler instructions to let him in and take him to his own office, not Farley's room. Wearing thick glasses, he was unable to see that Poirot had returned the wrong letter. The act put on by Cornworthy explains why Poirot wasn't as impressed by the man as he expected him to be. Cornworthy lured Farley to the window of his room by a distraction and then shot him by leaning out of his own window, overseen by no one because of the blank wall. He left the man dead for a short while and then went to 'find' the body, planting the revolver there. His co-conspirator was his lover, Mrs Farley, who was the only other person who claimed that the dreams were real and that revolver was kept in the desk drawer. She gives the game away by attempting to attack Poirot but is held back by Stillingfleet.

Season Two

Peril at End House (1)

Season 2

Episode Number: 11

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Sunday January 7, 1990
Writer: Agatha Christie, Clive Exton
Director: Renny Rye
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Joe Bates (Alfred Wilson), Godfrey James (Inspector), John Crocker (Dr Graham), Fergus McLarnon (Hood), Janice Cramer (Maid), Edward Pinner (Pageboy), Jenny Funnell (Nurse), Paul Geoffrey (Jim Lazarus), Geoffrey Greenhill (Wilson), Christopher Baines (Charles Vyse), Mary Cunningham (Ellen Wilson), Elizabeth Downes (Maggie Buckley), John Harding (Commander George Challenger), Carol Macready (Mildred Croft), Alison Sterling (Frederica Rice), Polly Walker (Nick Buckley), Jeremy Young (Bert Croft), Jane Paton (Hotel Receptionist)
Summary: Poirot and Hastings take a holiday in Cornwall, looking for peace and quiet. They meet Miss Nick Buckley, who lives near their hotel at End House, and she tells Poirot she has had three near-fatal accidents in a few weeks. He then finds a bullet hole in her hat, returns with her to End House and is drawn into a complex murder investigation. . .



Detective Hercule Poirot and Captain Arthur Hastings are spending a week's holiday at the Cornish resort of St. Loo, staying at the Majestic Hotel. They meet the young 'Nick' Buckley (her real first name being Magdala), who lives in End House, a slightly ramshackle house on a point in the bay. Nick casually mentions that she had three lucky escapes from death in as many days. Nick thinks nothing of this, but Poirot believes someone is out to kill her. This is confirmed when Poirot finds a bullet that Nick had thought to be a wasp shooting past her head. Poirot explains his concern to Nick, who does not believe him until the bullet is revealed to be from Nick's gun, which has gone missing. Because the attacks on Nick's life have been constant, Poirot does not believe it to be a random madman, but rather someone in Nick's inner circle. Poirot begins to go through possible suspects. Nick's nearest living relative is a lawyer cousin, Charles Vyse, who arranged the re-mortgaging on End House for her to supply desperately needed funds. Her housekeeper is named Ellen, and the lodge near End House is being leased by Mr. and Mrs. Croft, an Australian couple. Nick's two closest friends are Freddie Rice, whom Nick is trying to persuade to

divorce her abusive husband, and Jim Lazarus, an art dealer who is in love with Freddie. Finally there is George Challenger, who cares deeply for Nick and has considered proposing to her.

Poirot instructs Nick to ask a distant relative to stay with her for the time being and protect her, so Nick asks her cousin Maggie to come. Poirot is now sure Nick is safe, but is mystified as to what motive there would be for killing Nick. Nick made a will six months previously in which she left the house to Charles Vyse and anything that remained to Freddie, but the amount would be so small that Poirot thinks it to be pointless to kill for it. That night, Nick holds a party with all of her closest friends in attendance, except Challenger who is delayed. The guests discuss whether the famous but currently missing pilot Michael Seton is really dead or not. At one point Nick leaves to take a phone call. When everyone is outside, Nick and Maggie go back into the house to fetch their coats. Poirot and Hastings later find the dead body of someone wearing Nick's shawl. They immediately assume it is Nick, however they soon discover that Nick is fine, and that the dead person was Maggie. Maggie was wearing Nick's shawl because she could not find her coat, so the murderer assumed she was Nick and shot her.

Nick breaks down over Maggie's death, thinking it was her fault. Challenger soon arrives and is relieved to know the dead girl is not Nick. Poirot and Hastings interview Ellen who strangely was not watching the fireworks; she says she stayed behind to finish washing the dishes. Ellen also mentions a secret panel somewhere in the house, but does not know exactly where it is. Nick later says she has never heard of such a panel. Poirot is incredibly distraught that he could not save Maggie, and he vows he will not fail in finding the murderer. Poirot then sends Nick to a nursing home under the pretense of the shock, but really so she can be protected. No one is to see her, and she cannot eat any food sent from the outside. Poirot still has no idea why someone would want to kill Nick. The next day Poirot sees in the paper that the pilot Michael Seton is in fact dead, and realizes that that was what the telephone call was about. Nick confirms this and tells Poirot and Hastings that she was secretly engaged to Seton. Poirot thinks that even though this was a secret, someone close to Nick probably found out.

To be continued. . .

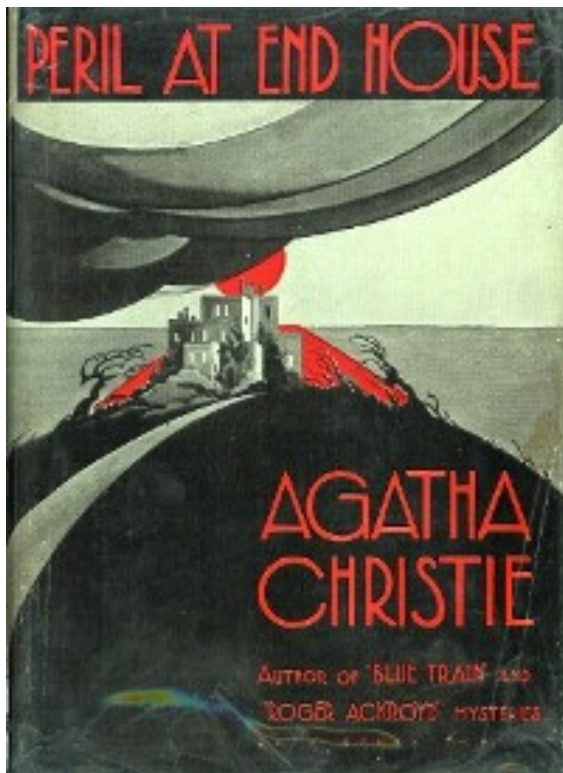
Peril at End House (2)

Season 2

Episode Number: 12

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Sunday January 7, 1990
Writer: Clive Exton, Agatha Christie
Director: Renny Rye
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Edward Pinner (Pageboy), Janice Cramer (Maid), John Crocker (Dr Graham), Godfrey James (Inspector), Jenny Funnell (Nurse), Geoffrey Greenhill (Wilson), Jeremy Young (Bert Croft), Polly Walker (Nick Buckley), Alison Sterling (Frederica Rice), Carol Macready (Mildred Croft), John Harding (Commander George Challenger), Paul Geoffrey (Jim Lazarus), Elizabeth Downes (Maggie Buckley), Mary Cunningham (Ellen Wilson), Christopher Baines (Charles Vyse), Fergus McLarnon (Hood), Joe Bates (Alfred Wilson), Jane Paton (Hotel Receptionist)
Summary: Poirot concludes his murder investigation in Cornwall.



Poirot believes this to be important, because if Seton died then his fortune would go to Nick, and if Nick died it would go to Freddie. Thus Poirot considers Freddie an important suspect. He is also suspicious of Charles Vyse, because he may think he gets Nick's money upon her death instead of Freddie. Poirot and Hastings search Nick's house for the will. They find a few love letters from Seton, but not the will. Nick then remembers she sent it to Charles Vyse; however, when Poirot visits Vyse he says he never got the will. Poirot visits the Crofts next, because it was they who convinced Nick to make a will in the first place, when she was to get her appendix removed. Mr. Croft says that he sent the will to Vyse. Poirot reasons that either Vyse or Croft are lying, although he does not know why. Poirot does not believe the Crofts are connected to the murder, however he is still suspicious of them, mainly because they are just too nice. He asks his friend Chief Inspector Japp of Scotland Yard to check up on the Crofts. Another possible clue is a piece of paper the police found which is apparently part of a letter demanding money, although the author and recipient are unknown. When Freddie later sees this piece of paper she almost faints.

Poirot still believes the will to be very important, so he and Hastings travel to London to visit Michael Seton's solicitor, who confirms Seton's will leaves his vast fortune to Magdala Buckley. Upon returning to St Loo, Poirot finds there has been another attempt on Nick's life, this time cocaine poisoning. Nick apparently ate a chocolate laced with cocaine. As she only ate one, Nick only became ill and was not killed. Further complicating matters is that the box of chocolate was supposedly sent by Poirot as it contained a card which he had sent with a bouquet of

flowers. Poirot finds that Jim Lazarus dropped off the box; he tells them he did this on behalf of Freddie. Freddie says that Nick called her and asked for the chocolates, but her voice sounded a little different, so it might have been someone else. This puts even more suspicion on Freddie, because Poirot can easily tell that she is a cocaine addict, so she would have easy access to the supply.

Poirot is still baffled by the case, but things soon begin to fall into place when he reads a letter that Maggie wrote after arriving at End House. Hastings cannot see anything important in the letter, but it still sparks Poirot's interest. Poirot soon makes a plan; he will put on an elaborate hoax that the murderer has succeeded and that Nick is dead. After a day of waiting for something to happen, Poirot gets a call from Charles Vyse, who tells him he has just received Nick's lost will. Poirot debates what to do with this information. Hastings makes a half-serious comment that, should all else fail, they should attempt to hold a séance and speak with Maggie's spirit. Poirot then suggests that he hold a séance of his own, since Nick is supposedly dead. One final thing helps Poirot solve the case; a conversation he and Hastings have on how some names have no shorter versions, and others have many.

Poirot invites all of the suspects to End House for the will to be read by Charles Vyse. Chief Inspector Japp also attends. The will says that Nick leaves all of her belongings to a very unlikely person: Mrs. Croft, who apparently helped Nick's father in Australia. Everyone is surprised except the Crofts. But then the lights go out and Nick appears. Most assume she is a ghost, but Nick then explains how she is alive and how the will is a fake. Poirot explains the rest. The Crofts are professional forgers, as found out by Chief Inspector Japp. They had convinced Nick to make a will, and were intending to send to Charles Vyse a fake one should she die during her operation. Even though Nick did not die then, the Crofts kept the fake will and sent it in when they thought Nick had died for real. But, the Crofts did not murder Maggie. At that moment a shot is fired from the window and grazes Freddie's shoulder. Poirot rushes to the window and brings inside a sickly looking man who soon dies. This is Freddie's drug addicted husband. He was the one who wrote the letter demanding money. He had threatened to kill Freddie if she did not pay him, and had come to the meeting to do just that. Freddie supposes that, in her husband's drug addicted state, he killed Maggie, thinking she was Freddie. However, Poirot says that the murderer was not Freddie's husband, but someone else entirely: Nick Buckley. Nick confesses and is taken away by the police after asking for Freddie's watch as a souvenir.

Poirot explains Nick's plan to Hastings, Vyse, Challenger, Freddie, and Lazarus, after Ellen leaves and the Crofts are arrested. Nick was never engaged to Michael Seton. Maggie was; her first name was Magdala too. Nick was the only person who knew about the engagement, so she also knew how Seton's will stated all his money would go to 'Magdala Buckley'. With Michael missing and presumed deceased, Nick saw an opportunity to kill Maggie and pretend to be engaged to Seton, thus inheriting his money to fix up End House. Nick staged the attempts on her life herself, and then asked Maggie to join her at End House. When Poirot suggested Maggie come for protection, Nick simply asked her to come a day earlier. This is what Maggie mentioned in her letter that caught Poirot's eye. Nick also sent the poison chocolates to herself to keep up the pretence (she simply disguised her voice a bit when talking to Freddie), as well as stealing some of Michael's letters to Maggie and planting them in her house - but only the ones in which he did not address her by name. Nick then killed Maggie at the party, making it look like another attempt on her life. Poirot admits that he was baffled by the case because he never suspected Nick; he was only able to figure it out once he assumed everything Nick said was a lie.

With the mystery of the murder solved, Poirot takes some time to answer a few remaining questions. The secret panel is real; in fact, Nick had hidden the pistol there and planted it on Freddie to incriminate her, which Japp witnessed. Ellen did not go to see the fireworks because she was suspicious that someone would be killed, although she thought it would be Nick. Challenger is in fact a drug dealer who had been supplying Freddie (although she is no longer taking it) and Nick with cocaine, which is how Nick poisoned the chocolate. Poirot instructs Challenger to flee the scene or face punishment, and Challenger promptly leaves. Finally, the watch Nick got from Freddie through Challenger contains a fatal dosage of cocaine, which Nick has no doubt already taken to escape the hangman's noose. Poirot then leaves End House, happy to have solved the case, while Jim Lazarus and Freddie announce their intent to marry.

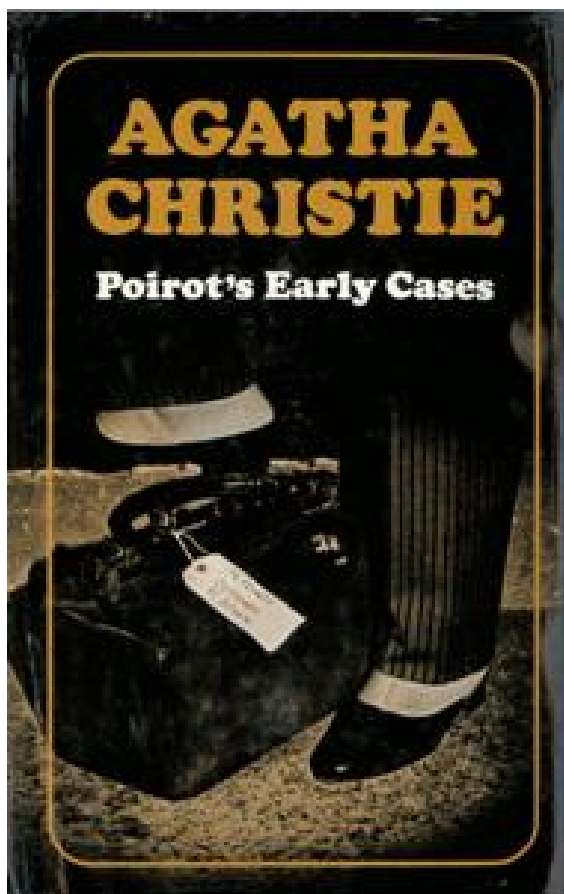
The Veiled Lady

Season 2

Episode Number: 13

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Sunday January 14, 1990
Writer: Agatha Christie, Clive Exton
Director: Edward Bennett
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: British Concert Winds (Brass Band), Frances Barber (Lady Millicent Castle-Vaughan), Peter Geddis (Museum guard), Terence Harvey (Mr Lavington), Carole Hayman (Mrs Godber), Lloyd McGuire (Museum guard), Tony Stephens (Sergeant), Don Williams (Constable)
Summary: Poirot calls to see the veiled lady of the title (Lady Millicent Castle-Vaughn) at her London hotel. Lady Millicent is about to be married, but a mean blackmailer called Lavington has got hold of a love letter she wrote years before to another man. Lavington wants twenty thousand pounds, and Poirot makes up his mind to recover the letter himself, even if it means impersonating a Swedish locksmith.



Poirot is bored with the lack of interesting cases which come his way, telling Hastings that the criminals of England fear him too much and he dismisses the suggestion that most of them don't even know that he exists. Hastings remembers a recent matter in which a jeweller's shop window in Bond Street was broken and a perpetrator, despite being quickly arrested, only having paste copies of the six stolen stones on him, he having immediately passed the real jewels onto an accomplice. He suggests this as a case of interest but Poirot feels that although the matter was well-planned, it was not of real interest.

It is then that they receive a visitor: a heavily-veiled lady. She reveals that she is Lady Millicent Castle Vaughan whose engagement to the Duke of Southshire has recently been announced. During the war, she wrote a letter to a man who was subsequently killed and this letter, whose contents could be misinterpreted, has fallen into the hands of a Mr Lavington, a blackmailer who is demanding twenty thousand pounds for its return, a sum she can in no way afford. She tells him that she went to Lavington's house in Wimbledon to plead with him but it was useless. He showed her that the letter was kept in a Chinese puzzle box but he told her that this was secreted in a place that she could never find it.

Lavington calls on Poirot at his invitation but laughs at his request to return the letter, saying that he will reduce his demand to eighteen

thousand pounds and Lady Millicent has until Tuesday when he returns from Paris to find the sum.

Stung by this rebuke, Poirot decides that the only course of action is to seek in Lavington's house. He calls there in the morning, knowing that the owner is away and presents himself to the housekeeper as a man recommended by Scotland Yard who can fix burglar-proof locks on the window. He then uses the opportunity to leave the window unfastened and he and Hastings return that night. After a long search, they find the puzzle box hidden within a joined-together log of wood in the coal-bin.

The next day Lady Millicent calls for the letter. Delighted, she asks for the puzzle box as a souvenir but Poirot is too quick for her and prevents her taking it. In another compartment in the box are the six missing jewels from the Bond Street robbery. Japp appears from another room and recognised the lady as Gertie, an accomplice of Lavington — real name: Reed — who was attempting to double-cross his fellow gang members and who was killed in Holland a day or so before. The gang members knew that both the jewels and the bogus letter were kept in the puzzle box and decided to use Poirot to retrieve it. Japp takes the lady away and Poirot tells an astonished Hastings that it was the cheap shoes she was wearing that made him suspicious that she wasn't who she pretended to be. He is pleased though — not only do the criminals of England know him, they even try to use him when their own efforts come to nothing!

The Lost Mine

Season 2

Episode Number: 14

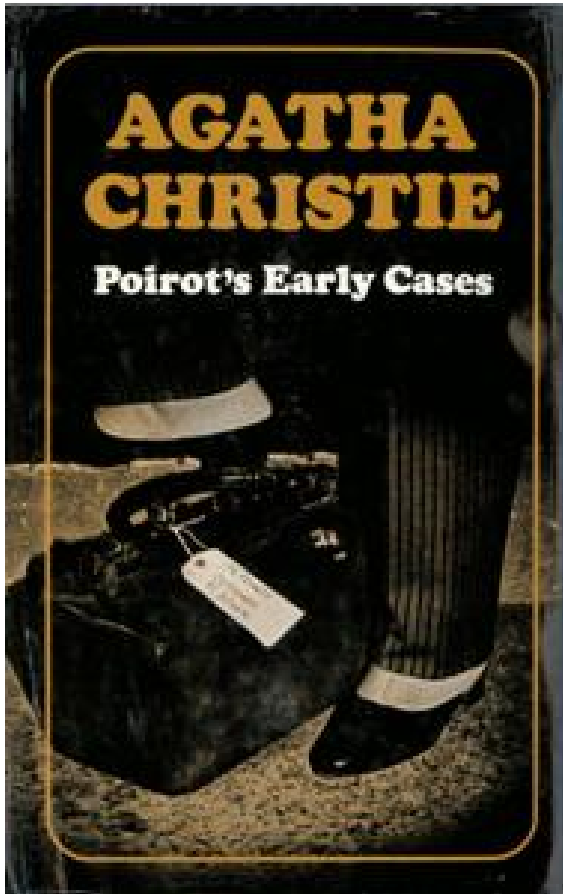
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Sunday January 21, 1990
Writer: Agatha Christie, Michael Baker, David Renwick
Director: Edward Bennett
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Ian Boo Khoo (Chinese Street Boy), Lee Richards (Car Surveillance Policewoman), Richard Albrecht (Lobby Clerk), Barbara Barnes (Mrs Lester), Peter Barnes (Wilkins), Anthony Bate (Lord Pearson), Hi Ching (Chow Feng), Gloria Connell (Miss Devenish), John Cording (Sergeant Jameson), Julian Firth (Bank Teller), Joe Frazer (Second Officer), Daryl Kwan (Oriental Gentleman), Susan Leong (Chinese Tart), James Saxon (Reggie Dyer), Colin Stinton (Charles Lester), Christopher Walker (First Officer), Vincent Wong (Chinaman), Ozzie Yue (Restaurant Manager)
Summary: Hastings and Poirot are playing the board game Monopoly when they are interrupted by Lord Pearson, the elegant Chairman of the London and Shanghai Bank. The banker asks them to investigate the disappearance of a Mr Ling - a highly-valued customer who, before he went missing, had arranged to sell Lord Pearson a map showing where to find a long-lost silver mine. Then Ling is found murdered, a young stockbroker is suspected, and Poirot has to untangle a devilishly mixed-up mystery.

Poirot and Hastings are discussing investments and Poirot informs Hastings that he has no thing of that kind except for fourteen thousand shares in Burma Mines Ltd which were given to him as a gift for services rendered. He offers to tell the story of what service he provided and Hastings gladly listens...

The mines in question were originally silver mines, discovered by the Chinese in the fifteenth century. The silver was all worked out but plenty of lead remained, not considered being of value at the time but definitely worthy of exploitation at the time of the story. The mine itself was lost, the only clue to its location being old papers in the hands of a Chinese family. The head of the family, Wu Ling, agreed to negotiate a sale of the papers and travelled to England to complete the transaction. Wu Ling was supposed to be met by one of the syndicate company directors, Mr. Pearson, in Southampton but his train there was delayed with the result that Wu Ling made his own way to London where he booked into the Hotel Russell Square and telephoned the company to say that he would see them the next day. He failed to appear at the meeting and the hotel was contacted. They said Wu Ling had gone out earlier with a friend. He still failed to appear at the offices throughout the day. The police were contacted and the next evening the Chinaman's body was found floating in the Thames.

Poirot was called in and immediately started to investigate people who shared the voyage to England with Wu Ling. He was able to ascertain that one of them, a young bank clerk called Charles Lester, was the man who called for Wu Ling at his hotel on the morning of the disappearance. Mr. Lester was quickly tracked down and told a story of having been asked by Wu Ling to call for him at 10.30am. Instead his servant appeared and asked him to accompany him to where Wu Ling now was. Their taxi took them to Limehouse where Lester started to get nervous and got out of the taxi before they reached their destination and that was the end of his supposed connection with the affair.



However Wu Ling was proven to have no servant and the taxi driver was tracked down who said that he took both men to a known opium den from where Lester alone emerged looking ill half an hour later. Lester was arrested but the papers about the mine could not be found.

Mr. Pearson suggested to an outraged Poirot that they go in disguise to Limehouse themselves and investigate the opium den. Poirot did go (but not in disguise) and, pretending to be "customers" overheard a conversation between some of the Chinamen about the death of Wu Ling and the fact that Lester certainly had the papers. Poirot and Mr. Pearson managed to get out of the den quietly.

Poirot quickly found the papers — Pearson had them. He had indeed met Wu Ling in Southampton (everyone had his word only that he had failed to meet the visitor) and taken him direct to Limehouse where Wu Ling was killed. However, one of the opium dealers had already been put into the Hotel Russell Square to impersonate the man and, hearing of Lester's invitation to visit the hotel from Wu Ling himself, Pearson set the young man up to take the blame for the murder. Lester did indeed enter the opium den and was drugged. Having only a hazy recollection and losing his nerve, he at first denied entering the den. Pearson's insistence in taking Poirot to Limehouse was an elaborate charade to divert the detective's suspicions but

it had the opposite effect. Pearson was arrested and Poirot became a shareholder in a Burmese mine.

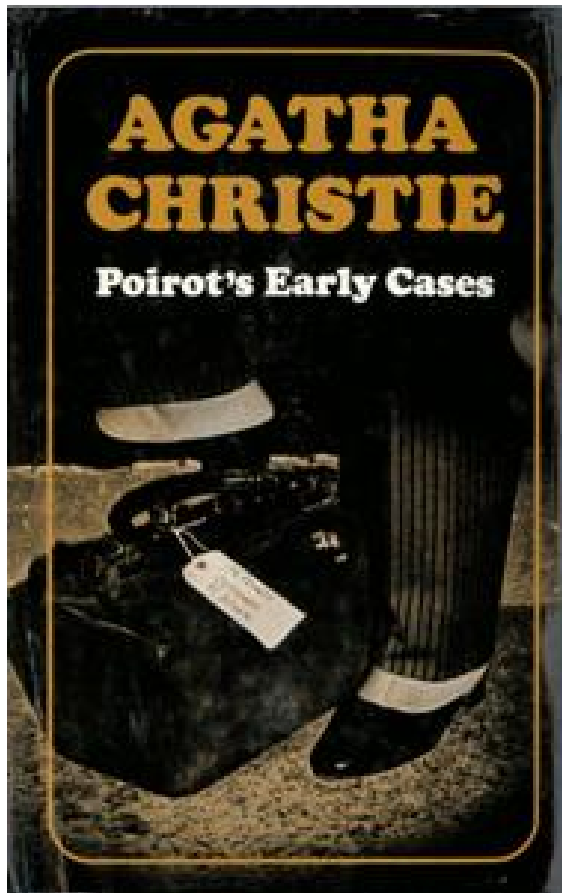
The Cornish Mystery

Season 2

Episode Number: 15

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Sunday January 28, 1990
Writer: Agatha Christie, Clive Exton
Director: Edward Bennett
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Derek Benfield (Dr Adams), John Bowler (Jacob Radnor), Richard Braine (Newsom), Graham Callan (Solicitor), Edwina Day (Landlady), Laura Girling (Edwina Marks), Hugh Munro (Judge), John Rowe (Prosecutor), Chloe Salaman (Freda Stanton), Hugh Sullivan (Vicar), Tilly Vosburgh (Jessie Dawlish), Amanda Walker (Alice Pengelley), Jonathan Whaley (Policeman), Jerome Willis (Edward Pengelley)
Summary: Poirot travels to Cornwall, summoned by a Mrs Pengelley, who suspects her dentist husband is poisoning her because he's fallen in love with his young assistant. Unhappily, on his arrival Poirot finds his client stone dead, so he sets out to catch her killer.



Poirot receives a visit from a Mrs. Pengelley, a middle-aged woman who is afraid that she is being poisoned by her husband, a dentist. She has been ill after eating but her doctor states that she is suffering from acute gastritis. She and her husband live in Polgarwith, a small market town in Cornwall. She has no proof of the allegation, only that she only suffers when her husband is at home, not when he is away at the weekends and a bottle of weedkiller, supposedly unused, is half-empty. There could be no financial motive to suggest why Mr. Pengelley should try to murder his wife but she suspects an affair with his young receptionist. Another resident in the house was her niece, Freda Stanton, but that lady rowed with Mrs. Pengelley the week before and left the house after living there for eight years. Mrs. Pengelley is vague as to the cause of the row but states that she has been told by a Mr. Radnor to leave Freda to come to her senses. Radnor is described as "just a friend" and a "very pleasant young fellow".

Poirot and Hastings travel to Cornwall the next day and are shocked to find that Mrs. Pengelley died half an hour before. The maid who answers the door makes it clear that she too suspects the husband. Poirot interviews Mrs. Pengelley's doctor who at first denies that anything could be wrong but is then astounded to hear that the dead woman came to London to consult the detective.

Their last visit before leaving Cornwall is to Mrs. Pengelley's niece. They meet Freda Staunton and Jacob Radnor and discover that they are engaged and that the cause of the row between

Freda and her aunt was Mrs. Pengelley's own infatuation with Radnor, a far younger man. The situation became so bad that Freda had no option but to move out.

Poirot and Hastings return to London but are able to follow events in the papers as rumour spreads leading to Mrs. Pengelley's body being exhumed and traces of arsenic found. Mr. Pengelley is arrested and charged with murder. Attending the committal hearing, Poirot invites Radnor back to his flat where he produces a written confession for the man to sign. He planned to get rid of both the Pengelleys, one through murder and the other by execution, and his new wife — Freda — would then inherit their money. Mrs. Pengelley fell for Radnor because he made sure that she would, flirting with the lady to the point of infatuation whilst at the same time planting doubts in her mind to the effect that her husband was trying to poison her. Poirot offers him twenty-four hours escape if he signs the confession before he hands it over to the police and dupes the man into thinking that Poirot's flat is being watched. Radnor signs and hurries out. Poirot confesses to an angry Hastings that he didn't possess a shred of evidence about Radnor's guilt and this stunt was his only option to get Pengelley acquitted. He is sure that Scotland Yard will catch up with Radnor, even with his twenty-four hours start.

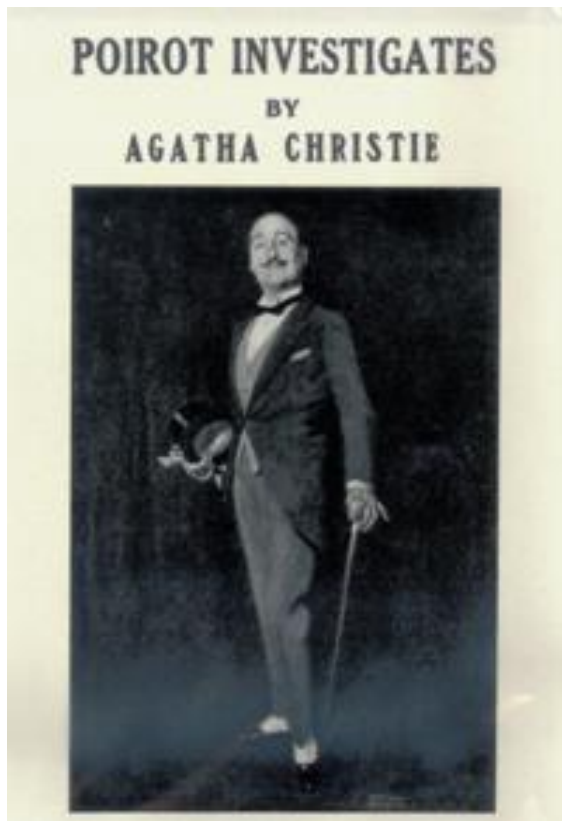
The Disappearance of Mr Davenheim

Season 2

Episode Number: 16

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Sunday February 4, 1990
Writer: David Renwick, Agatha Christie
Director: Andrew Grieve
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Richard Beale (Merritt), Kenneth Colley (Matthew Davenheim & Billy Kellett), Peter Doran (Policeman), Stewart Harwood (Man Delivering Parrot), Mel Martin (Charlotte Davenheim), Bob Mason (Sergeant), Tony Mathews (Gerald Lowen), Fiona McArthur (Maid), Jonty Miller (Mechanic), Malcolm Mudie (Chief Engineer), Patrick Page (Illusionist)
Summary: Matthew Davenheim, a rich banker, disappears on a walk from his country house to the village post office, and Inspector Japp of Scotland Yard is put onto the case. Poirot, who has developed an interest in conjuring tricks, bets Japp five pounds that he can solve the mystery without leaving his apartment. Meanwhile, Poirot has acquired a parrot - which he finds has its uses.



Poirot and Hastings are entertaining Japp after they had all attended a magic show when the conversation turns to the recent disappearance of a banker, Mr. Davenheim, from his large country house, ... 'The Cedars'. Boasting, Poirot makes a five pound bet with Japp that he could solve the case within a week without moving from his chair. The facts of the case are that Davenheim arrived home from the city at midday on Saturday. He seemed normal and went out to post some letters late in the afternoon saying that he was expecting a business visitor, a Mr. Lowen, who should be shown into the study to wait his return. Mr. Davenheim never did return and no trace of him can be found once he left the grounds. The police were called on Sunday morning and on the Monday it was discovered that the concealed safe in Davenheim's study had been broken into and the contents taken out — cash, a large amount of bearer bonds and a substantial collection of jewellery. Despite being in the study, Lowen has not been arrested, merely under observation. He was there to discuss some business in South Africa with Mr. Davenheim who himself was in Johannesburg the previous autumn. Poirot is interested in the fact that the house has a boating lake, which Japp tells

him is being searched tomorrow, and that Mr. Davenheim wears his hair rather long with a moustache and bushy beard.

The next day Japp returns with the news that Davenheim's clothes have been found in the lake and that they have arrested Lowen. A common thief called Billy Kellett, known to the police

after having served three months the previous year for pick-pocketing, saw Lowen throw Davenport's ring into a roadside ditch on the Saturday. He picked it up and pawned it in London, got drunk on the proceeds, got arrested and is himself in custody. Poirot is interested in one question of Japp: Did Mr. and Mrs Davenport share a bedroom? When the matter is investigated and the answer is returned in the negative, Poirot knows the answer and tells Hastings and Japp to withdraw any funds they have in Davenport's bank before it collapses. When the next day this predicted event occurs, Poirot reveals the truth; Davenport knew of his bank's financial troubles and started to prepare a new life for himself. Last autumn he did not go to South Africa but instead took on the identity of Billy Kellett. He served three months in jail at the same time he was supposed to be in Johannesburg and then on the Saturday robbed his own safe before Lowen (who he was setting up) arrived at the house. When Davenport 'disappeared' he was already in police custody as Kellett and no one would think of looking for a missing man in jail. Mrs Davenport identifies her husband and Japp pays Poirot his five pounds.

Double Sin

Season 2

Episode Number: 17

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired:	Sunday February 11, 1990
Writer:	Agatha Christie, Clive Exton
Director:	Richard Spence
Show Stars:	Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars:	Ned Williams (First Urchin), Miranda Forbes (Landlady), Paul Gabriel (Speedy Tours Representative), Amanda Garwood (Lady Amanda Manderley), Harry Goodier (Billy Arkwright), Elspet Gray (Elizabeth Penn), David Hargreaves (Sergeant Vinney), Gerard Horan (P.C. Flagg), Adam Kotz (Norton Kane), George Little (Dicker), Caroline Milmo (Mary Durrant), Jeffrey Perry (hotel receptionist), Michael J. Shannon (Baker Wood), Anne Small (pianist), Jack Williams (VIII) (second urchin)
Summary:	Poirot tells an astonished Hastings that he has made up his mind to retire and suggests they take a holiday in the Lake District, in the north of England. On the way there, Hastings befriends a young woman who has lost a valuable collection of miniatures. The case involves a famous writer and a beautiful woman in a sports car, and to the relief of Hastings Poirot's thoughts of retirement soon seem far away.

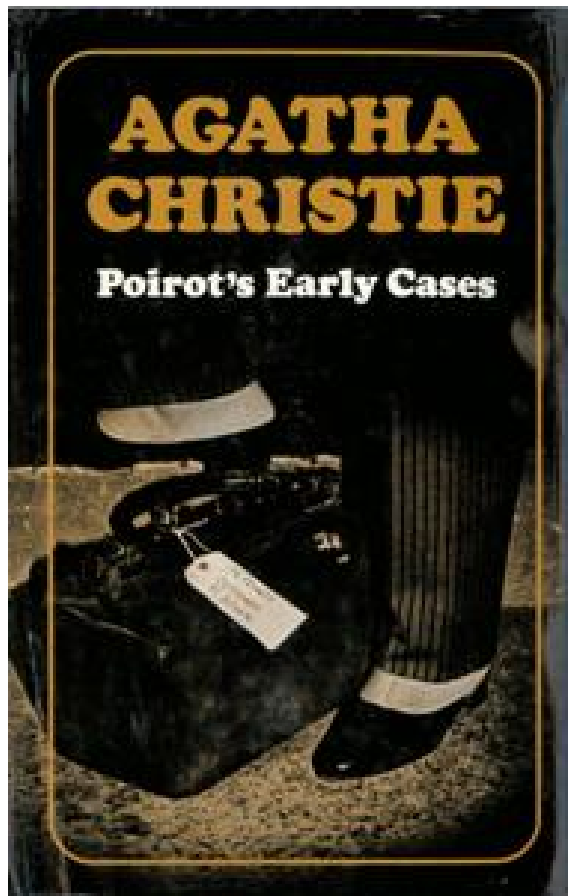
Poirot, as a result of spreading fame, has been overworked and Hastings suggests he rests by accompanying him on a week's holiday to the south Devon coastal resort of Ebermouth. On their fourth day there, Poirot receives a note from the theatrical agent Joseph Aarons who asks him to travel to Charlock Bay on the north Devon coast as he needs to consult him on a matter. The two are planning to go by train but Hastings sees a notice for a motor bus tour from the one resort to the other which will save time on changing trains. Poirot reluctantly agrees, afraid of the uncertain English climate and the drafts of air which will invade the bus. They book their tickets at the office of the company concerned where Hastings is taken with another customer, an auburn-haired girl, whereas Poirot is intrigued by a young man who is attempting to grow a feeble moustache.

The next day on the bus the two find themselves sat with the young girl who introduces herself as Mary Durrant. Her aunt is in Ebermouth and runs an antiques shop where she has managed to make something of a success for herself. Mary has started to work with her aunt as opposed to becoming a governess or a companion and she is travelling to Charlock Bay to take a valuable set of miniatures to an American collector there by the name of J. Baker Wood for perusal and purchase.

The bus stops for lunch at Monkhampton and Miss Durrant joins Poirot and Hastings at a table in a café. Part way through their conversation, she rushes outside and returns saying that she thought she saw through the window a man taking her suitcase with the miniatures off the bus, when she confronted him she realised his case was almost exactly like hers and that she was in error. She does however describe the young man that Poirot and Hastings saw the previous day in the booking office.

The bus arrives in Charlock Bay and both Poirot and Hastings and Miss Durrant book into the Anchor Hotel. They have barely started unpacking when a white-faced Miss Durrant appears and tells them that her suitcase has been unlocked somehow, the despatch case inside containing the miniatures has been forced open and the items stolen. Having heard that Poirot is a detective,

she asks him to investigate. Poirot telephones Mr. Wood who tells him that he had a visit half-an-hour ago from someone representing themselves as calling on behalf of Elizabeth Penn, Mary Durrant's aunt, and he paid her five hundred pounds for the miniatures.



Poirot and Hastings go to visit Mr. Wood, Poirot voicing his puzzlement over why the thief took the time to force the lock of despatch case while leaving it in the suitcase instead of taking the inner case away with them and opening it at their leisure.

The two meet Mr. Wood and take an instant dislike to the brash, vulgar man. He gives them a description of the seller: "a tall woman, middle-aged, grey hair, blotchy complexion and a budding moustache". Poirot finds out that the young man on the bus, Norton Kane, has an alibi for the period in question.

The next day, having sorted out Joseph Aaron's problem, Poirot and Hastings return to Ebermouth but, at Poirot's insistence, this time by train. They call at Elizabeth Penn's shop and Poirot almost immediately accuses the elderly lady of being Mr. Wood's visitor of the previous day in disguise and meaningfully tells the two women their scam must cease. Miss Penn, white-faced, agrees.

Poirot points out to Hastings again the absurdity of the despatch case being forced but left in the suitcase. When they were booking their tickets on the excursion, he saw Miss Durrant watching Mr. Kane and wondered why she was so interested. He expected something to happen on the trip and it did. Mr. Wood would have had to return the miniatures as they were officially stolen goods and the two women would have had his five hundred

pounds and still possessed the miniatures to sell on again. Their plan was to pass suspicion on to Mr. Kane and have Poirot and Hastings as two duped witnesses.

The Adventure of the Cheap Flat

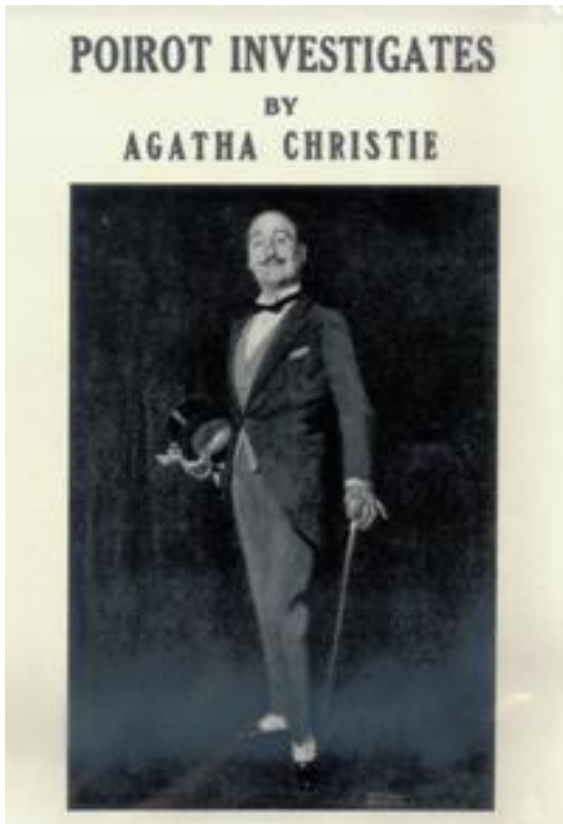
Season 2

Episode Number: 18

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Sunday February 18, 1990
Writer: Agatha Christie, Russell Murray
Director: Richard Spence
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: William Hootkins (FBI Agent Burt), Luke Hayden (Romero), Jemma Churchill (Elsie), Samantha Bond (Stella Robinson), Peter Howell (Mr Paul), Jenifer Landor (Carla Romero/Elsa Hart), Nick Maloney (Bernie Cole), John Michie (James Robinson), Anthony Pedley (Mafia assassin), Ian Price (Teddy Parker), Gordon Wharmby (O'Brien), Nigel Whitmey (Luigi Valdarno)
Summary: A glamorous nightclub-singer-turned-spy has stolen the US Navy's plans for a new submarine, and an FBI agent called Burt is in London to catch her. Burt meets Poirot and dismisses him as a gumshoe, while Poirot is not impressed by the self-important G-man. Poirot is drawn into the case when it appears that the submarine plans will fall into the hands of Italy's Fascists unless they are recovered. Then Poirot meets a young couple who have had an amazing bargain on a valuable London apartment, and he sees a connection with the spy case.

Hastings is at a friend's house with several other people when the talk turns to flats and houses. A young couple by the name of Robinson are there and she tells the party how they have managed to obtain a flat in Knightsbridge for a stunningly attractive price. The next day, when Poirot is told of this singularly strange event, the Belgian Detective is immediately interested and starts to investigate. When they go to the buildings where the flat is, the porter tells them that the Robinsons have been there for six months, despite the fact that Mrs Robinson told Hastings they had only just obtained the lease. Poirot rents another flat in the building and, by use of the coal lift, manages to gain entry to the Robinson's flat and fix the locks in order that he can enter at will. The next day, Poirot tells Hastings that Japp informed him that important American naval plans were stolen from that country by an Italian called by Luigi Valdarno who managed to pass them onto an international spy, Elsa Hardt, before being killed in New York. Hardt's description is a somewhat close match to that of Mrs Robinson. That night, when the Robinson's flat is empty, Poirot and Hastings lie in wait and apprehend another Italian who has come to kill Elsa Hardt and her accomplice in revenge for the death of Valdarno. They disarm the man and take him to another house in London where Poirot has tracked down the two spies as now living, having previously lived in Knightsbridge as a Mr and Mrs Robinson and, in fear of their lives, then renting the flat cheaply to a real couple of the same name hoping that they would be killed in their place. They trick Hardt into revealing the hiding place of the plans before the Italian escapes and Japp arrests the two spies.



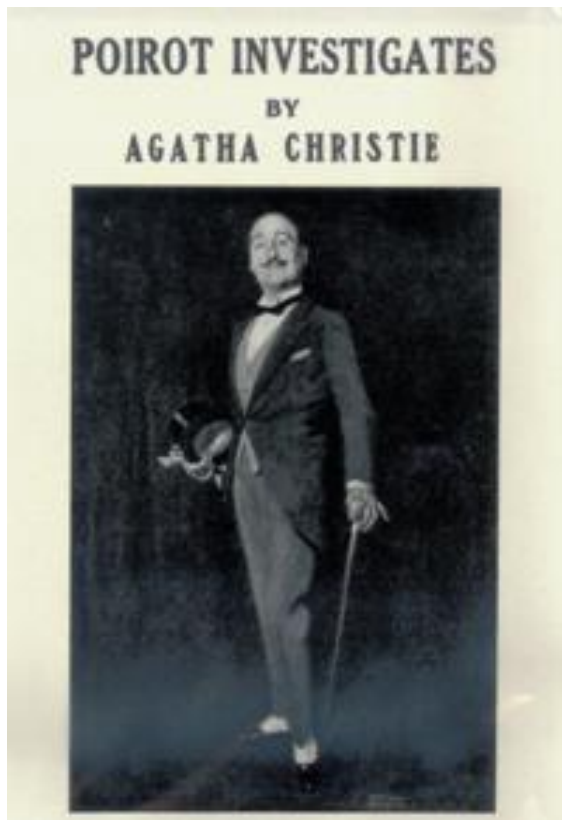
The Kidnapped Prime Minister

Season 2

Episode Number: 19

Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Sunday February 25, 1990
Writer: Agatha Christie, Clive Exton
Director: Andrew Grieve
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Kate Binchy (Egan's Landlady), Timothy Block (Major Norman), Anthony Chinn (Shi Mong), Jack Elliott (IV) (John Egan), Patrick Godfrey (Lord Estair), Lisa Harrow (Imogen Daniels), Roy Heather (Transport Superintendent), Ronald Hines (Sir Bernard Dodge), David Horovitch (Commander Tony Daniels), Daniel John (Urchin), Henry Moxon (McAdam), Milo Sperber (Fingler), Oliver Beamish (Sergeant Hopper), Sam Clifton (Urchin)
Summary: Poirot is called in when the British Prime Minister and his secretary are kidnapped in France on their way to a League of Nations conference - and because of the international situation, Poirot is given just a day and a half to solve the case.



Towards the end of the First World War, Hastings calls on Poirot in his rooms to discuss the sensational news of the day - no less than the attempted assassination of the Prime Minister, David MacAdam. Soon they are interrupted by two important visitors; Lord Estair, Leader of the House of Commons and Bernard Dodge, a member of the War Cabinet. They enlist Poirot for help with a national crisis — the Prime Minister has been kidnapped. He was on his way to a secret peace conference to be held the next day at Versailles. He arrived in Boulogne-sur-Mer where he was met by what was thought to be his official car but it was a substitute. The real car was found in a side road with its driver, an ADC bound and gagged. As they tell Poirot the details, news reaches them by special courier that the bogus car has now been found abandoned and containing Captain Daniels, the Prime Minister's secretary, chloroformed and gagged. His employer is still missing. Poirot wants to know the full details of the shooting that took place earlier and is told it occurred on the way back from Windsor Castle when, accompanied again by Daniels and the chauffeur, Murphy, the car took a side road and was surrounded by masked men. Murphy stopped and one them shot at the P.M., but

only grazing his cheek. Murphy shot off, leaving the would-be murderers behind. The P.M. then stopped off at a small cottage hospital to have his wound bandaged and then went straight on to Charing Cross Station to get the Dover train. Murphy has also disappeared, the P.M.'s car being

found outside a Soho restaurant frequented by suspected German agents. As Poirot packs to leave for France he voices his suspicions of both Daniels and Murphy and wonders why such a melodramatic event as "shooting by masked men" took place before the kidnap. Poirot goes over the channel with various detectives involved in the case, among them Japp. Once in Boulogne he refuses to join in the search but sits in his hotel room and thinks for several hours, using the "little grey cells". Suddenly seeing daylight he returns to Britain where, in an official car, he begins a tour of cottage hospitals to the west of London. They then call at a house in Hampstead, the police raid it and recover both Murphy and the Prime Minister. The villain of the piece was Daniels who kidnapped both men in the shooting, taking to London substitutes with the "P.M.'s" face disguised by bandages from a shooting that, in fact, had never occurred and Poirot's search of the cottage hospitals proved that no one's face was bandaged up that day. The "kidnap" then took place in France, leaving the investigation concentrated there when the real P.M. had never left the country. Daniels was known to have a "sister" near Hampstead but she is in fact Frau Bertha Ebenthal, a German spy who Poirot has been searching for some time. The real Prime Minister is whisked of to Versailles for the conference.

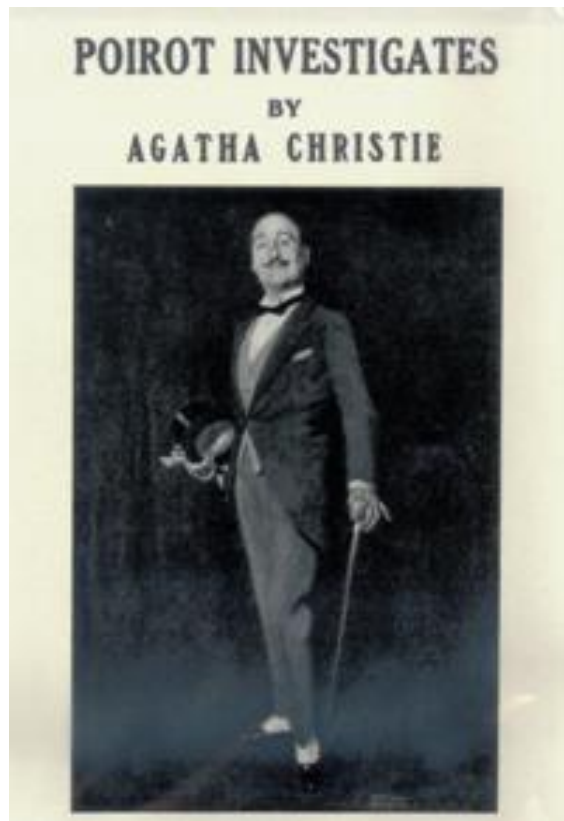
The Adventure of the Western Star

Season 2

Episode Number: 20

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Sunday March 4, 1990
Writer: Clive Exton, Agatha Christie
Director: Richard Spence
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Rosalind Bennett (Marie Marvel), Alister Cameron (Lord Yardly), Ian Collier (Sergeant), Oliver Cotton (Gregorie Rolf), Julian Gartside (hotel receptionist), Bruce Montague (Hoffberg), Struan Rodger (Henrik van Braks), Bill Thomas (Steward), Barry Woolgar (Inspector Dosgell), Stephen Hancock (Mullings), Caroline Goodall (Lady Maud Yardly)
Summary: Marie Marvelle, a Belgian film star, receives threatening letters from a chinaman which demand her famous diamond, the Western Star. Marie visits her old friend Hercule Poirot in London, seeking his help, and Poirot tackles the case with relish.



Poirot receives a visit from Miss Mary Marvell, the famous American film star on her visit to London. She has received three letters, handed to her by a Chinaman, which warn her to return her fabulous diamond jewel, the "Western Star", to where it came from — the left eye of an idol — before the next full moon. Her husband, Gregory Rolf, who bought it from a Chinaman in San Francisco, gave Mary the jewel three years ago. The pair are going to stay at Yardly Chase, the home of Lord and Lady Yardly when the moon is next full to discuss the making of a film there and Mary is determined to go with her diamond. Both Poirot and Hastings remember society gossip from three years back that linked Rolf and Lady Yardly. The Yardlys also own an identical diamond that came from the right eye of the idol — the Star of the East. After Mary has gone Poirot goes out and Hastings receives a visit from Lady Yardly (she was advised to visit Poirot by her friend Mary Cavendish, who appears in *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*). Hastings "deduces" that she too has received warning letters. Her husband plans to sell their jewel as he is in debt. When Poirot finds this out he arranges to visit Yardly Chase and is there when the lights go out and Lady Yardly is attacked by a Chinaman and her jewel stolen. The

next day, Mary's jewel is stolen from her London hotel. Poirot makes his investigations and returns the Yardly's jewel to them. He reveals to Hastings that there never were two jewels or any Chinaman — it was all an invention of Rolf's. Three years back in the USA he had an affair with Lady Yardly and blackmailed her into giving him the diamond which he then gave to his wife as a wedding present. Lady Yardly's was a paste copy that would have been discovered when her

husband sold it. She was starting to fight back against her blackmailer and Rolf arranged the deception against his wife that Lady Yardly copied when Hastings told her of the threats. Poirot's threats manage to persuade Rolf to give the real diamond back and leave the Yardlys in peace.

The Mysterious Affair at Styles (1)

Season 2

Episode Number: 21

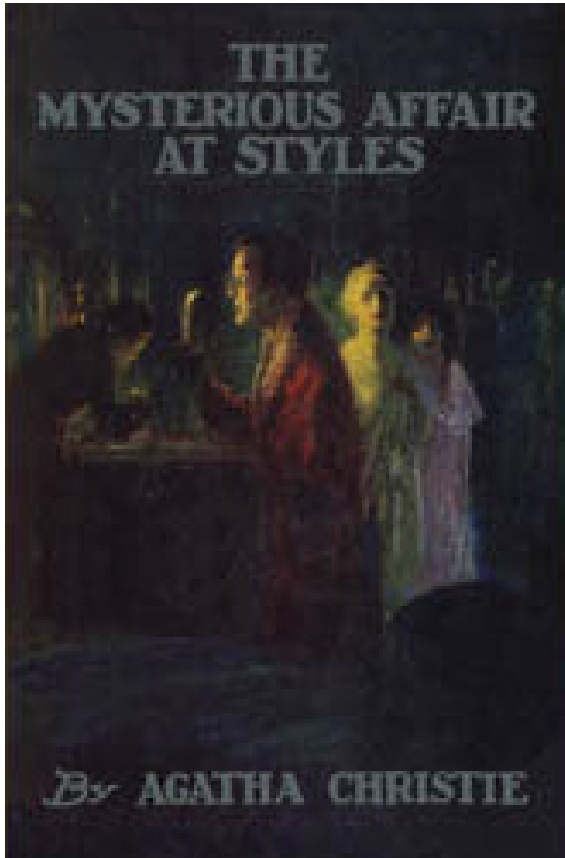
Season Episode: 11

Originally aired:	Sunday September 16, 1990
Writer:	Clive Exton, Agatha Christie
Director:	Ross Devenish
Show Stars:	Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars:	Anthony Calf (Lawrence Cavendish), Michael Cronin (Alfred Inglethorp), Tim Munro (Edwin Mace), Donald Pelmear (Judge), Morris Perry (Wells), Tim Preece (Phillips KC), David Rintoul (John Cavendish), David Savile (Summerhaye), Joanna McCallum (Evie Howard), Beatie Edney (Mary Cavendish), Gillian Barge (Mrs Inglethorp), Allie Byrne (Cynthia Murdoch), Eric Stovell (Chemist), Caroline Swift (Nurse), Merelina Kendall (Mrs Dainty), Ken Robertson (Army Officer), Robert Vowles (Driver of Hired Car), Michael D. Roberts (Tindermans), Michael Godley (Dr Wilkins), Penelope Beaumont (Mrs Raikes), Lala Lloyd (Dorcas), Bryan Coleman (Vicar), Gordon Dulieu (Clerk of the Court), Jeffrey Robert (Jury Foreman)
Summary:	Hastings is staying with the Inglethornes and finds Emily Inglethorne murdered. With the whole household under suspicion, Hastings sends for his old friend Hercule Poirot.

The novel is set in England during World War I at Styles Court, an Essex country manor (also the setting of *Curtain*, Poirot's last case). Upon her husband's death, the wealthy widow, Emily Cavendish, inherited a life estate in Styles as well as the outright inheritance of the larger part of the late Mr. Cavendish's income. Mrs. Cavendish became Mrs. Inglethorp upon her recent remarriage to a much younger man, Alfred Inglethorp. Emily's two stepsons, John and Lawrence Cavendish, as well as John's wife Mary and several other people, also live at Styles. John Cavendish is the vested remainderman of Styles; that is, the property will pass to him automatically upon his stepmother's decease, as per his late father's will. The income left to Mrs Inglethorp by her late husband would be distributed as per Mrs. Inglethorp's own will.[2]

Late one night, the residents of Styles wake to find Emily Inglethorp dying of what proves to be strychnine poisoning. Lieutenant Hastings, a houseguest, enlists the help of his friend Hercule Poirot, who is staying in the nearby village, Styles St. Mary. Poirot pieces together events surrounding the murder. On the day she was killed, Emily Inglethorp was overheard arguing with someone, most likely her husband, Alfred, or her stepson, John. Afterwards, she seemed quite distressed and, apparently, made a new will — which no one can find. She ate little at dinner and retired early to her room with her document case. The case was later forced open by someone and a document removed. Alfred Inglethorp left Styles earlier in the evening and stayed overnight in the nearby village, so was not present when the poisoning occurred. Nobody can explain how or when the strychnine was administered to Mrs. Inglethorp.

At first, Alfred is the prime suspect. He has the most to gain financially from his wife's death, and, since he is so much younger than Emily was, the Cavendishes already suspect him as a fortune hunter. Evelyn Howard, Emily's companion, seems to hate him most of all. His behaviour, too, is suspicious; he openly purchased strychnine in the village before Emily was poisoned, and although he denies it, he refuses to provide an alibi. The police are keen to arrest him, but Poirot intervenes by proving he could not have purchased the poison. Scotland Yard police later arrest Emily Inglethorp's oldest stepson, John Cavendish. He inherits under the terms of her will, and there is evidence to suggest he also had obtained poison.



To be continued. . .

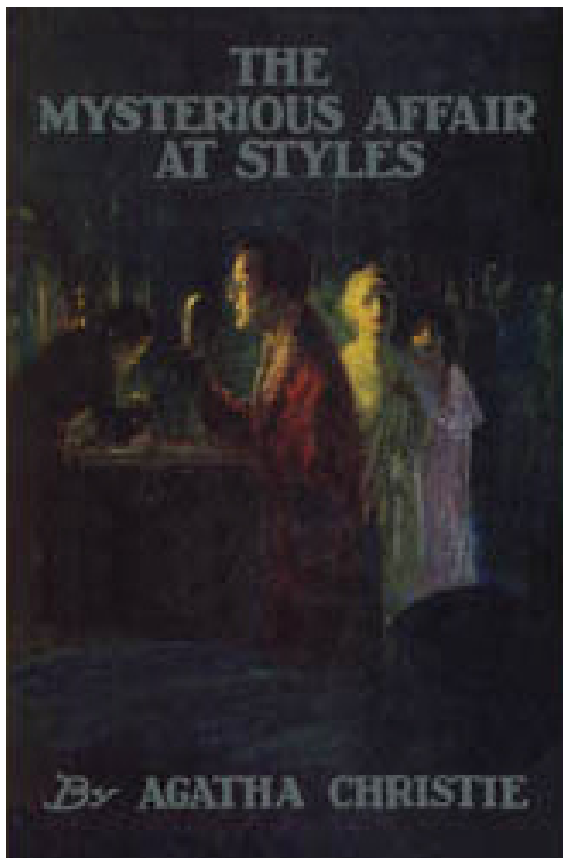
The Mysterious Affair at Styles (2)

Season 2

Episode Number: 22

Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Sunday September 16, 1990
Writer: Clive Exton, Agatha Christie
Director: Ross Devenish
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Michael D. Roberts (Tindermans), Robert Vowles (Driver of Hired Car), Ken Robertson (Army Officer), Merelina Kendall (Mrs Dainty), Caroline Swift (Nurse), Eric Stovell (Chemist), Joanna McCallum (Evie Howard), Anthony Calf (Lawrence Cavendish), Michael Cronin (Alfred Inglethorp), Tim Munro (Edwin Mace), Donald Pelmear (Judge), Morris Perry (Wells), Tim Preece (Phillips KC), David Rintoul (John Cavendish), David Savile (Summerhayes), Beatie Edney (Mary Cavendish), Gillian Barge (Mrs Inglethorp), Allie Byrne (Cynthia Murdoch), Michael Godley (Dr Wilkins), Penelope Beaumont (Mrs Raikes), Lala Lloyd (Dorcas), Bryan Coleman (Vicar), Gordon Dulieu (Clerk of the Court), Jeffrey Robert (Jury Foreman)
Summary: Continuing the case of the murder of Emily Inglethorne.



Poirot clears Cavendish by proving it was, after all, Alfred Inglethorp who committed the crime, assisted by Evelyn Howard, who turns out to be his kissing cousin, not his enemy. The guilty pair poisoned Emily by adding a precipitating agent, bromide (obtained from Mrs Inglethorp's sleeping powder), to her regular evening medicine, causing its normally innocuous strychnine constituents to sink to the bottom of the bottle where they were finally consumed in a single, lethal dose. Their plan had been for Alfred Inglethorp to incriminate himself with false evidence, which could then be refuted at his trial. Once acquitted, due to double jeopardy, he could not be tried for the crime a second time should any genuine evidence against him be subsequently discovered, hence prompting Poirot to keep him out of prison when he realized that Alfred wanted to be arrested.

Season Three

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Season 3

Episode Number: 23

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired:	Sunday January 6, 1991
Writer:	Agatha Christie, Andrew Marshall
Director:	Brian Farnham
Show Stars:	Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars:	Peter Birch (Nicholai), "Baby" John Burgess (Harrison), Trevor Darby (Trumper), Margery Mason (Amelia Barrowby), Dorcas Morgan (Lucy), Ralph Nossek (Dr Sims), Stephen Petcher (photographer), Philip Praeger (policeman), John Rogan (pathologist), Catherine Russell (Katrina Reiger), Anne Stallybrass (Mary Delafontaine), Tim Wylton (Henry Delafontaine)
Summary:	Poirot becomes the centre of attention at the Chelsea Flower Show, where a new rose named after him is on display. There, an old lady gives him a packet of seeds. On his return home, he receives a letter from Miss Barrowby, who feels threatened, and he realizes he has just met her at the Flower Show. He decides to call on her. The same evening, Miss Barrowby dies, poisoned by strychnine, and when Poirot calls at her house the next morning he meets the penniless Delafontaines, Miss Barrowby's only living relations, who were living with her, and Katrina Reiger, Miss Barrowby's young Russian nurse-companion. A bottle of the poison is found in Katrina's effects, and she disappears. Poirot discovers that Miss Barrowby has left her all her property, and this seems to remove suspicion from the Delafontaines. Or does it? Meanwhile, Hastings is suffering from hay fever. . . or is he?

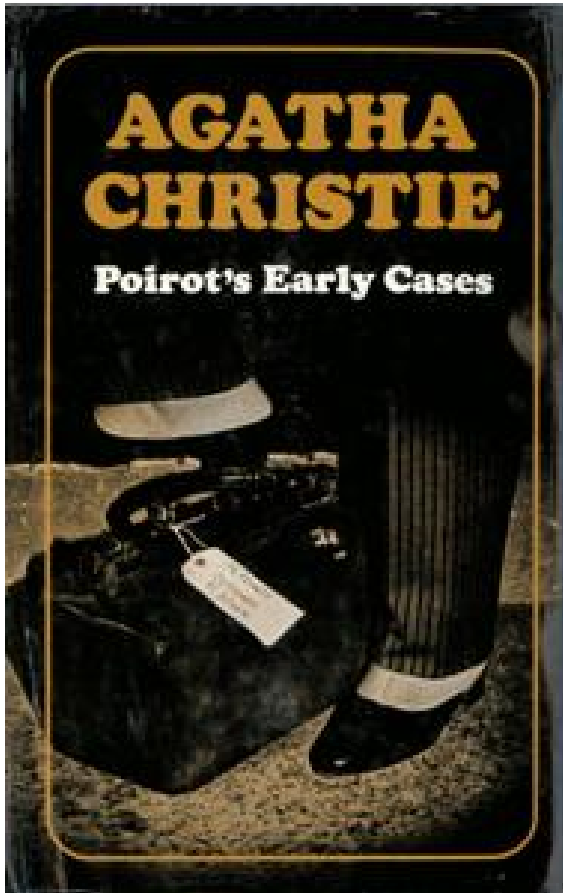
Poirot receives a strange letter for assistance from an elderly woman, Miss Amelia Barrowby, who lives at Rosebank in Charman's Green. She is extremely vague in defining exactly what the problem is but states several times that discretion is paramount and that family is involved. The letter intrigues Poirot who has Miss Lemon draft a reply saying that he is at the lady's service.

Five days later Miss Lemon spots an announcement in the "personal column" of *The Morning Post* about the death of Miss Barrowby. Poirot sends a letter to Rosebank saying that he will call on Miss Barrowby but this is to provoke a response from the next of kin and he duly receives a reply from Mary Delafontaine, the lady's niece, saying that his services are no longer required. Nevertheless, he goes to the house and admires the well-maintained garden with its spring flowers and edging of shells. Let into the house by a maid, the first person he meets is a young Russian girl called Katrina Reiger who speaks cryptically of the money that by rights is hers. She is interrupted by Mrs Delafontaine and her husband who dismisses Katrina and they meet Poirot. They seem shocked to find that he is a detective.

Poirot interviews the local police inspector who tells him that they now know that Miss Barrowby died from a dose of strychnine but the problem is that the victim and her two family members all ate the same meal. The Delafontaines are suspected as they will inherit a large sum of money, which they very much need, but it was Katrina who gave her employer her medicinal powders and it is possible the strychnine was in those. However, Katrina does not appear to have benefitted in any way from Miss Barrowby's death, and would, in fact, have been out of a job.

The next day, however, brings the news that Miss Barrowby left most of her money to Katrina, thereby providing a motive and she has duly been detained. A packet of strychnine powders

is then found under Katrina's mattress which seems to clinch the matter. Poirot though is not convinced and arranges matters in a methodical order in his own mind. It is then he remembers the garden. He sends out Miss Lemon to make particular enquiries and then interviews Katrina who confirms that she ate separately to the family, as she always did, but had the same food as them.



Having met Miss Lemon and ascertained the results of her enquiries, he calls at Rosebank and sees Mary Delafontaine. At the front door, he points the unfinished row of shells — the only unsymmetrical item there — and points out they are oyster shells. Miss Lemon has found the fishmonger who sold the oysters to the Delafontaines. They gave Miss Barrowby the poison in the oysters, thus disguising the taste and then planted the shells in the garden as they didn't want Katrina or the maid to know that an extra item had been included in the family meal. Mrs Delafontaine confesses that she and her husband have been taking money from her aunt for many years and couldn't let the money go to Katrina.

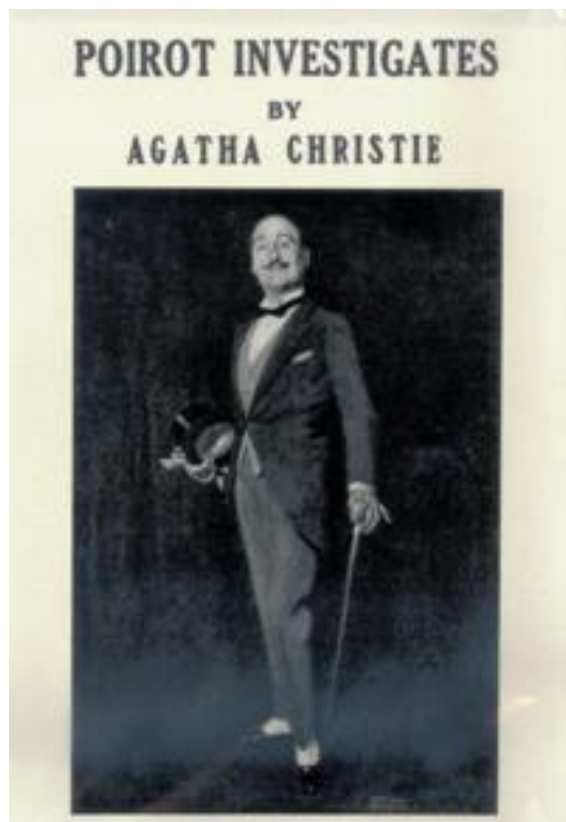
The Million Dollar Bond Robbery

Season 3

Episode Number: 24

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Sunday January 13, 1991
Writer: Anthony Horowitz, Agatha Christie
Director: Andrew Grieve
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Recurring Role: Richard Bebb (voice of newsreader)
Guest Stars: Dallas Adams (Hood), Ewan Hooper (Vavasour), Robin Hunter (policeman), Kieron Jecchinis (Tom Franklin), Lizzy McInnerny (Nurse Long/Miranda Brooks), Natalie Ogle (Esmee Dalgleish), Christopher Owen (Chief Purser), Oliver Parker (Philip Ridgeway), Edward Phillips (flower seller), David Quilter (Shaw), Jonathan Stratt (passenger), Paul Young (McNeil)
Summary: The London and Scottish Bank is sending a huge shipment of Liberty Bonds to New York on the transatlantic passenger liner Queen Mary. Poirot, who suffers terribly from sea-sickness, is asked to see the bonds safely across the Atlantic.



Poirot is asked by the fiancée of Philip Ridgeway to prove his innocence. Ridgeway is the nephew of Mr Vavasour, the joint general manager of the London and Scottish Bank and a million dollars of bonds have gone missing whilst in his care. Poirot meets Ridgeway at the Cheshire Cheese who gives him the facts of the case: He was entrusted by his uncle and the other general manager, Mr Shaw, of taking a million dollars of Liberty Bonds to New York to extend the bank's credit line there. The bonds were counted in Ridgeway's presence in London, sealed in a packet and then put in his portmanteau that had a special lock on it. The packet disappeared just a few hours before the liner on which Ridgeway was travelling, the Olympia, docked in New York. Attempts had obviously been made to break into the portmanteau but its lock must have then have been picked. Customs were alerted and they sealed the ship that they then searched but to no avail. The thief was selling the bonds in New York so quickly that one dealer even swears to buying some bonds before the ship docked. Poirot then questions the two general managers who confirm what Ridgeway has said. He then travels to Liverpool where the Olympia has just returned from another crossing and the stewards confirm the presence

of an elderly man wearing glasses who occupied the cabin next to Ridgeway and virtually never left it. Poirot meets back with Ridgeway and his fiancée and explains the case to them. The real bonds were never in the portmanteau. Instead they were posted to New York on another

faster liner, the Gigantic, which arrived before the Olympia. The confederate at the other end had instructions to begin selling the bonds only when the Olympia docked but he failed to carry out his orders properly, hence one sale, which took place half an hour before docking. In the port-manteau was a false packet that the real villain of the piece took out with a duplicate key and threw overboard — this was Mr Shaw who claims he was off work for two weeks due to sickness whilst these events transpired.

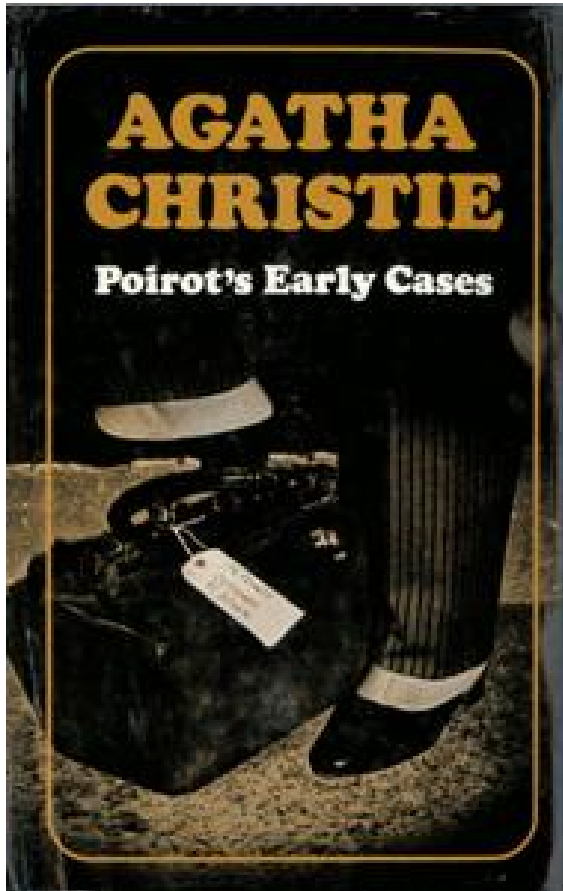
The Plymouth Express

Season 3

Episode Number: 25

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Sunday January 20, 1991
Writer: Agatha Christie, Rod Beacham
Director: Andrew Piddington
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: John Abbott (II) (Detective), Marion Bailey (Jane Melon), Leon Eagles (Bank Manager), Duncan Faber (Porter), Robert Locke (Naval Officer), Steven Mackintosh (Paperboy), Nigel Makin (Reception Clerk), Shelagh McLeod (Florence Carrington), Alfredo Michelson (Comte de la Rochefour), Stephen Riddle (Barman), John Stone (II) (Gordon Halliday), Richard Vanstone (Sergeant), Julian Wadham (Rupert Carrington), Adrian McLoughlin (Station Official), Kenneth Haigh (Mackenzie)
Summary: An Australian shipping tycoon wants Poirot to check out his daughter's suitors. Then the young lady takes a trip on the Plymouth Express, and Poirot finds himself investigating a jewel theft on the train.



A young naval officer undertakes a train journey on the Plymouth express and finds the dead body of a woman underneath one of the seats in his carriage. The woman is later identified as Flossie Halliday, latterly the Honourable Mrs. Rupert Carrington, the daughter of an Australian steel magnate who asks Poirot to take the case on.

Poirot knows of the woman and saw sight of her once in Paris. Some time ago she was caught up with an adventurer called Count de la Rochefour but her father took her back to America to get her away from the Count. She later married Rupert Carrington who was to prove just as unsuitable a husband, being a gambling addict and deep in debt. They soon drifted apart and were about to announce a legal separation.

Poirot and Hastings call on Mr. Halliday at his rented house in Park Lane. He tells them that his daughter was going to a house party in the West Country. She travelled by train from Paddington and changed at Bristol for the train to Plymouth (although she would be getting off before Plymouth). Her maid travelled with her in a third-class carriage. Mrs. Carrington was carrying with her jewels amounting to a value of almost one hundred thousand pounds to wear at the house party. At Bristol the maid, Jane Mason, received a surprise: Mrs. Carrington told her to wait at the station for a few hours while she travelled on to some unspecified

destination. She would return in a few hours and they would get a later connection for the Plymouth line. When she was being given these instructions, Mason could see the back of a man

in Mrs. Carrington's compartment but he was staring out of the opposite window and she did not see his face. After waiting at Bristol for most of the day, Mason checked into a hotel for the night and read of the murder in the next day's paper. Mrs. Carrington had been chloroformed and then stabbed and the jewels are missing. Mrs. Carrington's will leaves everything to her estranged husband who was away from town at the time of the tragedy.

Mason is called and confirms the facts of her part of the story. She is also able to say that the build of the man in the carriage was possibly that of Mr. Carrington and she confirms what Mrs Carrington was wearing at the time. Mason is dismissed and Poirot pushes Mr. Halliday to tell him what he is holding back. Halliday produces a note found in his daughter's pocket from the Count de la Rochefour. It appears that the romance of the two has been restarted and Poirot guessed as much since Mr. Halliday was not pushing for the investigation to concentrate on his son-in-law, despite his evident dislike of him.

Over the next day or so, enquiries are made by Japp into the whereabouts of Rupert Carrington and the Count de la Rochefour at the time of the murder but nothing substantial comes to light. When Japp next visits, Poirot immediately guesses that the knife used to kill Mrs Carrington has been found by the side of the line after between Weston (the first stop after Bristol on the Plymouth line) and Taunton (the next stop after that) and that a paper boy who sold items to Mrs Carrington has been interviewed. Despite being astounded at this deduction, Japp confirms that this is exactly what has happened. Japp is able to tell Poirot something he doesn't know — that one of the jewels has been pawned by a known thief called 'Red Narky' who usually works with a woman called Gracie Kidd but he seems to be alone this time. Poirot and Hastings immediately go to Halliday's house and the Belgian asks to be taken to a room on the top floor. Rummaging through a trunk Poirot finds clothes like the ones worn by Mrs Carrington when she was murdered. An angry Halliday joins them followed in quick succession by Mason, whom Poirot introduces as Gracie Kidd. She and 'Red Narky' probably murdered Mrs Carrington before Bristol. The story about the man in the carriage at the Bristol interchange was a blind as was the knife thrown off the train before Taunton and the newspaper boy. In the latter instance, Gracie dressed in similar clothing to the now-dead woman and bought two items off the boy, drawing attention to herself by mentioning the colour of her clothes being the same colour as a woman's dress on the cover of a magazine she was buying and by leaving a large tip. By making the murder appear to have taken place later than it was, Kidd was provided with an alibi.

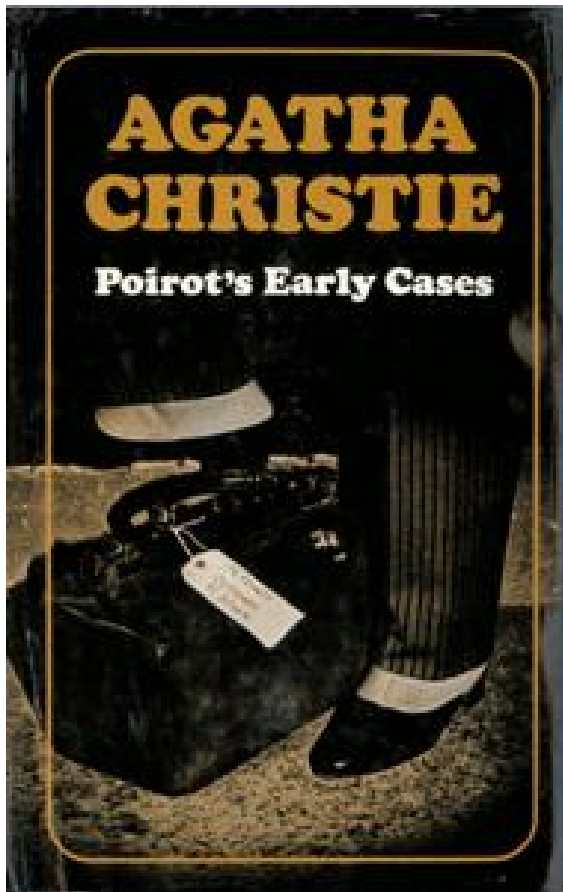
Wasps' Nest

Season 3

Episode Number: 26

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Sunday January 27, 1991
Writer: Agatha Christie, David Renwick
Director: Brian Farnham
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: John Boswall (Dr Belvedere), Peter Capaldi (Claude Langton), Kate Lynn-Evans (Mrs Henderson), Julian Forsyth (waiter), Serena Scott Thomas (Fashion Model), Hilary Tindall (fashion show presenter), Martin Turner (John Harrison), Melanie Jessop (Molly Deane)
Summary: Poirot visits a garden fete, where a wasps' nest adds to the tension. He meets the son of an old friend who has his girl-friend, a fashion model, with him, and Poirot soon suspects that they are both in danger. He has to solve a mystery which includes cyanide, failing brakes and mixed-up love lives. Meanwhile, Hastings has a new hobby which Poirot finds helpful in cracking the case.



Sitting on the garden terrace of his large house on a summer evening, John Harrison is delighted to receive an unexpected visit from Hercule Poirot. The detective tells him that he is in the locality to investigate a murder but amazes Harrison by admitting that the murder has not yet been committed but that it is better to prevent one happening first. He then cryptically turns the conversation round to a wasp's nest on a tree that he sees nearby and Poirot and Harrison discuss the destruction of it. A friend of Harrison's called Claude Langton is going to handle the task for him using petrol injected by a garden syringe but Poirot tells him that earlier that day he saw the poison book in a local chemist's and an earlier entry made by Langton for the purchase of cyanide, despite Langton having told Harrison that such substances shouldn't ever be available for pest control. Poirot asks a quiet question: "Do you like Langton?" and they talk of Harrison's engagement to a girl called Molly Deane who was previously engaged to Langton. As they discuss Langton's disposition towards Harrison, Poirot's meaning becomes quite clear to him — he is being warned. Poirot asks when Langton is returning and is told nine o'clock that evening. Poirot tells him that he will return at that time, wondering as he goes if he should have waited behind.

Poirot returns just before the appointed time to find Langton leaving, the nest still intact. Harrison seems to be fine and Poirot hopes that he is not feeling any ill-effects of having digested the

harmless washing soda that he consumed. Harrison is surprised. Poirot tells him that he traded the cyanide Harrison had in his pocket for the soda when he visited earlier on. Poirot met Langton after leaving the chemist's and heard from him that Harrison had insisted on the use of cyanide over petrol, despite Poirot having once heard Harrison stating that cyanide should not be made available for purchase. He has also witnessed the early signs of Langton's romance with Molly Deane being rekindled and Harrison leaving a Harley Street consultant having obviously been given bad news and Harrison now confirms that he has been given two months to live. Having also seen signs of Harrison's hatred for Langton, Poirot guessed that he was planning to commit suicide and make it appear that Langton had killed him, thus ensuring that his rival would be hanged for murder. Poirot's earlier conversation included several traps for the man, including the time of Langton's appointment — Poirot already knew Langton was due to return at eight-thirty but Harrison said it was later, by which time he hoped to have committed the deed. Having realised what he would have done, Harrison expresses his fervent gratitude for Poirot having visited and spoiled his plans.

The Tragedy at Marsdon Manor

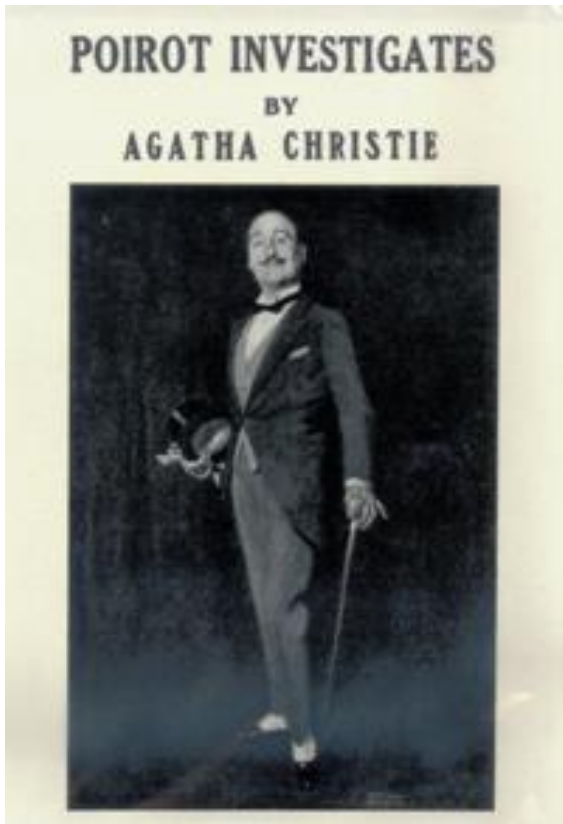
Season 3

Episode Number: 27

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Sunday February 3, 1991
Writer: Agatha Christie, David Renwick
Director: Renny Rye
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Recurring Role: Richard Bebb (voice of newsreader)
Guest Stars: Desmond Barrit (Samuel Naughton), Anita Carey (Miss Rawlinson), Neil Duncan (Captain Black), Edward Jewesbury (Dr Bernard), Pat Keen (Civil Defence officer), David Lloyd (II) (museum attendant), Ian McCulloch (Jonathan Maltravers), Hilary Sesta (doctor's receptionist), Ralph Watson (Danvers), Geoffrey Swann (Police Sergeant), Geraldine Alexander (Susan Maltravers)
Summary: Poirot is summoned to Marsdon by the owner of a country inn there to solve a murder. But the inn-keeper is a would-be thriller writer, and to Poirot's dismay the murder turns out to be fictional. Thankfully, though, there is soon a real (if seemingly supernatural) murder at the big house. Things get even more interesting when a young wife claims that a tree in her garden is haunted by a laughing ghost, and there are also signs of black magic from East Africa. Poirot lays a clever ambush to smoke out the killer, confident that he or she will turn out to be human.

Poirot has been asked by a friend, who is the director of the Northern Union Insurance Company, to investigate the case of a middle-aged man who died of an internal haemorrhage just a few weeks after insuring his life for fifty thousand pounds. There were rumours that the man — Mr Maltravers — was in a difficult financial position and the suggestion has been made that he paid the insurance premiums and then committed suicide for the benefit of his beautiful young wife. Poirot and Hastings travel to Marsdon Manor in Essex where the dead man was found in the grounds, with a small rook rifle by his side. They interview the widow and can find nothing wrong. They are leaving when a young man, Captain Black, arrives. A gardener tells Poirot that he visited the house the day before the death. Poirot interviews Black and by using word association finds out that he knew of someone who committed suicide with a rook rifle in East Africa when he was out there. Poirot realises that this story, told at the dinner table the day before the tragedy, gave Mrs Maltravers the idea as to how to kill her husband by making him demonstrate to her how the African farmer would have put the gun in his mouth. She then pulled the trigger and the unsuspecting local doctor certified a natural death. Mr Maltravers is then seen by a maid in the garden. She thinks that it was just a mistake, but then in the living room a strange thing happens. The lights suddenly go out and Mrs Maltravers clasps Poirot's hand. Mr Maltravers suddenly appears in the room, his index finger glowing and pointing at Mrs Maltravers' hand, which is covered in his blood. She is scared to death and confesses. Poirot explains that he hired a man to impersonate Mr Maltravers and turn off the lights. When Mrs Maltravers grabbed Poirot's hand, he put fake blood on hers. The man applied phosphorescent to his finger to make it glow and pointed to the woman's hand, which was covered in fake blood. She is terrified and confesses.



The Double Clue

Season 3

Episode Number: 28

Season Episode: 6

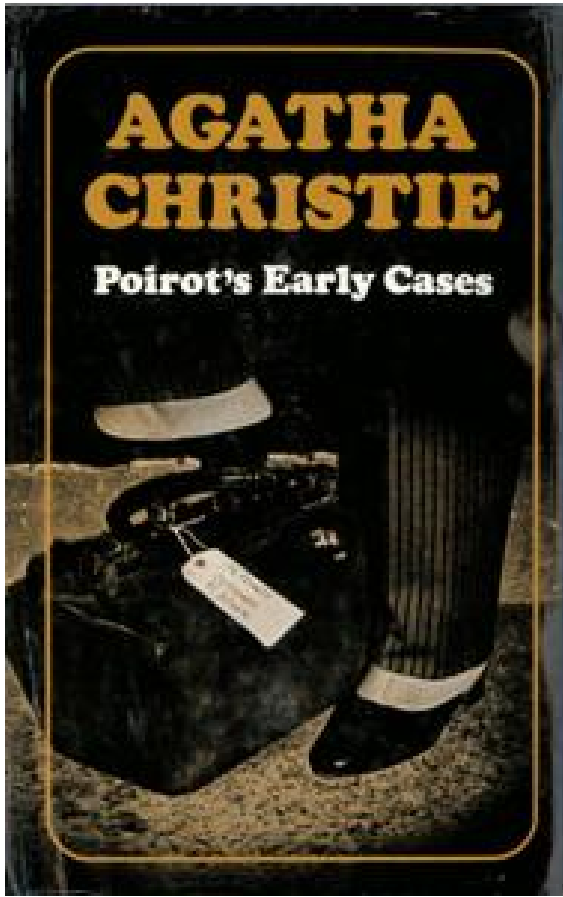
Originally aired:	Sunday February 10, 1991
Writer:	Agatha Christie, Anthony Horowitz
Director:	Andrew Piddington
Show Stars:	Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars:	Richard Ryan (Porter), Michael Packer (Redfern), Nicholas Selby (Johnstone), David Bamber (Bernard Parker), William Chubb (Blake), Meriel Dickinson (Katherine Bird), Mark Fletcher (policeman), David Lyon (Marcus Hardman), Kika Markham (Countess Vera Rossakoff), Charmian May (Lady Runcorn), William Osborne (II) (receptionist), Yitkin Seow (Pecore)
Summary:	Japp (who is really worried that failure could cost him his job) seeks Poirot's help in investigating a series of jewel thefts, and two remarkable things happen. Poirot falls in love (with the beautiful and clever Countess Vera Rossakoff) and he also meets a criminal intellect which he finds worthy of him. As the countess is his main suspect, Poirot spends most of his time with her - which for once leaves Hastings and Miss Lemon to do most of the actual detective work. In the end, this case may have to be put down as the one that got away.

Poirot is called in by Marcus Hardman, a collector of various antique precious objects, to investigate a jewel robbery. The theft occurred from his safe when he was holding a small tea party at his house. He showed his guests his collection of medieval jewels and later discovered that the safe had been rifled and the objects taken. Four of his guests had the opportunity to take the items — Mr. Johnston, a South African millionaire only just arrived in London; Countess Vera Rossakoff, a refugee from the Russian revolution; Bernard Parker, a young and effeminate agent for Mr. Hardman and Lady Runcorn, a middle-aged society lady whose aunt is a kleptomaniac.

Poirot examines the scene of the crime and finds a man's glove and a cigarette case with the initials "BP". He visits Bernard Parker who appears suspicious when he states that the glove isn't his - but vehemently denies owning the cigarette case. Nevertheless Poirot finds the twin of the glove in the hallway of Parker's house.

Later that day, Poirot receives a visit from the Countess Rossakoff who is indignant that Poirot is pursuing Parker. Previously suspicious that the Countess may not be a real Russian, Poirot is forced to admit that the impressive lady is who she says she is. That evening, Hastings is surprised to see Poirot studying a book on Russian grammar. The next day he visits Hardman and tells him who the thief is. The collector is astonished and leaves Poirot to pursue the matter without police involvement. Poirot and Hastings then visit the Countess and Poirot calmly tells the lady that his taxi is waiting and that he would be obliged if she would give him the jewels. She, equally calmly, does so. They part on good terms, the Countess admitting that Poirot is one of the few people she fears. He in turn is very impressed by the Russian.

He tells Hastings that it was the double clue of the glove and the case which made him suspicious. If both were planted to incriminate Parker, it would have been too false: therefore only one of the clues was genuine and the other a deception. As the cigarette case was not Parker's, that must have been the genuine clue. The case belonged to the Countess whose initials — VR — are BP in the Cyrillic alphabet, hence Poirot's perusal of the book on Russian grammar.



The Mystery of the Spanish Chest

Season 3

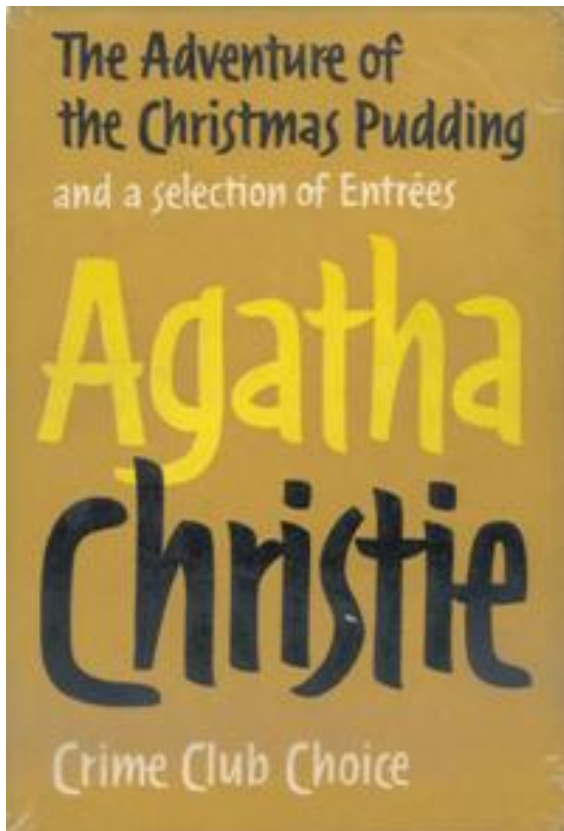
Episode Number: 29

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Sunday February 17, 1991
Writer: Agatha Christie, Anthony Horowitz
Director: Andrew Grieve
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Christopher Lamb (Party Dancer), Catherine Bott (Gilda), Richard Cawte (young officer), Edward Clayton (Rouse), Peter Copley (Burgoyne), Clem Davies (reporter), Roger Kemp (doctor), Caroline Langrishe (Marguerite Clayton), John McEnery (Colonel Curtiss), Andy Mulligan (reporter), John Noble (Rigoletto), Antonia Pemberton (Lady Chatterton), Victoria Scarborough (dancer at party), Malcolm Sinclair (Edward Clayton), Sam Smart (Smithy), Pip Torrens (Major John Rich), Melissa Wilson (maid), Metin Yenel (umpire)
Summary: Poirot is called in to help a woman who lives in fear of her husband, and he is invited to a dinner party which goes horribly wrong. Then Colonel Curtiss, the scar-faced prime murder suspect, even unwisely calls Poirot "a detective." The detective finds that the murder mystery hinges on a duel fought ten years before. He soon proves Curtiss to be the killer who pushed a stiletto blade into a trunk, straight into the head of a man hiding in the trunk. As the police take the Colonel away, he adds insult to injury by sneering at "that bloody little Frog" . . . but it was by getting such details wrong that he got himself caught.

Poirot's attention is caught by newspaper headlines which tell of the latest developments in the "Spanish Chest Mystery". At his request Miss Lemon prepares a précis of the case. A Major Charles Rich held a small party at his flat. The guests were a Mr and Mrs Clayton, a Mr and Mrs Spence and a Commander McLaren. At the last minute, Mr Clayton received an urgent telegram summoning him to Scotland that night on business and did not attend the party. Shortly before the party, he had a drink with McLaren at their club where he explained his coming absence and then before going to the station, took a taxi to Rich's to offer his apologies. Rich was out but Burgess — Rich's manservant — let him in and left Clayton to scribble a note in the sitting room while he carried on his preparations in the kitchen. Some ten minutes later, Rich returned and sent Burgess out on a short errand. Rich denies seeing Clayton at the flat nor did Burgess after leaving the man to write his note. The party went well. The next morning, Burgess noticed what seemed to be bloodstains on a rug that were seeping from a Spanish chest in the corner of the room. Opening it, the startled man found the stabbed body of Mr Clayton. Rich has now been arrested as the obvious suspect but Poirot sees a flaw in that he cannot see how or why Rich would calmly have gone to bed with a bleeding corpse in the chest. He is able to start investigating the case when a mutual friend recommends him to Mrs Clayton. Meeting the widow, he is struck by her beautiful innocence and realises quickly that she is attracted to Major Rich although she denies having an affair with him. She does admit that she wasn't in love with her closed and emotionless husband. He then sees each of the people involved in the party in turn who each agree about the charms of Mrs Clayton and the lack of emotion in her husband. Poirot has some suspicions of Burgess and goes to Rich's flat where the manservant shows him the scene of the crime. Inspecting the chest, Poirot finds some holes in the back and side and asks Burgess if anything in the room is noticeably different from the night of the party. He is told that a screen in the room was almost in front of the chest on the night. Remembering a reference to Othello used

by Mrs Spence, Poirot realises the truth. Mr Clayton is Othello and his wife is Desdemona and the missing character of Iago is in fact Commander McLaren. He is in love with Mrs Clayton and, jealous of her attraction to Major Rich, planned the perfect crime whereby Clayton would die and Rich be accused of the murder. He made numerous subtle suggestions to Clayton about his wife's infidelity to the point where the man himself hatched a plan to fake a summons to Scotland and then found a reason to get into Rich's flat where he hid in the chest to observe what happened in his absence during the party. McLaren, playing records for the people to dance to, nipped behind the screen, opened the chest and stabbed his friend. Poirot feels certain that if the theory is put to McLaren he will confess.



The Theft of the Royal Ruby

Season 3

Episode Number: 30

Season Episode: 8

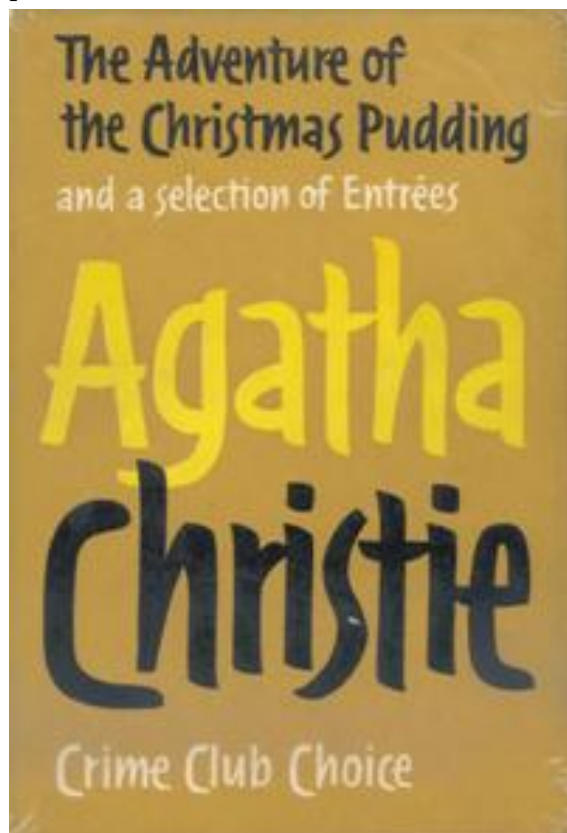
Originally aired: Sunday February 24, 1991
Writer: Agatha Christie, Anthony Horowitz, Clive Exton
Director: Andrew Grieve
Show Stars: David Suchet (Hercule Poirot), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings)
Guest Stars: Peter Aldwyn (Durbridge), Tariq Alibai (Prince Farouq), Jonathan Bancroft (Colin), Stephanie Cole (Mrs Lacey), John Dunbar (Peverill), Susan Field (Mrs Ross), Siobhan Garahy (Annie Bates), Alessia Gwyther (Bridget), Edward Holmes II (Michael), David Howey (Jesmond), Nigel Le Vaillant (Desmond Lee-Wortley), Christopher Leaver (Parsloe), Helena Michell (Sarah Lacey), Robyn Moore (Gloria Lee-Wortley/Iris Mofatt), Iain Rattray (Head waiter), Gordon Reid (Dupré), James Taylor (I) (waiter), Frederick Treves (Colonel Horace Lacey), John Vernon (David)
Summary: Poirot prepares to spend a quiet Christmas on his own with a box of chocolates, but he has to give up his plans when the British government asks for his urgent help. Prince Farouk, a young member of the Egyptian royal family visiting London, has lost a famous ruby, and this is deemed to be a matter of national security. The Prince unwisely lent his jewel to a strange young lady who promptly vanished with it, and Poirot forms a complicated plan to catch the thieves, harnessing misdirected romantic urges.

Poirot is asked by a Mr Jesmond, who is acting as an intermediary to an eastern prince, to help that unfortunate young man with a problem he is having. The prince is due soon to be married to a cousin and he has been enjoying his final days of freedom with a dubious young woman in London. The prince brought several expensive jewels with him to London for resetting by Cartiers and one of them, a fabulous ruby, was stolen by the young woman. If it cannot be retrieved a scandal will ensue and because of this the police cannot be involved. The mystery can be solved at an old English country house called Kings Lacey where it will be arranged for Poirot to join a family there for their Christmas celebrations, supposedly to experience a typical English Christmas.

On Christmas Eve at Kings Lacey, Poirot is told about the other members of their party by Mrs Lacey, his elderly host in the house. Joining them will be her husband, Colonel Lacey; Sarah, a granddaughter by their deceased son; Colin, a teenage grandson by their daughter; Michael, a friend of Colin's at school; Bridget who is of the same age as Colin and Michael and is a great niece of Mrs Lacey's; Diana, a young cousin of Mrs Lacey's; and David Welwyn who is a family friend. Colonel and Mrs Lacey are perturbed by a relationship that Sarah is in with a young rake called Desmond Lee-Wortley. They both think him unsuitable for their granddaughter and have invited him to join them for Christmas in the hope that a few day's close contact with Sarah will show her how unsuitable he is, particularly in contrast to David Welwyn who has been friends with Sarah since childhood. Lee-Wortley is there with his sister who is recovering from an operation and is confined to her room, convalescing.

Colin, Michael, and Bridget are disappointed with Poirot as he does not meet their expectations of what a detective should look like. They hatch a plan to arrange a false murder for Poirot to detect with Bridget lying in the snow with blood as the "dead" body and footprints leading through the snow which is now falling and expected to grow heavier. They decide that they will put their plan into operation on Boxing Day as Colonel Lacey would not like something of that

nature to take place on Christmas Day itself. That night, the Christmas tree is decorated and the party retire to their rooms for the night. On his pillow, Poirot finds a scrawled note which reads, "DON'T EAT NONE OF THE PLUM PUDDING. ONE WHO WISHES YOU WELL". He is most puzzled.



The next day, the party eats a huge Christmas dinner and then the elderly and partly retired butler brings in the Christmas pudding with great ceremony. The diners find the usual tokens in their portions but the Colonel is annoyed and amazed when he almost chokes on a piece of red glass in his. Poirot takes the object and pockets it. Afterwards Poirot visits the kitchen to complement the daily cook, Mrs Ross, on the meal and particularly the pudding. She confesses that two were made, one for today and one for New Year's Day but the one for today was dropped and the one for six days time substituted in its place.

That night, Poirot pretends to sleep in his bed, having avoided drinking a drugged coffee which had been handed to him by Lee-Wortley. A figure enters his room and conducts a fruitless search.

The next morning, the children carry out their "murder" plan and rouse Poirot from his bed to investigate the "dead" body but the planners get a shock when Poirot confirms that Bridget is indeed dead. Sarah and Lee-Wortley having joined them in the snow, Poirot invites the young man to check Bridget's pulse and he confirms there isn't one. Poirot points out that the footprints in the snow look like Lee-Wortley's and that in the dead girl's hand is the glass "ruby" from the pudding. Lee-

Wortley is dumbfounded but, taking the glass, offers to ring for the police. Claiming to Diana that the phone is dead, he drives off to fetch them. Poirot takes the others in the house where he explains all.

He tells them that Lee-Wortley is a blackmailer and involved in other questionable matters. His supposed sister is the young woman who took the ruby from the eastern prince and the two of them were tracked to Kings Lacey. Bridget appears in the room... she is not dead, having worn a tourniquet on her arm when lying in the snow... and she was in league with Poirot to trick Lee-Wortley. Poirot heard the children planning their "murder" through an open window and used this opportunity to take Lee-Wortley in. The "ruby" that Bridget held in the snow was a paste copy that Poirot brought with him to the house and Lee-Wortley has taken this with him. Poirot supposes that he will go abroad where he will be surprised when he tries to sell the false jewel. The real ruby was hidden by the two thieves in what they were told was the New Year pudding and they were unaware of the accident that befell the pudding intended for Christmas Day. Lee-Wortley's "sister" overhears this and is furious that her co-conspirator has left her to face the music. She too flees the house. The mystery of who left the note on Poirot's pillow is solved when one of the housemaids confesses that she heard Lee-Wortley and his "sister" discussing getting Poirot out of the way and that something had been put in the pudding, causing her to think they planned to poison him. He rewards her by promising her a vanity box, and gets a kiss from Bridget under the mistletoe.

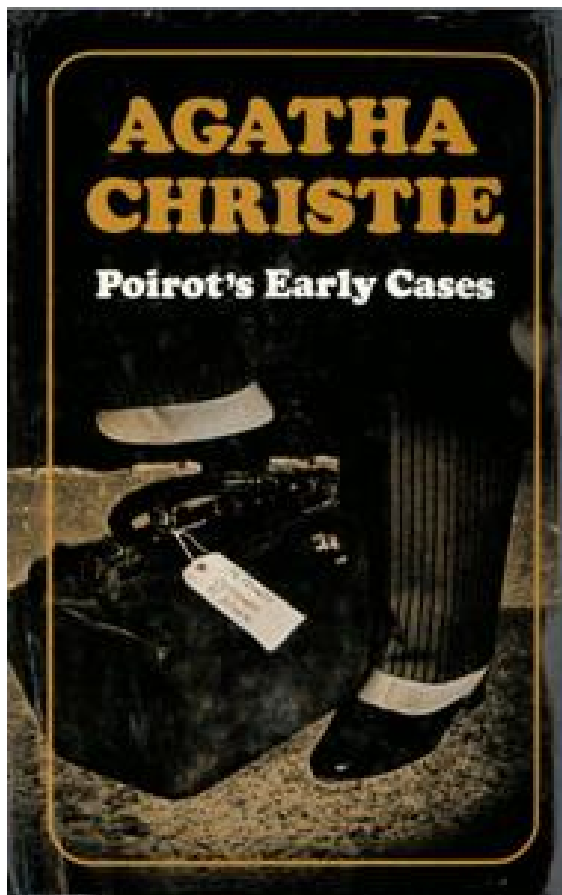
The Affair at the Victory Ball

Season 3

Episode Number: 31

Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Sunday March 3, 1991
Writer: Agatha Christie, Andrew Marshall
Director: Renny Rye
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Andrew Burt (James Ackerly), Charles Collingwood (BBC Announcer), Sarah Crowden (Receptionist), Mark Crowdy (Viscount Cronshaw), Haydn Gwynne (Coco Courtney), Kate Harper (Mrs Mallaby), David Henry (Eustace Beltane), Bryan Matheson (Butler), Brian Mitchell (Second Actor), Nathaniel Parker (Chris Davidson), Natalie Slater (Mrs Davidson)
Summary: Poirot is invited to a masquerade ball and advised to "come as someone famous" - so he decides to go as himself. And while he is there, he is called on to solve the murder of Lord Cronshaw, who was killed at the crowded party without anyone seeing. A fragment of a costume helps him to unmask the killer.



Chief Inspector Japp asks Poirot to assist Scotland Yard in the strange events which took place at a recent costumed Victory Ball. A group of six people, headed by the young Viscount Cronshaw, attended dressed in the costume of the Commedia dell'arte. Lord Cronshaw was Harlequin, his uncle, the honourable Eustace Beltane, was Punchinello and Mrs. Mallaby, an American widow, was Punchinella. In the roles of Pierrot and Pierrette were Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Davidson (he being a stage actor) and finally, Miss 'Coco' Courtenay, an actress who was rumoured to be engaged to Lord Cronshaw, was Columbine. The night went badly from the start when it was obvious to the party that Cronshaw and Miss Courtenay were not on speaking terms. The latter was crying and asked Chris Davidson to take her home to her flat in Chelsea. When they had gone, a friend of Cronshaw's spotted Harlequin in a box looking down on the ball and called up to him to join them on the main floor. Cronshaw left the box to join them but then disappeared. He was found ten minutes later on the floor of the supper room, stabbed through the heart with a table knife, his body suffering a strange stiffness. To compound the tragedy, Coco Courtenay was found dead in her bed with an overdose of cocaine; at the inquest that followed, it was found that she was addicted to the drug. Poirot starts to investigate, finding out to everyone's puzzlement that Cronshaw

was emphatically opposed to drugs, that Beltane's costume had a hump and a ruffle and that a curtained recess exists in the supper room. He arranges a get-together of the people involved at his flat where he puts on a shadowed presentation across a back-lit screen of the six costumes but then reveals that there were actually five. Underneath Pierrot's loose garb is that of the slimmer-fitting Harlequin. Davidson leaps forward and curses Poirot but is quickly arrested by Japp. Poirot reveals that the strength with which the knife was plunged into Cronshaw meant that a man was responsible for the crime. The stiffness of the body meant that he had been dead for some time and not killed in the ten minute interval between being seen in the box and then being found dead on the floor, therefore the figure seen as Harlequin was one of the others. It could not have been Beltane as his costume was too elaborate to change quickly. Davidson killed Cronshaw earlier, hid the body in the curtained recess, then took Miss Courtenay home where he fed her an overdose of the drug. He did not stay there for a while as he claimed but returned immediately. His motive was that of self-preservation as it was he who was supplying Miss Courtenay with her drug and Cronshaw was on the point of finding out and exposing him.

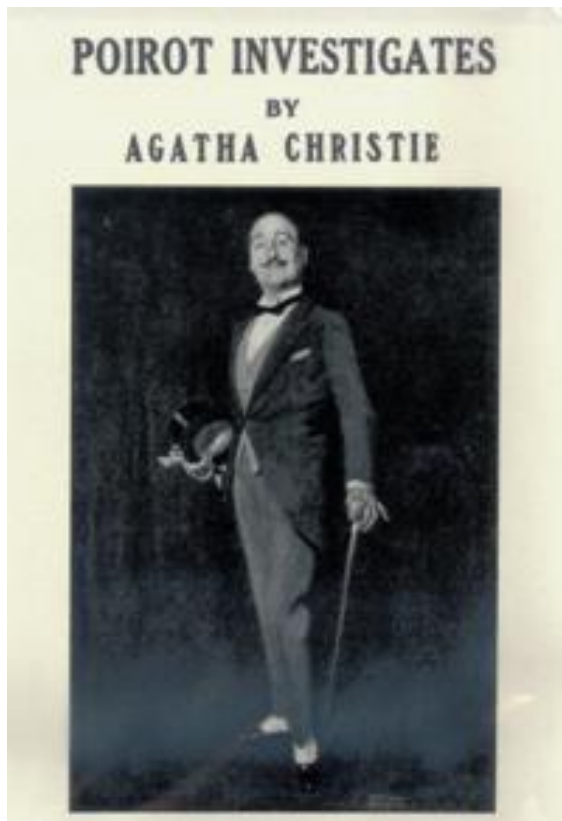
The Mystery of Hunter's Lodge

Season 3

Episode Number: 32

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Sunday March 10, 1991
Writer: Agatha Christie, T. R. Bowen
Director: Renny Rye
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Victoria Alcock (Ellie), Denise Alexander (the real Mrs Middleton), Roy Boyd (Jack Stoddard), Bernard Horsfall (Harrington Pace), Diana Kent (Zoe Havering / Mrs Middleton), Jim Norton (I) (Roger Havering), Christopher Scoular (Sergeant Forgan), Shaughan Seymour (Archie Havering), Clare Travers-Deacon (Joan), Raymond Trickitt (P.C. Cooke), Arthur Whybrow (Anstruther)
Summary: When Poirot joins Hastings for a grouse shoot, one of their party is murdered. Poirot has to investigate the killing while in bed with a severe cold.



Poirot is ill in bed with influenza when he and Hastings receive a visit from a Mr Roger Havering, the second son of a Baronet who has been married to an actress for some years. Mr Havering stayed at his club in London the previous evening and the following morning receives a telegram from his wife telling him his Uncle, Harrington Pace, was murdered the previous evening and to come at once with a detective. As Poirot is indisposed, Hastings sets off with Havering for the scene of the crime — Derbyshire. Mr Pace, an American by birth and the brother of Mr Havering's mother, owns an isolated hunting lodge on the Derbyshire moors. When Hastings and Havering arrive there they meet Inspector Japp as Scotland Yard has been called in on the case. As Havering goes off to answer questions, Hastings speaks with the housekeeper, Mrs Middleton, who tells him she showed a black-bearded man into the house the previous evening who wanted to see Mr Pace. She and Mrs Havering were outside the room that the two men were talking in when they heard a shot. The door to the room was locked but they found the window outside open and gaining entry found Mr Pace dead, shot by one of two pistols on display in the room and the used pistol now missing, together with the

black-bearded man. Mrs Middleton sends Mrs Havering to see Hastings and she confirms the housekeeper's story. Japp also confirms Havering's alibi for his train times to London and his attendance at the club but soon the missing pistol is found dumped in Ealing. Hastings wires to Poirot with the facts but Poirot is only interested in the clothes worn by and descriptions of Mrs Middleton and Mrs Havering. Poirot wires back instructions to arrest Mrs Middleton at once

but she disappears before this instruction can be carried out. Upon investigation, no trace can be made of her actual existence, either from the agency she was employed from or the methods by which she reached Derbyshire. Once Hastings is back in London, Poirot gives Hastings his theory — Mrs Middleton never existed. She was Mrs Zoe Havering in disguise. No one except the couple can ever have claimed to have seen the two women together at the same time. Havering did go to London with one of the pistols which he dumped and Mrs Havering shot her uncle with the other pistol. Japp is convinced of the theory but doesn't have enough evidence to make an arrest. The Haverings inherit their uncle's fortune but natural justice sets in and the two are soon killed in an aeroplane crash.

Season Four

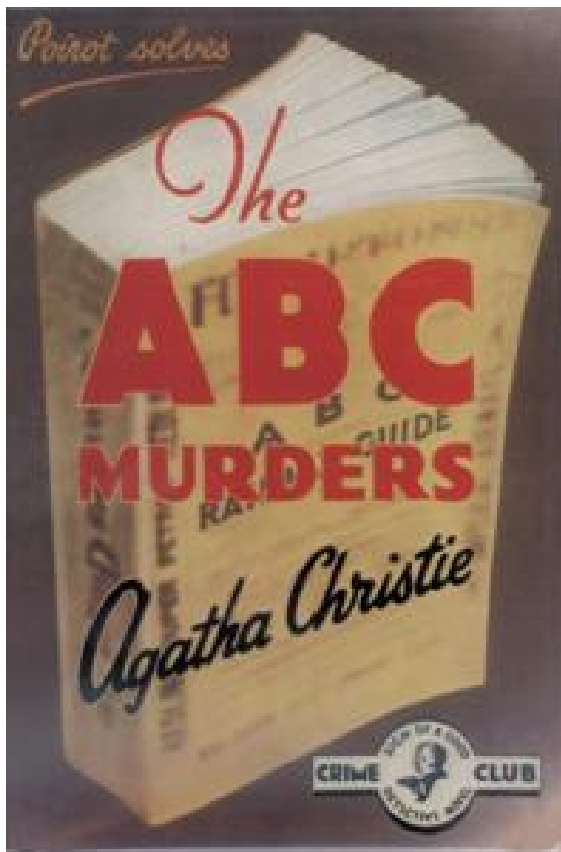
The ABC Murders (1)

Season 4

Episode Number: 33

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Sunday January 5, 1992
Writer: Agatha Christie, Clive Exton
Director: Andrew Grieve
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Donald Sumpter (Alexander Bonaparte Cust), Gordon Salkill (commissionaire), Peter Penry-Jones (Superintendent Carter), Allan Mitchell (Dr Kerr), Clifford Milner (policeman), Michael Mellinger (Franz Ascher), Norman McDonald (Strange), Nina Marc (Thora Grey), Alex Knight (Andover Sergeant), Jeremy Hawk (Deveril), Pippa Guard (Megan Barnard), Miranda Forbes (Mrs Turton), Nicholas Farrell (Donald Fraser), Lucinda Curtis (Mrs Marbury), Claude Close (Doncaster sergeant), Vivienne Burgess (Lady Clarke), John Breslin (Barnard), Cathryn Bradshaw (Mary Drower), Philip Anthony (II) (Doctor), Donald Douglas (Franklin Clarke)
Summary: Three bodies are found. Beside each lies a copy of the ABC Railway Guide. The police are baffled. But the killer has made one mistake. He has challenged Hercule Poirot to unmask him.



The novel chronicles the case from Hastings point of view, after which the events in life of Cust are described. Poirot is aided by his old friends Hastings & Japp, along with Inspector Crome, Dr. Thompson & a Legion of relatives of the deceased. ABC now directs Poirot to Doncaster, when a Ledger is going to be run the day when next murder will be committed. Although clueless earlier, Lady Clarke gives Poirot an important clue: she saw a shabbily dressed salesman talking with Thora. Based on Thora's testimony, stockings found in Alice's home & facts given by the Legion members, Poirot turns up in Doncaster with everybody else. He tells them to scour every possible area. However, ABC succeeds again, killing George, a barber in a cinema hall instead of Roger Downs, a local schoolteacher & a likely victim sitting just two chairs away from George.

Nobody knows that Cust is in Doncaster, in the cinema hall. He is revealed to be in a dazed state after a blackout. He is shocked to see blood on his sleeve & a knife in his pocket, about which he remembers nothing. Realizing the implications, he decides to run away. He is unaware of the fact that Michael has seen him in Doncaster. He tries to throw his landlady & Lily off the track by giving them false location. However, when Lily learns from

Michael about Cust being in Doncaster, the duo get suspicious & tip off Crome. A trap is set for

Cust, but luckily, he runs away undetected. However, he soon surrenders voluntarily. A raid in his apartment gives enough damning evidence against him. Cust has no memories of committing other murders either, but believes himself to be guilty by now. According to Cust, he works as a salesman for a reputed firm, which gave him his typewriter as a gift. The firm denies everything. His appointment letter & the ABC letters are found to be written on his own typewriter.

Unopened packets of ABC railway guides are also found, but Cust claims he thought the packets were extra stocking packets. Although cornered, Cust believes that he didn't kill Betty, since he had an alibi for that night. Poirot too finds the matter fishy & spends days pondering, hardly talking to anyone. Then, one day he gives a backhanded compliment to Hastings & summons the Legion meeting. Summing up the case, Poirot starts pointing out the anomalies. ABC could have easily killed Alice & Franz would be arrested. Yet, ABC chose to advertise the murder, something unlikely for a serial killer. Cust couldn't have killed Betty in any case: he had neither the brains nor would a girl like Betty court him. Also, ABC wrote the letters to Poirot instead of police or a newspaper. Based on this, ABC had to be a handsome, charming, smart & cruel man, not a serial killer. Poirot points out that motive was equally important: Donald had one to kill Betty, but that wouldn't be enough to do more murders.

To be continued. . .

The ABC Murders (2)

Season 4

Episode Number: 34

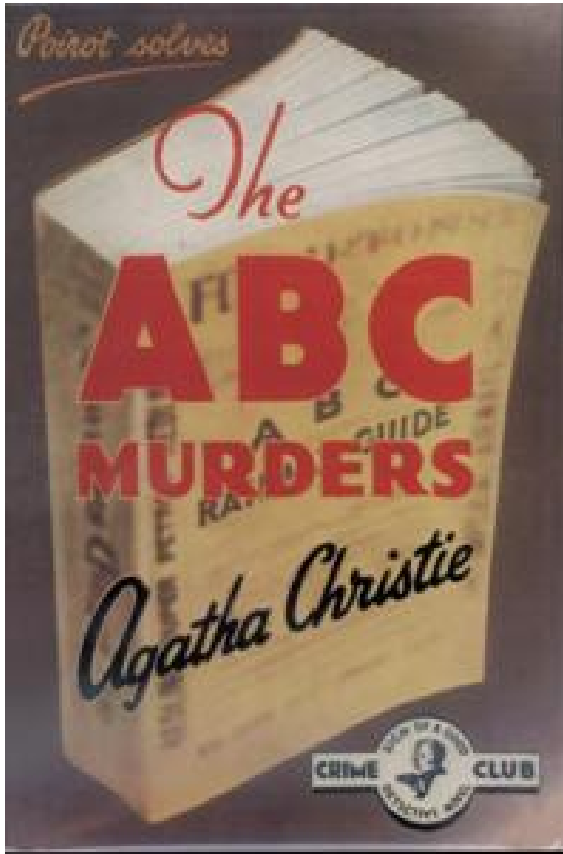
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Sunday January 5, 1992
Writer: Agatha Christie, Clive Exton
Director: Andrew Grieve
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Ann Windsor (Miss Merrion), Donald Sumpter (Alexander Bonaparte Cust), Gordon Salkild (Comissionaire), Clifford Milner (Constable), Michael Mellinger (Franz Ascher), Nina Marc (Thora Grey), Alex Knight (Andover Sergeant), Jeremy Hawk (Deveril), Pippa Guard (Megan Barnard), Nicholas Farrell (Donald Fraser), Donald Douglas (Franklin Clarke), Claude Close (Doncaster Sergeant), Vivienne Burgess (Lady Clarke), Cathryn Bradshaw (Mary Drower), Jane Birdsall (Nurse), John Breslin (Barnard), Allan Mitchell (Dr Kerr), Norman McDonald (Strange), Miranda Forbes (Mrs Turton), Lucinda Curtis (Mrs Marbury), Peter Penry-Jones (Detective Superintendent Carter), Philip Anthony (II) (Doctor)
Summary: Poirot continues his investigation of the murders as the killer strikes a fourth time, and a neurotic man is finally arrested. Incriminating evidence is found in his room, but Poirot thinks he is being framed.

It is clear that ABC is actually a perfectly sane man trying to hide a murder as a part of serial killings. Based on the tone of letters, ABC has a disdain for foreigners like Poirot. This was one of the reasons ABC wrote the letters to him. Poirot tells that the Churston murder could have been easily avoided if the 3rd letter arrived on time. On this, Hastings exclaims that the letter was meant to go astray. Poirot reminds him that he had said the same thing earlier too, but no one took him seriously, though, ironically this apparently simple explanation was correct. ABC deliberately misspelled Poirot's address so that police came after Carmichael was murdered. A letter sent to a private detective could easily go astray, not one sent to police or a newspaper. This was another reason why Poirot received the letters.

Now Poirot accuses Franklin of being ABC. Poirot points out that Franklin has an apparent hatred for Thora, also a foreigner. Although Thora considered Carmichael a father figure, it was quite likely that the two would end up marrying after Lady Clarke's death, as usually happens with widowers. In that case, Franklin stood to lose the estate, as Thora would surely bear Carmichael's children. So, he had to kill Carmichael. After seeing Cust in a bar & learning his pompous name, Franklin thought about ABC. He prepared all the plans & hired Cust as the firm, directing him to the murder scenes. After killing Carmichael, Franklin had to kill at least one more person to prevent the fingers to point towards him. He killed George, wiped the blood on Cust's sleeve, dropped the knife in Cust's pocket & framed him. The whole case was quite self-explanatory.

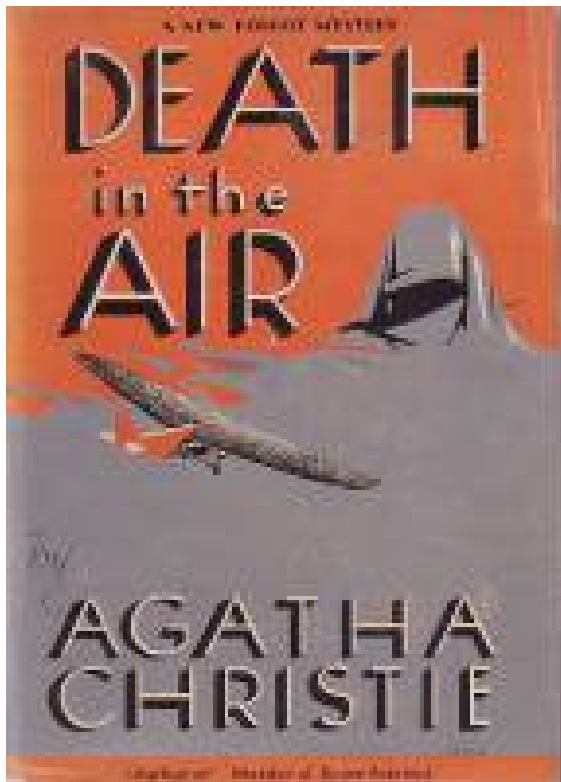
Franklin laughs off the accusations, but Poirot tells him about various circumstantial evidences gathered against him after he became a suspect. After learning that his fingerprint was found on Cust's typewriter, Franklin tries to commit suicide. Poirot has anticipated this & already had his revolver emptied. Franklin is arrested & Cust is set free. Cust is offered handsome amount to publish his story, about which Poirot gives him some profit earning advice. Poirot also hints that Cust's headache is due to wrong number of his spectacles. Talking about the case later, Hastings is stunned to learn that the fingerprint was a bluff. Poirot has played matchmaker again: for Megan & Donald. In the end, Poirot comments that he & Hastings went on a hunting trip (just as Hastings intended to do at the start of the novel).



Death in the Clouds (1)

Season 4
Episode Number: 35
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Sunday January 12, 1992
Writer: Agatha Christie, William Humble
Director: Stephen Whittaker (II)
Show Stars: Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Harry Audley (Barraclough), John Bleasdale (Mitchell), Jenny Downham (Anne Giselle), David Firth (Lord Horbury), Cathryn Harrison (Lady Horbury), Roger Heathcott (Daniel Clancy), Richard Ireson (Inspector Fournier), Gabrielle Lloyd (Elise), Guy Manning (Jean Dupont), Eve Pearce (Madame Giselle), Amanda Royle (Venetia Kerr), Shaun Scott (Norman Gale), Sarah Woodward (Jane Grey)
Summary: Poirot falls asleep on a short aeroplane flight from Paris to London, and one of the other passengers, Madame Giselle, is killed by a poison dart while he sleeps. Poirot finds out that she was a money-lender, which may provide a motive for the killing.



Frustrated with the evident artificiality of the blow-pipe, an item that could hardly have been used without being seen by another passenger, Poirot suggests that the means of delivering the dart may have been something else. Is it the flute of one passenger, or perhaps one of the ancient tubes carried by one of the two French archaeologists on board? Or maybe Lady Horbury's long cigarette holder?

Poirot's focus is upon a wasp that has been seen in the compartment and which provided evidence for the original theory of the cause of death. Without explaining himself, he asks for a detailed list of the items in the possession of the passengers, and finds an incriminating clue: Norman Gale, a dentist who has seemingly never been in the area of the plane where the victim was killed, and has no apparent motive for committing the murder, had an empty matchbox and a lighter. He appears to be the killer, but how can he have committed the murder, when he was apparently in conversation with Jane Grey (the novel's effective heroine) throughout the flight? And why would he have committed the crime? And why were there two coffee spoons in the victim's saucer?

Madame Giselle is suspected of using blackmail to ensure that her clients pay up, so any one of the passengers could either have owed her money or feared exposure. Equally, Madame Giselle had an estranged daughter who inherits her considerable estate: could one of the female passengers be this heiress? Much of the novel focuses on the pursuit of this line of enquiry, with the passengers coming under suspicion in turn. Special attention is given to Mr. Clancy, a detective novelist who enables Christie to include the same sort of parodies of her craft achieved in other novels through the character of Ariadne Oliver.

The only other suspect who proves of material significance is, however, the Countess of Horbury, whose maid has been called into the compartment during the flight where she would have had the perfect opportunity to commit the crime. When this maid is revealed to be none other than the victim's heir, Anne Morisot, it seems that she must be the murderess. But the maid was only on the flight by accident, having been asked to be there at the last moment. Moreover, the death of Anne Morisot from poison on the boat-train to Boulogne leaves no clear suspect.

To be continued. . .

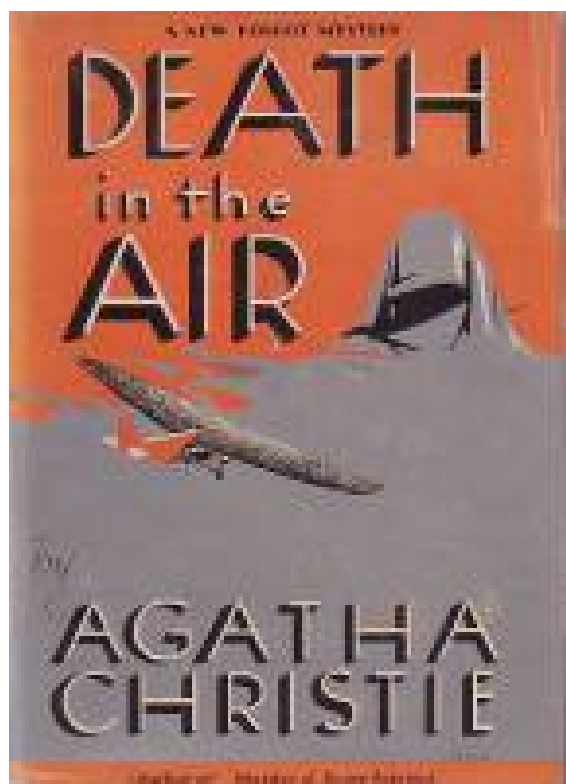
Death in the Clouds (2)

Season 4

Episode Number: 36

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Sunday January 12, 1992
Writer: William Humble, Agatha Christie
Director: Stephen Whittaker (II)
Show Stars: Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Harry Audley (Barraclough), John Bleasdale (Mitchell), Jenny Downham (Anne Giselle), David Firth (Lord Horbury), Cathryn Harrison (Lady Horbury), Roger Heathcott (Daniel Clancy), Richard Ireson (Inspector Fournier), Gabrielle Lloyd (Elise), Guy Manning (Jean Dupont), Eve Pearce (Madame Giselle), Amanda Royle (Venetia Kerr), Shaun Scott (Norman Gale), Sarah Woodward (Jane Grey)
Summary: Poirot now has two firm suspects in his investigation of a murder on board an aeroplane. But nailing the killer down takes time.



Poirot reveals in the denouement that Norman Gale is none other than Anne's new husband, and that his plans - almost certainly including the eventual murder of Anne herself - had been laid well in advance. He brought his dentist's jacket on board and - in the apparently innocuous moments that he had gone to the toilet - changed into this jacket in order to pose as a steward. Under the pretense of delivering a coffee spoon to Miss Giselle he had walked up the aisle and stabbed her with the poisoned thorn. As Poirot puts it: "No one notices a steward particularly." Gale's intention had been to frame the Countess, and the blowpipe that was found behind Poirot's seat would have been found behind hers had they not switched seats at the last moment.

Not content with solving the mystery, Poirot invites Mr. Clancy to the Denouncement where he gleefully allows the Novelist to see how a Real Life Detective solves a case, to both men's great enjoyment, and finally in a single stroke Poirot makes a romantic match by pairing off Jane Grey with the younger of the archaeologists.

One, Two, Buckle My Shoe (1)

Season 4

Episode Number: 37

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Sunday January 19, 1992
Writer: Clive Exton, Agatha Christie
Director: Ross Devenish
Show Stars: Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Joanna Phillips-Lane (Gerda Grant/Helen Montessor), Tom Durham (Lionel Arnholt), Bruce Alexander (Albert Chapman), Ben Bazell (Sergeant Beddoes), Nigel Bellairs (Leatheran), Oliver Bradshaw (Hendry), Carolyn Colquhoun (Mabelle Sainsbury-Seale), Christopher Eccleston (Frank Carter), Karen Gledhill (Gladys Neville), Joe Greco (Alfred Biggs), Laurence Harrington (Henry Morley), Mary Healey (Beryl Chapman), Helen Horton (Julia Olivera), Trilby James (Agnes Fletcher), Rosalind Knight (Georgina Morley), Kevork Malikyan (Amberiotis), Julie Smith (second hopscotch girl), Sara Stewart (Jane Olivera), John Warner (coroner), Peter Blythe (Alistair Blunt), David Bowles (Sergeant Evans)
Summary: Mabelle Sainsbury-Seale meets her old friend Alistair Blunt coming out of Dr Morley's dental surgery. And soon afterwards, Dr Morley (Poirot's dentist) is found dead. Japp thinks it was suicide, but Poirot disagrees.

Leaving the dentist's (Morley) practice after an appointment, Poirot happens to notice the arrival of Mabelle Sainsbury Seale and returns to her the shiny buckle that has fallen from her shoe. Later, he hears from Japp that Morley has died of a gunshot. Between Poirot's appointment and Morley's death there were only three patients: Banker Alistair Blunt, Mabelle, and a Greek blackmailer named Amberiotis. The presence of a man thought essential to the country's economic survival (Blunt) ensures Japp's involvement in the case; when Amberiotis turns up dead from an overdose of anaesthetic, it is thought that the dentist has killed himself after realising the accident for which he had been responsible.

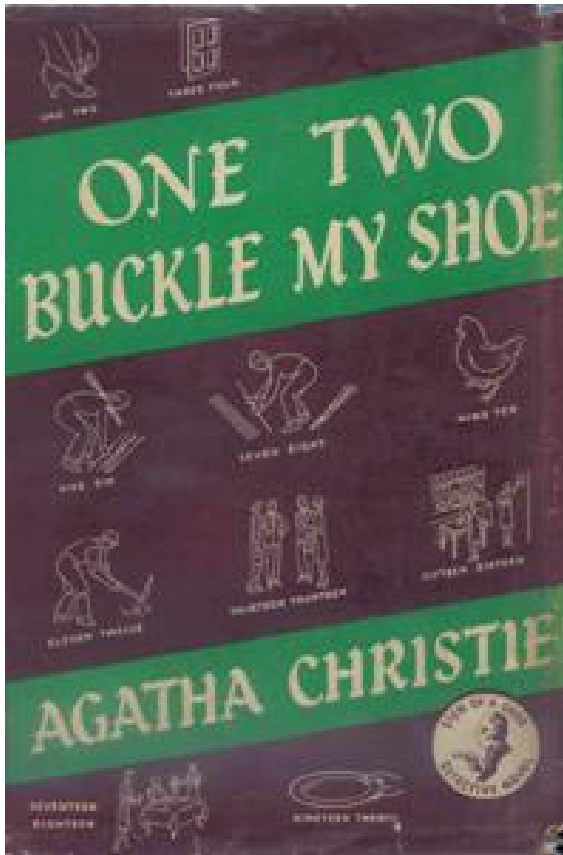
Movements at the dental surgery are inconclusive. Morley's partner, Reilly, is a rogue but seems to have no motive. Morley's secretary had been called away by a fake telegram. Her boyfriend, Frank Carter, had a weak motive given that Morley had attempted to dissuade her from seeing him. Also present at the surgery was Howard Raikes, a prickly left-wing activist violently opposed to Blunt but enamoured of his niece. There is too little evidence for Poirot to construct an alternative hypothesis, but he senses that the story is not complete.

When Mabelle goes missing, his fears are realised. A search for her is conducted, and some time later her body is apparently found in a sealed chest in the apartment of Mrs. Albert Chapman, who has herself disappeared. The corpse's face has been smashed in, and Poirot notices its dull buckled shoes. He is skeptical of the theory that Mrs. Chapman has killed Mabelle and fled. Sure enough, once the dental records are produced by Morley's successor at the surgery, it is discovered that the corpse is Mrs. Chapman's. The hunt for Mabelle continues.

Poirot is now drawn into the life of the Blunt family. An attempt is made on Alistair Blunt's life at which Raikes is a bystander. Poirot is invited down to Blunt's house, where he is persuaded to undertake a search for Mabelle. While he is there, a second attempt is made on Blunt's life, but it is seemingly thwarted by Raikes. The pistol used in the attack is found in the hand of none other than Frank Carter, who has taken a job as gardener at the house under a false identity. When a maid at the surgery admits to having seen Carter on the stairs going up to Morley's office,

it seems that Carter is likely to be tried and convicted of both the murder and the attempted murder. The fact that the gun with which he was captured was the twin of the murder weapon only makes things worse for him.

To be continued. . .



One, Two, Buckle My Shoe (2)

Season 4
Episode Number: 38
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired:	Sunday January 19, 1992
Writer:	Clive Exton, Agatha Christie
Director:	Ross Devenish
Show Stars:	Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars:	Keith Woodhams (Desk Clerk), John Warner (Second Coroner), Sara Stewart (Jane Olivera), Chris Sicer (Claudio), John Peters (II) (Leatheran), Alan Penn (Antonio), Guy Oliver-Watts (Benedick), Kevork Malikyan (Amberiotis), Eileen Maciejewska (Manageress), Rosalind Knight (Georgina Morley), Dawn Keeler (Mrs Pinner), Trilby James (Agnes Fletcher), Helen Horton (Julia Olivera), Laurence Harrington (Henry Morley), Julie Smith (Second girl playing hopscotch), Emma Grey (First girl playing hopscotch), Joe Greco (Alfred Biggs), Carolyn Colquhoun (Mabelle Sainsbury-Seale), Stephen Bird (Page-boy), Bruce Alexander (Albert Chapman), Karen Gledhill (Gladys Neville), Jean Ainslie (Alison Hendry), Christopher Eccleston (Frank Carter), Cassandra Holliday (Receptionist), Oliver Bradshaw (Hendry), John Carlin (Dr Bennett), Ben Bazell (Sergeant Beddoes), Nigel Bellairs (Leatheran), Joanna Phillips-Lane (Gerda Grant/Helen Montessor), Peter Blythe (Alistair Blunt), George Waring (First Coroner), David Bowles (Sergeant Evans)
Summary:	Mabelle Sainsbury-Seale is found dead in a flat occupied by a Mrs Chapman. Poirot visits Exsham Manor, where Alistair Blunt lives - and while there, a shot is fired at him. Poirot works on the theory that the death of Dr Morley is in some way connected with the deaths of Mabelle Sainsbury-Seale and another of Morley's patients.

Poirot realises that by allowing Carter to persist in his lies he can ensure that the real killer goes free, and wrestles with his conscience. Eventually he presses Carter to admit the truth: that when he entered Morley's office the dentist was already dead. It is the final element in the puzzle.

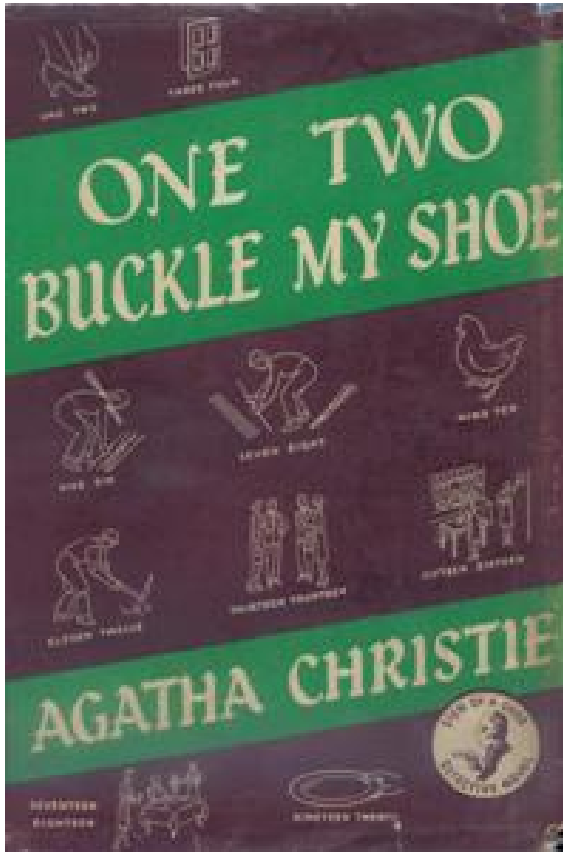
Poirot visits Alistair Blunt and explains the murders. The real Mabelle Sainsbury Seale had known him and his first wife, Gerda, whom he had never divorced, in India; his money came from his now deceased second wife, and he would be disgraced if caught in bigamy. Running into Blunt in the street, she had recognised and spoken to him in front of his niece, but had not realised whom he had become. By chance she had mentioned this chance encounter to the blackmailer, Amberiotis, who made the connection between the name 'Blunt' and the wealthy banker. He began to blackmail Blunt.

Gerda, posing under several aliases including that of Mrs. Albert Chapman, invited Mabelle to visit her, killed her, and took her identity, but had to buy new shoes because Mabelle's did not fit her. This is why the corpse's buckles were dull, while the buckle of the woman whom Poirot met going into Morley's surgery were shiny: the fake Mabelle had newer shoes than the real one, who was by that time decomposing in the chest. The woman in the trunk could hardly have worn through a new pair of shoes in a single day. Ironically, the face of the corpse had been disfigured not because it wasn't Mabelle, but because it was.

Alistair Blunt had attended his appointment, shot Morley and stashed his body in the side office with his wife's help. Having appeared to leave the surgery, he returned and changed the dental records of Mrs. Albert Chapman and Mabelle in order to ensure that the corpse would be

identified as Mrs. Chapman: a woman who in reality did not exist; the motive for killing Morley was simply to prevent him from detecting this change. At the end of Mabelle's appointment, Gerda left, while Blunt dressed as a dentist in order to administer the overdose to Amberiotis, a new patient who had never met Morley. Poirot's involvement had forced Blunt to compound the lies with talk of assassins and spies as the detective had relentlessly tracked the truth.

At the novel's bleak conclusion, Poirot is forced to admit that Blunt does indeed stand in public life 'for all the things that to my mind are important. For sanity and balance and stability and honest dealing'. Nevertheless, he adds: 'I am not concerned with the fate of nations, Monsieur. I am concerned with the lives of private individuals who have the right not to have their lives taken from them.' He turns Blunt over to the police. Later, he confronts Blunt's niece and her fiancé Howard Raikes, telling them that they now have the "new heaven and the new earth" that they desire, asking them only to "let there be freedom and let there be pity". In the last chapter, Mr. Barnes tells Poirot that he took such a vivid interest in the case as he was Mr. Albert Chapman, the wife of whom Gerda (apparently Mrs. Albert Chapman) pretended to be.



Season Five

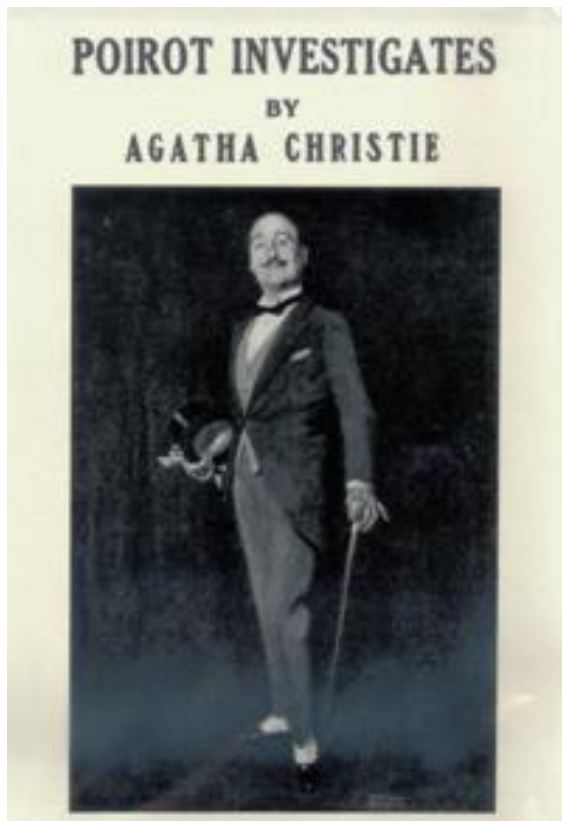
The Adventure of the Egyptian Tomb

Season 5

Episode Number: 39

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Sunday January 17, 1993
Writer: Clive Exton, Agatha Christie
Director: Peter Barber-Fleming
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Paul Birchard (Rupert Bleibner), Simon Cowell-Parker (Nigel Harper), Anna Cropper (Lady Willard), Olivier Pierre (Henry Schneider), Bill Bailey (II) (Felix Bleibner), Peter Reeves (Sir John Willard), Rolf Saxon (Dr Ames), Mozaffar Shafeie (Hassan), Jon Strickland (Dr Foswell), Grant Thatcher (Sir Guy Willard), Robert Wisdom (Waiter)
Summary: An archaeologist dies of a heart attack shortly after opening an ancient Egyptian tomb, but his widow thinks there is dirty work at the crossroads and calls in Poirot. Poirot dismisses the idea of a mummy's curse, and by risking his own life he smokes out a murderer.



Poirot is consulted by Lady Willard, the widow of the famous Egyptologist, Sir John Willard. He was the archaeologist on the excavation of the tomb of the Pharaoh Men-her-Ra together with the American financier Mr Bleibner. Both men died within a fortnight of each other, Sir John of heart failure and Mr Bleibner of blood poisoning. A few days later Mr Bleibner's nephew, Rupert, shot himself and the press has been full of stories of an Egyptian curse. Lady Willard's son, Guy, has now gone out to Egypt to continue his father's work and she fears that he too will die next. To Hastings's surprise, Poirot states that he believes in the forces of superstition and agrees to investigate. As a first step, he cables New York for details concerning Rupert Bleibner. The young man was something of an itinerant in the south seas and had managed to borrow enough money to take him to Egypt as he told someone he had a "good friend" there who he could borrow from. His uncle however refused to advance him a penny and the nephew had gone back to New York where he sank lower and lower and then shot himself, leaving a suicide note saying that he was leper and an outcast. Poirot and Hastings then travel to Egypt and join the expedition — only to find that there has been another

death in the party, that of an American by tetanus. Poirot investigates the dig and feels more and more the forces of evil at work. On one night, Hassan, one of the Arab servants delivers Poirot his cup of camomile tea. As Hastings watches the desert night he hears Poirot choking having drunk the tea. He runs and fetches the expedition surgeon — Dr Ames- but this is a trick to get the doctor into their tent where Poirot orders Hastings to secure him but the doctor kills himself with

a cyanide capsule. Poirot explains that the Rupert was Bleibner's heir and the doctor, secretly, must have been Rupert's heir. Sir John died of natural causes but started speculation regarding superstition, the force of its suggestions on people being something that Poirot believes in — not any supernatural occurrences. Everyone assumed that Rupert's "good friend" in the camp was his uncle but that couldn't have been the case as they rowed so quickly. Despite having no money, Rupert was able to get back to New York which shows that he did have an ally in the expedition but this was a false ally — the doctor, who told Rupert he had contracted leprosy in the south seas and it must be part of the curse (he did have a normal skin rash). When the doctor killed his uncle, Rupert believed himself cursed and shot himself and referred to the leprosy in his suicide note which everyone took as being metaphorical, not a reality.

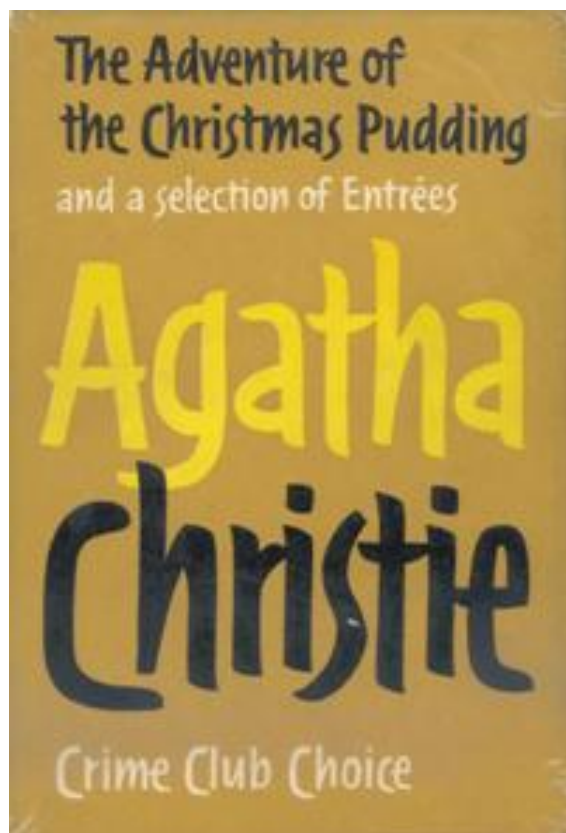
The Underdog

Season 5

Episode Number: 40

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Sunday January 24, 1993
Writer: Bill Craig, Agatha Christie
Director: John Bruce
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Adie Allen (Lily Naylor/Margrave), Ann Bell (Lady Astwell), John Evitts (Parsons), Ian Gelder (Victor Astwell), Denis Lill (Sir Reuben Astwell), Jonathan Phillips (Charles), Andrew Seear (Humphrey Naylor), Michael Vaughan (Sergeant), Bill Wallis (Horace Trefusis), Lucy Davidson (Gladys), Charles Armstrong (Receptionist)
Summary: A chemical plant in 1930s Germany, threatened British business interests, murder - in pursuit of the truth, Poirot's secretary, Miss Lemon, successfully hypnotizes the murdered man's widow.



Sir Reuben Astwell was murdered ten days previously at his country house, Mon Repos, when he was violently hit on the back of the head with a club and his nephew Charles Levenson has been arrested. Sir Reuben's wife, Lady Astwell, is convinced that the true criminal is the late man's secretary, Owen Trefusis, although she doesn't have a shred of evidence to back up this claim, relying instead of her much-vaunted and self-proclaimed 'intuition'. She sends her young companion, Lily Margrave, to Poirot to employ him on the case and Poirot accepts, partly because he senses that Lily does not want Poirot to investigate the matter and that she has something to hide.

Arriving at Mon Repos Poirot speaks with the daunting and domineering Lady Astwell who tells him that Sir Reuben's brother and business partner, Victor, is also a guest in the house. Both brothers were equally as hot-tempered as the other and there were many rows and disagreements in the house, quite often involving Charles Levenson, with Sir Reuben often taking his temper out on the servants. Poirot interviews Parsons, the butler, who is one of the main witnesses in the case. His bedroom is on the ground floor and above him is the 'Tower Room', Sir Reuben's sanctum. It is a lofty room with another room above reached by a spiral

staircase and was originally an observatory built by a previous owner who was an astronomer. Sir Reuben was writing late at night and Parsons was asleep when he was awakened by the sound of Levenson returning home near midnight and letting himself in. He heard Levenson shouting at his uncle followed by a cry and a dull thud. About to go upstairs to see what was happening, Parsons then heard Levenson saying "No harm done, luckily" and then wishing his uncle goodnight. The

next day, Sir Reuben was found dead. Speaking with Trefusis, the somewhat meek man admits that during his nine years employment, he was ruthlessly bullied by Sir Reuben. Trefusis shows Poirot the scene of the crime and the detective is puzzled as to why there is a bloodstain on the writing desk but Sir Reuben's body was found on the floor. Poirot tries an experiment with his valet, George, and realises that Sir Reuben was clubbed as he sat in his chair and remained in position afterwards as the chair is low-down in comparison to the desk.

Poirot is more suspicious than ever of Lily Margrave's jumpy demeanour and investigates the two local hotels to see if anyone was staying that night who left the hotel near midnight. He finds such a man — Captain Humphrey Naylor — and convinced there is a link with Lily sets a trap by putting his own blood on a scrap of the dress that she was wearing that night and telling her he found it in the Tower Room. She confesses that she is Naylor's sister and that he was swindled out of an African gold mine by Sir Reuben. Determined to find proof she agreed with her brother to take employment as Lady Astwell's companion and on the night in question, as her brother waited outside, she went to the Tower Room and saw Leverson leaving it. She then went into the room herself and found the body on the floor (she also rifled the safe and found the proof of the swindle her brother was after) but she is innocent of the crime of murder. Poirot believes her and also realises that Leverson was drunk on the night in question and his strange manner is as a result of starting to shout at his uncle, pushing his shoulder and then realising he was dead as the body slid to the floor — hence the thud that Parsons heard. He is innocent as well as his uncle was killed earlier than when he was in the room.

Poirot persuades Lady Astwell to partake in hypnosis to recall events of the night of the murder. She confirms what she has already told the police — that she argued with her husband in the Tower Room some ten minutes prior to Leverson coming back home. She also manages to recall a subliminal memory of the normally-controlled Trefusis breaking a paper knife in anger earlier in the evening when again being shouted at by Sir Reuben (thus triggering her suspicions of the man) and a strange bulge in the curtain which covered the spiral staircase to the upper portion of the tower room. Poirot realises someone was already there when she and her husband were arguing.

Poirot begins a game of nerves with everyone in the house, extending his stay and searching everyone's bedrooms, much to their annoyance. He also claims to find something on the spiral staircase which will seal the murderer's fate and leaves it in a box in his room while he makes a quick trip to London. He returns and tells the gathered household that Trefusis is indeed the murderer but the crime was not premeditated. The secretary had left something in the upper portion of the Tower Room and was fetching it when he found himself to be an unwilling witness to the row between Sir Reuben and Lady Astwell. After she left the room, he tried to sneak out but was spotted and received another barrage of abuse from his employer. After nine years of such treatment, he was unable to take any more and struck Sir Reuben down. The item Poirot found on the stairs was false but George, hidden in the wardrobe of Poirot's room, saw Trefusis steal the box in which the item was hidden when Poirot was in London. Lady Astwell is delighted — her intuition has proven correct.

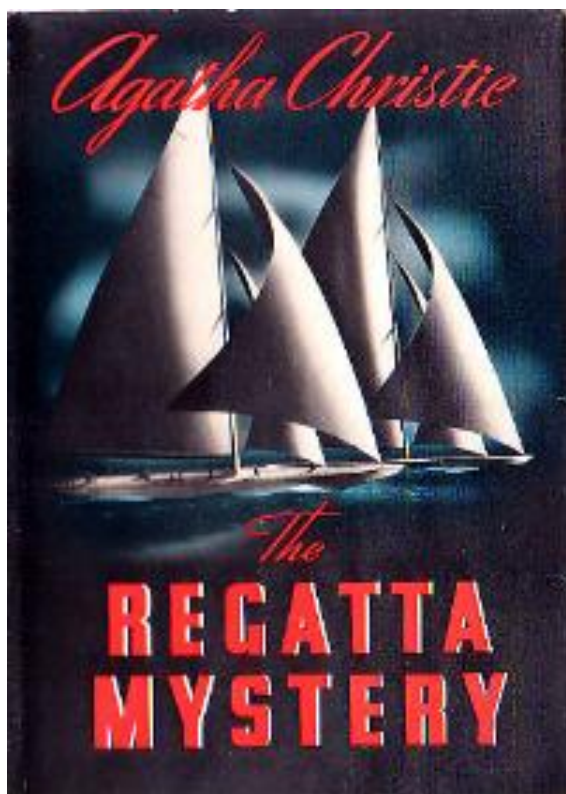
Yellow Iris

Season 5

Episode Number: 41

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Sunday January 31, 1993
Writer: Agatha Christie, Anthony Horowitz
Director: Peter Barber-Fleming
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Stefan Gryff (General Pereira), Dorian Healy (Anthony Chapell), Carol Kenyon (Singer), Joseph Long (Luigi), Leonard Maguire (Grove), Robin McCaffrey (Iris Russell), Tracy Miller (Singer), Hugh Ross (Stephen Carter), Geraldine Somerville (Pauline Wetherby), David Troughton (Barton Russell), Yolanda Vazquez (Lola), Arturo Venegas (Hotel Receptionist)
Summary: Poirot is caught up in a coup d'etat in Argentina and arrested as a spy, which hinders him from solving the murder of Iris Russell at a French restaurant owned by an Italian in Buenos Aires. Two years later, in London, a dinner-party at a restaurant of the same name marks the second anniversary of Iris's death. The atmosphere is so charged that we almost expect the victim to come back from the dead. And, of course, Poirot traps a killer.



Poirot is staying at a hotel in Santa Cruz, Argentina, awaiting a further trip to the Pampas to visit Hastings. He is at Le Jardin des Cygnes, enjoying dinner and a musical cabaret. A young woman called Iris Russell is sitting at another table with her husband, her sister, and three friends. Iris is toasted and dies, killed by potassium cyanide in her champagne. Her friends include a news-writer, an oil executive, and a nightclub dancer. Poirot quickly pounces and finds a bottle of the poison in the dead woman's purse.

The next morning, Iris's death has officially been called suicide, and guests and staff have left the hotel. Poirot himself was earlier warned to leave, as the government of Argentina is unstable. With the army clashing with the Catholic church, it seems there could be a coup d'etat brewing.

The coup duly arrives, sooner than expected, and Poirot is arrested, accused of spying, and deported. Tony Chappell, a writer who is an acquaintance of Poirot's, is investigating the political situation, and at the same time he is miserable because his girl, Pauline, is mad with him. An oil executive, Stephen Carter, is in Argentina on behalf of the British government to obtain oil concessions for

the Sovereign Oil Company, and it seems he may have made a secret deal with a revolutionary leader, helping him with British money in exchange for oil rights. If so, did Iris find out about this? And did the dancer, Lola, have designs on Iris's husband, Barton Russell?

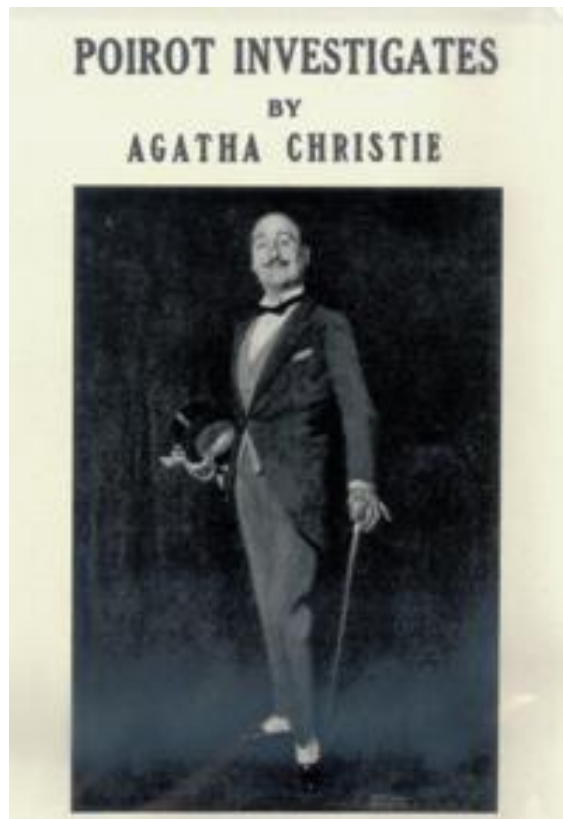
Two years later, Poirot is back in London and receives a yellow iris. Hastings tells Poirot about the opening of a new French restaurant to be called (yes!) Le Jardin des Cygnes. Poirot is shocked, knowing there is a great significance in this. He renews his acquaintance with Tony Chappell and Pauline and then he learns that all the people present at Iris's death in Argentina are to be reunited, in honour of the second anniversary.

This time, Poirot is invited to sit in Iris's place. The curtain goes up, the lights go down, the singer is asked by Weatherby to perform the same song, and the toast is made. 'To Iris', they all say. A few seconds later, Pauline falls over, just like Iris. Poirot declares her dead, and in another room he reveals his conclusions on the case - including some revelations about each of the guests, and a final surprise.

The Case of the Missing Will

Season 5
Episode Number: 42
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Sunday February 7, 1993
Writer: Agatha Christie, Douglas Watkinson
Director: John Bruce
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Richard Durden (Dr Pritchard), Stephen Oxley (Doctor), Jon Laurimore (Walter Baker), Scott Cleverdon (President), Edward Atterton (Robert Siddaway), Terrence Hardiman (John Siddaway), Mark Kingston (Andrew Marsh), Rowena Cooper (Sarah Siddaway), Gillian Hanna (Margaret Baker), Beth Goddard (Violet Wilson), Susan Tracy (Phyllida Campion), Neil Stuke (Peter Baker)
Summary: A terminally ill man asks Poirot to be executor of his new will but is murdered before he can write it, and it is later discovered the old will has been stolen.



Poirot receives an unusual request for help from a Miss Violet Marsh. She was orphaned at fourteen years of age and went to live with her Uncle Andrew, recently returned from making his fortune in Australia, at his large farmhouse in Devon. He had old-fashioned views concerning the education of women and was opposed to his niece bettering herself through book learning. Violet rebelled against him and managed to get herself in Girton College some nine years before. Although somewhat strained, she maintained cordial relations with Andrew Marsh who died a month ago leaving a will with a strange clause. The will is dated March 25 and timed at 11.00am. Marsh has given instructions that his "clever" niece is allowed to live in his house for one month and in that time she has to "prove her wits". If at the end of that time she hasn't, all his worldly goods go to charitable institutions and she is left with nothing. Poirot is as convinced as Miss Marsh that there is either a second will or a sum of money hidden in the house and agrees to look for it. Travelling to Devon, Poirot and Hastings are looked after by Mr and Mrs Baker, Marsh's kindly housekeepers. They tell Poirot that they signed and witnessed two wills as Marsh said he had made a mistake with the first although they

didn't see the contents. Immediately after this transaction, Marsh left the house to settle tradesmen's accounts without divulging anything further. Looking round the house, Poirot is pleased with the dead man's order and method with the exception of one aspect — the key to a rolltop desk is not affixed to a neat label but instead to a dirty envelope. Poirot interviews some workmen who created a secret cavity in the wall for Marsh but finds nothing there. After a long search,

he declares himself beaten and is about to return to London when he suddenly remembers the visit Marsh made to the tradesmen after the will was signed. He rushes back to the house and holds up the opened envelope to the fire. Faint writing in invisible ink appears which is a will dated after the one in Violet's possession leaving everything to her. Marsh had had the Bakers sign two wills as a ruse. The tradesmen in town signed the true second will which he turned into an envelope attached to a key and this was out of keeping with his other household methods as a deliberate clue. According to Poirot, Miss Marsh has proven her superior intelligence — she employed him on the case!

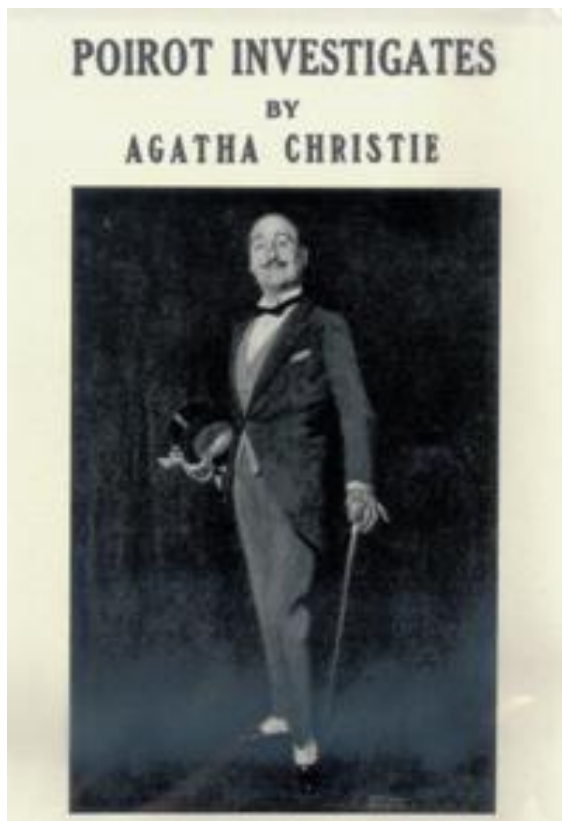
The Adventure of the Italian Nobleman

Season 5

Episode Number: 43

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Sunday February 14, 1993
Writer: Agatha Christie, Clive Exton
Director: Brian Farnham
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Vittorio Amandola (First Secretary), Michael Tudor Barnes (Neighbour), Ben Bazell (Sergeant Beddoes), Arthur Cox (Dr Hawker), Sidney Kean (Count Foscati), Janet Lees Price (Miss Rider), Anna Mazzotti (Margherita Fabbri), David Neal (Bruno Vizzini), Leonard Preston (Graves), David Verrey (Chef), David Willoughby (Lad), Sara Elizabeth Kean (First bridesmaid), Vincenzo Ricotta (Mario Asciano)
Summary: Hastings's friend Dr Hawker receives worrying news about a patient, Count Foscati, and the body is found of a man who has been beaten to death. Meanwhile, Hastings buys a new Italian roadster from Bruno Vizzini's showroom, and the car and Miss Lemon's new admirer turn out to have connections with each other and with the murdered man. Poirot finds his investigation leads him into the gangland world of London's Little Italy. The story culminates in a deadly car chase.



Poirot and Hastings are in their rooms enjoying the company of a near neighbour, Dr Hawker, when the medical man's housekeeper, Miss Rider, arrives with a message that a client, Count Foscatini, has rung him up crying out for help. Poirot and Hastings join the doctor as he rushes round to Foscatini's flat in Regent's Court. The lift attendant there is unaware of any problems, saying that Graves, the Count's man, left half an hour earlier with no indication of anything wrong. The flat is locked but the manager of the building opens it for them. Inside, they find a table set for three people with the meals finished. The Count is alone and dead — his head crushed in by a small marble statue. Poirot is interested in what remains on the table. He then questions the kitchen staff at the top of the building who outline the meal served and what dirty plates were passed up to them. Poirot seems especially interested in the fact that little of the side dish and none of the dessert were eaten, while the main course was consumed entirely. He also points out that after crying out for help on the phone, the man seemed to replace the receiver. The police arrive at the flat together with the return of the valet, Graves. He tells them how Foscatini was first visited by the two dinner guests on the previous day.

They were both Italian; a man in his forties by the name of Count Asciano and a man of about

twenty-four years of age. Graves listened into their first conversation and heard threats uttered. The Count invited the two men to dinner the next evening and unexpectedly gave Graves the night off after dinner and the port had been served. Ascanio is quickly arrested but Poirot speaks of three points of interest: the coffee was very black, the side dish and dessert were relatively untouched, and the curtains were not drawn. The Italian ambassador provides an alibi for Ascanio which leads people to suspect a diplomatic cover-up and Ascanio himself denies knowing Foscatini. Poirot invites Ascanio for a talk and forces him to admit that he did know Foscatini who was a blackmailer and Ascanio's morning appointment was to pay him the money he demanded off a personage in Italy, the transaction being arranged through the embassy at which Ascanio worked. After Ascanio leaves, Poirot tells Hastings the solution: Graves was the killer. He overheard the monetary transaction and realised that Ascanio couldn't admit to the full relationship with Foscatini. The dead man had no dinner guests. Graves killed him when he was alone, then ordered dinner for three and ate as much of the food as he could; after consuming the three main courses, though, he could only eat a little of the side and no dessert. Coffee was served for three (and supposedly drunk), but Foscatini's brilliant white teeth shows that he never drank such staining substances. Finally, the open curtains show that Graves left the flat before night fell and not after, which would not have happened if Graves' account were true. Poirot is proven right when Japp is told of the theory and investigates.

The Chocolate Box

Season 5

Episode Number: 44

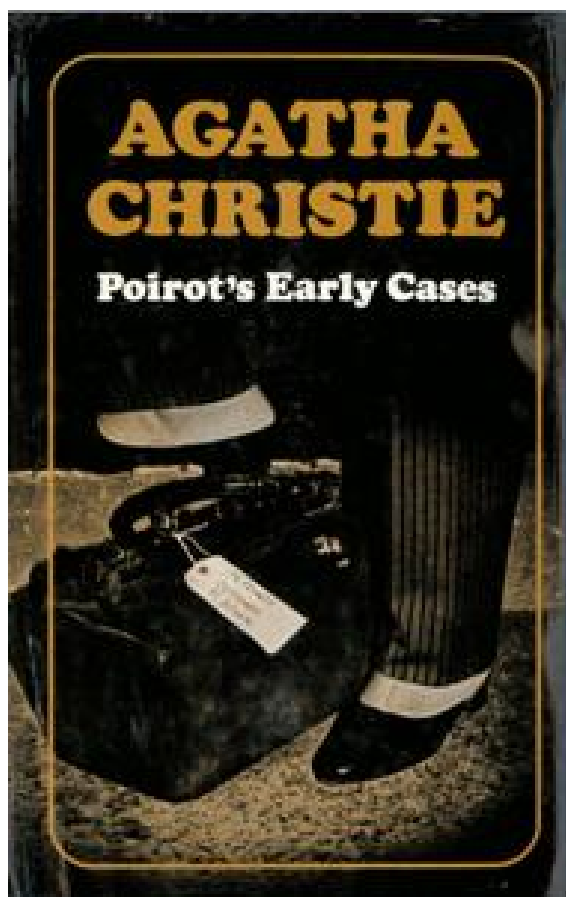
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired:	Sunday February 21, 1993
Writer:	Agatha Christie, Douglas Watkinson
Director:	Ken Grieve
Show Stars:	Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars:	Jonathan Barlow (Jean-Louis Ferraud), Michael Beint (Coroner), Linda Broughton (Denise), Anna Chancellor (Virginie Mesnard), Lucy Cohu (Marianne Deroulard), Rosalie Crutchley (Madame Deroulard), Richard Derrington (Henri), Kristen Clark (Jeanette), David de Keyser (Gaston Beaujeu), Geoffrey Whitehead (Xavier X. Alois), Preston Lockwood (François), Jonathan Hackett (Claude Chantelier), Mark Eden (Boucher), James Coombes (Paul Deroulard)
Summary:	Poirot returns to Belgium for the first time since the Great War, and there he revisits a twenty-year-old murder mystery that was never officially solved. We flash back to an eager young detective on the Brussels police force, working to serve a young woman who has come to him for help. In the process, the pin the older Poirot wears is identified.

In their flat one night, the conversation between Poirot and Hastings turns to the latter's belief that Poirot has never known failure in his professional career. The little Belgian tells him that is not the case and tells Hastings of one occasion when he did not succeed in unravelling a crime:

The event was the death of Paul D eroulard, a French Deputy who was living in Brussels. The time was the strife over the separation of church and state and M. D eroulard was a key player in these events as an anti-catholic and a potential minister. He was a widower, his rich young wife having died from a fall downstairs some years before. He inherited her house in Brussels and, although abstemious in terms of drinking and smoking, he had a reputation as a ladies man. He died suddenly in his house from reported heart failure on the eve of his promotion to minister of the state at a time when Poirot was a member of the Belgian detective force. He was taking a vacation when he received a visit from Mademoiselle Virginie Mesnard who was a cousin of M. D eroulard's dead wife who was convinced that the death was not natural. M. D eroulard's household consisted of four servants, his aged, but very infirm aristocratic mother, Mademoiselle Mesnard herself, and on the night of the death, two visitors: M. de Saint Alard, a neighbour, and John Wilson, an English friend.

Poirot was introduced into the household under a false pretext by Mademoiselle Mesnard and he began by investigating the meal served on the night of M. D eroulard's death but found no leads there. Looking in the study where the death actually occurred, Poirot spotted an open but full and untouched box of chocolates and found out that M. D eroulard ate some chocolates every night after dinner and finished the previous box on the night of his death. However, he noticed that the two boxes, one blue and one pink, had had their lids switched. Poirot then spoke to the dead man's doctor and discovered that M. de Saint Alard was an ardent Catholic whose friendship with M. D eroulard was being sorely strained by the political turbulence at the time. The doctor was also able to furnish examples of the types of poison that could be introduced into the chocolates which would have induced the type of death suffered. This caused Poirot to question local chemists where he found out that apart from eye drops for the aged Madame D eroulard, a prescription was made up for John Wilson of trinitrin within tiny tablets of chocolate (the medication being given to lower blood pressure). A large enough dose would prove fatal and could have been hidden in one of the chocolates.



This latest development caused a problem for Poirot as Wilson had the opportunity but not the motive whereas the position was reversed for M. de Saint Alard. Poirot then wondered why John Wilson had not come from England with enough of his medication to last him throughout his visit and he discovered from a maid in the house that a bottle of the tablets had been "lost". He decided to investigate the house of M. de Saint Alard in the Ardennes and, using the disguise of a plumber, he discovered in the bathroom cupboard there the empty bottle of medication. He returned to Brussels and it was then he obtained a summons from Madame D eroulard. Having discovered that Poirot was a police officer, she confessed to the murder of her son. Some years before she had seen him push his wife down the stairs and had realised the sort of man she had brought into the world. Afraid of the persecution that his new role would bring upon the church, she resolved to kill him. She took John Wilson's tablets and opened a new box of chocolates before seeing that one remained in the previous box. Into this she put the tablets and she put the empty bottle into M. de Saint Alard's pocket thinking that his valet would throw it away, not put it in the cupboard.

Madame D eroulard died a week later of her infirmities leaving Poirot to consider his mistakes: He knew Madame D eroulard had bad eyesight so no

one else would have switched the lids on the two boxes of chocolates. Also, if M. de Saint Alard had been the criminal, he would never have kept the empty bottle. To this day, Poirot laments the failure of the little grey cells on that occasion - although, as Hastings notices, not enough to prevent him boasting of the other times when they have served him well!

Dead Man's Mirror

Season 5

Episode Number: 45

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired:	Sunday February 28, 1993
Writer:	Agatha Christie, Anthony Horowitz
Director:	Brian Farnham
Show Stars:	Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars:	Tushka Bergen (Susan Cardwell), Jon Croft (Lawrence), Iain Cuthbertson (Gervase Chevenix), Emma Fielding (Ruth Chevenix Lake), James Greene (II) (Staff), Richard Lintern (John Lake), Jeremy Northam (Hugo Trent), John Rolfe (Journalist), Fiona Walker (Miss Lingard), Zena Walker (Vanda Chevenix), Derek Smee (Auctioneer)
Summary:	At an auction, Hercule Poirot wants to buy an old looking glass. An art dealer called Gervase Chevenix outbids him for it, but the dealer then offers Poirot the mirror if he will investigate a mystery for him. Chevenix believes he is being cheated by an architect, John Lake. . . and Mrs Chevenix claims that her spirit guide, an ancient Egyptian called Saphra, has warned her of an imminent death. There is a disputed will, a second unsigned will, the sound of shots behind locked doors, an apparent suicide which Poirot suspects is murder. Whatever you do, do not go out of the room during Dead Man's Mirror, or you will lose the plot!

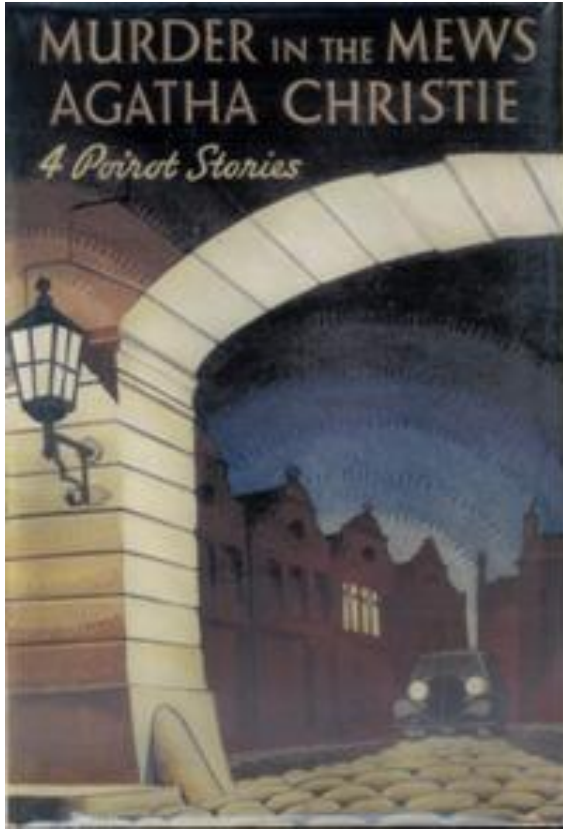
When Sir Gervase Chevenix-Gore writes to Hercule Poirot to unceremoniously summon him down to the Chevenix-Gore ancestral pile, Poirot is initially reluctant to go. However, there is something that intrigues him and so catches the train that Sir Gervase wanted him to. On arrival, it is clear that no-one was expecting him, and, for the first time in memory, Sir Gervase himself, who is always punctual, is missing. Poirot and guests go to his study and find him there dead, having apparently shot himself. Poirot is not convinced, however, and soon starts to prove that Sir Gervase was murdered because of various improbable factors surrounding the death, including the position at which the bullet is believed to have struck a mirror and the many different moods that Chevenix-Gore exhibited during the day.

When Poirot first arrives at the Chevenix-Gore's house, he meets Chevenix's wife Vanda, an eccentric who believes she is a reincarnation of an Egyptian woman, his adopted daughter Ruth and her cousin Hugo, and Miss Lingard, a secretary helping Chevenix research a family history. It is revealed that before Poirot arrives, all the guests and family were dressing for dinner, and after they heard the dinner gong, a shot rang out. No one suspected that anything is wrong, believing that either a car had backfired or champagne was being served. And Chevenix-Gore not being the most popular of men, there are any number of suspects, including his own daughter and nephew. It is revealed that Hugo is engaged to Susan (another guest at the house) and Ruth has already married Lake (Chevenix-Gore's assistant) in secret.

In the end, Poirot assembles everyone in the study. He tells them that Chevenix intended to disinherit Ruth if she did not marry Hugo Trent. However, it was too late, as she was already married to Lake. Poirot says that Ruth killed Chevenix, but Ms. Lingard confesses in the murder. She is the real mother of Ruth and she killed Chevenix in order to prevent him from disinheriting her.

The bullet which killed Chevenix hit the gong (as the door to the study was open), which made Susan think that she heard the first gong (the dinner was served after the valet would

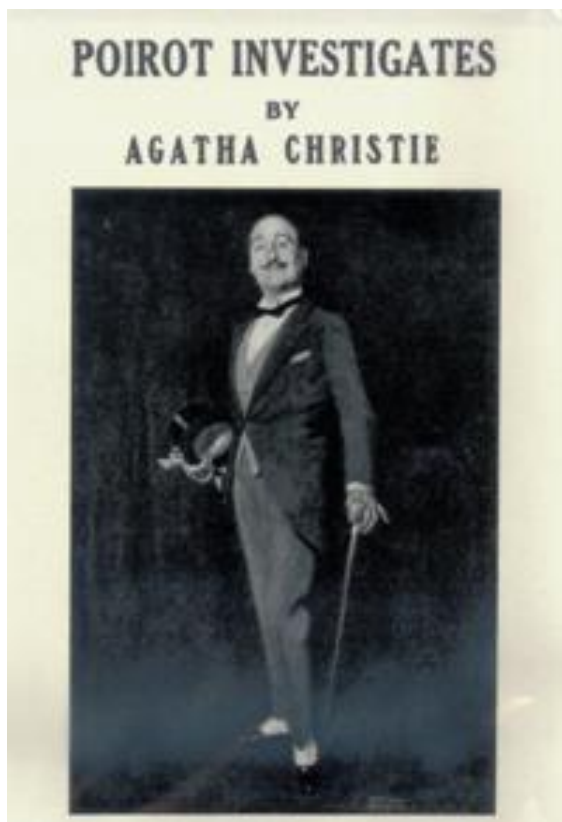
strike the gong 2 times), and it was Ms. Lingard who smashed the mirror and made the whole affair look like suicide. She blew a paper bag in order to fake a shot. Poirot said he suspected Ruth, because he suspected Ms. Lingard would rescue her daughter and confess, and he had no evidence against Ms. Lingard. After everyone leaves and Ms. Lingard stays alone in the room, she asks Poirot not to tell Ruth that she is her real mother. Poirot agrees and doesn't tell anything to Ruth who wonders why Ms. Lingard committed murder.



Jewel Robbery at the Grand Metropolitan

Season 5
Episode Number: 46
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Sunday March 7, 1993
Writer: Anthony Horowitz, Agatha Christie
Director: Ken Grieve
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Trevor Cooper (Ed Opalsen), Andrew Carr (Hubert Devine), Arthur Cox (Dr Hawker), Sorcha Cusack (Margaret Opalsen), Eileen Dunwoodie (First Holidaymaker), Karl Johnson (Saunders), Simon Molloy (Second Holidaymaker), Hermione Norris (Celestine), Elizabeth Rider (Grace), Graham Rowe (Hotel Manager), Simon Shepherd (Andrew Hall), Tim Stern (Bellboy), James McCusker (Journalist), Colin Stepney (Guest), Simon Malloy (Excited Man), Doreen Taylor (Woman on Stall), Jo Powell (Woman with Lucky Len)
Summary: Mrs Opalsen's famous pearls are stolen, and Poirot is happily on hand to investigate. A complex theft calls for a sophisticated solution. Unfortunately, Poirot is hindered everywhere he goes by being mistaken for 'Lucky Len'.



Poirot and Hastings are staying at the Grand Metropolitan hotel in Brighton where they meet Mr and Mrs Opalsen. He is a rich stockbroker who amassed a fortune in the oil boom and his wife collects jewellery using the proceeds. She offers to show Poirot her pearls and goes to fetch them from her room but they have been stolen. Poirot is asked to assist. There have only been two people in the room since the pearls were last seen - Mrs Opalsen's maid, Celestine, and the hotel chambermaid. Celestine has orders to remain in the room all of the time that the chambermaid is there. Both girls are questioned and both blame the other. The hotel room has a side room where Celestine sleeps and a bolted door which leads to the room next door. The two maids were in sight of each other all the time except for two pauses of between twelve and fifteen seconds apiece when Celestine went into her room — not enough time to extract the jewel case from the drawer, open it, take the jewels and return the case. Both are searched but nothing is found. Both rooms are then searched and the missing pearls are found underneath Celestine's mattress. The case is seemingly over but Poirot tells Hastings the newly-found necklace is a fake. He questions the chambermaid and the valet

who looks after Mr Opalsen and asks them if they have ever seen before a small white card he has found. Neither has. Poirot rushes to London and the next day breaks the news to Hastings

and the delighted Opalsens that the case is solved and the real pearls found. The chambermaid and the valet were a pair of international jewel thieves — the card he gave them then had their fingerprints on it which he gave to Japp for testing. The valet was on the other side of the bolted door and the chambermaid passed him the case in the first interval when Celestine was in her room. When she next went in there, the chambermaid returned the empty case to the drawer whose runners had been silenced with French polish, traces of which Poirot found in the room next door. The pearls are found in the valet's room and returned to their grateful owners.

Season Six

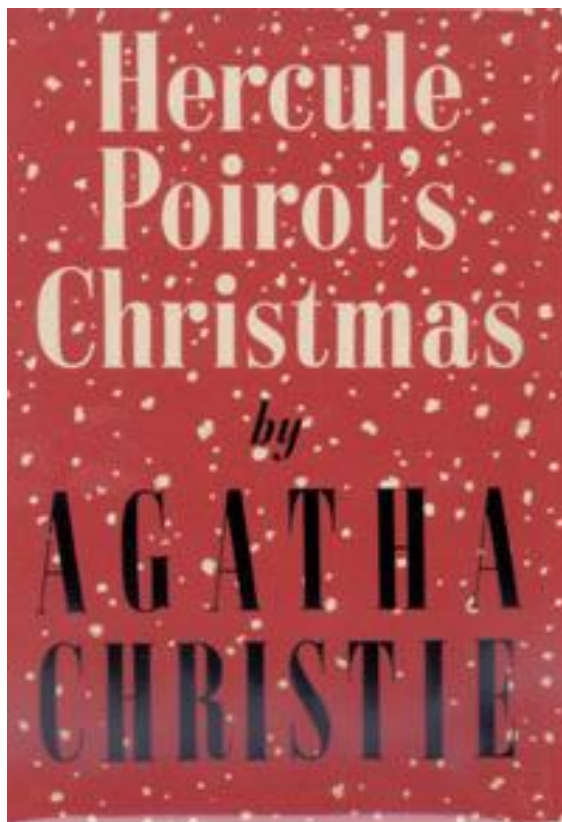
Hercule Poirot's Christmas

Season 6

Episode Number: 47

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Sunday January 1, 1995
Writer: Clive Exton, Agatha Christie
Director: Edward Bennett
Show Stars: Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Vernon Dobtcheff (Simeon Lee), Simon Roberts (Alfred Lee), Catherine Rabett (Lydia Lee), Eric Carte (George Lee), Andrée Bernard (Magdalene Lee), Brian Gwaspari (Harry Lee), Mark Tandy (Sugden), Olga Lowe (Stella), Ayub Khan-Din (Horbury), John Horsley (Tressilian), Scott Handy (Young Simeon), Liese Benjamin (Young Stella), Oscar Pearce (Gerrit), Steve Delaney (Sergeant Coombes), Colin Meredith (Shopkeeper), Peter Hughes (Charlton), Joanna Dickens (Cook), Michael Keats (policeman), Christopher Webber (Steward on train), Sasha Behar (Pilar Estravados)
Summary: Poirot's Christmas is interrupted by Simeon Lee, who believes his life is threatened. Simeon is soon killed and his diamonds stolen, and there is no shortage of down-trodden Lees on hand who might have done the deed.



It is Christmas Eve and everyone in the house hears the crashing of furniture, followed by a wailing and hideous scream. When they get to Simeon Lee's room, they find it locked and they have to break the door down. When they finally get through the door, they find heavy furniture overturned and Simeon Lee dead, his throat slit, in a great pool of blood. Superintendent Sugden notices Pilar Estravados pick up something from the floor. She tries to conceal what she picked up, but when pressed, opens her hand to show a small bit of rubber and a small object made of wood.

Superintendent Sugden explains that he is in the house by prior arrangement with the victim, who confided to him the theft of a substantial quantity of uncut diamonds from his safe. When Poirot is called in to investigate, there are therefore several main problems: who killed the victim? How was the victim killed inside a locked room? Was the murder connected to the theft of the diamonds? And what is the significance of the small triangle of rubber and the peg that Sugden is able to provide when reminded by Poirot of the clue that had been picked up by Pilar?

Poirot's investigation explores the nature of the victim — a methodical and vengeful man — and the way that these characteristics come out in his children. He seems focused on the idea that one of the immediate family is the murderer. When the butler mentions his confusion about the

identities of the house guests, Poirot realizes that the four legitimate sons may not be the only heirs of Simeon's temperament.

The final major clue is dropped by Pilar, who while playing with balloons lets slip that what she found on the floor must also have been a balloon. She knows more than she realises, not least because she was hiding outside the room in which the murder was committed. Poirot warns her to be careful, but it is only by chance that she is not killed by a cannon ball trap set above her bedroom door.

In the denouement of the novel Poirot is able to unmask several characters: Pilar is an imposter who was with Simeon's grand daughter when she died because of a bomb attack, and Stephen Farr is revealed to be an illegitimate son. Neither, however, is the murderer. The real killer committed the murder earlier and prepared the room with all the furniture piled up and a long cord hanging out of the window. The final touch was a 'Dying Pig' toy: a rubber bladder that was rigged to provide the apparent death-scream as the furniture fell. The room had to be locked in order that the carefully staged room would not be entered and discovered.

The only person able to release the piled furniture from outside the house was also the last person supposed to have seen the victim alive: Superintendent Sugden. He was yet another illegitimate son of the victim, who used a fictitious theft of the diamonds to trick Simeon into opening the safe and then killed him. A bottle of animal blood, prevented from clotting by the addition of sodium citrate, was used to dress the scene and create the impression that the murder had taken place much later. Crucially, Sugden had intended to recover the incriminating 'Dying Pig' toy before it was noticed, but once Poirot had learned of it, he had to provide a faked clue, physically similar, in order to protect the means by which the murder was committed.

At the end of the book two of the imposters — Pilar and Stephen — marry. Colonel Johnson, stunned by the loss of his best policeman, perhaps speaks for the reader when he asks 'What's the police coming to?'

Hickory Dickory Dock

Season 6

Episode Number: 48

Season Episode: 2

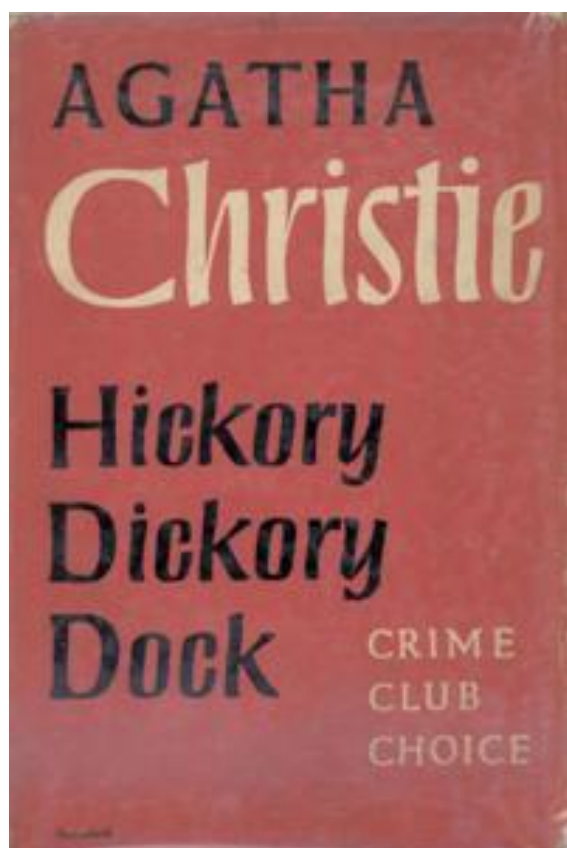
Originally aired:	Sunday February 12, 1995
Writer:	Anthony Horowitz, Agatha Christie
Director:	Andrew Grieve
Show Stars:	Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars:	Brian McDermott (Chief Inspector), Elinor Morriston (Valerie Hobhouse), Andy Linden (Giorgios), Mark Denny (Passport Officer), Terry Francis (Journalist), Bernard Lloyd (Endicott), Terry Duggan (Butcher), Peter Glancy (Customs Officer), Mark Denny (Manager), John Webb (Vicar), Mark Webb (Journalist), Paris Jefferson (Sally Finch), Jessica Lloyd (Celia Austin), Damian Lewis (Leonard Bateson), David Burke (I) (Sir Arthur Stanley), Jonathan Firth (Nigel Chapman), Granville Saxton (Casteman), Gilbert Martin (Colin McNabb), Polly Kemp (Patricia Lane), Sarah Badel (Mrs Hubbard), Rachel Bell (Mrs Nicholetis), Alec Linstead (Pharmacist)
Summary:	A string of thefts at a student hostel run by Miss Lemon's sister ends in death, and Poirot has a number of plots and sub-plots to untangle, including smuggling and political manipulations. A certain mouse is the only witness to a string of murders and it also features at the climax. Meanwhile, Poirot invites Japp to stay with him while Mrs Japp is away. Hastings is also off on his travels, and the dim police inspector vies with Poirot over the cooking.

Poirot's solution of the petty thefts is unsubtle but effective: once he has threatened to call in the police, Celia Austin quickly confesses to the pettier amongst the incidents. She denies specifically: stealing Nigel Chapman's green ink and using it to deface Elizabeth Johnston's work; taking the stethoscope, the light bulbs and boracic powder; and cutting up and concealing a rucksack.

Celia appears to have committed the lesser thefts in order to attract the attention of Colin McNabb, a psychology student who at first regards her as an interesting case study, and then — almost immediately — becomes engaged to her. Celia makes restitution for the crimes and is seemingly reconciled with her victims, but when she is discovered the following morning dead from an overdose of morphine it does not take the investigators long to see through attempts to make her death seem like suicide.

Several of the original incidents have not been solved by Celia's confession. Inspector Sharpe quickly solves the mystery of the stolen stethoscope during his interviews with the inhabitants of the hostel. Nigel Chapman admits to having stolen the stethoscope in order to pose as a doctor and steal some morphine tartrate from the hospital dispensary as part of a bet to acquire three deadly poisons. He claims that these poisons were then carefully disposed of, but cannot be sure that the morphine was not stolen from him while it was in his possession.

Poirot turns his attention to the reappearance of the diamond ring, and confronts Valerie Hobhouse, in whose soup the ring was found. It seems that the diamond had been replaced with a zircon and, given the fact that it was difficult for anyone but Valerie to have put the ring into the soup, Poirot accuses her of having stolen the diamond. She admits to having done so, saying that she needed the money to pay off gambling debts. She also admits to having planted in Celia's mind the entire idea of the thefts.



Mrs. Nicoletis has been behaving very nervously, as if she were losing her nerve. One night someone gets her drunk and kills her with poison in her beer.

Poirot focuses his attention now on the cutting up of the rucksack. By comparing an example of the rucksack type destroyed with others, he identifies an unusual corrugated base, and suggests to the police that the rucksack may have been part of a clever international smuggling operation. The rucksacks were sold to innocent students, and then exchanged as a means of transporting drugs and gems. Mrs. Nicoletis had been bankrolling the organisation, but was not the brain behind it. When the police visited Hickory Road on an unconnected issue, the murderer had cut up the rucksack to avoid its being found and removed light bulbs to avoid being recognised.

Patricia Lane comes to Nigel and admits that, in an effort to keep a dangerous poison safe, she has taken the morphine from the bottle in his drawer and substituted for it bicarbonate of soda. Now, however, the bottle of bicarbonate of soda has been taken from her own drawer. While they are searching for this bottle Patricia mentions that she is intending to write to his father in order to reconcile the two. Nigel tells her that the reason for his es-

trangement from his father is that he discovered that his father had poisoned his mother. This is why he changed his name and carries two passports.

Nigel comes to Inspector Sharpe and tells him about the missing morphine, but while he is there, Patricia telephones to say that she has discovered something further. By the time that Nigel and Sharpe get to the house, Patricia has been killed by a blow to the head. Mr. Akibombo comes to Sharpe and says that he had taken Patricia's bicarbonate to ease a stomach complaint; when he took a teaspoonful of the bicarbonate, however, he had stomach pains and later discovered that the white powder was in fact the boracic powder. By the time Patricia had substituted the bicarbonate, the morphine had already been substituted by the stolen boracic powder.

Poirot, whose suspicions about Valerie Hobhouse's role in the smuggling operation have been proved correct by a police raid on her beauty shop, now closes the case. The murderer has been the most obvious person, Nigel Chapman, who was known to have the morphine in his possession. He killed Celia because she knew about his dual identity and also knew that Valerie travelled abroad on a false passport. He killed Mrs. Nicoletis because she was sure to give the smuggling operation away under pressure, and killed Patricia because she was likely to draw to his father's attention the recent events.

When Poirot outlines to Nigel's father's solicitor the case against Nigel, the solicitor is able to provide final proof. Nigel's mother had been poisoned, not by his father, but by Nigel himself. When the father discovered this he forced him to write a confession and left it with his solicitor together with a letter explaining that it should be produced were there any evidence of further wrongdoing by his son.

Valerie confirms Poirot's solution further. She has placed the call to the police station, apparently from Patricia, after Nigel had already killed her. The green ink was a double-bluff intended to divert suspicion away from him. Valerie is willing to incriminate Nigel fully because Mrs. Nicoletis was actually her mother.

Murder on the Links

Season 6

Episode Number: 49

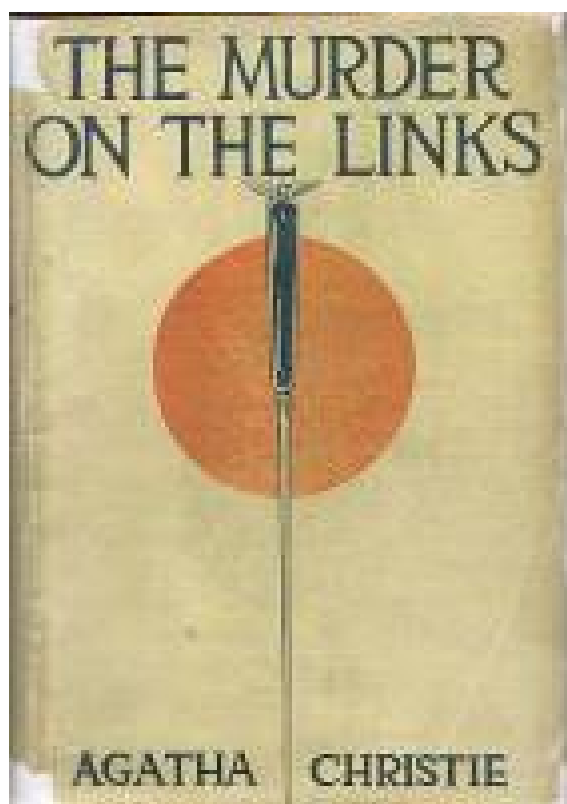
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired:	Sunday February 11, 1996
Writer:	Anthony Horowitz, Agatha Christie
Director:	Andrew Grieve
Show Stars:	Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Recurring Role:	Richard Bebb (Newsreader)
Guest Stars:	Bill Moody (Giraud), Damien Thomas (Paul Renault), Sophie Linfield (Marthe Daubreuil), Jacinta Mulcahy (Bella and/or Dulcie Duveen), Bernard Latham (Lucien Bex), Ben Pullen (Jack Renault), Diana Fletcher (Eloise Renault), Terence Beesley (Stonor), Andrew Melville (Dr Hautet), Henrietta Voigts (Leonie), James Vaughan (Adam Letts), Ray Gatenby (Station Master), Randal Herley (The Judge), Peter Yapp (Lawyer), Terry Raven (Tramp), Margaret Clifton (Concierge), Tim Berrington (Golfer), Howard Lee (Golfer), Joseph Morton (Policeman), Christopher Hammond (Policeman), Belinda Stewart-Wilson (Dubbing Secretary), Kate Fahy (Bernadette Daubreuil)
Summary:	Poirot and Hastings are on holiday in Deauville and receive a visit from Paul Renault, who believes he's being cheated by Chileans. Renault is kidnapped and his body is later found buried in a new golf bunker. French detective Giraud unwisely challenges Poirot to catch the killer before he can. Meanwhile, Hastings is diverted by love - he has fallen heavily for an actress called Dulcie Duveen. Dulcie has a twin sister called Bella. And one of them appears to be mixed up in the killing of Renault.

Captain Hastings arrives in the flat that he now shares with Poirot in London, eager to tell the Belgian detective about a woman with whom he has fallen hopelessly in love on the train from Paris to Calais. But Poirot is busy sorting his mail, impatiently tossing aside bills and banal requests "recovering lost lap dogs for fashionable ladies". Then he finds an extraordinary letter from the south of France: "For God's sake, come!" writes Monsieur Paul Renault. Poirot decides to investigate and he takes Hastings to France and the Villa Genevieve in Merlinville-sur-Mer on the northern French coast where Renault wrote from. Asking for directions near the Villa Genevieve, they are watched by a young girl outside another smaller villa who has "anxious eyes".

Arriving at Renault's house, they find they are too late: Renault is dead. He and his wife were attacked in their rooms at 2.00 in the night by two masked men. Madame Renault was tied up and her husband taken away by the men wanting to know "the secret". They appear to have got in to the house through the open front door with no sign of forced entry. His body was found stabbed in a newly dug open grave on the edge of a nearby golf course which is under construction and next to the placing of a bunker which was due to be dug that day. The Renaults' son, Jack, had just been sent away on business to South America and Renault also gave the chauffeur an unexpected holiday leaving just three female servants in the house who heard nothing. The eldest of the three servants tells Poirot and the police that quite often, after Madame Renault has retired to bed for the night, her husband has been visited by a neighbour, Madame Daubreuil, who is the mother of the girl with the "anxious eyes", Marthe Daubreuil.

The dead man changed his will just two weeks before, leaving almost everything to his wife and nothing to his son. There is a smashed watch at the scene of the kidnap which is still running but has somehow gained two hours. The widow inspects the body to identify it. She loses her composure and collapses with grief at the sight of her dead husband.



Poirot is puzzled by some of these findings... why is the watch running fast? Why did the servants hear nothing? Why was the body found somewhere where it was bound to be quickly discovered? Why is there a piece of lead piping near the body? Poirot is hampered in his investigations by the attitude of Monsieur Giraud of the Sûreté who plainly believes the elderly Belgian is too set in his old-fashioned ways to solve the mystery. The local Examining Magistrate, Monsieur Hautet, is more helpful and tells Poirot that he has found out that the Renaults' neighbour at the Villa Marguerite, Madame Daubreuil, has paid two hundred thousand francs into her bank account in recent weeks: was she Monsieur Renault's mistress? They visit the lady who is furious when the suggestion is put to her and throws them out. Having now met Madame Daubreuil for the first time, Poirot tells Hastings that he recognises her from a murder case going back some twenty years.

Soon after, Jack Renault arrives back; his trip to Santiago was delayed enabling him to return when he heard of his father's murder. Jack admits to rowing with his father over who he wanted to marry, hence the change of will. Poirot suspects that Marthe Daubreuil is the girl in question and

feels that the answer to the problem lies in Paris. He goes there to investigate. Whilst he is away another body is found in a shed on the golf course. No one recognises the man who by his hands could be a tramp but is dressed in finer clothes. The strangest thing is that the man has been dead for forty-eight hours and thus died before Monsieur Renault's murder. No one recognises the new corpse.

Poirot returns from Paris and, without being told details beforehand, staggers Hastings by correctly guessing the age of the man, place of death, and manner of death, despite having been clearly shocked when Hastings originally told him of this new development. He examines the new corpse with the doctor. Poirot sees foam on his lips and the doctor realises the man died of an epileptic fit and was then stabbed after death.

When alone, Poirot tells Hastings that his investigations in Paris have borne fruit and that Madame Daubreuil is in fact a Madame Beroldy who was put on trial twenty years previously for the death of her elderly husband. He too was murdered by, supposedly, two masked men who broke into their house at night wanting to know "the secret". Madame Beroldy had a young lover, Georges Conneau, who absconded from justice but wrote a letter to the police admitting to the crime; there were no masked men and he stabbed Monsieur Beroldy himself. Madame Beroldy managed a tearfully-convincing performance in the witness box, convincing the jury of her innocence, but leaving most people suspicious. She then disappeared herself.

Poirot deduces that Paul Renault was in fact Georges Conneau. He fled to Canada and then South America where he made his fortune and gained a wife and a son. When they returned to France, by great misfortune, the immediate neighbour of the house he bought was Madame Beroldy, now Daubreuil, who started to blackmail him. When a tramp died on his grounds of an epileptic fit, Renault saw a chance to duplicate the ruse of twenty years earlier by faking his own death and escaping his blackmailer with his wife's cooperation. His plan was to send his son away on business, give his chauffeur a holiday, and stage a kidnapping by tying his wife up and disappearing. After leaving the house he would go to the golf course and dig a grave where he knew it would be discovered; he would then put the tramp into the grave after destroying his features with the lead pipe. The plan was for this to happen at midnight, giving Renault the chance to get away from the local station on the last train and use the smashed watch to create an alibi. Unfortunately, the smashing of the watch did not stop it, so the deception failed on Poirot at least. What then went wrong was that Renault was stabbed by someone else after he

finished digging the grave but before he could fetch the body of the tramp, hence his wife's faint when she saw that the body actually was her husband's.

Jack is proven innocent by another girl he was also in love with and as far as Poirot is concerned that leaves only one suspect who had anything to gain by Renauld dying: Marthe Daubreuil, who did not know of the change of will disinheriting Jack and thought that by killing his father she would gain his fortune when she married his son. She overheard the Renaulds discussing using the dead tramp as a ruse and stabbed Renauld on the golf course after he had dug the grave. Marthe dies when she tries to kill Madame Renauld. Her mother disappears again. Jack and his mother go to South America and Hastings ends up with Dulcie Duveen, the sister of the girl who was able to prove Jack's innocence. She is also the woman he met on the train at the beginning of the novel.

Dumb Witness

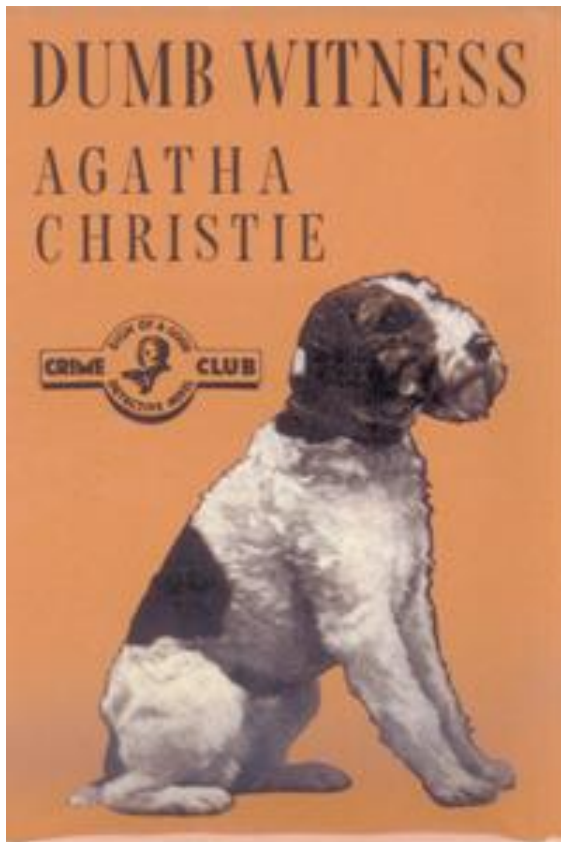
Season 6

Episode Number: 50

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Sunday March 16, 1997
Writer: Douglas Watkinson, Agatha Christie
Director: Edward Bennett
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Jestyn Phillips (Steward), Muriel Pavlow (Julia Tripp), Pauline Jameson (Isabel Tripp), Patrick Rycart (Charles), Norma West (Wilhelmina), Julia St. John (Bella), Jonathan Newth (Dr Grainger), Ann Morrish (Emily Arundel), Tobias Saunders (Alexis), Geoffrey Banks (Starter), Kate Buffery (Theresa), Geoffrey Freshwater (Sergeant Keeley), Stephen Tomlin (Vicar), Darren McSweeney (Intellectual on bus)

Summary: Poirot and Hastings are at Lake Windermere for an attempt on the world speed-boat record. Two sisters have premonitions of danger. Soon a rich elderly widow is hurt by falling down stairs, then later she is killed by poisoning with phosphorus. The "dumb witness" Poirot must fathom to solve the mystery is a dog.



Emily Arundell writes to Hercule Poirot because she believes she has been the victim of attempted murder. However, unfortunately this letter is delayed and when Poirot receives it, she has been dead for some time. Her doctor, who has lost his sense of smell, says that she died of liver problems she had had for many years.

Emily's companion Miss Lawson is the unexpected beneficiary of a substantial fortune, according to a very recent change of will. Under the previous will, Emily's nephew Charles Arundell and nieces Theresa Arundell and Bella Tanios would have inherited. This gives them all motive for murder, because it is unclear who knew of the changed will.

While examining the house, under a pretence of buying it, Poirot discovers a nail covered with varnish and a small string tied to it. Before her death Miss Arundell had said something about Bob...dog...picture...ajar. Poirot concludes that this means a jar on which there is a picture of a dog who was left out all night... meaning that Bob could not have put the ball on the staircase because he had been out all night. Poirot concludes Miss Arundell had fallen over a tripwire that had been tied to the nail.

On the day of her death Emily had been at a seance held by both Miss Tripps. Both Miss Tripps, two sisters who believe in seances, say that when Emily spoke, a luminous figure came from her mouth. They also say that they saw Emily's "spirit" the night Emily died, billowing from her mouth in a halo around her head. Miss Lawson, who was also at the seance, similarly claims that a luminous haze appeared.

Theresa and Charles want to have the will contested and even offer to pay Poirot for it. Poirot seemingly agrees. He asks Bella, who, after talking with her husband, agrees. While at Emily's house Poirot talks to the gardener and finds out that Charles talked to him about his weed killer which turns out to be arsenic. The bottle is also nearly empty... something that the gardener finds surprising.

Theresa Arundell is a strong suspect because Miss Lawson can recall seeing someone through her bedroom mirror at the top of the stairs on the night of Emily's accident. The person was wearing a brooch with the initials, "TA".

After implying for a long time that he is bullying her, Bella leaves her husband, Jacob, accusing him of Emily Arundell's murder and saying he was trying to have her wrongly committed to a mental institution in order to keep her quiet. She goes to stay with Miss Lawson, but Poirot tells her to go to a certain hotel, and read some papers he has prepared for her. The next day, she is found dead. She has taken an overdose of a sleeping-draught. The murderer has apparently struck again.

Poirot discovers that Emily Arundell died of phosphorus poisoning, administered in her liver pills. The reason why haze appeared from her mouth was that her breath was phosphorescent. The reason her doctor did not know was because he could not smell the odour. The nature of the murder suggests a doctor. Dr. Donaldson, Theresa's fiancé, has a good motive for the crime, as does Jacob Tanios, also a doctor.

At a meeting with all the suspects, Poirot reveals that Theresa took the arsenic. However, she could not bear to take someone else's life, so she threw the arsenic away. The real murderer was Bella. She committed the murder for money to educate her children and escape from her mundane life. Secretly, she had grown to hate her domineering husband, and had already attempted to kill him as well. She killed herself because the papers Poirot had given her contained a description of how she had murdered her aunt. The brooch that Miss Lawson had seen through the mirror was Bella's with the initials "AT" for Arabella Tanios; they appeared as "TA" because Miss Lawson was looking through the mirror. On her deathbed, Emily had asked Miss Lawson for the new will, presumably to destroy it, but Miss Lawson, thinking the will was only for a few thousand pounds, lied and said that her lawyer had it. On discovering that the inheritance was much greater than she had imagined, she was racked with remorse.

Respecting the original will, Miss Lawson voluntarily shares the estate with Emily's other relations, including Bella's children. The dog Bob becomes Hastings' new pet.

Season Seven

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd

Season 7

Episode Number: 51

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Sunday January 2, 2000
Writer: Clive Exton, Agatha Christie
Director: Andrew Grieve
Show Stars: Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Oliver Ford Davies (Dr Sheppard), Selina Cadell (Caroline Sheppard), Roger Frost (Parker the Butler), Malcolm Terris (Roger Ackroyd), Nigel Cooke (Geoffrey Raymond), Daisy Beaumont (Ursula Bourne), Flora Montgomery (Flora Ackroyd), Vivien Heilbron (Mrs Ackroyd), Gregor Truter (Inspector Davis), Jamie Bamber (Ralph Paton), Charles Early (P.C. Jones), Rosalind Bailey (Mrs Ferrars), Charles Simon (Hammond), Elizabeth Kettle (Mrs Folliott), Graham Chinn (Landlord), Clive Brunt (Petty Officer), Alice Hart (Mary), Philip Wrigley (Postman), Phil Atkinson (Ted)

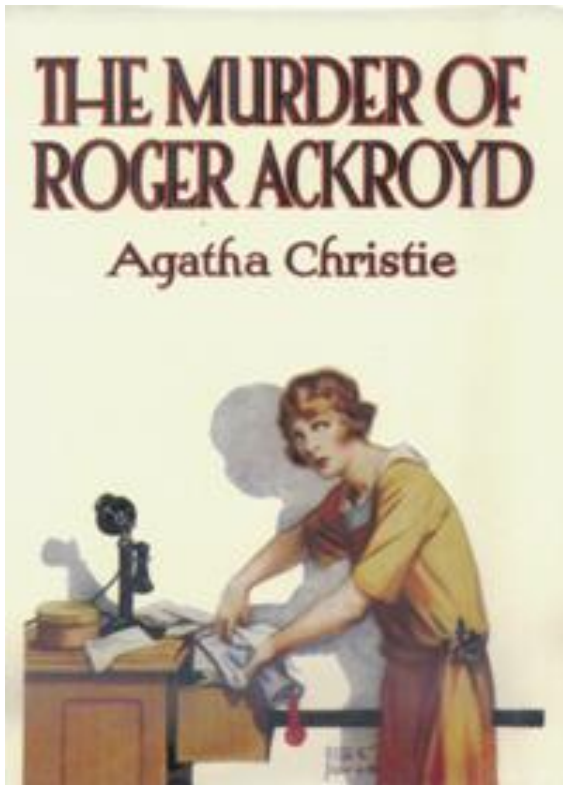
Summary: Poirot has retired to the sleepy English village of King's Abbot to cultivate his garden, but even here murder soon rears its head. Following the apparent suicide of a local widow, rumours run wild to the effect that she had murdered her first husband, that she was having an affair with Roger Ackroyd (a rich business man who lives in the village) and that she was being blackmailed. Poirot remains aloof from all this, but when his neighbour Ackroyd too is killed he is drawn into the hunt for a clever murderer. The suspects include Roger Ackroyd's greedy sister-in-law, his chauffeur, his secretary, and his adopted son, Ralph - who quickly disappears from the scene. When he finds out who the killer is, the whole experience is enough to persuade Poirot to pack up and return to London.

The book is set in the fictional village of King's Abbott in England. It is narrated by Dr. James Sheppard, who becomes Poirot's assistant (a role filled by Captain Hastings in several other Poirot novels). The story begins with the death of Mrs. Ferrars, a wealthy widow who is rumoured to have murdered her husband. Her death is initially believed to be an accident until Roger Ackroyd, a widower who had been expected to marry Mrs. Ferrars, reveals that she admitted to killing her husband and then committed suicide. Shortly after this he is found murdered. The suspects include Mrs. Cecil Ackroyd, Roger's neurotic hypochondriac sister-in-law who has accumulated personal debts through extravagant spending; her daughter Flora; Major Blunt, a big-game hunter; Geoffrey Raymond, Ackroyd's personal secretary; Ralph Paton, Ackroyd's stepson and another person with heavy debts; Parker, a snooping butler; and Ursula Bourne, a parlourmaid with an uncertain history who resigned her post the afternoon of the murder.

The initial suspect is Ralph, who is engaged to Flora and stands to inherit his stepfather's fortune. Several critical pieces of evidence seem to point to Ralph. Poirot, who has just moved to the town, begins to investigate at Flora's behest.

The book ends with a then-unprecedented plot twist. Poirot exonerates all of the original suspects. He then lays out a completely reasoned case that the murderer is in fact Dr. Sheppard, who has not only been Poirot's assistant, but the story's narrator. Dr. Sheppard was Mrs. Ferrars' blackmailer, and he murdered Ackroyd to stop him learning the truth from Mrs. Ferrars. In the final chapter of Sheppard's narrative (a sort of epilogue), Sheppard admits his guilt, noting certain literary techniques he used to write the narrative truthfully without revealing his role in the crime

or doing anything to suggest that he knew the truth, and reveals that he had hoped to be the one to write the account of Poirot's great failure: not solving the murder of Roger Ackroyd. Thus, the last chapter acts as both Sheppard's confession and suicide note.



Lord Edgware Dies

Season 7

Episode Number: 52

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Saturday February 19, 2000
Writer: Agatha Christie, Anthony Horowitz
Director: Brian Farnham
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Helen Grace (Jane Wilkinson), John Castle (Lord Edgware), Fiona Allen (Carlotta Adams), Dominic Guard (Bryan Martin), Deborah Cornelius (Penny Driver), Hannah Yelland (Geraldine Marsh), Tim Steed (Ronald Marsh), Jonathan Aris (Receptionist), Tom Beard (Duke of Merton), Mark Brignal (Addison), Virginia Denham (Alice), Rory Firth (Pageboy), Iain Fraser (Donald Ross), Christopher Guard (Alton), Janet Hargreaves (Lady Corner), John Hart Dyke (Thompson), Aliza James (Lucie Adams), Nicola Michaels (Airport Clerk), Lesley Nightingale (Miss Carroll), John Quentin (Sir Montagu Corner), Fenella Woolgar (Ellis)
Summary: Jane Wilkinson, a famous actress whose married name is Lady Edgware, was in a hurry to trade in her moderately rich husband for an even richer model, so when Lord Edgware is killed, there is an obvious suspect. However, Edgware had just agreed to a divorce - with Poirot acting on his wife's behalf. Under suspicion, Jane seeks Poirot's help again, having previously wanted his help in ridding her of the same unwanted husband. So was Lady Edgware the killer, or has she been framed? Her husband also had an unhappy daughter and a nephew who badly needed money. Poirot soon finds that nothing is at all as it seems in the remarkable world where the theatre collides with high society.

Jane Wilkinson, an actress, is suspected of murdering her husband, the fourth Baron Edgware, so that she can marry the Duke of Merton. The plot begins with Jane asking Poirot to convince her husband to agree to a divorce. When Poirot reluctantly does so, Edgware says that he has already agreed to a divorce and written a letter to Jane informing her of the fact. When Poirot reports this to Jane, she denies ever having received such a letter. Lord Edgware is a rude and unsympathetic character, and lots of people have a motive for removing him.

On the night of the murder, Wilkinson supposedly goes to the Edgware house, announces herself to the butler, and goes into her husband's study. The next day, Lord Edgware is found murdered and Chief Inspector Japp tells Poirot all about it. Numerous friends and acquaintances of Jane have described her as amoral, someone who only thinks of herself and would certainly commit a crime if it would help her get what she wants, without a care for others. But in that morning's newspaper, they discover an article about a dinner party that was held the previous evening where Jane Wilkinson was reportedly a guest.

At the party, there were thirteen guests at the dinner table. One guest mentioned that thirteen people at table means bad luck for the first guest to rise from the table (hence the alternative title of the book *Thirteen At Dinner*) and Jane Wilkinson was the first to rise. Among the guests is an actor named Donald Ross, who spent a lot of the evening speaking with Jane. So the police are, at first, baffled with the case, as is Poirot.



On the same morning as Lord Edgware's murder, comedienne/actress Carlotta Adams, who is known for her uncanny impersonations, is found dead due to an overdose of Veronal. A mysterious gold case with the sleeping powder in it is found among her possessions. The case bears an inscription reading: "From D, Paris, November, 10th Sweet Dreams". Poirot tries to decode this and arranges the evidence together.

A few days later, Jane makes an appearance at another dinner party where the guests talk about Paris of Troy. However, the Jane Wilkinson at this dinner party thinks that the guests, again including actor Donald Ross, are referring to the city in France. Ross can't understand this because, at the party on the night of the murder, Jane was speaking knowledgeably about the mythological Paris. Ross goes to ring up Poirot about his discovery, but before he can say what he discovered, he is stabbed.

In the conclusion to the book, Jane Wilkinson really is the murderer, having paid Carlotta Adams to impersonate her at the party on the night she killed Lord Edgware. Jane's motive for killing Lord Edgware was because the Duke of Merton was an Anglo-Catholic and didn't want to marry a divorced

woman. In the last chapter, she writes a letter to Poirot before her execution and tells him how she committed the crime.

With her made up alibi in place, Jane simply takes a taxi to the Edgware house and murders her husband. Later, she and Carlotta meet up in a hotel where they toast Carlotta's successful "performance" and ostensibly so Jane can pay Carlotta. However, Jane slips Veronal into Carlotta's drink, effectively killing her. Jane also discovers a letter Carlotta has written to her sister and is panicked by how Carlotta talks openly in the letter about their arrangement. However, Jane believes she sees a way she can use the letter to her advantage. At the top left hand corner of the second page is the word "she" (referring to Jane paying Carlotta to take her place at the party). Jane tears off the 's' leaving the word 'he'. (Though Poirot initially wonders about the torn corner during his investigation, using his "little grey cells" he eventually figures it out.) Jane then puts the remaining Veronal phials inside the gold case to make it look as if Carlotta was a Veronal addict. Jane ordered the gold case the week prior, which Poirot discovers when he questions the engravers. He further realises that "November" was engraved on the case specifically to throw him off. Unbeknownst to Jane, Carlotta had been knowledgeable about Greek Mythology, so she talked a lot about the subject with Donald Ross. At the second dinner party, Jane realizes she's made a mistake about Paris and has to kill Donald Ross to prevent him from telling Poirot about his discovery that the Jane at the party (on the night of the murder) was not really Jane, but Carlotta Adams.

Season Eight

Evil Under the Sun

Season 8

Episode Number: 53

Season Episode: 1

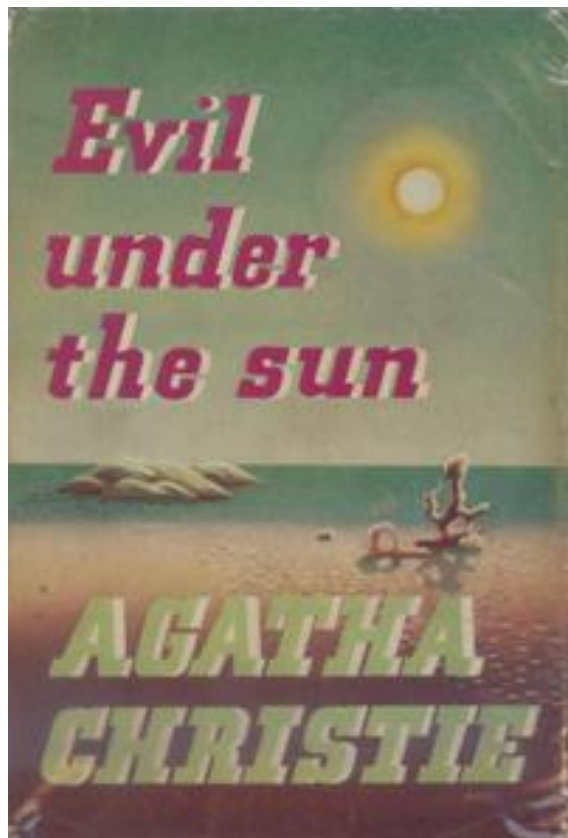
Originally aired: Friday April 20, 2001
Writer: Agatha Christie, Anthony Horowitz
Director: Brian Farnham
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), Philip Jackson (Chief Inspector James Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Felicity Lemon), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Russell Tovey (Lionel Marshall), Carolyn Pickles (Emily Brewster), Steve Bennett (Policeman), David Timson (Horace Blatt), Harriet Eastcott (Librarian), Ian Thompson (Major Barry), Tim Meats (Stephen Lane), Tamzin Malleon (Christine Redfern), Michael Higgs (Patrick Redfern), Roger Alborough (Chief Constable Weston), Kevin Moore (Coroner), Louise Delamere (Arlena Stuart), David Mallinson (Kenneth Marshall), Jason Davies (Dominic Hobson), Lawrence McGrandles Jr (Simon Kelso), Grant Gillespie (Jack Lovett), Paul Ready (William), Rebecca Johnson (Gladys Narracott), Rosalind March (Mrs Castle), Marsha Fitzalan (Rosamund Darnley), Guy Vincent (Barman), Kenneth Gilbert (Applegood)
Summary: Poirot is ordered by his doctor to spend a few weeks at a health resort in Devon, on the grounds that he is too fat and out of condition, and Hastings comes along for a holiday. In Devon they meet an old acquaintance, the fashion designer Rosamund Darnley. Before too long another guest (the rich, troublesome and flirtatious Arlena Stuart) is found strangled on the beach, and Poirot begins an investigation which proves to be one of the most challenging of his career, with suspects abounding. However, the detective is greatly helped by the parallels between Arlena's murder and the unsolved killing of another rich young woman a few years before.

Arlena is a very beautiful retired actress and a flirtatious young woman with many men attracted to her. She goes to the Jolly Roger Hotel with her husband and step daughter, Kenneth and Linda Marshall. Linda Marshall, a sixteen-year-old girl, dislikes her stepmother very much. Arlena flirts in the hotel with a handsome man named Patrick Redfern who is infatuated with her. This makes his wife Christine Redfern, an educated schoolteacher, jealous and hurt. Also staying at the hotel are famous detective Hercule Poirot, the dressmaker and Kenneth's childhood friend Rosamund Darnley, the American tourists Odell and Carrie Gardener, the retired Major Barry, the blatant Horace Blatt, vicar Stephen Lane and the athletic spinster Emily Brewster.

Early on the morning of the murder, Christine witnesses Linda accidentally dropping a parcel, which reveals a number of candles. Christine asks Linda to come to Gull Cove with her. On the same morning, Arlena goes out on a float (a type of boat) and asks Poirot not to tell anyone where she is going. In Poirot's mind Arlena is going to meet Patrick Redfern, but he is proved wrong when Patrick asks Poirot if he has seen Arlena. Patrick Redfern asks Emily Brewster to join him in a rowboat outing. They eventually reach Pixy Cove and find a body lying there, her arms outstretched and her face hidden by a hat. It is the strangled body of Arlena, killed at about quarter to 12.

When they begin to question people's whereabouts, Kenneth Marshall says he was in his room typing letters at the time of the murder. Linda lies that she was fond of her stepmother. She also claims that she and Christine went to Gull Cove at about 10:30 and that she returned to the

hotel at about quarter to 12, which would mean it was impossible for her to have committed the murder because the murder was committed at exactly quarter to 12. The Gardeners were with Hercule Poirot at that time of the murder and thus cleared of suspicion. Rosamund Darnley claims that she went to Sunny Ledge (above the Pixy Cove) to read a book. She says that she saw no one because she was concentrating on reading but while Emily and Patrick were rowing a boat, they saw her there. As for the rest of the group, Stephen Lane and Major Barry went out and Horace Blatt sailed. Christine, Rosamund, Kenneth and Mr. Gardener all went to play tennis at noon.



Meanwhile, Poirot asks the chambermaid, Gladys Narracott, if she has observed whether a bottle was missing. He asks this because earlier that day of the murder Emily Brewster told them that she had nearly been hit with a thrown bottle. The chambermaid did not notice that a bottle was missing, but notes something else that seemed odd: somebody ran a bath at noon. Poirot says that the bath was nothing important but the bottle was very important. The chambermaid also heard Kenneth Marshall typing in his room, thus corroborating Kenneth's story and clearing him of suspicion.

Meanwhile, when the investigating officers and Poirot go to Pixy Cove to investigate the place, they find a pair of new scissors, a fragment of pipe, and a bottle. The pipe could be Kenneth's, as he told the investigating officers and Poirot earlier that he had mislaid his pipe. But he is not the only one who smokes a pipe. On entering Pixy's Cave the investigators find heroin. There are suspicions that Horace Blatt has something to do with smuggling of drugs or with the murder. Poirot also enquires about the murder of Alice Corrigan many years ago. It emerges that she was also strangled but her murderer was never caught. Alice's husband Edward claimed innocence and had an alibi because he was away at that time, thus, making him impos-

sible to commit the murder. Alice's body was found at the time by a school teacher.

Poirot has an idea to go for a picnic, perhaps to make a little test. Christine and Emily had both mentioned that they were afraid of heights (also called acrophobia). Therefore, when they are made to cross a narrow bridge with running water below nearby on the way to the picnic, they should feel giddy and uncomfortable doing so. Emily does, yet Christine crosses the bridge without any problems. Therefore it is shown that she has told at least one lie - could all she had said earlier be lies too?

When they return to the hotel after the picnic, the chambermaid advises them that Linda is not feeling well. On entering her room it transpires that Linda took six sleeping pills in an unsuccessful attempt at suicide, leaving a letter confessing that she was the one who killed Arlena. As she recovers, the true nature of her confession is revealed - the mysterious parcel of candles she had dropped earlier was part of a magic spell directed at Arlena, and she mistakenly believed it to have killed her. After that Poirot tells everyone the identity of the murderer.

Patrick Redfern's real identity is Edward Corrigan, the husband of Alice Corrigan who was also murdered by Patrick years ago. The games mistress who found her body was Christine Redfern, then known as Christine Deverill, and she also helped Edward to kill Alice. What everybody witnessed from the day Arlena arrived was a plan of Patrick and Christine. Patrick was not having an affair with Arlena, he was pretending to be smitten. He was also taking large amounts of money from her.

Arlena was unsuspecting, but if Kenneth knew that Arlena had nearly emptied the account, he would come out looking for Patrick. So, the duo decided to get rid of Arlena. Arlena went on the fatal day to meet Patrick, just as Poirot suspected. Patrick instructed her to remain hidden

under the Cove. Meanwhile, Christine saw Linda with the candles and understood what she was up to. She deliberately set Linda's watch 20 minutes forward. When she asked Linda to check the time, her alibi was set. Then, she adjusted the watch back.

Christine went to her room, applied the tan and sneaked out of the hotel to the Cove. When Patrick and Emily came on the cove, they saw "Arlena" dead on the beach. Patrick was nearer and only he knew that it was his wife, who had carefully folded her clothes back. After sending Emily back, Christine went back to her room by the same route and went to the bathroom to remove the tan. It was this "bath" that was on. Meanwhile, Patrick called an unsuspecting Arlena out of the Cove and strangled her.

After the murder, Linda thought that she had actually killed Arlena, something which made the Redfern's plan easier. Poirot speaks to Linda and tells her that she is not a murderer. It is hinted that Kenneth and Rosamund are paired.

Murder in Mesopotamia

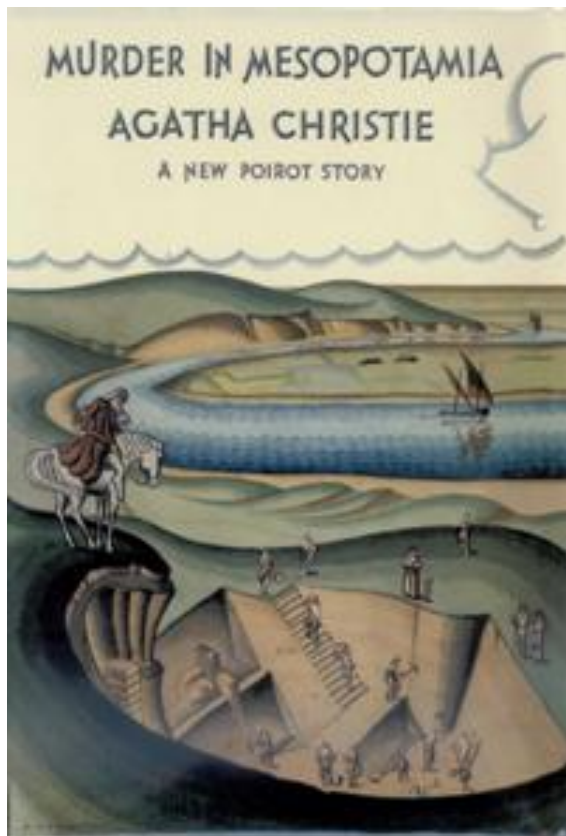
Season 8

Episode Number: 54

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Sunday July 8, 2001
Writer: Agatha Christie, Clive Exton
Director: Tom Clegg
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Ron Berglas (Dr Eric Leidner), Barbara Barnes (II) (Louise Leidner), Dinah Stabb (Annie Johnson), Georgina Sowerby (Amy Leatheran), Jeremy Turner-Welch (Bill Coleman), Pandora Clifford (Sheila Maitland), Christopher Hunter (Father Lavigny), Christopher Bowen (Richard Carey), Iain Mitchell (Superintendent Maitland), Alexi Kaye-Campbell (Joseph Mercado), Deborah Poplett (Marie Mercado), Kamel Touati (Squat Man), Hichem Rostom (Hotel Receptionist), Zouheir Bornaz (Police Sergeant), Deheb Magri (Murdered Man)

Summary: Poirot visits Hastings at an archaeological dig in Mesopotamia (the present-day Iraq), where he meets an impostor, a missing person, a thief, drugs, forged letters, sexual jealousy, professional rivalry, dark secrets and (need we say?) murder. All must be revealed.



Dr. Leidner is a Swedish-American archaeologist on a dig in Iraq, then a British protectorate. His wife was previously married to a Frederick Bosner, a young man who worked for the U.S. State Department but was actually a spy for Germany during the Great War. He was caught, tried and sentenced to death. He managed to escape while he was being transported, but it was to no apparent avail as he ended up on a train that crashed, and a body bearing his identification was found in the wreckage.

Amy Leatheran is a nurse traveling in Iraq when she meets Dr. Leidner, who asks her to join the dig to look after his wife. Mrs. Leidner has been frightened by weird goings on, such as a ghostly face appearing just outside her window and has received threatening letters. Mrs. Leidner confides to Nurse Leatheran that she had received similar threatening letters several years before that were supposedly from her dead first husband. They arrived every time she would go out with a new man, then stopped when she broke off the relationship. One of the letters was signed with her late husband's name, but she had no letters from him - they had been married only a short time - so she could not ascertain whether the letters were genuine. No letters arrived when she met and then married Dr. Leidner, so Mrs. Leidner had assumed they were

written by some crackpot who had either died or given up keeping an eye on her.

Then Mrs. Leidner is found dead by her husband in her room, struck fatally on the head with a large blunt object. The Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot, is also traveling in Iraq and his old friend, Dr. Reilly - a physician acquainted with the dig - asks him to solve the crime.

Poirot questions everyone informally and employs Nurse Leatheran as his assistant to investigate functional and logistical questions. There is much speculation that one of the members of the dig may, in fact, be William Bosner, the younger brother of the late Frederick Bosner. Then, Dr. Leidner's longtime female colleague, Miss Johnson, is killed - poisoned by hydrochloric acid substituted in the glass of water on her nightstand. She manages to choke out the words, "The window! The window!" before she dies, thereby providing Poirot the vital piece of information he needs to solve the case.

It transpires that Mrs. Leidner and Miss Johnson were killed by Dr. Leidner - who is, in fact, Frederick Bosner. He managed to survive the train crash, too; but a young Swedish archaeologist named Erich Leidner had not and was disfigured beyond all recognition. Bosner traded identities with the dead man. Fifteen years later, he re-married his wife, who did not recognize him.

Dr. Leidner was the one sending the letters to discourage Louise from her other relationships. When he finally managed to marry her again he stopped writing them, but it became apparent that Mrs. Leidner was falling in love with Richard Carey, Dr. Leidner's friend who is also present at the dig. Dr. Leidner could not stand to lose her again and hurt by the betrayal he murdered his wife.

At first glance it seemed impossible that Dr. Leidner could have murdered his wife because he was on the roof during the period that the murder was committed. It seemed that whoever killed Louise Leidner must have come through her door since it was clear that one could not squeeze through the barred window. However, there were witnesses in the courtyard to swear that no one entered her room prior to the discovery of her murder. In addition, these witnesses also stated that Dr. Leidner never came down from the roof, until he discovered his wife's body.

However, Dr. Leidner committed the crime without ever leaving the roof. Louise Leidner was in bed asleep when she was awakened by a familiar noise. Several nights earlier, she had been frightened by the sight of a figure at the window. But now she realized that what she had been seeing was just a mask. Determined to find out who has been tormenting her, she opened the window and stuck her head out, looking up only to be bludgeoned with a heavy stone quern dropped by her husband, who was on the roof. Then, using a rope threaded through a hole in the quern, Dr. Leidner retrieved the murder weapon. Mrs. Leidner cried out briefly before being struck down; it was this that was heard by Miss Johnson only because the window facing the exterior of the window was open. However, it was still essential that all physical evidence be removed that could possibly suggest the significance that window played in the crime. Therefore, it was necessary for Dr. Leidner to alter the scene of the crime before the police were called in to investigate. When he climbed down from the roof, he moved his wife's body to another part of the room away from the window, along with a blood-stained rug. Lastly he shut the window before bursting out into the courtyard announcing his wife's death to the rest of the expedition camp.

When planning the murder, Dr. Leidner figured that suspicion might be directed toward him, because one might assume that he would have enough time to kill his wife when he entered her room from the courtyard only to re-emerge a few moments later with the news of his wife's murder. This is why Dr. Leidner insisted that Nurse Leatheran accompany him to the expedition. The nurse would be his perfect alibi, stating that upon entering the room of his wife, Dr. Leidner could not have possibly committed the murder. Leidner hoped that the testimony of Nurse Leatheran would assure suspicion would be directed elsewhere.

While standing on the roof and looking out over the countryside, Miss Johnson realises how Dr. Leidner could have killed his wife, tying in with her previous discovery of the threatening letters in his office. Retaining her loyalty for the man she loves, she doesn't tell anybody, and fobs off Nurse Leatheran when she enquires about her obvious distress. However, Leidner realises that she will eventually crack, so that night he plants the blood-stained quern with which he killed his wife under her bed while she sleeps, and replaces a glass of water on her bedside table with hydrochloric acid, so once she dies everyone will think she murdered Louise so she could seduce her husband and, overcome by remorse, killed herself. But in her dying moments Miss Johnson tries imparting her discovery of Leidner's guilt when she croaks out 'the window', a seemingly obscure comment which puts Poirot on the right track.

Meanwhile, the man Louise saw looking through the antika room window turns out to be Ali Yusuf, who had been helping the expedition epigraphist Father Lavigny - actually Raoul Menier, a French thief masquerading as a monk - steal precious artifacts from the dig and replace them with near perfect copies.

Season Nine

Five Little Pigs

Season 9

Episode Number: 55

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Sunday December 14, 2003
Writer: Agatha Christie, Kevin Elyot
Director: Paul Unwin
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Richard Teverson (Hollinghurst), Lottie Unwin (Young Caroline), Darien Smith (Young Amyas), Jacek Bilinski (Young Philip), Joel de Temperley (Young Meredith), Toby Stephens (Philip Blake), Sophie Winkleman (Angela), Gemma Jones (Cynthia Williams), Julie Cox (Elsa Greer), Rachael Stirling (Caroline Crale), Aidan Gillen (Amyas Crale), Marc Warren (Meredith), Patrick Malahide (Sir Montague Depleach), Aimee Mullins (Lucy Crale), Annette Badland (Mrs Spriggs)

Summary: Sixteen years before the action opens, Caroline Crale was charged with killing her husband, Amyas Crale, and no one doubted her guilt. She was duly tried and convicted, and died in prison while serving life, so the case was looked on as closed. But then, in the present day, Caroline's daughter Lucy Crale (who has been living overseas) receives a letter her mother wrote her before her death, claiming to be innocent. Anxious to know the truth, Lucy hires Poirot to solve the murder of her father sixteen years before, and Poirot finds a number of possible suspects who are still alive. The late lamented Amyas was well-known for having affairs with his models. Does Elsa Greer, his lover at the time of his death, hold the key to unravelling the case?

Carla is engaged to be married but she is afraid that the fact that her mother killed her father will poison her husband's love for her, as he may fear that she has inherited a husband-killing tendency. Moreover, Carla remembers that her mother would never lie to her to hide an unpleasant truth and her mother told her she was innocent through a letter. That is enough for Carla but she wants Poirot to prove her mother's innocence to her husband to be.

Carla's father, painter Amyas Crale, was murdered with a poison, coniine, which had been extracted from poison hemlock by Meredith Blake but subsequently apparently stolen from him by Carla's mother, Caroline Crale. Caroline confessed to having stolen the poison, claiming that she had intended to use it to commit suicide. This poison ended up, however, in a glass from which Amyas had drunk cold beer, after complaining that 'everything tastes foul today'. Both the glass and the bottle of cold beer had been brought to him by Caroline. Her motive was clear: Amyas's young model, and latest mistress Elsa Greer, had revealed that he was planning to divorce Caroline and marry her instead. This was a new development; though Amyas had frequently had mistresses and affairs, he had never before shown any sign of wanting to leave Caroline.

Poirot labels the five alternative suspects 'the five little pigs': they comprise Phillip Blake ("went to the market"); Philip's brother, Meredith Blake ("stayed at home"); Elsa Greer (now Lady Dittisham, "had roast beef"); Cecilia Williams, the governess ("had none"); and Angela Warren, Caroline's younger half-sister ("went 'Wee! Wee! Wee!' all the way home"). As Poirot learns from speaking to them during the first half of the novel, none of the quintet has an obvious motive, and while their views of the original case differ in some respects there is no immediate reason to suppose that the verdict in the case was wrong.



The differences are subtle. Phillip Blake's hostility to Caroline is overt enough to draw suspicion. Meredith Blake mistrusts him, and has a very much more sympathetic view of her. Elsa seems emotionally stunted, as though her original passion for Amyas has left her prematurely devoid of emotion, except for hatred for Caroline Crale. Cecilia, the governess, gives some insight into both Caroline and Angela, but claims to have definite reason for believing Caroline guilty. Finally, Angela believes her sister to be innocent, but a letter that Caroline wrote to her after the murder contains no protestation of innocence, and makes Poirot doubt Caroline's innocence for perhaps the first time.

In the second half of the novel, Poirot considers five accounts of the case that he has asked the suspects to write for him. These establish the succession of events on the day of the murder, and establish a small number of facts that are important to the solution of the puzzle. In the first place, there is a degree of circumstantial evidence incriminating Angela. Secondly, Cecilia has seen Caroline frantically wiping fingerprints off the bottle of beer as she waited by Amyas's corpse. Thirdly, there has been a conversation between Caroline and Amyas, apparently about Amyas 'seeing to her packing' for Angela's return to school. Fourthly, Elsa overheard

a heated argument between Caroline and Amyas in which he swore that he would divorce her and Caroline said bitterly 'you and your women'.

In the denouement, Poirot reveals the main emotional undercurrents of the story. Philip Blake has loved Caroline but his rejection by her has turned this to hatred. Meredith Blake, wearied by his long affection for Caroline, has formed an attachment to Elsa Greer, that is also unreciprocated. These are mere red herrings, though. Putting together the case that would incriminate Angela (she had the opportunity to steal the poison on the morning of the crime, she had previously put salt in Amyas's glass as a prank and she was seen fiddling with the bottle of beer before Caroline took it down to him; she was very angry with Amyas), he demonstrates that Caroline herself would have thought that Angela was guilty. Her letter to Angela did not speak of innocence, because Caroline believed that Angela must know for a fact that Caroline was innocent. This explains why, if Caroline was innocent, she made no move to defend herself in court. Moreover, many years ago Caroline had thrown a paperweight at Angela in a jealous rage, which had left a permanent disfiguring scar on Angela's face. Caroline had always felt deeply guilty about this and therefore felt that, by taking the blame for what she thought was Angela's crime, she could earn redemption.

Caroline's actions, however, unwittingly proved her innocence. By wiping the fingerprints off the bottle, she showed that she believed that the poison had been placed in it, rather than in the glass. Moreover, seen to handle the bottle there was no reason to remove her own fingerprints; she can only have been removing those of a third party.

Angela, however, was not guilty. All the evidence incriminating Angela can be explained by the fact that she had stolen valerian from Meredith's laboratory that morning in preparation for playing another prank on Amyas. (Because she described the theft of the valerian in the future tense Poirot realised that she had never carried out this trick; Angela had completely forgotten that she had stolen the valerian on the morning of that fateful day).

The true murderer was Elsa. Far from being about to finish with Caroline, Amyas was entirely focused on completing his portrait of Elsa. Because Elsa was young she did not realize she was just another mistress, to be left as soon as she was painted. She took the promises 'to leave my wife' seriously. Amyas went along with her false belief, to the short term distress of his wife, so that Elsa wouldn't leave before the painting was finished. Thus the half overheard 'see to her

packing' did not refer to Angela's packing (why should Amyas do her packing with a wife and governess to see to such 'woman's work?'), but to sending Elsa packing. Caroline, reassured that Amyas had no intention of leaving her, was distressed at such cruelty to Elsa. She remonstrated with Amyas on a second occasion. Though Elsa falsely reported the gist of this conversation, she did mention that Caroline had said to Amyas 'you and your women', showing Poirot that in fact Elsa was in the same category as all of Amyas's other, discarded mistresses. After a disillusioned and betrayed Elsa overheard this conversation, she recalled seeing Caroline help herself to the conium the day before and, under the pretence of fetching a cardigan, stole some of that poison by drawing it off with a fountain pen filler. She poisoned Amyas in the first, warm beer, and was then pleased to find that Caroline implicated herself still more seriously by bringing him another. (When Caroline brought Amyas a beer and he exclaimed that 'everything tastes foul today,' this not only showed that he had already had a drink before the one Caroline brought him, but he had had one which had tasted foul as well.)

Amyas's last moments are spent working on his painting of Elsa, while she sits posing for it. In the beginning he does not realize he has been poisoned, but as he gradually weakens he apparently realizes it, because Meredith sees him give the painting a "malevolent glare". Poirot notes the unusual vitality in the face of the portrait and says, "It is a very remarkable picture. It is the picture of a murderess painted by her victim — it is the picture of a girl watching her lover die."

Poirot's explanation solves the case to the satisfaction of Carla and, most importantly, her fiancé. But, as Elsa forces him to admit, it cannot be proven. Poirot states that though his chances of getting a conviction are slim, he does not intend to simply leave her to her rich, privileged life. Privately, however, she confides the full measure of her defeat. Caroline, having earned redemption, went uncomplainingly to prison, where she died soon after. Elsa has always felt that the husband and wife somehow escaped her, and her life has been empty since.

The last paragraph of the novel underlines this defeat. 'The chauffeur held open the door of the car. Lady Dittisham got in and the chauffeur wrapped the fur rug around her knees.'

Sad Cypress

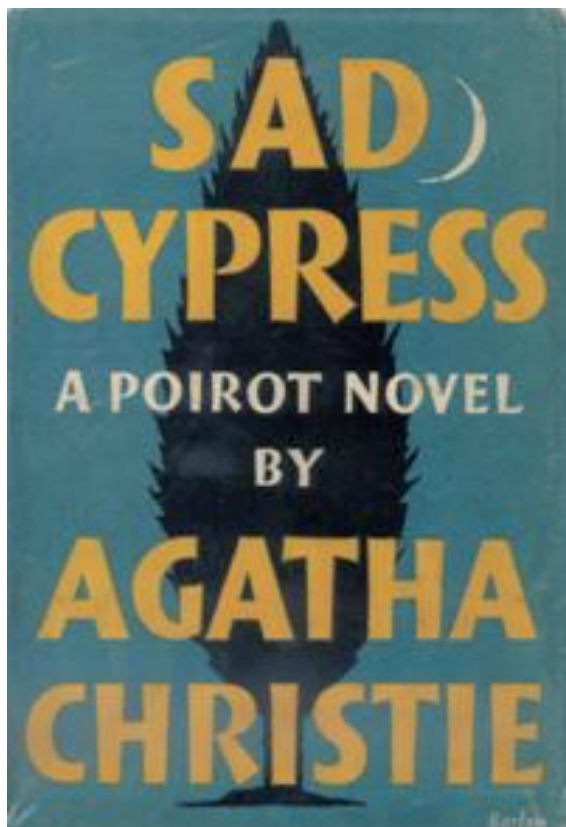
Season 9

Episode Number: 56

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Friday December 26, 2003
Writer: Agatha Christie, David Pirie
Director: David Moore
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Elisabeth Dermot-Walsh (Elinor Carlisle), Marion O'Dwyer (Nurse O'Brien), Rupert Penry-Jones (Roddy Winter), Paul McGann (Dr Peter Lord), Kelly Reilly (Mary Gerrard), Phyllis Logan (Nurse Hopkins), Diana Quick (Mrs Welman), Stuart Laing (Ted Horlick), Linda Spurrier (Mrs Bishop), Alistair Findlay (Prosecuting Counsel), Louise Callaghan (Hunterbury Maid), Geoffrey Beevers (Seddon), Ian Taylor (Turner), Jack Galloway (Marsden), Timothy Carlton (Judge)

Summary: Young Elinor Carlisle, engaged to marry the dashing Roddy Winter, finds herself charged with the fatal poisoning of Mary Gerrard, her rival in love. Poirot has the job of saving Elinor's skin, but unfortunately, the evidence against her is overwhelming. If Elinor has been framed, someone has been fiendishly clever.



The novel is written in three parts: in the first place an account, largely from the perspective of the subsequent defendant, Elinor Carlisle, of the death of her aunt, Laura Welman, and the subsequent death of the victim, Mary Gerrard; secondly an account of Poirot's investigation; and, thirdly, a sequence in court, again mainly from Elinor's dazed perspective.

In the first part, distant cousins Elinor Carlisle and Roddy Welman are happily engaged to be married when they receive an anonymous letter claiming that someone is "sucking up" to their wealthy aunt, Laura Welman, from whom Elinor and Roddy expect to inherit a sizeable fortune. Elinor immediately suspects Mary Gerrard, the lodgekeeper's daughter, to whom their aunt has taken a considerable liking. They go down to visit their aunt: partly to see her and partly to protect their interests.

Mrs. Welman is helpless after a stroke and speaks of a desire to die, most notably to Peter Lord, her physician. After a second stroke, she asks Elinor to ask the family solicitor to prepare a will under which it is clear that Mary is to be a beneficiary. Roddy has fallen in love with Mary, provoking Elinor's jealousy. Mrs. Welman dies intestate during the night and her estate goes to Elinor outright

as her only surviving blood relative.

Subsequently, Elinor releases Roddy from the engagement and makes moves to settle money on him (which he refuses) and two thousand pounds on Mary (which Mary accepts). At an impromptu tea party thrown by Elinor for Mary and Nurse Hopkins, Mary dies of poison that had

supposedly been put into a fish-paste sandwich. Elinor (who has been behaving suspiciously) is put on trial. Worse, when the body of her aunt is exhumed it is discovered that both women died of morphine poisoning. Elinor had easy access to morphine from a bottle that apparently went missing from Nurse Hopkins's bag.

In the second part of the novel, Poirot is persuaded to investigate the case by Peter Lord, who is in love with Elinor and wants her to be acquitted at all costs. Poirot's investigation focuses on a small number of elements. Was the poison in the sandwiches, which everyone ate, or something else, such as the tea that was prepared by Nurse Hopkins and drunk by only Mary and herself? What is the secret of Mary Gerrard's birth, which everyone seems so keen to conceal? Is there any significance in the scratch of a thorn on Nurse Hopkins's wrist? Is Peter Lord right to draw Poirot's attention to evidence that someone watching through the window might have poisoned the sandwich, thinking that it would be eaten by Elinor? In the third part of the novel, the case appears to go badly for Elinor, until her Defence unveils three theories that might exonerate her. The first (that Mary committed suicide) is difficult for anyone to really believe, and the second (Peter Lord's theory of the killer outside the window) is unconvincing. But the third theory is Poirot's.

A torn pharmaceutical label that the Prosecution supposed to have held morphine hydrochloride, the poison, had in fact held apomorphine hydrochloride, an emetic. This was revealed because on an ampoule, the M in Morphine would be capital; Poirot finds a lowercase M - thus it isn't morphine. The capitalized prefix "Apo" had been carefully torn off. Nurse Hopkins had injected herself with this emetic, apomorphine, in order to vomit the poison that she had ingested in the tea, which explains her quick departure from the table as soon as the tea was consumed that fateful day. Her claim to have scratched herself on a thorn is disproved when it is revealed that the rose tree in question was a thornless variety: Zephyrine Drouhin.

If the means were simple, the motive is complex. Mary Gerrard is not the daughter of Eliza and Bob Gerrard. Instead — as Poirot has discovered from Nurse Hopkins in the course of the investigation — she is the illegitimate daughter of Laura Welman and Sir Lewis Rycroft, which made her the heiress to Mrs. Welman's estate since she was actually a closer relative than Elinor. When Nurse Hopkins encouraged Mary to write a will, Mary was prompted to name as beneficiary the woman that she supposed to be her aunt, Mary Riley (Eliza Gerrard's sister), in New Zealand. Mary Riley's married name is Mary Draper. Mary Draper is none other than Nurse Hopkins as two witnesses of the defence (Amelia Mary Sedley and Edward John Marshall, both from New Zealand), confirm in court.

Poirot ends the novel by rebuking Peter Lord for his clumsy efforts to implicate the hypothetical killer outside the window. He has planted evidence and led Poirot to it in a desperate bid to free Elinor. Lord's momentary embarrassment is presumably alleviated by Poirot's assurance that it is to him, and not to her former love Roddy, that Elinor is now likely to become married.

Death on the Nile

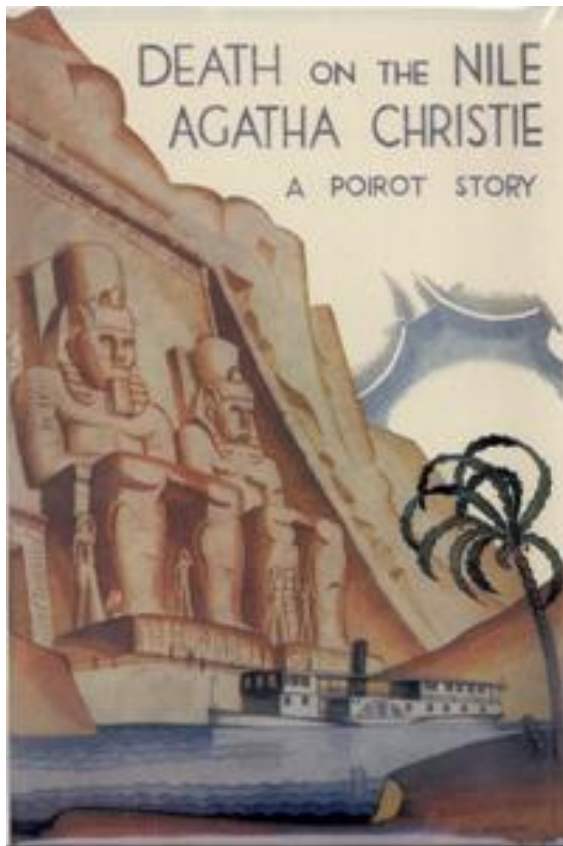
Season 9

Episode Number: 57

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Monday April 12, 2004
Writer: Agatha Christie, Kevin Elyot
Director: Andy Wilson
Show Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Arthur Hastings), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Emma Griffiths (Malin Jacqueline de Bellefort James Fox (Colonel Race), JJ Feild (Simon Doyle), Emily Blunt (Linnet Doyle), Judy Parfitt (Miss Van Schuyler), Daisy Donovan (Cornelia Robson), Steve Pemberton (Dr Bessner), Alastair MacKenzie (Ferguson), Barbara Flynn (Mrs Allerton), Daniel Lapaine (Tim Allerton), Frances De La Tour (Salome Otterbourne), Zoe Telford Rosalie (Otterbourne), David Soul (Andrew Pennington), George Yiasoumi (Cruise Manager), Elodie Kendall (Joanna Southwood)

Summary: On board a steamer cruising the Nile in Egypt, Simon and Linnet Doyle are on their honeymoon, but they are being stalked by Jacqueline de Bellefort. She was engaged to Simon, when she introduced her old school friend Linnet to him - and Jacqueline is bitter about being cast off. Poirot is also on board the steamer, but nevertheless the cruise turns into a series of killings for him to solve.



While dining out in London one evening, Hercule Poirot notices a young woman, Jacqueline de Bellefort, dining and dancing with her fiancé, Simon Doyle. Poirot also notices that Jackie (a nickname given to her and used by intimates; short for Jacqueline) is very much smitten and is in love with Simon. The next day, Jacqueline takes Simon to meet her best friend, wealthy young heiress Linnet Ridgeway, in the hopes that Linnet will offer Simon a job. Three months later, Simon has broken off his engagement to Jacqueline and married Linnet.

Poirot happens to encounter the couple on their honeymoon to Egypt, where he himself is on holiday. At their shared hotel in Cairo, Poirot sees an apparent chance meeting between the Doyles and Jacqueline. Afterwards, Linnet approaches Poirot and confides that Jacqueline has been stalking them since they were married, which is antagonizing both of them. Poirot says the Doyles have no legal recourse, but tries to reason with Jacqueline in private, urging her to let go of her attachment to Simon and not "open [her] heart to evil." Jacqueline refuses to listen, confiding that she has been dreaming of killing Linnet.

Attempting to give Jacqueline the slip, the Doyles plan an extended stay in Cairo, while secretly booking passage on the same Nile river cruise

as Poirot. To their rage, Jacqueline learns their plans and appears on board with them.

While taking a tour of some ancient ruins, a boulder falls from a cliff, narrowly missing Linnet and Simon. They suspect Jacqueline at first, but find out she was on the boat the whole time and could not have done it.

Poirot meets his friend Colonel Race, who is joining everyone on the boat for the return trip. Race tells Poirot that one of the passengers is a deadly criminal who has murdered several other people, only Race has not yet identified him.

That night on the boat, Jacqueline gets into a drunken rage, takes out a pistol, and shoots Simon in the leg, then breaks down in a hysterical state of remorse. At Simon's insistence, the two other persons present, Cornelia and Mr. Fanthorp, help Jacqueline back to her cabin, and then fetch Dr. Bessner to see to Simon's wound. Nurse Bowers stays in Jacqueline's room all night. Later, Fanthorp tells Bessner the gun is missing.

The next day, Linnet is found dead with a bullet in her head. Race takes charge of the situation and asks Poirot to handle the investigation. Several clues seem to incriminate Jacqueline — a "J" written in blood on the wall above Linnet's head, for instance — but Miss Bowers assures Poirot that Jacqueline never left her cabin that night. Dr. Bessner also assures Poirot that Simon's leg wound completely incapacitated him, and so he could not have moved from his bed, even if he wanted to.

Race and Poirot theorize that Linnet had some other enemy among the passengers, who took advantage of the scene in the lounge to murder her and implicate Jacqueline. Poirot also notices that Linnet's pearl necklace is missing from her room.

Poirot then interviews all the passengers. Several of them heard a splash shortly after midnight, and Miss Van Schuyler claims that she looked out her window and saw Rosalie Otterbourne throw something overboard. But Rosalie denies this. A short time later, the murder weapon is recovered from the Nile — Jacqueline's pistol, wrapped in Miss Van Schuyler's missing velvet stole. To Poirot this makes no sense, when someone wanting to incriminate Jacqueline would have left her pistol behind to incriminate her.

Louise Bourget is interviewed in Dr. Bessner's cabin, while Bessner is ministering to Simon. She says she saw nothing on the night of the murder, but would have done "if" she had left her cabin. This choice of words sounds strange to Poirot.

When Race announces that the cabins will be searched for the missing pearls, Miss Bowers returns them, confiding that Miss Van Schuyler took them from Linnet's cabin, being a secret kleptomaniac. But Poirot examines the string and finds it is a fake, meaning the real necklace was stolen sometime earlier.

Poirot eventually realizes that Salome Otterbourne is a secret alcoholic, and what Rosalie was throwing overboard was her mother's hidden cache of spirits. Rosalie admits this, but firmly denies seeing anyone leaving Linnet's cabin on the night of the murder.

When Louise Bourget is found murdered in her cabin, clutching a large-denomination banknote, Race and Poirot deduce that she had seen the real murderer leave Linnet's cabin, and was trying to blackmail him or her.

Poirot and Race enter Dr. Bessner's cabin and tell the doctor and Simon what happened. Salome Otterbourne enters and says she knows who killed Linnet and Louise, because she saw that person enter and leave Louise's cabin. Simon yells at her to tell him. Before she can finish her story, a shot is fired from the deck outside, killing her. Before Poirot and Race can get outside, the shooter is gone, having dropped a gun that Poirot recognizes from Andrew Pennington's luggage.

Poirot announces that he has solved the case; for him the most salient clues were:

the fact that Poirot only drinks wine with dinner, while his two usual dinner companions, the Allertons, drink something else;

- two bottles of nail polish in Linnet's room, one labelled "Cardinal" (a deep, dark red) and the other "Rose" (pale pink), but both of which contain red coloring;
- the fact that Jacqueline's gun was thrown overboard; and
- the circumstances of Louise and Mrs. Otterbourne's deaths.

Before explaining his solution to the crime, Poirot decides to clear away some of the lesser mysteries first, by interviewing several of the passengers in turn:

- Andrew Pennington admits that he has speculated, illegally, with Linnet's holdings; he was hoping to replace the funds before she came of age, but upon her marriage she gained full control of her estate; on learning of her marriage, Pennington rushed to Egypt to stage a "chance" encounter with Linnet and dupe her into signing legal documents that would exculpate him; he abandoned the plan when he found that Linnet was a shrewd woman who read anything she was asked to sign in detail; in desperation, he tried to kill her by dropping the boulder on her, but that is as far as he went, and he swears that he did not murder her;
- Fanthorp is revealed to be a young attorney with Linnet's British solicitors, who sent him to Egypt to spy on Pennington, suspicious of his intentions;
- Tim is exposed as a society jewel thief, working in partnership with his cousin, a down-on-her-luck socialite. Tim stole the pearls from Linnet's cabin that night and substituted the fake string for them, but, likewise, swears he didn't kill her; he does not know if Linnet was already dead when he entered her cabin; Rosalie admits that she saw Tim enter and leave Linnet's cabin, but she has come to love Tim, and was trying to protect him; Poirot clears Tim of the murder and agrees not to report his thievery to the police; Tim promises to reform and happily asks Rosalie to marry him, to the delight of his mother.
- Signor Richetti is exposed as the foreign agent and criminal Race is after, after Race hears of a telegram Richetti received, using a code that Race recognizes;

Poirot finally explains the real mystery to Race, Miss Robson, and Dr. Bessner. Their first idea, that the murder was conceived on the spur of the moment after the scene in the lounge, was mistaken; in fact, the murder was planned months in advance — by Jacqueline and Simon.

Jacqueline used Cornelia Robson as a witness and pretended to shoot Simon in the leg. Simon faked being wounded with red ink, hidden in Linnet's nail polish bottle. While Cornelia Robson left to get Jacqueline back to her cabin and Jim Fanthorp called Dr. Bessner, Simon picked up the gun, ran to Linnet's cabin, shot her, and then came back to the lounge and shot himself in the leg, throwing the gun overboard before anyone came back. Dr. Bessner then examined him and confirmed that his wound left him unable to have left the lounge.

Before the murder, Jacqueline or Simon drugged Poirot's usual bottle of wine, ensuring that he would sleep through the night so he will not participate in the event.

All is not well, for Louise Bourget, the maid, saw Simon enter and leave Linnet's cabin. She blackmailed Simon and demanded money for hushing her up. But Simon told Jacqueline about it privately. Jacqueline entered Louise's cabin and stabbed her. However, Mrs. Otterbourne saw Jacqueline entering the maid's door. She came to Simon and Poirot to tell what she saw, but Simon yelled at Mrs. Otterbourne in a voice loud enough for Jacqueline to hear it — who acted quickly and shot Mrs. Otterbourne.

Confronted, Simon and Jacqueline confess to the plot. Jacqueline says that she and Simon have always been in love, and Simon never cared for Linnet, even when she tried to steal him away from Jacqueline. Jacqueline tells Poirot that the idea of murdering Linnet for her money was Simon's, but she planned it, knowing Simon was not smart enough to pull it off by himself.

As the passengers are disembarking, Jacqueline reveals a second pistol, which she hid in Rosalie Otterbourne's cabin, and kills both Simon and herself, sparing them both from more gruesome and humiliating deaths. Poirot confesses that he knew about the second pistol, and wanted to give Jacqueline the chance to take a more humane way out.

In addition to Tim and Rosalie, there is another unexpected love match: Cornelia Robson accepts Dr. Bessner's proposal, to the stupefaction of Mr. Ferguson, who had been courting her, in his own uncouth way, during the whole trip.

The Hollow

Season 9

Episode Number: 58

Season Episode: 4

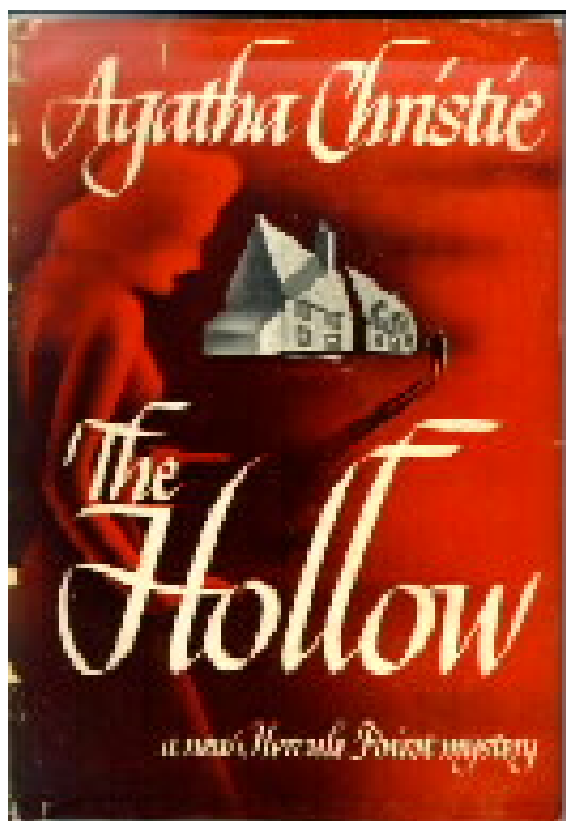
Originally aired: Monday April 26, 2004
Writer: Agatha Christie, Nick Dear
Director: Simon Langton
Show Stars: David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Angela Curran (Frances Simms), Teresa Churcher (Elsie Patterson), Jonathan Cake (John Christow), Megan Dodds (Henrietta Savernake), Edward Fox (Gudgeon), Claire Price (Gerda Christow), Lysette Anthony (Veronica Cray), Lucy Briers (Beryl Collins), Harriet Cobbold (Simmons), Edward Hardwicke (Sir Henry Angkatell), Paula Jacobs (Mrs Pearstock), Tom Georgeson (Inspector Grange), Jamie De Courcey (Edward Angkatell), Sarah Miles (Lady Angkatell), Caroline Martin (Midge Hardcastle)

Summary: Poirot is spending a week-end with the Angkatells, at their country house called The Hollow. The good-looking Dr John Christow is also there, with his plain wife, but he is flirting (or perhaps more) with Henrietta Savernake, a young artist. Meanwhile, Lady Angkatell is matchmaking between Henrietta and Edward Angkatell, to the distress of Midge, who loves Edward. Then a game of murder turns into the real thing, when Christow is shot dead by the swimming pool. Gerda Christow is found holding the gun, but was she set up? Sir Henry Angkatell asks Poirot (how could he do anything else?) to find the killer, and it soon appears that several of the house party had motives for killing Christow, including Henrietta and Lady Angkatell. . . then the ballistic evidence comes in, and there is a big surprise. Poirot will surely outwit the murderer. Or will he?

The charming and eccentric Lucy Angkatell has invited the Christows, along with a number of other members of the extended family. John is already having an affair with Henrietta Savernake, a talented sculptor and, as is demonstrated by what follows, brilliant improviser. He has always remembered with nostalgia an early love, Veronica Cray, who suddenly appears in the house on Saturday night asking to borrow a box of matches. She is living at one of the two nearby cottages, the other of which is currently occupied by Hercule Poirot, who has been invited for lunch on Sunday. Veronica and John go off together, and he returns much too late: at 3 am.

The next day, Poirot arrives at the house to witness a scene that seems strangely staged. Gerda is standing with a gun in her hand above the body of John, who is bleeding into the swimming pool. Standing, seemingly transfixed, are Lucy, Henrietta, and Edward. John's last word, in a note of urgent appeal, is "Henrietta".

It seems cut and dried that Gerda is the murderess, but in taking the revolver from her hand Henrietta apparently fumbles and drops it into the swimming pool, destroying any evidence. Later, however, it is discovered that the pistol that Gerda had been holding was not the pistol with which John had been shot. None of the witnesses has actually seen Gerda shoot John, and it seems difficult to build a case against any of the other potential suspects. At first Lucy herself seems to be a strong suspect, when it is discovered that she had kept a pistol concealed in her basket of eggs, but the pistol seems to be of the wrong calibre. Henrietta is also implicated, not least by the leaving of an unusual doodle in the pavilion, apparently at the time that John had been killed. When the murder weapon turns up in Poirot's hedge, it has fingerprints on it that match none of the suspects.



These are all pieces of deliberate misdirection on the part of the family. They know in fact that Gerda is indeed the murderess, and are attempting to avoid her imprisonment. As it happens, the murder, with a motive of jealousy, was planned, in that she had taken with her two pistols, planning to be discovered with a pistol in her hands that would later be discovered to be the wrong weapon. Henrietta, who says that John asked her to help Gerda when he said her name, destroys the evidence of the first weapon instinctively, and later goes back and retrieves the second weapon. She hides it in a clay sculpture of a horse in her workshop, then gets it handled by a blind match-seller, and places it in Poirot's hedge.

There is a romantic subplot in the novel. Midge is in love with Edward, but Edward has always been in love with Henrietta and Henrietta had refused several times his marriage proposals. Besides, she is now deeply in love with John Christow. During the course of the novel, Edward realises that Henrietta is not anymore the Henrietta he used to love and begins to stop seeing Midge as "little Midge". Therefore, he asks her to marry him. During a walk to an area where Edward has walked with Henrietta, Midge believes that he is too deeply

in love with Henrietta still, and she calls off the wedding. Edward who does not know that she loves him, misunderstands her decision and later that night, he attempts suicide by putting his head in a gas oven but he is saved by Midge. With this rather dramatic proof of his need for her, she relents and the wedding is on again.

With all the evidence apparently destroyed, the family believe that they have saved Gerda, but there is one final clue: the holster in which the murder weapon was kept. Gerda has cut this up and placed it in her workbag. When Henrietta attempts to retrieve it in order to destroy the final means of proving Gerda's guilt, Poirot arrives and prevents her from drinking tea that Gerda has poisoned. Gerda herself accidentally drinks the poisoned tea and escapes justice by this means.

Henrietta who, along with Lucy, has emerged as an attractive and well-characterised heroine throughout the book, ends it by visiting in hospital one of John's patients who now has little hope of a cure but still shows a resilient spirit. Leaving the hospital, she reflects that there is no happy end for her, but she resolves to embark on a sculpture of herself as Grief.

Season Ten

The Mystery of the Blue Train

Season 10
Episode Number: 59
Season Episode: 1

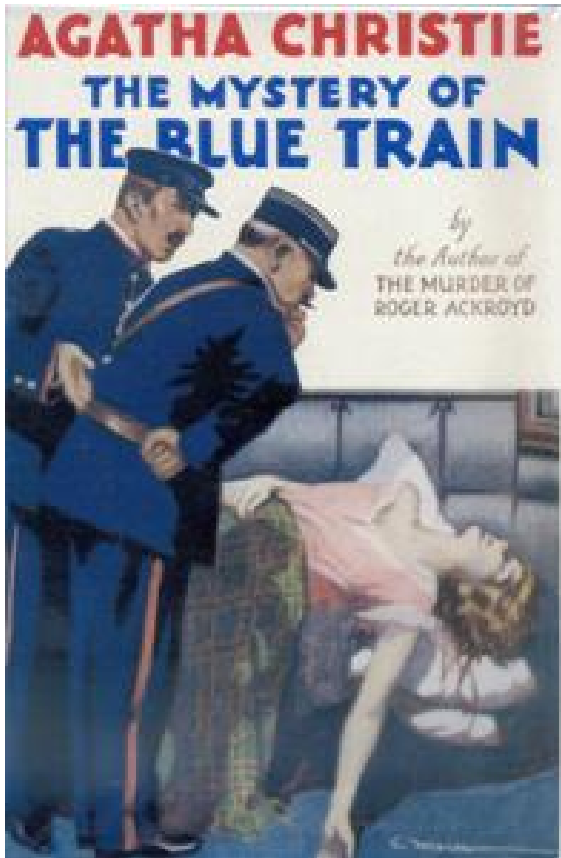
Originally aired: Sunday January 1, 2006
Writer: Agatha Christie, Guy Andrews
Director: Hettie Macdonald
Show Stars: David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Helen Lindsay (Sister Rosalia), Etela Pardo (Dolores), Lindsay Duncan (Lady Tamplin), Oliver Milburn (La Roche), Jaime Murray (Ruth Kettering), Elliott Gould (Rufus van Aldin), Tom Harper (Corky), Roger Lloyd-Pack (Inspector Caux), Jane How (Lady at Ball), Nicholas Farrell (Major Richard Knighton), Bronagh Gallagher (Ada Mason), Georgina Rylance (Katherine Grey), Josette Simon (Mirelle Milesi), James D'Arcy (Derek Kettering), Samuel James (Steward)

Summary: Poirot meets the beautiful Katherine Grey in a London restaurant and agrees to keep her company on a journey on the Blue Train to the south of France. Katherine has recently inherited a lot of money and has been invited to visit some relations there, but she feels socially intimidated. Also on the train is Ruth Kettering, the daughter of the American oil tycoon Rufus van Aldin, not to mention the husband Ruth has just left (Derek Kettering) and also her lover - but Ruth gets brutally killed on the train, and her famous ruby is stolen. Later, Katherine Grey survives a murderous attack. Luckily, Poirot is on hand to solve the mysteries.

Poirot boards Le Train Bleu, bound for the French Riviera. So does Katherine Grey, who is having her first winter out of England, after having inherited a huge sum. While on board she meets Ruth Kettering, an American heiress bailing out from a marriage to meet her lover. The next morning, though, Ruth is found dead in her compartment, a victim of strangulation. The famous ruby, "Heart of Fire", which had recently been given to Ruth by her father, is discovered to be missing. Ruth's father, the American millionaire Rufus Van Aldin, and his secretary, Major Knighton, convince Poirot to take on the case. Ruth's maid, Ada Mason, says she saw a man in Ruth's compartment but could not see who he was. The police suspect that Ruth's lover, the Comte de la Roche, killed her and stole the diamonds, but Poirot does not think he is guilty. He is suspicious of Ruth's husband, Derek Kettering, who was on the same train but claims not to have seen Ruth. Katherine says she saw Derek enter Ruth's compartment. This also throws suspicion on Derek when a cigarette case with the letter K on it is found.

Poirot investigates and finds out that the murder and the jewel theft might not be connected, as the famous jewel thief The Marquis is connected to the crime. Eventually, the dancer Mirelle, who was on the train with Derek, tells Poirot she saw Derek leave Ruth's compartment around the time the murder would have taken place. Derek is then arrested. Everyone is convinced the case is solved, but Poirot is not sure. He does more investigating and learns more information, talking to his friends and to Katherine, eventually coming to the truth. He asks Van Aldin and Knighton to come with him on the Blue Train to recreate the murder. He tells them that Ada Mason is really Kitty Kidd, a renowned male impersonator and actress. Katherine saw what she thought was a boy getting off the train, but it was really Mason. Poirot realized that Mason was the only person who saw anyone with Ruth in the compartment, so this could have been a lie. He reveals that the murderer and Mason's accomplice is Knighton, who is really The Marquis. He also says that the cigarette case with the K on it does not stand for Kettering, but Knighton. Since Knighton was supposedly in Paris, no one would have suspected him. Derek did go into

the compartment to talk to Ruth once he saw she was on the train, but he left when he saw she was asleep. The police then arrest Knighton, and Van Aldin thanks Poirot for solving the case.



Cards on the Table

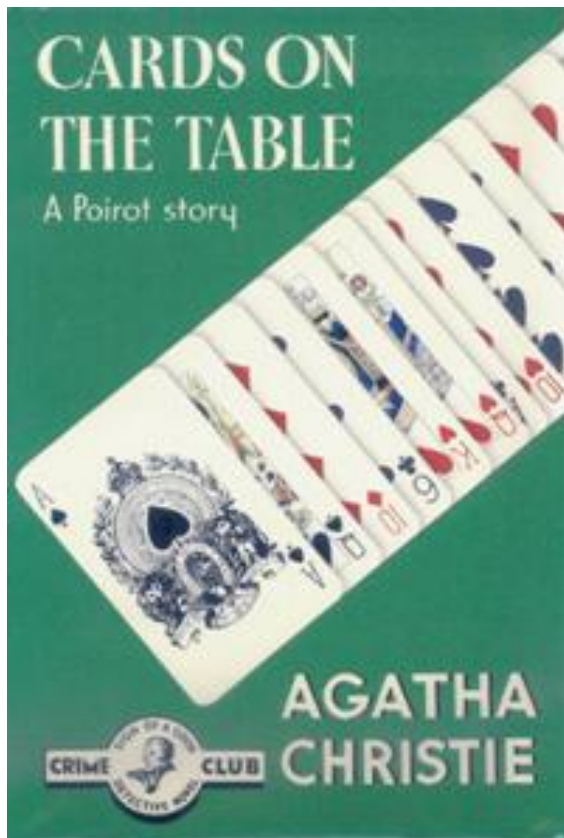
Season 10

Episode Number: 60

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Sunday March 19, 2006
Writer: Agatha Christie, Nick Dear
Director: Sarah Harding
Show Stars: David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Recurring Role: Zoë Wanamaker (Ariadne Oliver)
Guest Stars: Honeysuckle Weeks (Rhoda Dawes), Tristan Gemmill (Despard), Lesley Manville (Mrs Lorrimer), Robert Pugh (Colonel Hughes), Lucy Lie-mann (Miss Burgess), Jenny Ogilvie (Millie), Douglas Reith (Serge Maurice), David Westhead (Superintendent Wheeler), James Alper (Shaitana's Butler), Philip Wright (Sergeant O'Connor), Lyndsey Marshal (Anne Meredith), Alex Jennings (Dr Roberts), Philip Bowen (Luxmore), Alexander Siddig (Shaitana), Cordelia Bugeja (Mrs Luxmore)

Summary: The tycoon Shaitana, one of the richest men in England, invites Poirot to dinner and an evening of bridge, promising that his fellow-guests will include four killers who have escaped justice. Poirot accepts, and finds three others there who have an interest in detection - Superintendent Wheeler, Colonel Hughes of Military Intelligence and the crime writer Ariadne Oliver. But things take a deadly turn when Shaitana is stabbed to death.



At an exhibition of snuff boxes, Hercule Poirot meets Mr. Shaitana, a mysterious foreign man who is consistently described as devil-like in appearance and manner. Shaitana jokes about Poirot's visit to the snuff box exhibition, and claims that he has a better "collection" that Poirot would enjoy: individuals who have got away with murder. He arranges a dinner party to show off this collection; Poirot is apprehensive.

Upon arrival at Shaitana's house on the appointed day, Poirot is joined by three other guests: mystery novelist Ariadne Oliver, Scotland Yard's Superintendent Battle, and Colonel Race of His Majesty's Secret Service. Soon, the other four guests join them: Dr. Roberts, a hearty, florid man; Mrs. Lorrimer, a perfectly poised gentlewoman of late middle age; Major John Despard, a dashing Army man and world traveller, recently returned from Africa; and Anne Meredith, a shy, quiet, very pretty young woman. Having brought them all to dinner, Shaitana skilfully manipulates the topic of conversation to possible motives for murder.

Shaitana invites his eight guests to play bridge in the adjoining rooms; he, as the odd man out, does not play. Roberts, Meredith, Lorrimer, and Despard play in the first room, while Poirot, Oliver, Race, and Battle play in the next; Shaitana settles

himself in a chair in the first room and thinks of how wonderfully his party is going. Hours later, Poirot and the others prepare to leave, and go to thank Shaitana. Shaitana has been murdered, stabbed in the chest with a jeweled stiletto.

Once the preliminary police work has been done, Poirot reveals Shaitana's strange mention of a "collection" to the other three with whom he played bridge. They quickly realize that they are four "sleuths" meant to be pitted against the four in the next room whom Shaitana suspected of murder. The four agree to work together to solve the crime, and interview the four suspects. Poirot takes interest in the way each member plays bridge, which he discerns through asking each suspect to grade the play of the others. As there seems to be no conventional way to prove which of them has committed Shaitana's murder, Poirot suggests that the group of sleuths delve into the past and uncover the murders that the dead man thought he knew about.

Battle is put on the trail of the death of a Mrs. Craddock, whom Dr. Roberts once attended. Her husband died of anthrax poisoning from an infected shaving brush (and readers at the time of the novel's publication in the 1930s might well have remembered anthrax deaths from infected shaving brushes during and in the years after World War I); Mrs. Craddock herself had died not long afterward, of a tropical infection, in Egypt. Race seeks out information on Despard, and discovers a case in which a botanist named Luxmore and his wife travelled with him to South America; Luxmore officially died of a fever, but it is rumoured that he was shot. Mrs. Oliver visits Anne Meredith and her housemate, Rhoda Dawes. Rhoda later visits Oliver and explains Anne's bad manners: Anne, after her father's death and before old friend Rhoda came to her rescue, worked as a live-in companion; one employer, a Mrs. Benson, had taken hat paint — poison — from a medicine bottle and died. Fellow suspect Despard takes an interest in Anne's welfare, recommending that she retain an attorney.

In the meantime, the four sleuths gather and compare notes. Meanwhile, Poirot sets a trap for Anne Meredith. When she pays him a call at his request, he shows her to a table on which many packets of the finest silk stockings are piled up, apparently carelessly. After Anne makes her gift suggestions and leaves, Poirot discovers that two pairs of the stockings are missing, confirming his suspicion that Anne is a thief, and seemingly giving weight to his suspicion that she stole from Mrs. Benson and killed her when she feared she had been discovered.

At this point, Mrs. Lorrimer contacts Poirot with surprising news. She confesses to Shaitana's murder, and explains that she took the stiletto impulsively after he mentioned poison as a woman's weapon. Shaitana was right about her, she says; twenty years earlier, she had, she confesses, killed her husband. Poirot objects that Lorrimer's explanation of Shaitana's killing does not match her unflappable personality. Lorrimer thus believes that Meredith is Shaitana's killer, and decided to lie to save the younger woman. She begs Poirot to let her take the blame for the crime: she will die soon anyway, and Anne will be free to live her young life.

Poirot is confused by this confession, and fears that there may be more trouble to come. His guess proves correct when Mrs. Lorrimer is found dead the next morning, having apparently committed suicide. Roberts arrived before she was quite dead and attended to her, but she could not be saved. Poirot and Battle race to Anne Meredith's cottage, fearing that she might strike again. Despard, who has been visiting Anne and Rhoda, both of whom fancy him, is a few steps ahead of Poirot and Battle. At Anne's suggestion, Anne and Rhoda are on a boat in a nearby river. Poirot and Battle see Anne suddenly push her friend into the water. Alas for Anne, when she knocks Rhoda into the water, she also falls in herself. Despard rescues Rhoda; Anne drowns.

Poirot gathers Oliver, Battle, Despard, Rhoda, and Roberts at his home, where he makes a surprising announcement: the true murderer of both Shaitana and Mrs. Lorrimer is not Anne, but Dr. Roberts. Poirot brings in a window cleaner who happened to be working outside Mrs. Lorrimer's flat earlier that morning. He testifies that he saw Roberts inject Lorrimer with a syringe; a syringe, Poirot reveals, full of a lethal anaesthetic. Battle chimes in that they can bolster any prosecution with the true story of the deaths of the Craddocks, who died of infections, true, but infections deliberately inflicted on each of them by Roberts. Roberts confesses.

Poirot points out that in the third rubber of bridge on the night of Shaitana's murder, a grand slam occurred. This intense play would keep the others focused on the game — Roberts was dummy at that point — while Roberts used the opportunity to stab Shaitana. It is also revealed that the "window cleaner" was actually an actor in Poirot's employ, though Poirot brags that he did "witness" Roberts kill Mrs. Lorrimer in his mind's eye. Despard suggests that one of the gathered party murder Poirot, and then watch his ghost come back to solve the crime.

After the Funeral

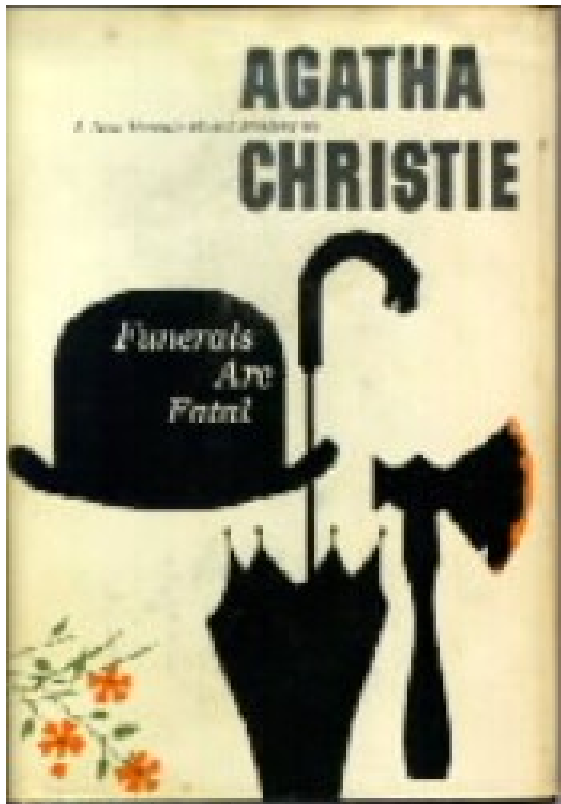
Season 10

Episode Number: 61

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Sunday March 26, 2006
Writer: Philomena McDonagh, Agatha Christie
Director: Maurice Phillips
Show Stars: David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Philip Anthony (II) (Vicar), William Russell (Lanscombe), Benjamin Whitrow (Timothy Abernethie), Michael Fassbender (George Abernethie), Dominic Jephcott (Dr Larraby), Kevin Doyle (Inspector Morton), Anthony Valentine (Giovanni Gallaccio), Geraldine James (Helen Abernethie), Anna Calder-Marshall (Maude Abernethie), Vicky OGDEN (Janet), John Carson (Richard Abernethie), Annabel Scholey (Miss Sorrell), Julian Ovenden (Michael Shane), Lucy Punch (Susannah Henderson), Monica Dolan (Cora Gallaccio / Miss Gilchrist)

Summary: Richard Abernethie dies suddenly. When his family gathers for the reading of the will, his sister Cora Gallaccio claims Abernethie was murdered, but the rest of the family won't believe it. The next day Cora is herself killed with an axe, and the family solicitor sends for Poirot.



After the funeral of the wealthy Richard Abernethie, his remaining family assembles for the reading of the will. The death, though sudden, was not unexpected and natural causes have been given as the cause on his death certificate. Nevertheless, after the tactless Cora says, "It was hushed up very nicely ... but he was murdered, wasn't he?" the family lawyer, Mr. Entwistle, begins to investigate. Before long there is no question that a murderer is at large.

After returning home from her brother's funeral, Cora Lansquenet is murdered in her sleep by repeated blows with a hatchet. The motive for the murder does not appear to be theft, and the estate that she leaves to her relative, Susan Banks, is comparatively meager, since the Abernethie bequest is folded back into the estate of her brother, Richard. The suspected motive is therefore to suppress anything that Richard might have told Cora about his suspicions that he was being poisoned. These had been overheard by her companion, Miss Gilchrist.

Entwistle calls in Poirot, who employs an old friend, Mr. Goby, to investigate the family. Mr. Goby turns up a number of reasons within the family for members of it to be desperate for the money in

Richard Abernethie's estate. Poirot warns Entwistle that Miss Gilchrist may herself be a target for the murderer.

Cora has been a keen artist and collector of paintings from local sales. While Susan Banks, a suspect, is visiting to clear up Cora's things, she sees Cora's paintings and privately notes that

Cora has been copying postcards: one of her paintings, which Miss Gilchrist claims were painted from life, features a pier that was destroyed in the war; however the painting is dated quite recently. While she is visiting, an art critic called Alexander Guthrie arrives to look through Cora's recent purchases, but there is nothing of any value there. Immediately afterwards, Miss Gilchrist is nearly killed by arsenic poison in a slice of wedding cake that has been apparently sent to her through the post. The only reason that she is not killed is that, following a superstition, she has saved the greater part of the slice of cake under her pillow.

Poirot focuses on the Abernethie family, and a number of red herrings come to light. Rosamund Shane, one of the heiresses, is an inflexible and determined woman who seems to have something to hide (which turns out to be her husband's infidelity and her own pregnancy). Susan's husband, Gregory, is a dispensing chemist who had apparently been responsible for deliberately administering an overdose to an awkward customer. He even confesses to the murder of Richard Abernethie near the close of the novel, but is discovered to have a pathological compulsion to be punished for crimes of which he is innocent. Timothy Abernethie, an unpleasant invalid who seems to be feigning illness in order to gain attention, might have been able to commit the murder of Cora, as might his suspiciously strong-armed wife, Maude. Perhaps identifying the murderer may depend on finding a nun whom Miss Gilchrist claims to have noticed... But what can all this have to do with a bouquet of wax flowers to which Poirot pays attention?

After playing games in mirrors, Helen Abernethie telephones Entwhistle with the news that she has realized something about the murderer. Before she can say what it is she is savagely struck on the head.

Poirot's explanation in the denouement is a startling one. Cora had never come to the funeral at all; it was Miss Gilchrist, who disguised herself as Cora in order to plant the idea that Richard's death had been murder. Therefore when Cora herself was murdered, it would seem that the alleged murderer had struck again. Since no one had seen Cora for many years, and Miss Gilchrist had been able to copy many of her mannerisms, it was unlikely that the ruse would be spotted, except for the fact that she had rehearsed a characteristic turn of the head in a mirror, where the reflection is reversed. When she came to do it at the funeral, she turned her head to the wrong side. Helen had had the feeling that something was wrong when Cora had made her statement, but not realized at the time that it was this incorrectly reproduced gesture. Miss Gilchrist had further given herself away by referring to the wax flowers; these were present on the day of the reading of the will but had been put away by the time Miss Gilchrist (as herself) met the family. She had deliberately poisoned herself with the arsenic-laced wedding cake to avoid suspicion; ironically this only aroused Poirot's misgivings.

The 'murder' of Richard needed to be established so that Miss Gilchrist's own motive for killing Cora would be obfuscated when she killed her. Miss Gilchrist desperately wanted a painting that Cora had bought at a sale and which she had recognized as a Vermeer, but Cora had no idea just how valuable the artwork was. Miss Gilchrist loathed Cora and was plotting to sell the Vermeer in order to escape her dreary life and rebuild her beloved teashop, which she had lost during the war. Miss Gilchrist had subsequently hidden the Vermeer behind her own painting depicting the destroyed pier copied from the postcard in order to disguise the painting amongst others left to her in Cora's will.

At the end of the novel, Miss Gilchrist is understandably found to be completely insane. She was arrested and later put in a sanitarium.

Taken at the Flood

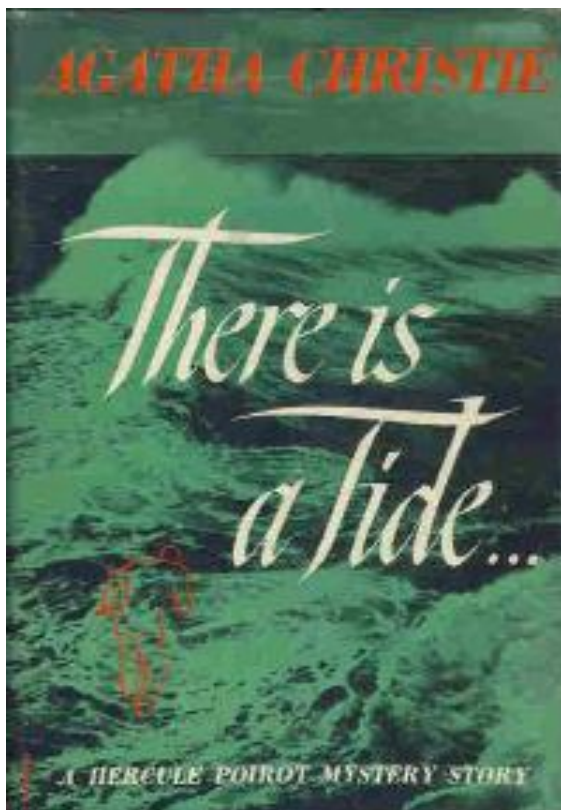
Season 10

Episode Number: 62

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Sunday April 2, 2006
Writer: Agatha Christie, Guy Andrews
Director: Andy Wilson (II)
Show Stars: David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Recurring Role: David Yelland (George)
Guest Stars: Patrick Baladi (Rowley Cloade), Jenny Agutter (Adela Marchmont), Richard Hope (Superintendent Harold Spence), Penny Downie (Frances Cloade), Eva Birthistle (Rosaleen Cloade), Elizabeth Spriggs (Mrs Leadbetter), Amanda Douge (Lynn Marchmont), Celia Imrie (Aunt Kathy Cloade), Pip Torrens (Jeremy Cloade), Tim Woodward (Enoch Arden), Richard Durden (Pebmarsh), Tim Pigott-Smith (Dr Lionel Cloade), Elliot Cowan (David Hunter), Nicholas Le Prevost (Major James Porter), Claire Hackett (Beatrice Lippincott)

Summary: Gordon Cloade marries a young widow, but within days he is killed by a gas explosion in his home, leaving no will, so that his fortune all goes to the new Mrs Cloade. But then Poirot has a visit from a member of the family who claims she has information from the spirit world that the rich Mrs Cloade's first husband is still alive, so that she is still Mrs Underhay. Poirot is asked to find the missing Underhay, with supernatural guidance. . .



In a flashback from late Spring to early Spring, Lynn Marchmont, newly demobilised from the Women's Royal Naval Service, finds difficulty settling into the village life of Warmsley Vale. She is engaged to Rowley, one of several members of the Cloade family living nearby. Each of them grew dependent on money from Gordon Cloade, a bachelor who was expected to die and leave his fortune to them. Before his death he married Rosaleen, invalidating his previous will. As a result, Rosaleen inherited Gordon's fortune and the entire family now faces financial crises, augmented by the poor state of the economy in the aftermath of World War II. Rosaleen's fortune is jealously guarded by her brother, David Hunter, and although various family members manage to wheedle small sums out of Rosaleen, David refuses to help Frances Cloade, whose husband Jeremy is on the brink of ruin.

A man calling himself Enoch Arden arrives in the village, and attempts to blackmail David by saying he knows how to find Rosaleen's first husband, Robert. Their conversation in Arden's hotel room is overheard by the landlady, who immediately tells Rowley Cloade. Later, Arden's body is discovered in his room with his head smashed in.

Rowley Cloade appeals to a detective, Hercule Poirot, to prove the dead man was Robert Underhay and, remembering Major Porter, the detective is delighted to produce the witness.[clarification needed] At the inquest, despite Rosaleen's protests that the dead man was not Robert, Porter confirms that Arden was indeed her first husband. The estate will revert to the Clodes.

Rosaleen has a strong alibi for the time of the murder since she was in the London flat that evening. David has only a weak alibi: down from London for the day, he met Lynn on his dash to catch the last train to London leaving at 9:20 pm, and evidently telephoned her from the London flat shortly after 11 pm. Since the murder is believed to have taken place shortly before 9 pm, he had enough opportunity and motive to be arrested.

David's alibi improves when it is discovered that a heavily made-up woman in an orange headscarf left Arden's room after 10 pm. The investigation shifts back to the female Clodes, but Poirot discovers that the immediate cause of Arden's death may have been smashing his head against a heavy marble mantelpiece. The appearance of a murder may have been created after some form of accidental death.

Lynn, though engaged to Rowley, seems to love David. Rowley may be attracted to Rosaleen, who seems to be consumed with guilt and fear. Major Porter apparently commits suicide but leaves no note. It comes to light that Arden was actually Charles Trenton, second cousin to Frances Cloade. She came up with the plan to blackmail Rosaleen after hearing Major Porter's anecdote from Jeremy. Although this explains Arden's identity, it does not clarify who killed him or who bribed Porter to falsely identify the corpse.

Rosaleen dies in her sleep from an overdose. Superintendent Spence, the investigating officer, suggests that perhaps she was the murderer; the police have so focused on David's alibi that they subjected hers to little scrutiny.

Lynn tells Rowley that she wishes to marry David Hunter. Rowley is strangling Lynn when Poirot stops him. David arrives and Poirot explains everything. Rowley visited Arden, and seeing the physical resemblance to Frances, reacted angrily to the deception that was being played. Pushed by Rowley, Arden fell against the mantelpiece, and Rowley saw the opportunity to incriminate David. He smashed in Arden's head with fire tongs and left David's lighter at the scene. It was Rowley who persuaded Porter to give the false identification, carefully employing Poirot, who would be sure to go to Porter on the basis of that first scene at the club, which Rowley also knew of from Jeremy. Porter's guilt got the better of him and he committed suicide, leaving a note that Rowley destroyed.

Discovering Arden's body, David ran for the 9:20 train but missed it; Lynn actually saw the smoke from the departing train on the evening, but he convinced her that it was earlier than it was and that he had time to meet her. He then backtracked to The Stag, disguised himself as a woman, and played out the scene that established the later time of death. Then he returned to the station and called Rosaleen, who placed a call to Lynn that was delivered by the operator but then cut off. Afterwards, David spoke to Lynn from the station, giving the impression that a single call from London was interrupted. He returned to London on the milk train the next day.

Rowley is implicated in two deaths: one accidental and one a genuine suicide. The only true murder was Rosaleen's. David had no apparent motive to kill his own sister, especially when it would mean depriving himself of the Cloade fortune. But the woman posing as Rosaleen was not his sister; his sister was killed during the bombing of Gordon's household two years before. The woman posing as Rosaleen was one of Gordon's housemaids, who became David's lover and his accomplice in obtaining the Cloade fortune. Now he could kill this accomplice and marry Lynn, whom he loved and who would gain a portion of the fortune through family connections.

In the end, no one is tried other than David. Poirot ensures that Rowley is not tried for his own crimes, but instead will marry Lynn, who has loved him without realising it.

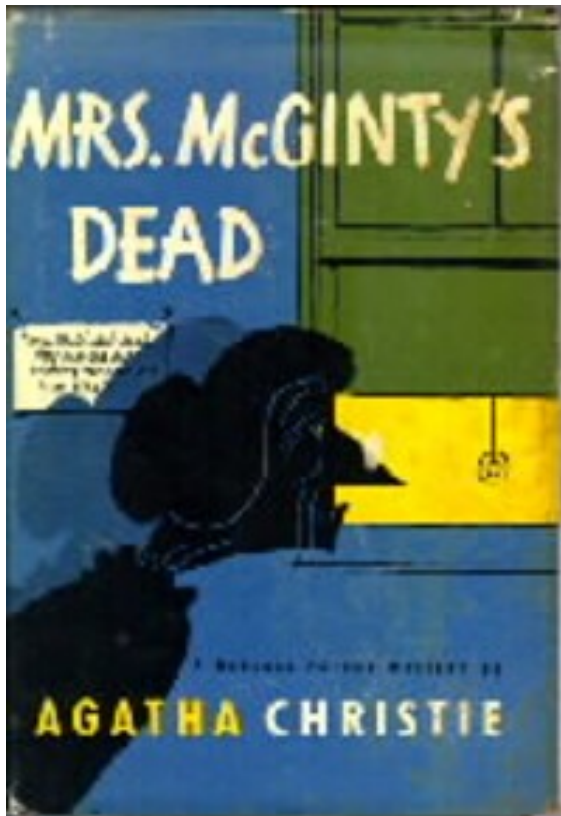
Season Eleven

Mrs McGinty's Dead

Season 11
Episode Number: 63
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Sunday September 14, 2008
Writer: Agatha Christie, Nick Dear
Director: Ashley Pearce
Show Stars: David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Recurring Role: David Yelland (George), Zoë Wanamaker (Ariadne Oliver)
Guest Stars: Billy Geraghty (Joe Burch), Catherine Russell (Pamela Horsefall), Joe Absolom (James Bentley), Emma Amos (Bessie Burch), Raquel Cassidy (Maureen Summerhayes), Richard Dillane (Major John Summerhayes), Ruth Gemmell (Mrs. Sweetiman), Richard Hope (Superintendent Harold Spence), Lexie Lambert (Eva Kane), Richard Lintern (Guy Carpenter), Siân Phillips (Mrs. Laura Upward), Paul Rhys (Robin Upward), Amanda Root (Shelagh Rendell), Simon Shepherd (Dr Rendell), Sarah Smart (Maude Williams)

Summary: James Bentley is arrested for the murder of old Mrs McGinty. It looks like an open and shut case, but Superintendent Spence is not convinced. He turns to Poirot for help, and together with Poirot's writer friend Ariadne Oliver they set out to find the real killer.



Superintendent Spence informs Belgian detective Hercule Poirot of the case of Mrs. McGinty, an elderly lady who was apparently killed by her lodger, James Bentley, for thirty pounds that she kept under a floorboard. Bentley is soon to be executed for the crime, but Spence does not think he is guilty. Poirot agrees to go to the town of Broadhinny and investigate the murder further. Poirot finds that Mrs. McGinty often worked as a cleaner at the houses of people in the village. No one wants to talk to Poirot, and most agree Bentley is the killer.

During a search among Mrs McGinty's possessions, Poirot finds a newspaper article which speculates about the current whereabouts of people connected with famous murder cases, that also includes photographs of them. On the basis of a bottle of ink he discovers that Mrs McGinty had purchased in a local shop just a few days before her death together with a photo she had torn out of a regional newspaper, Poirot concludes Mrs. McGinty must have recognized someone in one of the photos in someone's house and written to the paper in question. Someone must have found out about it and then killed her to keep their identity concealed. Poirot and Spence, using the ages of people in the town, conclude that someone is either Lily

Gamboll, who committed murder with a meat cleaver as a child, or Eva Kane, who had been the love interest who inspired a man to murder his wife and bury her in the cellar. Another possibility is that someone is Evelyn Hope, the daughter of Eva Kane.

Shortly after, Poirot discovers the murder weapon, a sugar hammer, left around in plain sight at his boarding house and accessible to all the suspects. In an attempt to flush out the murderer, Poirot claims to know more than he does, but he is almost pushed under a train. Poirot then decides to show most of the suspects the photos at a party. Mrs. Upward claims to have seen the photo of Lily Gamboll, but does not say where.

The following day, Poirot is contacted by a woman called Maude Williams, who had approached him a few days earlier, telling him that she had got to know James Bentley when they both worked together briefly for the same estate agents. She told Poirot that she liked Bentley and did not believe he was guilty or even capable of murdering Mrs McGinty. She now offers to help Poirot who takes up her offer by getting her to pose as a maid in the house of Mrs Wetherby, a resident in the village who Mrs McGinty used to clean for, and whose daughter, Deirdre, Poirot suspects may have some connection with the circumstances surrounding Mrs McGinty's murder.

During the maid's night off, Mrs. Upward's son Robin, a theatre director and Mrs. Ariadne Oliver, a famed mystery novelist who has been working on a theatre adaptation with Robin, leave for an evening at the theatre, leaving Mrs. Upward alone at the house. When they return, they find Mrs. Upward strangled to death. She has evidently had coffee with her murderer, and the evidence of lipstick on a coffee cup and perfume in the air points to a woman having committed the crime. Mrs. Upward had invited three people to her house that night: Eve Carpenter, Deirdre Henderson and Shelagh Rendell. Any of the three women could be someone from the photographs. Additionally, the postmistress's assistant, Edna, sees someone with blonde hair enter the house, which points to either Carpenter or Rendell, as Henderson is not blonde. Confusing matters even further is the fact that a book is discovered in Mrs. Upward's house with Evelyn Hope's signature written on the flyleaf, which suggests that Mrs. Upward is actually Eva Kane. Poirot connects the final piece of the puzzle when he finds the photo Mrs. McGinty saw at Maureen Summerhayes' house. It is of Eva Kane and has the inscription 'my mother' on the back. Now, with the whole story complete, Poirot gathers all the suspects together and reveals to them the murderer: Robin Upward.

Robin is Eva Kane's son, Evelyn; the child was a boy, not a girl. Mrs. Upward had not known who Robin's mother was and he knew that any scandal would be to his detriment. Mrs. McGinty saw the photo while working at the Upward house and assumed the photo was of Mrs. Upward as a young woman. Robin killed her to prevent her from telling anyone who might recognize the photo of Eva Kane. Mrs. Upward thought the photo of Eva Kane to be similar to a photo Robin showed her of his mother, whose back story he made up. She wanted to confront Robin by herself, so she pointed to the wrong photo to put Poirot off the scent. Robin, however, sensed the truth and killed her before leaving for the play. Then he planted the evidence and made the three calls to make it appear that a woman had committed the crime. At this point Robin still had the photo, but rather than destroy it, he kept it and planted it at Mrs. Summerhayes' house in order to incriminate her. But Poirot had gone through the drawer earlier and did not see the photo, so he knew it had been planted subsequently. Robin is then taken away and imprisoned.

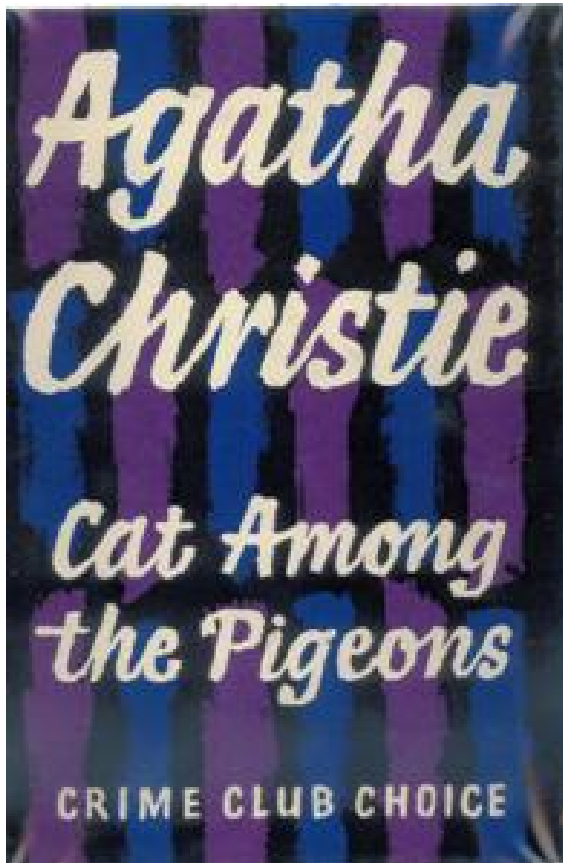
Further revelations are also made. Eve Carpenter wanted to conceal her past for reasons of her own, which was why she didn't cooperate in the investigation. Poirot discovers that Dr. Rendell may have killed his first wife, which led Mrs. Rendell to talk about anonymous letters she'd received warning her of the fact. Also, Poirot now suspects that it was Dr. Rendell, convinced that Poirot was actually in Broadhinny to investigate the potential murder (by him) of his first wife, and not the murder of an unimportant charwoman, who tried to push him off the platform and under a train. And Maude Williams turns out to be the daughter of Eva Kane's lover. She came to Mrs. Upward's house, thinking Mrs. Upward was Eva Kane, with the intent to kill her, but left once she found her dead. Poirot tells her he will not mention that fact to anyone. Finally, Poirot reveals to Superintendent Spence his plan to pair off Deirdre Henderson with James Bentley.

Cat among the Pigeons

Season 11
Episode Number: 64
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Sunday September 21, 2008
Writer: Agatha Christie, Mark Gatiss
Director: James Kent
Show Stars: David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Elizabeth Berrington (Miss Grace Springer), Susan Wooldridge (Miss Chadwick), Amanda Abbington (Miss Blake), Georgia Cornick (Patricia Forbes), Adam Croasdell (Adam Goodman), Lois Edmett (Julia Upjohn), Don Gallagher (Mr. Forbes), Georgie Glen (Mrs. Forbes), Pippa Haywood (Mrs. Upjohn), Jane How (Lady Veronica Carlton-Sandways), Raji James (Prince Ali Yusuf), Amara Karan (Princess Shaista), Anton Lesser (Inspector Kelsey), Katie Leung (Hsui Tai Wan), Natasha Little (Ann Shapland)

Summary: Miss Bulstrode, the elderly headmistress of an English girls' school, is warned by a parent that she has recognized someone at the school from her days in the intelligence service. And then there is a murder, and Poirot is on hand to try to solve it. Poirot finds connections with a revolution in the Middle Eastern kingdom of Ramat and Prince Ali Yusuf's missing jewels.



The story flashes back three months to Ramat, one of the richest countries of the Middle East, where a revolution is about to take place. Prince Ali Yusuf gives a fortune in jewels, which he needs sent out of the country, into the safekeeping of Bob Rawlinson, his personal pilot and the only person he can trust. Rawlinson complies with the prince's request, apparently by concealing the jewels in the luggage of his sister, Joan Sutcliffe, who is travelling with her daughter, Jennifer. He is seen doing this by a mysterious and unnamed woman in the next room. Soon after, both Rawlinson and the Prince are killed in an airplane crash after a man named Abdul sabotages their plane while attempting to leave the country. A number of people, including British Intelligence, get onto the trail of the jewels, and their attention focuses on Meadowbank School, where not only Jennifer, but also the prince's cousin and expected fiancée, Shaista, are studying.

This term at Meadowbank there are both old and new staff. Miss Chadwick helped Miss Bulstrode found the school. Miss Vansittart has been teaching there for several years, and Miss Rich for 1 1/2 years. Miss Johnson is the girls' matron. The new staff include Angèle Blanche (a French teacher), Grace Springer (a gym teacher), Ann Shapland (Miss Bulstrode's new secretary), and Adam

Goodman (a gardener, or actually an undercover British agent posing as a gardener).

Miss Bulstrode is nearing retirement, and is deciding whom to appoint as her successor. The others assume Miss Vanisttart will be the successor; she would preserve Miss Bulstrode's legacy but is unimaginative and has no new ideas. But Miss Bulstrode is also considering Miss Rich, who is young and has lots of ideas but less experience. She is not considering Miss Chadwick, whom she thinks is too old (although others may assume Miss Chadwick is the second most likely candidate). But all these deliberations are cut short when Miss Springer is shot dead in the Sports Pavilion late at night, and Miss Johnson and Miss Chadwick discover her body.

Following the murder, Inspector Kelsey interviews everyone and Adam Goodman reveals his true identity to Miss Bulstrode. Meanwhile, Jennifer Sutcliffe, an expert tennis player, complains that her racquet feels unbalanced (it must have been warped in the Ramat heat), and she writes to her mother asking for a new one. She swaps tennis racquets with Julia Upjohn, who prefers Jennifer's racquet because it has been refurbished recently. Later a strange woman arrives and gives Jennifer a new racquet, saying it's a gift from her aunt Gina. The woman takes the old racquet (actually Julia's), ostensibly to return it to Aunt Gina for restringing. Later, Julia points out that this is impossible because Aunt Gina knows that Jennifer's racquet had been refurbished and restrung recently, so she would not assume the problem is in the strings. Sure enough, Aunt Gina writes to say that she has not sent a new racquet.

During a weekend when many of the girls are at home with their parents, Shaista is apparently kidnapped by a chauffeur posing as the one sent by her uncle to take her home. That night there is a repetition of murder when Miss Chadwick is disturbed by torch light in the Sports Pavilion and Miss Vansittart is found dead there, having been apparently coshed. Many of the girls go home, but the resourceful Julia, who has been pondering the exchange of the racquets, takes her (really Jennifer's) racquet back to her room and discovers the gems in the hollowed-out handle. She hears someone at the door who quietly turns the knob and attempts to enter. But Julia has pushed furniture against the door to prevent a murderer from entering. The next day Julia flees the school to tell her story to Hercule Poirot, whom she has heard of through a friend of her mother. The police start to focus on the newcomer, Miss Blanche, but in fact she is not the murderer. Instead, she knows who the murderer is, and makes an attempt at blackmail that backfires when she is also killed. With the school struggling to survive the scandal of two murders, the denouement has arrived.

Poirot reviews what the reader already knows, and then explains that Princess Shaista was an impostor: the real Shaista had been kidnapped earlier in Switzerland, and the apparent abduction was actually the impostor's escape from the school. She was the representative of one group of interests who, crucially, did not know where the gems had been concealed. The murderer, however, did know where the jewels were concealed and must have been in Ramat to see Bob Rawlinson hide them. Most of the teachers could not have been there — the exception was Eileen Rich, who was apparently sick at the time but was in fact in Ramat. Jennifer had even recognised her, although she remembered the woman she had seen as a fatter woman. (It later transpires that Miss Rich had been in Ramat for the delivery of an illegitimate child that was stillborn.)

Just as it seems that Miss Rich is the murderer, Mrs. Upjohn enters the room having been recalled from her holiday in Anatolia and identifies by face the woman she had seen through Mrs Bulstrode's window: Ann Shapland, who is well known in intelligence circles as a ruthless espionage agent and a mercenary. It was Shapland who had had the room next to Bob Rawlinson at the start of the book. Ann Shapland draws a pistol and Miss Bulstrode steps in front of Mrs. Sutcliffe; Miss Chadwick does the same to protect Miss Bulstrode, and is fatally wounded.

It is revealed that Ann Shapland murdered Miss Springer, who caught her while she was searching the Sports Pavilion for the jewels. She also murdered Miss Blanche, who knew her secret and tried to blackmail her. But she did not kill Miss Vansittart, and had a perfect alibi for that night. Miss Vansittart was actually killed by Miss Chadwick, in an unpremeditated fit of passion. Miss Chadwick had found Miss Vansittart in the Sports Pavilion the second night, kneeling in front of Shaista's locker, apparently snooping. Miss Chadwick disliked Miss Vansittart and did not consider her a suitable successor for Meadowbank. Miss Chadwick was carrying a sandbag for protection, and here was Miss Vansittart in a perfect position to be coshed from behind. Barely conscious of her actions, she kills her. But she feels immediate remorse, and later throws herself in front of a bullet to save Miss Bulstrode. As Miss Chadwick lays dying, she confesses that she imagined the removal of the widely presumed successor would make Miss

Bulstrode change her mind about retiring.

So the first and third murders are linked by the same murderer, while the second and third murders are linked by the same method (a sandbag). Shapland used the sandbag to make it seem that the second and third murders were linked, since she had an alibi for the second murder.

At the end of the book, Miss Bulstrode reconfirms her decision to make Miss Rich her eventual successor. Poirot turns over the gems to the enigmatic 'Mr. Robinson' who, in turn, delivers them to the English woman who has been secretly married to Prince Ali Yusuf. One emerald is returned as a reward to Julia Upjohn.

Third Girl

Season 11

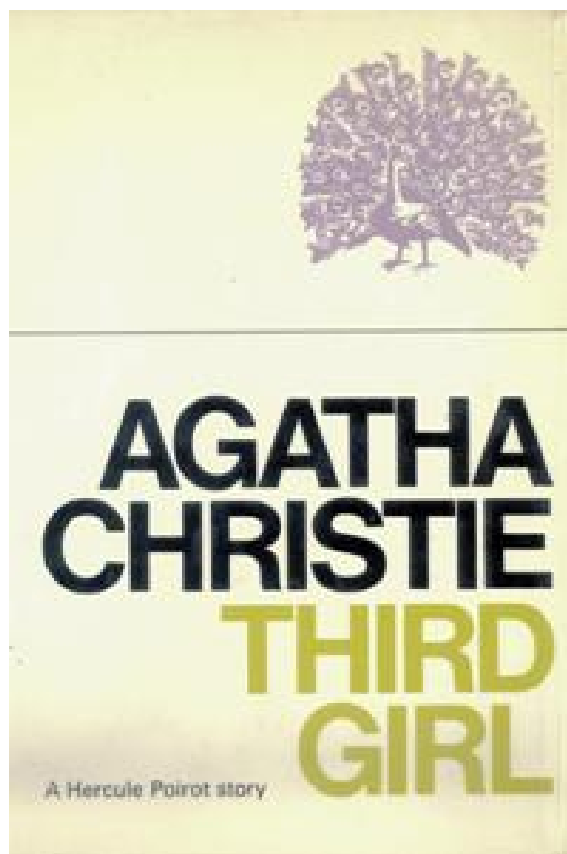
Episode Number: 65

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired:	Sunday September 28, 2008
Writer:	Agatha Christie, Peter Flannery
Director:	Dan Reed (II)
Show Stars:	David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Recurring Role:	David Yelland (George), Zoë Wanamaker (Ariadne Oliver)
Guest Stars:	Matilda Sturridge (Frances Cary), Haydn Gwynne (Miss Battersby), Peter Bowles (Sir Roderick Horsefield), James Wilby (Andrew Restarick), Clemency Burton-Hill (Claudia Reece-Holland), Ysobel Gonzalez (Nurse), Sean Kingsley (Policeman), Jemima Rooper (Norma Restarick), Tom Mison (David Baker), Caroline O'Neill (Lavinia Seagram), Tim Stern (Alf Renny), John Warnaby (Inspector Nelson), Simon Hill Bus (Ticket Inspector), Tessa Bell-Briggs (Daphne), Jade Longley (Young Norma)
Summary:	Three single girls share a London flat. The first, Claudia Reece-Holland, works as a secretary; the second, Frances Cary, is a Bohemian model; the third, Norma Restarick, comes to Poirot for help and promptly disappears believing she is a murderer. Luckily, crime novelist Ariadne Oliver lives directly below the three girls, and assists in Poirot's investigations after the body of Norma's former nanny is found. Could this be the murder that Norma believes she has committed? In order to establish whether the third girl is guilty, innocent or insane, Poirot explores her family history and relationships and uncovers startling secrets. Is he dealing with a girl who needs to be saved? Or with a girl who should swing from the gallows?

Poirot's acquaintance, the mystery writer Ariadne Oliver, provides him with a number of key clues in the novel, beginning with the identity of the girl, Norma Restarick, whom she had met at a party. Mrs. Oliver and Poirot begin to investigate Norma, but soon find that she has apparently gone missing. Mrs. Oliver meets the girls with whom she shares a flat at 67 Borodene Mansions: Claudia Reece-Holland (who turns out to be secretary to Norma's father) and Frances Cary, an artsy girl with long, dark hair that falls across her face. Neither has seen Norma recently. Poirot (visiting her paternal great uncle's home in Long Basing) finds that her father and stepmother also have no idea where she has gone. Poirot does meet David Baker, Norma's boyfriend, in the house, and sees that Norma's stepmother, Mary, is highly annoyed to discover him there. Poirot also meets Norma's paternal great-uncle, Sir Roderick Horsfield, who is elderly and has poor eyesight. Norma's father, Andrew, has been staying with Sir Roderick since returning from Africa, where he had made a vast fortune.

Mrs. Oliver provides a second essential clue when she happens across David and Norma in a café. She telephones Poirot, who comes to meet Norma, while she herself tracks David to a dingy artist's studio, where Norma's flatmate Frances is posing as a model. Leaving the studio Mrs. Oliver is knocked unconscious. Meanwhile, Norma awakens to find herself in the safe keeping of Stillingfleet, having apparently thrown herself under an oncoming car. In a red herring that is easily spotted by those who recognise the doctor from an earlier meeting with Poirot, it seems that Stillingfleet may have kidnapped Norma. In fact, Poirot has hidden her from danger, and she is not seen again for much of the novel. Andrew Restarick employs Poirot to track her down, and is insistent that the police are not to become involved.



Sir Roderick also contacts Poirot seeking help. He has lost letters written during the Second World War by a third party, which would now cause embarrassment should they be made public. Poirot's attention attaches itself to Sir Roderick's personal assistant, Sonia, who has apparently been passing secrets to a representative of the Herzogovinian [sic] Embassy at Kew Gardens. This is all a red herring, however: Poirot hints to Sonia that he knows of her espionage activities, and she abandons them in order to marry Sir Roderick instead at the end of the novel.

Mrs. Oliver now provides Poirot with another key clue: she has heard while at Borodene Mansions that a woman, Louise Charpentier, has committed suicide by throwing herself out of the window of Flat 76. This, Poirot infers, must be the murder that Norma believed herself to have committed. Investigating the dead woman, he discovers that her real name was Louise Carpenter: also the name of a woman with whom Andrew Restarick had been in love many years earlier. Mrs. Oliver later even provides Poirot with the draft of a letter from Louise to Andrew in which she attempted to make contact once more: an item that had providentially come into her possession early in the novel when it fell from a drawer.

Amongst other clues on which Poirot focuses, there are several that are only explained at the end of the book. Mary Restarick wears a wig, to which the reader's attention is repeatedly drawn by the fact that Mrs. Oliver's hairpieces are often mentioned as a plot device: indeed, Mrs. Oliver alters her hair in order to be in disguise when she sees Norma and David in the café. Also, Poirot notices that there is a pair of portraits of Andrew Restarick and of his first wife (Norma's mother) in their home; why is Mary Restarick apparently content to have a picture of her predecessor on display, and why does Andrew later split the set in order to have his own portrait in his office?

Stillingfleet contacts Poirot to say that Norma has walked out on him unexpectedly. She has seen a message in the personal column of a newspaper calling her to the flat, where she is discovered by Frances Cary standing over the dead body of David Baker with a knife, the murder weapon, in her hand. Norma immediately claims responsibility for the murder to a neighbour, Miss Jacobs. Norma has, however, been subjected to a cocktail of drugs intended to disorient her and make her susceptible to the suggestion that she is a murderer.

In the denouement Poirot reveals that the man posing as Andrew Restarick is an impostor, Robert Orwell, who has taken his place after the real Restarick died in Africa. Orwell has persuaded David Baker to paint a fake painting in style with the original one, which establishes to anyone who questions it that the new 'Restarick' had looked much the same fifteen years earlier when the pair was painted. Mary Restarick, meanwhile, has been leading a double life, as both Mary and as Frances Cary, whom she could become by changing wigs. Their imposture, however, could be revealed by two people: by David Baker, who had taken to blackmailing Orwell over the picture; and Louise Carpenter, who knew Restarick too well to be fooled by Orwell. The murder plot involved killing both of them, and convincing Norma that she was the killer. Norma had never in reality been in Louise's flat: they simply switched the 7 and the 6 on the door of her own flat. All along the 'third girl' in the flat on whom attention should have been focused has been, not Norma, but Frances.

At the end of the novel, Stillingfleet, who has staunchly defended Norma's innocence even when it was most in question, is rewarded by her agreeing to marry him. As Mrs. Oliver realises, Poirot has planned this happy ending all along.

Appointment with Death

Season 11

Episode Number: 66

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Friday December 25, 2009
Writer: Agatha Christie, Guy Andrews
Director: Ashley Pearce
Show Stars: David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Zoe Boyle (Ginevra Boynton), Emma Cunniffe (Carol Boynton), Elizabeth McGovern (Dame Celia Westholme), John Hannah (Dr. Gerard), Cheryl Campbell (Lady Boynton), Tom Riley (Raymond Boynton), Mark Gatiss (Leonard Boynton), Christina Cole (Dr. Sarah King), Angela Pleasence (Nanny), Christian McKay (Jefferson Cope), Paul Freeman (Colonel Carbury), Beth Goddard (Sister Agnieszka), Tim Curry Lord (Boynton), Jawad Elalami (Labourer), Abdelkader Aizoun (Concierge)

Summary: On holiday in Jerusalem in 1937, Poirot hears about an archaeological expedition to Syria led by the eccentric Lord Boynton and his son Leonard, who believe they are on the track of the head of St John the Baptist. Drawn to visit the dig, Poirot meets Boynton's dominating, fabulously rich, American-born second wife. However, events are overtaken by the discovery of Lady Boynton's dead body and revelations about her fortune. Poirot is given the task of finding the killer. As ever, he has no shortage of suspects.

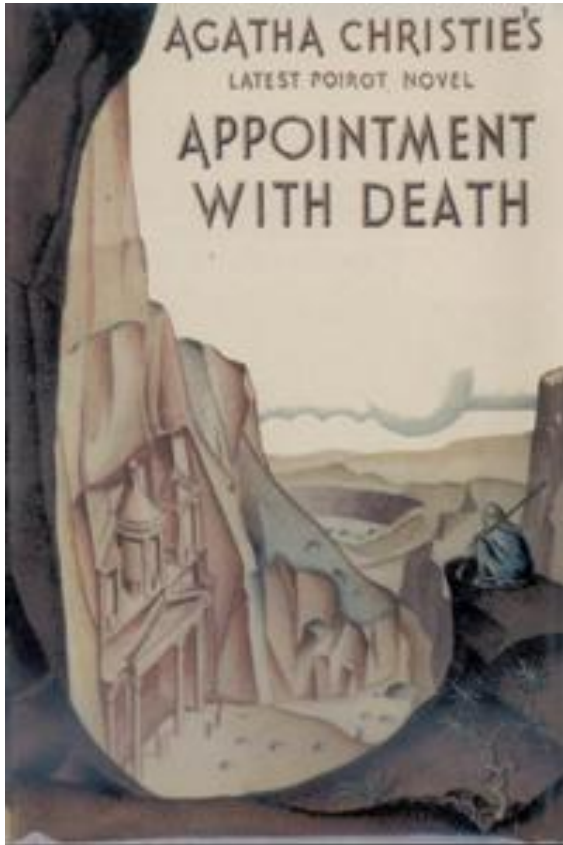
The first part of the novel (a little over a third) is an thriller as the family and the victim are introduced, through the perspective of Sarah King and Dr. Gerard, who discuss the behavior of the family. Mrs. Boynton is sadistic and domineering, which she may have inculcated from her original profession: prison warden.

Sarah is attracted to Raymond Boynton, while Jefferson Cope admits to wanting to take Nadine Boynton away from her husband, Lennox Boynton, and the influence of her mother-in-law. Having been thwarted in her desire to free the young Boyntons, Sarah confronts Mrs. Boynton whose apparent reply is a strange threat: "I've never forgotten anything — not an action, not a name, not a face." When the party reaches Petra, Mrs. Boynton uncharacteristically sends her family away from her for a period. Later, she is found dead with a needle puncture in her wrist.

Poirot claims that he can solve the mystery within twenty-four hours simply by interviewing the suspects. During these interviews he establishes a timeline that seems impossible: Sarah King places the time of death considerably before the times at which various of the family members claim last to have seen the victim alive. Attention is focused on a hypodermic syringe that has seemingly been stolen from Dr. Gerard's tent and later replaced. The poison administered to the victim is believed to be digitoxin something that she already took medicinally.

Poirot then calls for a meeting and explains how each member of the family has, in turn, discovered Mrs. Boynton to be dead and, suspecting another family member, failed to report the fact. In reality, none of the family would have needed to murder the victim with a hypodermic, since an overdose could much more effectively have been administered in her medicine. This places the suspicion on one of the outsiders.

The murderess is revealed to be Lady Westholme who, previous to her marriage, had been incarcerated in the prison in which the victim was once a wardress. It was to Lady Westholme, and not to Sarah, that Mrs. Boynton had addressed that peculiar threat; the temptation to acquire a new subject to torture had been too great for her to resist. Disguised as an Arab servant she had committed the murder and then relied upon the suggestibility of Miss Pierce to lay two pieces of misdirection that had concealed her role in the murder.



Lady Westholme, eavesdropping in an adjoining room, overhears that her criminal history is about to be revealed to the world and commits suicide. The family, free at last, take up happier lives: Sarah marries Raymond; Carol marries Jefferson; and Ginevra takes up a successful career as a stage actress - she also marries Dr. Gerard.

Season Twelve

Three Act Tragedy

Season 12

Episode Number: 67

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Sunday January 3, 2010
Writer: Agatha Christie, Nick Dear
Director: Ashley Pearce
Show Stars: David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Michael Hobbs (Coroner), Jane Asher (Lady Mary Lytton Gore), Kate Ashfield (Muriel Wills), Suzanne Bertish (Miss Milray), Anna Carteret (Mrs Babbington), Prue Clarke (Hospital Matron), Anastasia Hille (Cynthia Dacres), Art Malik (Sir Bartholomew Strange), Tony Maudsley (Superintendent Crossfield), Jodie McNea (Annie), Kimberley Nixon (Egg Lytton Gore), Nigel Pegram (Reverend Stephen Babbington), Martin Shaw (Sir Charles Cartwright), Ronan Vibert (Captain Dacres), Tom Wisdom (Oliver Manders)

Summary: Poirot visits Cornwall to attend a dinner party at the house of his friend Sir Charles Cartwright. When an amiable local clergyman chokes to death on his cocktail, Poirot does not at first see the death as a murder. There seems to be no motive, and (as Poirot predicts) no trace of poison is found in the dead man's glass. Apart from Sir Charles's doctor friend, Sir Bartholomew Strange, and the enigmatic Miss Egg Lytton Gore, any one of the guests could have taken the glass and drunk from it. Then, some weeks later, Sir Bartholomew Strange also chokes to death at a dinner party he is giving, with many of the same people present. Poirot and Cartwright travel from Monte Carlo to Strange's house in Yorkshire, where Cartwright is determined to unravel the reasons behind his friend's death and also to impress Egg. Again, no poison is found in the dead man's glass, but nevertheless a post-mortem finds that Strange was poisoned. This not only seems to mean he was murdered, but also reopens the question of the first death.

When a clergyman dies at a dinner party thrown by stage actor Sir Charles Cartwright, it is thought by nearly everyone (Poirot included) to be an accidental death. Shortly afterwards, however, a second death in suspiciously similar circumstances and with many of the same people present puts both Poirot and a team of sleuths on the trail of a poisoner whose motive is not clear.

The solution to this mystery is one of Christie's classic pieces of misdirection and relies on a plot device which has been widely imitated. Poirot reveals that the first murder - in which the murderer could not have predicted who would get the poisoned glass and had no motive to kill the eventual victim - had only been a "dress rehearsal" for the second murder.



Hallowe'en Party

Season 12

Episode Number: 68

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Wednesday October 27, 2010
Writer: Agatha Christie, Mark Gatiss
Director: Charles Palmer (III)
Show Stars: David Yelland (George), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Recurring Role: Zoë Wanamaker (Ariadne Oliver)
Guest Stars: Vera Filatova (Olga Seminoff), Richard Breislin (Leopold Reynolds), Amelia Bullmore (Judith Butler), Deborah Findlay (Rowena Drake), Georgia King (Frances Drake), Julian Rhind-Tutt (Michael Garfield), Sophie Thompson (Mrs Reynolds), Paul Thornley (Inspector Raglan), Eric Sykes (Mr Fullerton), Fenella Woolgar (Miss Whittaker), Timothy West (Reverend Cottrell), Macy Nyman (Joyce Reynolds), Ian Hallard (Edmund Drake), Paola Dionisotti (Mrs Goodbody), Phyllida Law (Mrs Llewellyn-Smythe)

Summary: Ariadne Oliver attends a children's Hallowe'en party and hears a young girl boasting that she has witnessed a murder. Later that evening, the child is found dead, drowned in a bucket. Ariadne sends for Poirot, who takes the young victim's story seriously and finds there have been several other suspicious deaths in the village. When another child is found drowned, Poirot realizes that a third is in danger. For more, see Recap.

The story starts out inside Rowena Drake's house, which is called "Apple Trees". There, Ariadne Oliver and others are preparing a Hallowe'en party for children. Those in charge of the party are Judith Butler, Mrs. Oliver's friend; Leopold, Joyce and Anne Reynolds, Desmond Holland, Nicholas Ransom, Cathie Johnson, Elizabeth Whittaker, Beatrice Ardley, and others. While they are preparing, thirteen-year old Joyce Reynolds says that she once saw a murder. Everyone, including Mrs. Oliver, thinks she is lying.

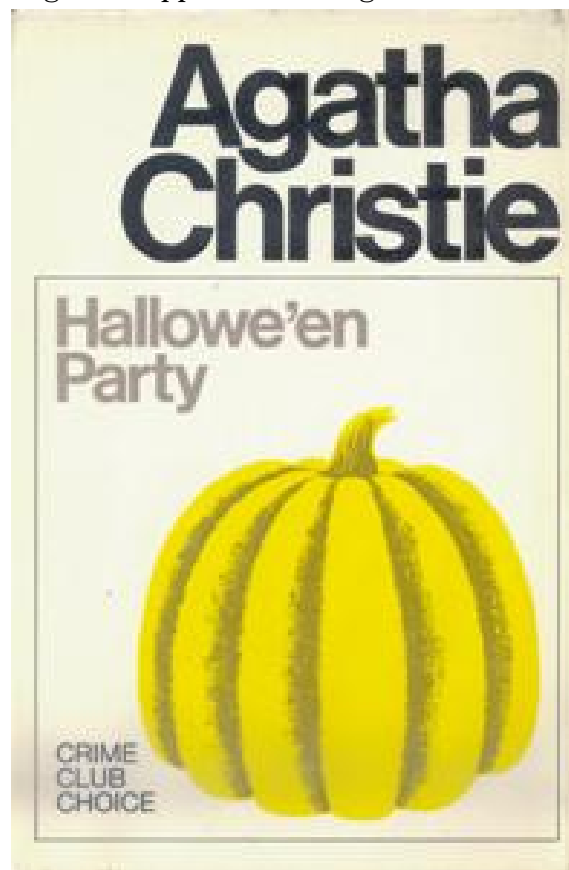
The party consists of many Hallowe'en-related activities. Mrs. Goodbody plays the role of a witch, and girls can look into a mirror to know what their future husbands will look like (a picture of the husband is said to be reflected in the mirror). The group has supper, the prizes are granted, and the party ends after a game of snapdragon, with the murder of course fitting into the whole situation.

The next day, Mrs. Oliver goes to London seeking Hercule Poirot's help. She tells him that after snapdragon, Joyce went missing and was later found drowned in an apple-bobbing tub in the library. Mrs. Oliver repeats to Poirot Joyce's comment that she had once witnessed a murder; Mrs. Oliver now wonders if Joyce might have been telling the truth, which might provide someone with a motive for killing her.

Poirot goes to Apple Trees to interview Rowena Drake. Rowena doesn't believe Joyce's murder story; rather, she thinks it was just Joyce's attempt to impress Mrs. Oliver. Next to be interviewed are the Reynoldses. Mrs. Reynolds can't say that Joyce ever told her that she saw a murder. Leopold, Joyce's younger brother, doesn't believe that Joyce saw a murder either, but he did hear Joyce telling everyone about it. Ann, Joyce's older sister, doesn't believe either that Joyce had seen a murder; she says Joyce was a liar and a fraud.

Hercule Poirot asks his old friend, an ex-superintendent named Spence, to give him a list of murders which had taken place years before and that could possibly be the murder that Joyce claimed to have witnessed. Spence obliges: Mrs. Llewellyn-Smythe, the aunt of Rowena Drake's late husband, apparently died of a heart attack. Her death is suspicious because a codicil to

her will was discovered afterwards. Authorities believe that the codicil was faked by an au pair girl, Olga Seminoff, who disappeared after the forgery was discovered. Other candidate murders involve Charlotte Benfield, a sixteen-year-old shop assistant found dead of multiple head injuries, with two young men under suspicion; Lesley Ferrier, a lawyer's clerk who was stabbed in the back; and Janet White, a schoolteacher who was strangled. Hercule Poirot thinks Janet White's murder is the most probable candidate for the murder Joyce witnessed, because strangulation might not appear at first sight to be murder.



Hercule Poirot continues his investigation by interviewing Dr. Ferguson, who tells Poirot that Joyce was once his patient. When Poirot goes to Elms School, he is greeted by the headmistress, Miss Emlyn. Meanwhile, a mathematics teacher named Elizabeth Whittaker, who was also present at the party, gives Hercule Poirot an important piece of evidence when she reveals that while the party-goers were playing Snapdragon, Elizabeth went out to the hall and saw Rowena Drake coming out of the lavatory on the first floor landing. Rowena stood for a moment before coming downstairs, looking startled by something or someone she may have seen in the open door of the library, and then dropped the flower vase she was holding. Other suggestive pieces of evidence include the fact that Lesley Ferrier had previously been suspected of forgery. Were Lesley and Olga working together to secure Mrs. Llewellyn-Smythe's inheritance?

Poirot visits a sunken garden built for Mrs. Llewellyn-Smythe in an abandoned quarry, where he meets Michael Garfield, the handsome and talented young man who designed the garden. While there, he also meets Judith Butler's daughter, Miranda Butler, a striking young girl who is close to Michael and spends a great deal of time in the Quarry Garden.

Mrs. Drake meets Poirot at his guest house to tell him that Leopold Reynolds, Joyce's younger brother, has been drowned. Poirot reveals that Leopold had been blackmailing Joyce's murderer and had got in over his head. Mrs. Drake, obviously very upset by Leopold's death, admits that she saw Leopold in the library, which caused her to think he might have killed his sister.

Poirot persuades the police to dig up an abandoned well in the Quarry Garden. Within its depths are discovered the remains of Olga, who had been stabbed, like Ferrier. Poirot sends Mrs. Oliver to get Mrs. Butler and Miranda safely away from the village as soon as possible, but when they stop for lunch, Miranda is abducted by Michael Garfield, who takes her to a pagan sacrificial altar and tries to kill her. He is prevented from doing so by Nicholas Ransom and Desmond Holland, two teenagers who had been at the Hallowe'en party and whom Poirot had persuaded to trail Miranda. Michael Garfield commits suicide by swallowing the poison that he had intended for Miranda to drink.

Miranda Butler tells the authorities that she was the one who saw a murder, not her close friend Joyce, to whom she revealed some of the details of what she witnessed. Miranda admits that in the Quarry garden she saw Michael Garfield and Rowena Drake carrying Olga's dead body and heard Mrs. Drake wonder aloud if anyone was watching them. Joyce, an inveterate fantasist, had made the story her own, and since Miranda had not attended the party, she hadn't contradicted Joyce. Rowena Drake heard Joyce and thought that it was Joyce who had seen her and Michael with Olga's corpse. Drake had always sensed that someone was watching them that fateful day. Mrs. Drake intentionally dropped the vase of flowers in front of Miss Whittaker to invent a pretext for being wet after having drowned Joyce. Subsequently, Leopold had used what little he knew to blackmail Rowena, leading to his murder.

Michael Garfield played the role of lover to Olga to help Rowena Drake secure Mrs. Llewellyn-Smythe's inheritance. The real will, leaving Mrs. Llewellyn-Smythe's fortune to Olga, had been replaced with a clumsy forgery, produced by Lesley Ferrier, which would be rendered invalid and Rowena Drake, the sexually-frustrated wife of an invalid, would ultimately control Mrs. Llewellyn-Smythe's estate as her closest relation. Lesley Ferrier and Olga Seminoff were murdered to conceal the deceit. Garfield's motivation was his obsessive, narcissistic desire to construct another perfect garden with Mrs. Drake's money on a Greek island that she has secretly purchased. Poirot hypothesises that Rowena Drake might have met a similar fate to the other women as Garfield would no longer have any use for her. Poirot's also intuits that the bond between Miranda and Garfield was a familial one: Judith Butler is not a widow, but rather the mother of Garfield's illegitimate daughter. Garfield's depraved willingness to murder his own daughter confirms the tremendous evil that Poirot has been able to uncover and defeat.

Murder on the Orient Express

Season 12
Episode Number: 69
Season Episode: 3

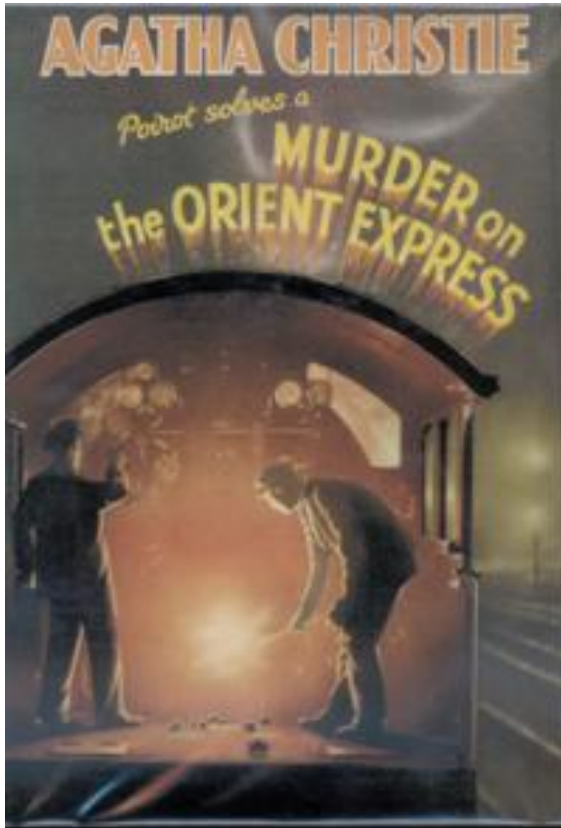
Originally aired:	Saturday December 25, 2010
Writer:	Agatha Christie, Stewart Harcourt
Director:	Philip Martin (II)
Show Stars:	David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars:	Denis Menochet (Pierre Michel), Hugh Bonneville (Edward Masterman), Sam Crane (II) (Lt. Blanchflower), Stanley Weber (Count Andrenyi), Samuel West (Dr Constantine), David Morrissey (Colonel John Arbuthnot), Barbara Hershey (Caroline Hubbard), Toby Jones (Samuel Ratchett), Joseph Mawle (Antonio Foscarelli), Jessica Chastain (Mary Debenham), Marie-Josée (Croze Greta Ohlsson), Eileen Atkins (Princess Dragomiroff), Susanne Lothar (Hildegarde Schmidt), Elena Satine (Countess Andrenyi), Serge Hazanavicius (Xavier Bouc)
Summary:	While travelling from Istanbul to London on the Orient Express, Poirot is approached by the shady American traveller Samuel Ratchett, who wants to hire him as a protector. Ratchett is soon found dead, with multiple stab wounds. With the train trapped in a deep snow drift, the immediate evidence points to a killer who boarded and left the train, but Poirot finds a bewildering mass of clues and suspects, including a Russian princess, a German maid, a Hungarian diplomat and his wife, and a Swedish missionary. Ratchett proves to have been a mobster responsible for the kidnapping and murder of an American child. In the end, Poirot turns his back on the rule of law in favour of natural justice. For more, see recap.

Returning from an important case in Syria, Hercule Poirot boards the Orient Express in Constantinople. The train is unusually crowded for the time of year. Poirot secures a berth only with the help of his friend M. Bouc, a director of the Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits. When a Mr. Harris fails to show up, Poirot takes his place. On the second night, Poirot gets a compartment to himself.

That night, in Vinkovci, at about twenty-three minutes before 1:00 am, Poirot wakes to the sound of a loud noise. It seems to come from the compartment next to his, which is occupied by Mr. Ratchett. When Poirot peeks out his door, he sees the conductor knock on Mr. Ratchett's door and ask if he is all right. A man replies in French "Ce n'est rien. Je me suis trompé", which means "It's nothing. I was mistaken", and the conductor moves on to answer a bell down the passage. Poirot decides to go back to bed, but he is disturbed by the fact that the train is unusually still and his mouth is dry.

As he lies awake, he hears a Mrs. Hubbard ringing the bell urgently. When Poirot then rings the conductor for a bottle of mineral water, he learns that Mrs. Hubbard claimed that someone had been in her compartment. He also learns that the train has stopped due to a snowstorm. Poirot dismisses the conductor and tries to go back to sleep, only to be wakened again by a thump on his door. This time when Poirot gets up and looks out of his compartment, the passage is completely silent, and he sees nothing except the back of a woman in a scarlet kimono retreating down the passage in the distance.

The next day he awakens to find that Ratchett is dead, having been stabbed twelve times in his sleep. M. Bouc suggests that Poirot take the case, being that it is so obviously his kind of case; nothing more is required than for him to sit, think, and take in the available evidence.



However, the clues and circumstances of Ratchett's death are very mysterious. Some of the stab wounds are very deep, only three are lethal, and some are glancing blows. Furthermore, some of them appear to have been inflicted by a right-handed person and some by a left-handed person.

Poirot finds several more clues in the victim's cabin and on board the train, including a linen handkerchief embroidered with the initial "H", a pipe cleaner, and a button from a conductor's uniform. All of these clues suggest that the murderer or murderers were somewhat sloppy. However, each clue seemingly points to different suspects, which suggests that some of the clues were planted.

By reconstructing parts of a burned letter, Poirot discovers that Mr. Ratchett was a notorious fugitive from the U.S. named Cassetti. Five years earlier, Cassetti kidnapped three-year-old American heiress Daisy Armstrong. Though the Armstrong family paid a large ransom, Cassetti murdered the little girl and fled the country with the money. Daisy's mother, Sonia, was pregnant when she heard of Daisy's death. The shock sent her into premature labour, and both she and the baby died. Her husband, Colonel Armstrong, shot himself out

of grief. Daisy's nursemaid, Susanne, was suspected of complicity in the crime by the police, despite her protests. She threw herself out of a window and died, after which she was proved innocent. Although Cassetti was caught, his resources allowed him to get himself acquitted on an unspecified technicality, although he still fled the country to escape further prosecution for the crime.

As the evidence mounts, it continues to point in wildly different directions and it appears that Poirot is being challenged by a mastermind. A critical piece of missing evidence—the scarlet kimono worn the night of the murder by an unknown woman—turns up in Poirot's own luggage.

After meditating on the evidence, Poirot assembles the twelve suspects, M. Bouc and Dr. Constantine in the restaurant car. He lays out two possible explanations of Ratchett's murder.

The first explanation is that a stranger—some gangster enemy of Ratchett—boarded the train at Vinkovci, the last stop, murdered Ratchett for reasons unknown, and escaped unnoticed. The crime occurred an hour earlier than everyone thought, because the victim and several others failed to note that the train had just crossed into a different time zone. The other noises heard by Poirot on the coach that evening were unrelated to the murder. However, Dr. Constantine says that Poirot must surely be aware that this does not fully explain the circumstances of the case.

Poirot's second explanation is rather more sensational: all of the suspects are guilty. Poirot's suspicions were first piqued by the fact that all the passengers on the train were of so many different nationalities and social classes, and that only in the "melting pot" of the United States would a group of such different people form some connection with each other.

Poirot reveals that the twelve other passengers on the train were all connected to the Armstrong family in some way:

Hector MacQueen , Ratchett/Cassetti's secretary, was an aspiring actor who became boyishly devoted to Sonia Armstrong, having seen her during the original trial against Cassetti where MacQueen's father served as the District Attorney;

Masterman , Ratchett/Cassetti's valet, was Colonel Armstrong's batman during the war and later his valet; Colonel Arbuthnot was Colonel Armstrong's comrade and best friend;

Mrs. Hubbard in actuality is Linda Arden (née Goldenberg), the most famous tragic actress of the New York stage, and was Sonia Armstrong's mother and Daisy's grandmother;

Countess Andrenyi (née Helena Goldenberg) was Sonia Armstrong's sister;

Princess Natalia Dragomiroff was Sonia Armstrong's godmother as she was a friend of her mother;

Miss Mary Debenham was Sonia Armstrong's secretary and Daisy Armstrong's governess;

Fräulein Hildegard Schmidt , Princess Dragomiroff's maid, was the Armstrong family's cook;

Antonio Foscarelli , a car salesman based in Chicago, was the Armstrong family's chauffeur;

Miss Greta Ohlsson , a Swedish missionary, was Daisy Armstrong's nurse;

Pierre Michel , the train conductor, was the father of Susanne, the Armstrong's nursemaid who committed suicide;

Cyrus Hardman , a private detective ostensibly retained as a bodyguard by Ratchett/Cassetti, was a policeman in love with Susanne.

All these friends and relations had been gravely affected by Daisy's murder and outraged by Cassetti's subsequent escape. They took it into their own hands to serve as Cassetti's executioners, to avenge a crime the law was unable to punish.

Each of the suspects stabbed Ratchett once, so that no one could know who delivered the fatal blow. Twelve of the conspirators participated to allow for a "twelve-person jury", with Count Andrenyi acting for his wife, as she?Daisy's aunt?would have been the most likely suspect. One extra berth was booked under a fictitious name ?Harris ?so that no one but the conspirators and the victim would be on board the coach, and this fictitious person would subsequently disappear and become the primary suspect in Ratchett's murder. (The only person not involved in the plot would be M. Bouc, for whom the cabin next to Ratchett was already reserved.)

The main inconvenience for the murderers was the occurrence of a snowstorm and the presence of a detective, which caused complications to the conspirators that resulted in several crucial clues being left behind.

Poirot summarizes that there was no other way the murder could have taken place, given the evidence. Several of the suspects have broken down in tears as he has revealed their connection to the Armstrong family, and Mrs. Hubbard/Linda Arden confesses that the second theory is correct and that Colonel Arbuthnot and Mary Debenham are in love. She then appeals to Poirot, M. Bouc, and Dr. Constantine, not to turn them into the police. Fully in sympathy with the Armstrong family, and feeling nothing but disgust for the victim, Bouc pronounces the first explanation as correct, and Poirot and Dr. Constantine agree, Dr. Constantine suggesting that he will edit his original report of Cassetti's body to comply with Poirot's first deduction as he now 'recognizes' some mistakes he has made.

His task completed, Poirot states he has "the honour to retire from the case."

The Clocks

Season 12

Episode Number: 70

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired:	Monday December 26, 2011
Writer:	Agatha Christie, Stewart Harcourt
Director:	Charles Palmer (III)
Show Stars:	David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars:	Frances Barber (Merlina Rival), Phil Daniels (Inspector Hardcastle), Jaime Winstone (Sheila Webb), Victoria Wicks (Mrs Swinburne), Stephen Boxer (Christopher Mabbutt), Sinead Keenan (Nora Brent), Tessa Peake-Jones (Valerie Bland), Abigail Thaw (Rachel Waterhouse), Guy Henry (Matthew Waterhouse), Phoebe Strickland (May Mabbutt), Andrew Forbes (Professor Purdy), Geoffrey Palmer (Vice Admiral Hamling), Tom Burke (Lieutenant Colin Race RN), Andrew Havill (Sven Hjerson), Olivia Grant (Annabel Larkin), Anna Skellern (Fiona Hanbury), Jason Watkins (Joe Bland), Ben Righton (Constable Jenkins), Anna Massey (Miss Pebmarsh), Beatie Edney (Mrs Hemmings), Lesley Sharp (Miss Martindale), Isabella Parriss (Jenny Mabbutt)
Summary:	Four clocks surround an unidentified corpse in a blind woman's house, and a young typist is summoned to the crime scene. However, Poirot is convinced that the complicated setup is merely hiding a simpler solution.

Sheila Webb, a typist-for-hire, arrives at her afternoon appointment on Wilbraham Crescent to find a well-dressed corpse surrounded by six clocks, four of which are stopped at 4:13. When a blind woman enters the house, Sheila runs screaming into the street and into the arms of a young man who plays a key part in the investigation that follows.

It is while visiting Wilbraham Crescent that Special Branch agent Colin 'Lamb' finds Sheila running into his arms. He is there investigating areas connected with crescents or the moon while following up a clue to the route by which classified information is leaving the country.

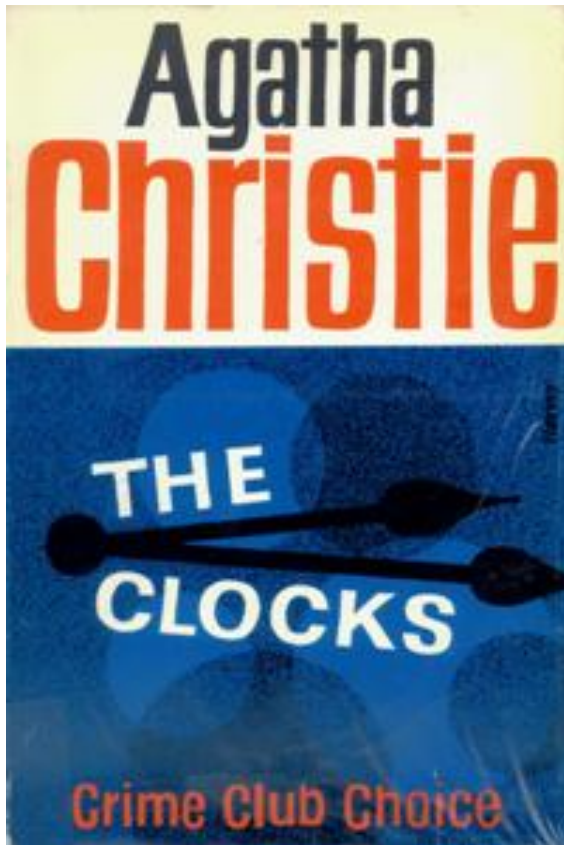
At 19 Wilbraham Crescent an investigation begins into the murder. The corpse has a business card in its pocket indicating that the bearer is an insurance salesman called 'R.H.Curry'. This turns out to be a false lead, since neither the company nor the salesman exists.

A colourful group of neighbours is interviewed by Inspector Hardcastle with Lamb in attendance, and things begin to look bleaker for Sheila when her aunt, Mrs. Lawton, is questioned. It seems that Sheila's other forename is Rosemary, the name on a leather travel clock found at the scene of the murder. Frustrated, Colin—who has fallen for Sheila—approaches Hercule Poirot, an old friend of his father, to investigate the case, challenging him to do so from his armchair as he had always claimed was possible. He leaves the celebrated detective with detailed notes on the investigation thus far.

After the inquest, Edna Brent, one of Sheila's fellow secretaries, is confused by something said in evidence, and attempts to draw it to Hardcastle's attention; but he is too busy to speak to her. Soon she is found dead in a telephone box on Wilbraham Crescent, strangled with her own scarf.

After the police weary of their investigations into the dead man's identity, a woman called Merlina Rival (original name Florence Gapp) makes an appearance and claims the dead man was her husband, Harry Castleton.

Colin makes an important discovery when he finds a ten-year-old girl, Geraldine Brown, who has been observing the events at Wilbraham Crescent with a pair of opera glasses while confined to her room. She reveals that a new laundry service delivered a heavy basket of laundry on the day of the murder.



Miss Rival returns to the police to state that her late husband had a scar behind his ear, but the police tell her the cut is only a few years old, despite her claim that he got the scar years ago. Later, it becomes known that the killer is paying her to say this to the police; and her fate as a partner in crime is to be stabbed to death at a bus station.

Poirot's explanation is based on his inference that since the appearance of complexity must conceal quite a simple murder. The clocks are therefore a red herring, as is the presence of Sheila and the confusion about the corpse's identity.

What Edna realised, having returned early to the secretarial bureau because of the damage to her shoe, is that Miss Martindale never took any telephone call that arranged Sheila to visit Miss Pebmarsh's house. Miss Martindale, one of the conspirators in the murder, is secretly the sister of Mrs. Bland, one of the neighbors of 19 Wilbraham Crescent. The first wife was heiress to the overseas fortune, but when news of it reached the Blands they decided that the second Mrs. Bland must pose as the heiress in order to obtain the money. When, however, Quentin Duguesclin, who knew the first wife, decided to look her up in England, a plan was laid to murder him and relocate the body to Miss Pebmarsh's house. Miss Rival was murdered before

she could leak information to the police, as the killer could take no chances.

At the end of the novel, Colin also unravels the mystery of 19 Wilbraham Crescent and its owner Miss Pebmarsh.

Season Thirteen

Elephants Can Remember

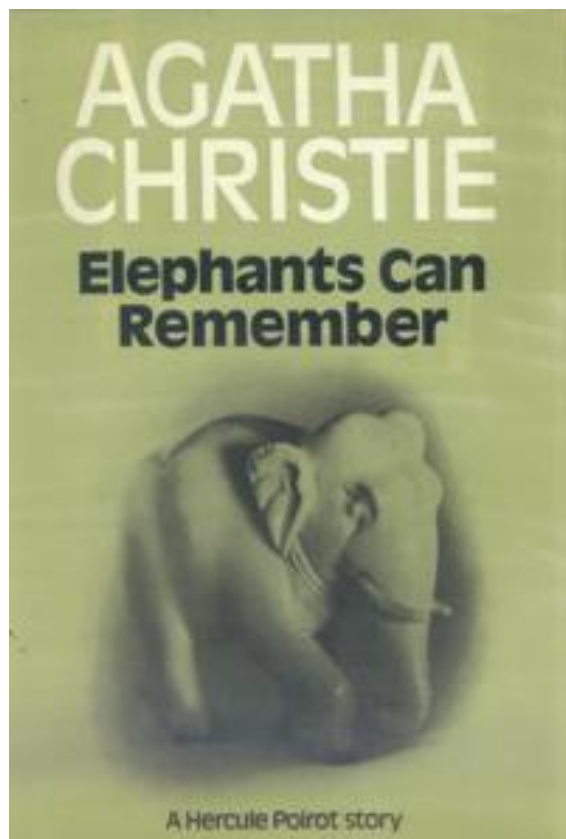
Season 13

Episode Number: 71

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Sunday June 9, 2013
Writer: Nick Dear
Director: John Strickland
Show Stars: David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Recurring Role: Zoë Wanamaker (Ariadne Oliver)
Guest Stars: Greta Scacchi (Mrs Burton-Cox), Vanessa Kirby (Celia Ravenscroft), Ferdinand Kingsley (Desmond Burton-Cox), Iain Glen (Dr Willoughby), Ruth Sheen (Madame Rosentelle), Claire Cox (Dorothea Jarrow), Hazel Douglas (Mrs Matcham), Alexandra Dowling (Marie), Adrian Lukis (General Alistair Ravenscroft), Annabel Mullion (Lady Molly Ravenscroft), Vincent Regan (Detective Inspector Beale), Caroline Blakiston (Julia Carstairs), Maxine Evans (Mrs Buckle), Elsa Mollien (Zélie Meauhourat), Danny Webb (Superintendent Garroway), Jo-Anne Stockham (Mrs Willoughby)

Summary: Poirot investigates a strange and gruesome murder of an elderly psychiatrist. Ariadne Oliver is pressed to try and uncover the truth behind two decade-old deaths. They soon find out that their separate investigations are linked and work together to try and solve the mystery.



The bodies of General Alistair Ravenscroft and his wife were found near their manor house in Overcliffe. Both had bullet wounds, and a revolver with only their fingerprints left between them. In the original investigation no one was able to prove whether the case was a double suicide or murder/suicide and, if the latter, who killed whom. Left behind are the couple's two children, including daughter Celia.

Ten years later, Mrs Ariadne Oliver, a school friend of the late Margaret Ravenscroft and godmother to her daughter, is approached at a literary luncheon by Mrs Burton-Cox, to whose son Celia Ravenscroft is engaged. Mrs Burton-Cox asks Oliver what she appears to believe is a very important question: which of Celia's parents was the murderer, and which was murdered? Initially put off by the woman's attitude, after consulting with Celia herself, Oliver agrees to try to resolve the issue. She invites her friend Hercule Poirot to solve the disquieting puzzle. Together they conduct interviews with several elderly witnesses whom they term 'elephants', based on the assumption that, like the proverbial elephants, they may have long memories. Each "elephant" remembers (or misremembers) a very different set of circumstances, but Poirot notes some facts that may have particu-

lar significance: Margaret Ravenscroft owned four wigs at the time of her death, and a few days before her death, she was seriously bitten by the otherwise-devoted family dog.

Poirot decides that the investigation must delve deeper into the past in order to unearth the truth. He and Mrs Oliver discover that Dolly (Dorothea) and Molly (Margaret) Preston-Grey were identical twin sisters, both of whom died within the space of a few weeks. While Molly generally led an unremarkable life, Dolly had previously been connected with two violent incidents and had spent protracted periods of her life in psychiatric nursing homes. Dolly had married a major surnamed Jarrow and, shortly after his death in India, was strongly suspected of drowning her infant son, something she had tried to blame on the little boy's Indian ayah. A second murder was apparently committed in Malaya while Dolly was staying with the Ravenscrofts; it was an attack on the child of a neighbour. While staying again with the Ravenscrofts, this time at Overcliffe, Dolly apparently sleep-walked off a cliff and died on the evening of 15 September 1960. Molly and her husband died less than a month later, on 3 October.

Poirot is contacted by Desmond Burton-Cox, Celia Ravenscroft's fiancé, who gives him the names of two governesses who had served the Ravenscroft family, who he thinks may be able to explain what happened. Turning an investigative light on the Burton-Cox family, Poirot's agent, Mr Goby, discovers that Desmond (who knows that he is adopted, but has no details about the adoption or his origins) is the illegitimate son of a now-deceased actress, Kathleen Fenn, with whom Mrs Burton-Cox's husband had conducted an affair. Fenn had bequeathed Desmond a considerable personal fortune, which would, under the terms of his will, be left to his adoptive mother were he to die. Mrs Burton-Cox's attempt to prevent Desmond getting married to Celia Ravenscroft is thus an attempt to obtain the use of his money, although there is no suggestion that she plans to kill him and "inherit" the money.

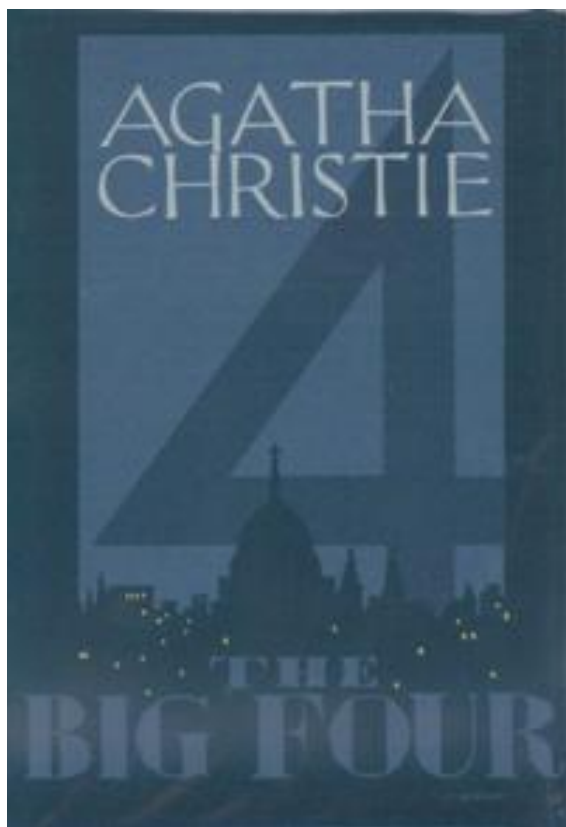
Poirot suspects the truth, but can substantiate it only after contacting Zélie Meauhourat, the governess employed by the Ravenscrofts at the time of their death. She returns with him from Lausanne to England, where she explains the truth to Desmond and Celia. Dolly had fatally injured Molly as part of a psychotic episode, but such was Molly's love for her sister that she made her husband promise to protect Dolly from arrest. Accordingly, Zélie and Alistair made it appear that Dolly's was the corpse found at the foot of the cliff. Dolly took her sister's place, playing the role of Molly to the servants. Only the Ravenscrofts' dog knew the difference, and this is why it bit its "mistress". Ultimately, Alistair committed suicide after killing Dolly in order to prevent her from injuring anyone else. Desmond and Celia recognise the sadness of the true events, but now knowing the facts are able to face a future together.

The Big Four

Season 13
Episode Number: 72
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Wednesday October 23, 2013
Writer: Mark Gatiss, Ian Hallard
Director: Peter Lydon
Show Stars: David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Recurring Role: David Yelland (George)
Guest Stars: Hugh Fraser (Captain Hastings), Philip Jackson (Assistant Commissioner Japp), Pauline Moran (Miss Lemon), Patricia Hodge (Madame Olivier), Michael Culkin (Savaranoff), Sarah Parish (Flossie Monro), Teresa Banham (Diana Paynter), James Carroll Jordan (Abe Ryland), Tom Brooke (Tysoe), Barbara Kirby (Mrs Andrews), Nicholas Burns (Inspector Meadows), Simon Lowe (Dr Quentin), Nicholas Day (Ingles), Steven Pacey (Stephen Paynter), Jack Farthing (Gerald Paynter), Alex Palmer (Robert Grant), Lou Broadbent (Mabel), Peter Symonds (Jonathan Whalley)

Summary: As the threat of world war looms large, Poirot seeks the help of friends both old and new when he is pitted against a dangerous group of dissidents responsible for a series of violent murders.



Captain Hastings visits Poirot and finds that Poirot is leaving for South America. He has been offered a huge amount of money by the American 'soap king' millionaire Abe Ryland. Poirot inquires if Hastings has ever heard the phrase the Big Four. Hastings responds uncooperatively. At the eleventh hour an unexpected visitor called Mayerling comes in saying only "M. Hercule Poirot, 14 Faraway Street." When he is given a piece of paper by a doctor he writes the number 4 many times. When Hastings mentions the Big Four, the man begins speaking, he tells them that number 1 is a Chinese political mastermind named Li Chang Yen. He represents the brains of the Big Four. Number 2 is usually not named but represented by a '\$' or two stripes and a star so he is probably American and he represents wealth. Number 3 is a Frenchwoman and Number 4 is the destroyer.

After an aborted start on Poirot's trip to South America, they return to the flat to find the man dead. The doctor is summoned and says that the man died of asphyxiation and has been dead about two hours, he cannot be closer because the windows were open. A man from an asylum visits them and tells them that the man had escaped from his asylum. Japp soon enters and recognizes the man

to be Mayerling, a prominent figure in the Secret Service. Poirot asks Hastings if he opened the windows to which Hastings replies in the negative. Poirot examines the man and announces that Mayerling was gagged and poisoned using cyanide. The hands of the lounge clock were turned to 4 o'clock and Poirot realizes that the murderer was the man from the asylum.

Poirot and Hastings pay a visit to John Ingles, a wealthy man, and ask him about Li Chang Yen and the Big Four. He has heard of both, the former he heard of recently in a note from a fisherman who asked him for a few hundred pounds to hide himself from the Big Four. He had also heard of stories of four men who opposed Li Chang Yen, who had been murdered from stabbing, poisoning, electrocution and cholera. He had also heard a similar story of a chemist who was burned to death in his residence. The note came from Hoppaton so Poirot, Hastings and Ingles go to Hoppaton and find out that the man who wrote the note, a Mr. Jonathan Whalley has been murdered. There are two suspects his maid, Betsy, and his manservant Grant. Whalley had been hit on the head and then his throat had been cut and some jade figures he had had been stolen. Grant is the main suspect as his footprints covered in blood are found around the room, the jade figures were in his room and there is a smear of blood on his room's doorknob. Another reason is the fact that Grant has been imprisoned before, Grant got this job by a prisoner help society. Poirot finds a frozen leg of mutton which interests him very much. Poirot hypothesizes that the murderer was a young man who came in a trap and killed Whalley and went away. His clothing was slightly bloodstained. Poirot talks to Grant and asks him whether he entered the room twice to take the jade figures. When negatived Poirot reveals that no one noticed the murderer because he came in a butcher's cart. Mutton is not delivered on Sundays and if it had been delivered on Saturday it would not have been frozen. The man who gave Grant this job, Poirot assumes, was Number 4.

Poirot then introduces Hastings to Captain Kent who tells them of the sinking of many U.S. boats after the Japanese earthquake. After this they rounded many crooks up all of them referred to an organization called the Big Four. They have made a form of wireless energy capable of focusing a beam of great intensity on any spot. A British scientist called Halliday experimented on this and was said to be on the eve of success when he was kidnapped while on a visit to France. Poirot talks to Halliday's wife who tells him that her husband went to Paris on Thursday the 20 July to talk to some people connected with his work among them the notable French scientist Madame Olivier. After lunch Halliday had gone to Madame Olivier. He had left her at six o' clock, dined alone at some restaurant and gone to his hotel. He had walked out next morning and had not been seen afterwards. As a result Poirot goes to Paris with Hastings.

Poirot and Hastings visit Madame Olivier, question her but while leaving they catch a glimpse of a veiled lady who Poirot is interested in. As soon as they exit the villa a tree falls down barely missing them. Poirot then explains to Hastings how Halliday was kidnapped he was walking away when a lady caught up with him and told him Madame Olivier wanted to talk to him again. She led him and turned into a narrow alley and then into a garden told him that Madame Olivier's villa was on the right side then and there Halliday was kidnapped. Poirot goes to the villa and asks to speak to the woman who just came. She comes down, after initially refusing, when Poirot sends his card. It turns out she is the Countess Vera Rossakoff. When confronted with the theory she phones the kidnappers to send Halliday back to the hotel. When Halliday returns he is too scared to speak. Then a man in a cloak, who is a participant in the big four, comes and tries persuading Hercule Poirot to stop and Hastings gets into a small fight with the stranger who evades Poirot, Hastings, and the hotel manager with a clever disguise.

Poirot is told by Madame Olivier that two men broke into her laboratory and attempted to steal her supply of radium. Poirot and Hastings board a train, and in the confusion of a signal failure caused by Poirot's friend, they return to Mme. Olivier's villa to find the thieves. however, they are ambushed by thugs, and Olivier reveals herself to be Number 3, and that the two shall die by her hands to prevent their interference. However, Poirot tells her that the cigarette he has contains a poisonous dart, and Olivier unties Hastings, who unties Poirot and binds and gags Olivier.

Shortly afterwards the two receive a letter from Abe Ryland who was annoyed at Poirot for refusing his offer. Then Poirot tells Hastings that Abe Ryland is Number 2, an American millionaire. Ryland soon releases news that he is looking for an efficient secretary, and Hastings applies and gets the job, imposing as a man called Captain Neville. He becomes suspicious of the manservant Deaves, and he learns that Ryland received an encoded letter telling him to go to a quarry at eleven o'clock. Hastings spies on Ryland, but is captured by Ryland and Deaves, who wait for Poirot. When he arrives he ambushes Ryland and Deaves with the help of ten Scotland Yard officials. Ryland is released after his manservant informs the police that all of it was just a wager, and Poirot realises that the manservant was Number Four.

A month later, they leave London due to the death of a Mr Paynter in Worcestershire. He had six Chinese servants, as well as his bodyguard Ah Ling, who Poirot is interested in. Paynter was living with his nephew when he felt ill after a meal and a Doctor Quentin was called. He told the nephew, Gerald, that he had given Paynter a hypodermic injection and proceeded by asking strange questions about the servants. Paynter was found the next morning in a room locked from the inside, dead. It seemed that he had fallen off his chair and into the gas fire, and the Doctor was blamed for leaving him in such a position. Before his death, Paynter had dipped his finger in ink and written "yellow jasmine" on his newspaper, a plant growing all over the house, as well as drawing two lines at right angles under the words, a sign similar to the beginning of the number 4. At the inquest, Quentin was accused in a number of ways, such as that he was not the regular doctor and his recalling of the events. According to him, Paynter told him as soon as the door was shut that he was not feeling ill at all and that the taste of his curry was strange. It was claimed that Quentin injected him with strychnine rather than a narcotic. Later, after the curry was analysed, the results showed that it contained a deadly amount of opium, implicating the servant Ah Ling as he was the one to cook it. Also, Inspector Japp tells the two that the key was found near the broken door and that the window was unlatched. Japp believes that the charred face was to cover up the identity of the dead man, but Poirot believes the man to be Paynter. Poirot reveals that Doctor Quentin was number 4, who entered the house and gave Paynter an injection of yellow jasmine rather than strychnine. He locked the door and exited through the window, returning later to put opium in the curry sample, throw Paynter into the fire and steal a manuscript-the reason for the murder.

A month after the case, Japp informs Poirot of another mysterious death- the chess grandmasters Gilmour Wilson and Doctor Savaronoff were playing chess when shortly into the game Gilmour Wilson collapsed dead due to heart failure. Japp suspects he was poisoned, and Poirot is called in. Japp suspects that the poison was intended for Savaronoff, a former Revolutionist in Russia who just escaped from the Bolsheviks. He refused several times to play a game of chess with Wilson but eventually gave in. The match took place in Savaronoff's flat, with at least a dozen people watching the game. Wilson's body had a small burn mark on his left hand and was also clutching a white bishop when he died, part of Savaronoff's set. As Poirot and Hastings enter the Doctor's flat, Poirot notices that the antique Persian rug has had a nail driven through it. After the proceedings in the flat, Poirot and Hastings return home and Poirot takes out a second white bishop. He weighed the one he took with the one Wilson was holding and discovered that the one he was holding was heavier. He explains that the bishop has a metal rod inside it, so that the current passing through the recently refurbished flat below is powered through the nail, into the also tampered table and into the bishop. The bishop was chosen because of Wilson's predictable first few moves, and Poirot suspects the servant of the flat and Savaronoff's niece of working for the big Four. However, when they arrive at the flat Savaronoff's niece is gagged and unconscious and Ivan and the Doctor are nowhere to be seen. Poirot explains that Savaronoff did die in Russia and that number Four impersonated him as a cover. He killed Wilson because if Savaronoff was the second greatest chess master in the world, people would soon realise that number Four was nothing like the chess player Savaronoff was. With number Four gone, the two are back to square one again.

Soon afterwards, Hastings is given a message that his wife has been kidnapped in Argentina by the big Four, as well as another note saying that if he wants to see his wife again he must follow a Chinese servant. He leaves four books on the table as a message for Poirot, and follows him to an abandoned house in Chinatown and he is taken to an Arabian- like room. One of the Chinese servants tries to make him write a letter in order to get Poirot and threaten him with death. He is eventually forced to write it to Poirot and he is soon seen across the street. As Hastings is forced to beckon him into the house, a man from Scotland Yard throws a drugged smoke bomb into the house, knocking everyone unconscious and Hastings is saved. Hastings is not only greeted by Poirot, but by the fact that his wife has been safe for over three months in a place Poirot set up.

Later, Poirot's agents return from their work of identifying number 4 and produce four names, with a Mr Claud Darrell looking suspicious as he has visited both China and America. Very soon, Darrell's friend, Florence Monro, calls Poirot to tell him information about Darrell. She gives one important point, that when he eats he always picks up a piece of bread and dabs up the crumbs with it. She also promises to send him a photo of Darrell. Twenty minutes later Miss Monro is

hit by a car and killed, while number Four had taken her latch-key, gone into her flat and stolen the photograph. Poirot, Hastings and Ingles meet with the home secretary and his client. Ingles leaves for China, and Poirot reveals an odd fact- he has a twin brother. The two arrive home to a nurse who says that her employer, Mr Templeton, often has gastric attacks after eating. When a sample of soup is tested and found to contain antimony, they set off again. The arrival of Templeton's adopted son causes a disturbance; he tells Poirot that he thinks his mother is trying to poison his father. Poirot pretends to have stomach cramps, and when he is alone with Hastings, he quickly tells him that Templeton's son is number Four, as he dabbed up the crumbs with a small slice of bread at the table. The two climb down the ivy and arrive at their flat. The two are caught by a trap; a matchbox filled with a chemical explodes knocking Hastings unconscious and killing Poirot.

Another shock greets Hastings shortly after the funeral; John Ingles had fallen overboard on his boat to China, but Hastings knew this to be murder, of none other than Claud Darrell, number Four himself. After being warned twice by a disguised number Four and Countess Rosakoff to leave for South America, Hastings is called to a hospital because Ingles' Chinese servant was stabbed and had a message in his pocket for Hastings. The servant managed to say 'Handel's Largo', 'carrozza' and a few other Italian words before dying. He also receives a letter from Poirot to be given after his death saying to leave for South America, as it was part of the plan. The big Four would think he was leaving and he could 'wreak havoc in their midst'. This is confirmed when a gentleman in a fur coat (number Four) sends him a letter saying 'You are wise'. Hastings is put on board a ship for Belgium, where he is reunited with his supposedly dead friend, Poirot. Hastings is shocked, and Poirot states it was to make his death look certain to the big Four. The two set off for Italy to Lago di Carrezza, which Hastings thought was 'largo' and 'carrozza'. The two find a café where they go to drink coffee. However, upon their arrival, they see a man jump up from his table, and fiddle with his bread- undoubtedly number Four. This was all Poirot's plan- to scare a man as soon as he thinks he is safe. But it was an act; the lights went out and Poirot and Hastings are knocked unconscious and dragged away. They are taken to the headquarters of the Big Four- The Felsenlabyrinth. They are confronted by Ryland, Olivier and number Four, with Chang Yen being in China, and later Vera Rossakoff.

It soon becomes clear that the man is not Hercule Poirot, but in fact his twin, Achille. The man has a deeper voice, has no moustache and has a scar on his lip. He makes the four people aware of the fact that the mountain has been cordoned off, and that the police were about to raid the headquarters. Knowing their defeat, the three members retreat to a laboratory and Vera decided to bargain with Poirot. He claimed that he could bring the dead back to life, and she said that she would save them if he returned her dead child. The three run out of the mountain just as it explodes, and Hastings awakes to yet another surprise. Achille Poirot didn't exist- it was Hercule Poirot in disguise all along. He manages to give the countess her child back, who was really left in an orphanage, and the newspapers reveal that Li Chang Yen, the famous Chinese politician, has committed suicide. The story ends on Poirot lamenting that all his other cases will seem boring and tame to this case.

Dead Man's Folly

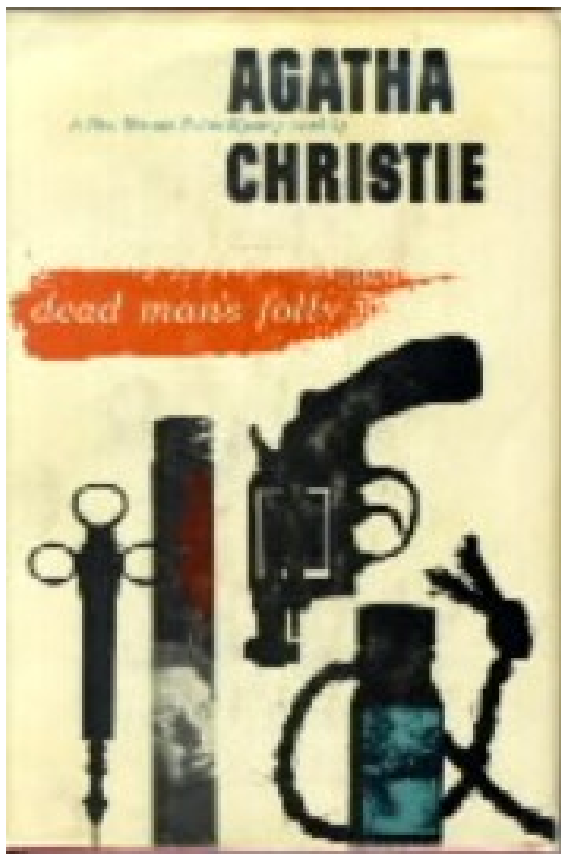
Season 13

Episode Number: 73

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Wednesday October 30, 2013
Writer: Nick Dear
Director: Tom Vaughan (II)
Show Stars: David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Recurring Role: Zoë Wanamaker (Ariadne Oliver)
Guest Stars: Sinéad Cusack (Amy Folliat), Tom Ellis (Inspector Bland), Stephanie Leonidas (Lady Hattie Stubbs), Sam Kelly (Merdell), Elliot Barnes-Worrell (Etienne de Sousa), Martin Jarvis (Captain Warburton), Sean Pertwee (Sir George Stubbs), Chris Gordon (Bickford), Rebecca Front (Amanda Brewis), Rosalind Ayres (Mrs Warburton), Emma Hamilton (Sally Legge), Nicholas Woodeson (PC Bob Hoskins), Ella Geraghty (Marlene Tucker), Francesca Zoutewelle (Dutch Girl Hiker), Daniel Weyman (Alec Legge), James Anderson (III) (Michael Weyman), Richard Dixon (Henden), Angel Witney (Gertie)

Summary: Ariadne Oliver is asked to devise a murder hunt for a Devon fête, but her sense of foreboding summons Poirot to the scene. Her fears are realized when, during the fête, the girl playing her murder victim winds up well and truly murdered.



Poirot is summoned to Nasse House in Devon by Ariadne Oliver, who is staging a Murder Hunt as part of activities in a summer fête the next day. At Nasse House, Mrs. Oliver explains that small aspects of her plans for the Murder Hunt have been changed by requests from people in the house rather deviously, until a real murder would not surprise her.

The owner of Nasse House is George Stubbs, a wealthy man who has adopted the title of "Sir". His much younger wife is the beautiful Hattie, Lady Stubbs. She shows interest in fine clothes and jewelry, appearing simple to all but her husband's secretary. Hattie was introduced to him a year earlier by Amy Folliat, the surviving member of the family who owned the estate for centuries. Widowed before the War began, she lost her two sons during the War. With death duties very high post-war, she had to sell the ancestral home and grounds to keep it intact.[3] She took on the orphaned Hattie, introducing her in society. Mrs. Folliat rents the lodge on the estate so long her home. Michael Weyman, an architect, is on site to design a tennis court; he criticises the inappropriate location of a recently built folly. Sir George shouts at young tourists who cross his property in hopes of a short cut across his estate to the river ferry, including a Dutch woman,

an Italian woman, and a man wearing a shirt decorated with turtles.

On the day of the fête, Hattie reads out a letter from her cousin, Etienne de Sousa, who will visit that day; she is upset by his abrupt visit. A local Girl Guide, Marlene Tucker, plays the part of the victim in the Murder Hunt; she waits in the boathouse to pose as the dead victim when a player finds the key to enter. Her first visitor is Miss Brevis with a tray of refreshments at tea time at Hattie's request. In the company of Mrs. Oliver, Poirot discovers the corpse of Marlene in the boathouse. Hattie cannot be found. Mrs. Oliver produces an abundance of theories to explain the murder and the disappearance, while the police and Poirot narrow the field from all attending the fête, to those familiar with the Murder Hunt.

The investigation focuses first on Etienne de Sousa and briefly on Amanda Brewis. Further confusion is added by the behaviour of the Legges, staying in a cottage on the estate and whose marriage is in trouble due to his behavior. He has a shady connection with a young man in a turtle shirt who has been seen in the grounds. (It later becomes clear that this red herring is connected with Legge's early political leanings in his career as an "atom scientist".)

With weeks of no progress, Poirot visits Devon again, learning that Hattie is still missing and the old boatman dead by accident was Marlene's grandfather. He puts together several stray clues: Marlene's grandfather had seen a woman's body in the woods; she received small sums of money used to make small purchases, now in her younger sister's possession; Merdell had commented significantly to Poirot that there would "always be Folliats at Nasse House". Now it is three murders, Poirot tells the police, who find the evidence to support his solution.

In the dénouement, Poirot explains all in a conversation with Mrs. Folliat. Sir George Stubbs is Amy Folliat's younger son, James, a deserter. Amy had paired him with the orphan young woman Hattie, who gained her wealth on her marriage, not penniless as Mrs. Folliat first said. James fleeces his wife of her money as he establishes his new identity, then purchases the old family home: the extent of his mother's plan. Unknown to his mother, James was married since his desertion to a young Italian woman. The evening he and Hattie came to Nasse House was her only time there. He killed Hattie, and his legal first wife played the role of Hattie from the next morning. The real Hattie is buried on the grounds.

George/James and his first wife eliminated all who might reveal their true identities. Marlene Tucker learned the true identity of George Stubbs from her grandfather, so both were murdered, separately. The day before the fête, first wife begins another identity as an Italian tourist staying in the nearby hostel. She switches between the two roles frequently over 24 hours. The fake Hattie sends Amanda Brewis to bring refreshments to Marlene shortly before the girl was murdered to assure no witness to the murder. She kills Marlene then changes to the tourist guise, tossing the large hat she wore as Hattie in the river. Then James's wife leaves the area as the Italian tourist with a rucksack. The day of Marlene's murder had been selected to cast suspicion upon Etienne, who had written weeks earlier of his visit, as he told Inspector Bland. He had grown up with the real Hattie and would not be fooled by the first wife in disguise. Two weeks later, Merdell drowned at the river with help from James.

As they converse, they hear the sounds of the police breaking up the Folly, to exhume poor Hattie's body.

The Labours of Hercules

Season 13

Episode Number: 74

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Wednesday November 6, 2013
Writer: Guy Andrews, Agatha Christie
Director: Andy Wilson (II)
Show Stars: David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Guest Stars: Rupert Evans (Harold Waring), Tom Austen (Ted Williams), Orla Brady (Countess Vera Rossakoff), Lorna Nickson Brown (Lucinda), Simon Callow (Dr. Lutz), Tom Chadbon (Dr. Burton), Morven Christie (Elsie Clayton), Stephen Frost (Chief Inspector), Richard Katz (Gustave), Nigel Lindsay (Francesco), Sandy McDade (Mrs. Rice), Nicholas McGaughey (Inspector Lementeuil), Isobel Middleton (Policewoman), Fiona O'Shaughnessy (Katrina), Patrick Ryecart (Sir Anthony Morgan), Eleanor Tomlinson (Alice Cunningham), Tom Wlaschiha (Schwartz)

Summary: While staying at a snowbound hotel in the Swiss Alps, Poirot is faced with mysteries of Herculean proportions, both literally and figuratively, as he pits his little grey cells against his fellow guests.



In an attempt to snare the enigmatic art thief Marrascaud, Poirot and the Metropolitan Police set an irresistible trap: at the society debut of wealthy aristocrat Lucinda Le Mesurier, a priceless painting called 'Hercules Vanquishing the Hydra' by Marrascaud's favorite artist will be displayed, with Lucinda wearing exquisite diamond jewelry. A confident Poirot is convinced the criminal will be apprehended, but he does not foresee the eventual, disastrous outcome: not only does Marrascaud pinch the painting, but Lucinda herself is brutally murdered, and her jewels are stolen as well. The catastrophe weighs heavily on Poirot's conscience, and he sinks into a steady depression, despite the entreaties of his physician, Dr Burton.

Three months after Lucinda's murder, a lonely chauffeur asks Poirot to find his true love, the maid of celebrated Russian ballerina Katrina Samoushenka. Pitying the man, Poirot agrees to reunite the lovers pro bono and sets off to the Hotel Olympos in Rochers Neiges, Switzerland, where Katrina is supposedly staying. Run by the hearty (yet corrupt) Italian Francesco, the hotel is world-famous for its Alpine spa treatments, and much to Poirot's surprise, it is also Marrascaud's current hideout. But what identity has the villain taken?

Among the guests, Poirot not only finds the bedridden Katrina, but also her imperious Austrian psychotherapist Dr Lutz, M.P. Harold Waring, who has shouldered the blame for an illicit scandal involving his superior, bossy Mrs Rice and her daughter Elsie Clayton, whose abusive husband is also staying at the hotel, parlor-game enthusiast Schwartz, and the only woman who has ever stirred his heart: former jewel thief

Countess Vera Rossakoff, whose criminologist daughter Alice Cunningham is also present, along with her unsightly pet bulldog, Binky. A motley crew, indeed, and just as impenetrable.

When an avalanche strands the guests, it becomes even more imperative to find Marrascaud. But several distractions prevent Poirot from facing his nemesis. Why is Katrina being deliberately evasive about the fate of her maid? Why does Dr Lutz have such a powerful hold on her? Why does Elsie's husband always dine in his room? What is Countess Rossakoff doing in Switzerland, and has she really given up her life of thievery? Why is Schwartz so hard to read? What happened to the old servant, Robert, and why is his replacement so inexperienced? Who tried to frighten Alice? As more and more questions pile up, less and less time remains as Poirot strives towards redemption for his past mistakes. But will he succeed in battling his inner demons as Hercules succeeded in conquering his twelve Labours, or will Marrascaud be the first criminal to prevail against the Belgian detective?

Curtain: Poirot's Last Case

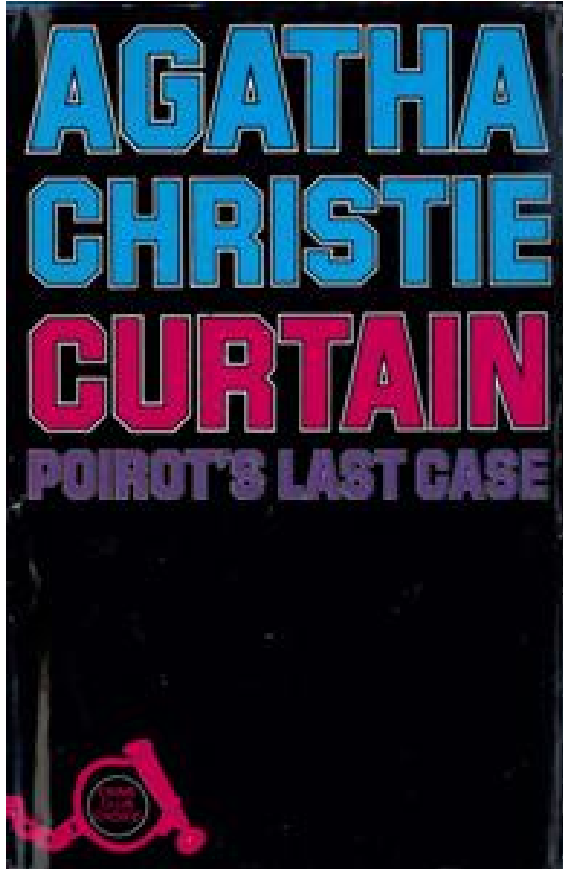
Season 13

Episode Number: 75

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Wednesday November 13, 2013
Writer: Kevin Elyot
Director: Hettie Macdonald
Show Stars: David Suchet (Hercule Poirot)
Recurring Role: David Yelland (George), Hugh Fraser (Captain Hastings)
Guest Stars: Alice Orr-Ewing (Judith Hastings), Shaun Dingwall (Doctor Franklin), Anna Madeley (Barbara Franklin), Claire Keelan (Nurse Craven), Helen Baxendale (Elizabeth Cole), Philip Glenister (Sir William Boyd Carrington), Matthew McNulty (Major Allerton), John Standing (Colonel Toby Luttrell), Anne Reid (Daisy Luttrell), Aidan McArdle (Stephen Norton), Gregory Cox (Coroner), Adam Englander (Curtis)

Summary: An ailing Poirot returns to Styles with Hastings nearly three decades after solving their first mystery together there in order to prevent an unscrupulous and ingenious serial killer from claiming more victims.



A murderer, identified by Poirot simply by the letter X, has been completely unsuspected of involvement in five previous murders, in all of which there was a clear suspect. Four of these suspects have subsequently died (one of them hanged), but in the case of Freda Clay, who gave her aunt an overdose of morphine, there was considered to be too little evidence to prosecute. Hastings agrees that it is highly unlikely to be coincidence if X was connected with all five deaths, but Poirot, now using a wheelchair due to arthritis and attended by his new valet Curtiss, will not give him X's name. He merely makes it clear that X is in the house, which has been turned into a private hotel by the new owners: Colonel and Mrs Luttrell.

Hastings makes certain discoveries in the next few days. Elizabeth Cole, another guest at the hotel, reveals to him that she is in fact the sister of Margaret Litchfield, who had confessed to the murder of their father in one of the five cases. Margaret had died in Broadmoor Asylum and Elizabeth is stigmatised by the trauma. Later that day Hastings and several others overhear an argument between the Luttrells. Shortly afterwards, Mr Luttrell wounds his wife with a rook rifle,[4] having apparently mistaken her for a rabbit. Hastings reflects that this is precisely the sort of accident with which X is associated, but Mrs Luttrell rapidly recovers.

Hastings is concerned by the attentions paid to his daughter Judith by Major Allerton, whom he discovers is married but estranged from his Catholic wife. While Hastings and Elizabeth are out with Stephen Norton, a newly arrived birdwatching guest, Norton seems to see something disturbing through his binoculars. Hastings suspects it is something to do with Allerton and,

when his clumsy attempts to persuade Judith to give Allerton up merely antagonise her, he plans Allerton's murder. He falls asleep while waiting to poison Allerton, and feels differently about things when he awakes the next day.

Barbara Franklin, the wife of Judith's employer Dr Franklin and the childhood friend of Sir William Boyd Carrington, dies the following evening. She has been poisoned with physostigmine sulphate, an extract from the Calabar bean that her husband has been researching. After Poirot's testimony at the inquest — that Mrs Franklin had been upset and that she had emerged from Dr Franklin's laboratory with a small bottle — a verdict of suicide is brought in, but Hastings suspects that the death was murder and Poirot confirms this.

Norton, still evidently upset about what he has seen through the binoculars, asks Hastings for his advice, which is to confide in Poirot. Poirot arranges a meeting between them and says that Norton must not speak to anyone further of what he has seen. That night, Hastings is awakened by a noise and sees Norton — with his dressing-gown, untidy grey hair and characteristic limp — go into his bedroom. The next morning, however, Norton is found dead in his locked room with a bullet-hole perfectly in the centre of his forehead, the key in his dressing-gown pocket and a pistol (remembered by a housemaid as belonging to him) nearby. Apparently, X has struck again.

Poirot takes Hastings over the evidence, pointing out that his belief that he saw Norton that night relies on loose evidence: the dressing-gown, the hair, the limp. Nevertheless, it seems that there is no one in the house who could have impersonated Norton, who was a short man. Hastings despairs that the mystery will ever be solved when Poirot himself dies that night, apparently of natural causes. He nevertheless leaves Hastings three conscious clues: a copy of *Othello*, a copy of *John Ferguson* (a 1915 play by St. John Greer Ervine), and a note telling Hastings to speak to his permanent valet, George. In the weeks that follow the death of Poirot, Hastings is staggered to discover that Judith has all along been in love with Dr Franklin, and is now marrying him and going with him to do research in Africa. Was Judith the murderer? When Hastings speaks to George, he discovers that Poirot wore a wig, and that Poirot's reasons for employing Curtiss were vague. Perhaps the murderer was Curtiss all along?

The solution, and one of the greatest of Christie's twist endings, is contained in a written confession that is sent to Hastings from Poirot's lawyers, four months after Poirot's death from a heart attack. Poirot reveals that he wore a false moustache as well as a wig and explains that X was Norton, a man who had perfected the technique of which Iago in *Othello* (like a character in Ervine's play) is master: applying just such psychological pressure as is needed to provoke someone to commit murder, without his victim truly realising what is happening. Again and again Norton had demonstrated this ability, first by apparently clumsy remarks that goaded Colonel Luttrell to take a shot at his wife. The shot is not fatal and Mrs Luttrell recovers. Then, Norton carefully manipulated Hastings to resolve upon the murder of Major Allerton. It was Norton's contrivances that created the impression to Hastings that Judith loved Allerton, when in fact she has been in love with Franklin all along. Hastings's potential murder was averted by Poirot, who put sleeping pills in Hastings' hot chocolate that night. Poirot knew Hastings was not a murderer, but had he not intervened Hastings likely would have hanged.

Deprived of his prey twice, Norton turned to Mrs Franklin, fertile territory, as she was really a conniving and mercenary woman underneath her timid facade. Mrs Franklin was successfully manipulated by Norton to attempt the murder of her husband, after which she could be reunited with the wealthy Boyd Carrington. By an ironic twist of fate, Hastings himself had inadvertently intervened, by turning a revolving bookcase table while seeking out a book to solve a crossword clue (*Othello* again, coincidentally), thus accidentally swapping the cups of coffee and the one with poison in it was actually drunk by Mrs Franklin herself. Poirot knew all this but could not prove it and sensed that Norton, who had been deliberately vague about whom he had seen through the binoculars when attempting to imply that he had seen Allerton and Judith, was now intending to reveal that he had seen Franklin and Judith, thus almost certainly implicating them in the apparent murder of Mrs Franklin. The immediate solution was for Poirot to heavily insist that Mrs Franklin had actually done what she had meretriciously whined about doing — taking her own life — which no one ever believed she would do. Poirot's strange insistence confuses Hastings, but the strength of Poirot's word carries the day.

However, the only permanent solution was for Poirot himself to murder Norton. At their meeting, he revealed to Norton what he suspected and said that he intended to 'execute' him. He then gave him hot chocolate. Norton, who did not deny anything, remained arrogantly self-assured in

the face of both the accusation and the threat, insisted on swapping cups, but both contained the same sleeping pills which Poirot had previously used to drug Hastings; guessing that Norton would request the swap, Poirot had drugged both cups, knowing that his time taking the pills would give him a higher tolerance for a dose that would put Norton out.

With Norton unconscious, Poirot, whose incapacity had been faked (for which he needed a temporary valet who wouldn't realise this and would accept his word without question, the reason Poirot did not travel with his long-term permanent valet George, who knows Poirot's true physical condition, and with whom Hastings later speaks), moved the body back to Norton's room in his wheelchair. Then, he disguised himself as Norton by removing his wig, putting on Norton's dressing-gown and ruffling up his grey hair. Poirot was the only short suspect at the house. With it established that Norton was alive after he left Poirot's room, Poirot shot him — with characteristic symmetry — in the centre of his forehead. He locked the room with a duplicate key; both Hastings and the reader would have assumed that the duplicate key was to Poirot's own room, but the detective had said he had changed rooms before Norton's arrival, and it was to this previous room that he had the key.

Poirot's last actions were to write the confession and await his own death by moving the amyl nitrite phials out of his own reach and dying of a heart attack, thus avoiding the traditional arrogance of the murderer who has come to believe that he had the right to kill those he deemed it necessary to eliminate. Poirot had always insisted during his long career that a person who had taken another person's life, except in the cause of self-defence, could no longer be relied upon to respect the sanctity of life, and hence Poirot's own relentless insistence on bringing guilty parties to justice. Poirot's last wish is implicitly that Hastings will marry Elizabeth Cole: a final instance of the inveterate matchmaking that characterised his entire career.

Actor Appearances

A

Amanda Abbington	1
1102 (Miss Blake)	
John Abbott (II)	1
0303 (Detective)	
Joe Absolom	1
1101 (James Bentley)	
Dallas Adams	1
0302 (Hood)	
Jenny Agutter	1
1004 (Adela Marchmont)	
James Aiden	1
0105 (Major Sadler)	
Jean Ainslie	1
0406 (Alison Hendry)	
Tony Aitken	1
0104 (Tommy Pinner)	
Abdelkader Aizoun	1
1104 (Concierge)	
Roger Alborough	1
0801 (Chief Constable Weston)	
Richard Albrecht	1
0204 (Lobby Clerk)	
Victoria Alcock	1
0310 (Ellie)	
Peter Aldwyn	1
0308 (Durbridge)	
Bruce Alexander	2
0405 (Albert Chapman); 0406 (Albert Chapman)	
Denise Alexander	1
0310 (the real Mrs Middleton)	
Geraldine Alexander	1
0305 (Susan Maltravers)	
Tariq Alibai	1
0308 (Prince Farouq)	
Adie Allen	1
0502 (Lily Naylor/Margrave)	
Fiona Allen	1
0702 (Carlotta Adams)	
Sheila Allen	1
0107 (Mrs Clapperton)	
James Alper	1
1002 (Shaitana's Butler)	
Vittorio Amandola	1
0505 (First Secretary)	
Emma Amos	1
1101 (Bessie Burch)	
James Anderson (III)	1
1303 (Michael Weyman)	
Vass Anderson	1
0109 (Frampton)	
Dimitri Andreas	1
0106 (Greek Cashier)	
Lysette Anthony	1
0904 (Veronica Cray)	
Philip Anthony	3
0401 (Doctor); 0402 (Doctor); 1003 (II) (Vicar)	

Ben Aris	1
0107 (Captain Fowler)	
Jonathan Aris	1
0702 (Receptionist)	
Charles Armstrong	1
0502 (Receptionist)	
Jane Asher	1
1201 (Lady Mary Lytton Gore)	
Kate Ashfield	1
1201 (Muriel Wills)	
Eileen Atkins	1
1203 (Princess Dragomiroff)	
Phil Atkinson	1
0701 (Ted)	
Edward Atterton	1
0504 (Robert Siddaway)	
Harry Audley	2
0403 (Barraclough); 0404 (Barraclough)	
Tom Austen	1
1304 (Ted Williams)	
Rosalind Ayres	1
1303 (Mrs Warburton)	

B

Sarah Badel	1
0602 (Mrs Hubbard)	
Annette Badland	1
0901 (Mrs Spriggs)	
Bill Bailey (II)	1
0501 (Felix Bleibner)	
Gillian Bush Bailey	1
0105 (Mrs Sadler)	
Marion Bailey	1
0303 (Jane Melon)	
Rosalind Bailey	1
0701 (Mrs Ferrars)	
Christopher Baines	2
0201 (Charles Vyse); 0202 (Charles Vyse)	
Patrick Baladi	1
1004 (Rowley Cloade)	
David Bamber	1
0306 (Bernard Parker)	
Jamie Bamber	1
0701 (Ralph Paton)	
Jonathan Bancroft	1
0308 (Colin)	
Teresa Banham	1
1302 (Diana Paynter)	
Geoffrey Banks	1
0604 (Starter)	
Frances Barber	2
0203 (Lady Millicent Castle-Vaughan); 1204 (Merlina Rival)	
John Bardon	1
0104 (Lavatory Attendant)	
Gillian Barge	2
0211 (Mrs Inglethorp); 0212 (Mrs Inglethorp)	

Jonathan Barlow..... 1	Elizabeth Berrington..... 1
0506 (Jean-Louis Ferraud)	1102 (Miss Grace Springer)
Elliot Barnes-Worrell..... 1	Tim Berrington..... 1
1303 (Etienne de Sousa)	0603 (Golfer)
Barbara Barnes (II)..... 2	Suzanne Bertish..... 1
0204 (Mrs Lester); 0802 (Louise Leidner)	1201 (Miss Milray)
Michael Tudor Barnes..... 1	Jacek Bilinski..... 1
0505 (Neighbour)	0901 (Young Philip)
Peter Barnes..... 1	Kate Binchy..... 1
0204 (Wilkins)	0209 (Egan's Landlady)
Desmond Barrit..... 1	Peter Birch..... 1
0305 (Samuel Naughton)	0301 (Nicholai)
Anthony Bate..... 1	Paul Birchard..... 1
0204 (Lord Pearson)	0501 (Rupert Bleibner)
Geoffrey Bateman..... 1	Stephen Bird..... 1
0103 (Marcus Waverly)	0406 (Page-boy)
Joe Bates..... 2	Jane Birdsall..... 1
0201 (Alfred Wilson); 0202 (Alfred Wilson)	0402 (Nurse)
Helen Baxendale..... 1	Eva Birthistle..... 1
1305 (Elizabeth Cole)	1004 (Rosaleen Cloade)
Ben Bazell..... 3	Donald Bisset..... 1
0405 (Sergeant Beddoes); 0406 (Sergeant Beddoes);	0110 (Mayor)
0505 (Sergeant Beddoes)	Caroline Blakiston..... 1
Richard Beale..... 1	1301 (Julia Carstairs)
0206 (Merritt)	John Bleasdale..... 2
Oliver Beamish..... 1	0403 (Mitchell); 0404 (Mitchell)
0209 (Sergeant Hopper)	Timothy Block..... 1
Tom Beard..... 1	0209 (Major Norman)
0702 (Duke of Merton)	Emily Blunt..... 1
Daisy Beaumont..... 1	0903 (Linnet Doyle)
0701 (Ursula Bourne)	Gabrielle Blunt..... 1
Penelope Beaumont..... 2	0102 (Mrs Pierce)
0211 (Mrs Raikes); 0212 (Mrs Raikes)	Peter Blythe..... 2
Richard Bebb..... 5	0405 (Alistair Blunt); 0406 (Alistair Blunt)
0101 (Cameron); 0110 (Voice of Newscaster); 0302	Samantha Bond..... 1
(voice of newsreader); 0305 (voice of newsreader);	0208 (Stella Robinson)
0603 (Newsreader)	Hugh Bonneville..... 1
Samantha Beckinsale..... 1	1203 (Edward Masterman)
0103 (Barmaid)	Zouheir Bornaz..... 1
Terence Beesley..... 1	0802 (Police Sergeant)
0603 (Stonor)	John Boswall..... 1
Geoffrey BeEVERS..... 2	0304 (Dr Belvedere)
0107 (Tolliever); 0902 (Seddon)	Catherine Bott..... 1
Sasha Behar..... 1	0307 (Gilda)
0601 (Pilar Estravados)	Christopher Bowen..... 1
Michael Beint..... 1	0802 (Richard Carey)
0506 (Coroner)	Philip Bowen..... 1
Tessa Bell-Briggs..... 1	1002 (Luxmore)
1103 (Daphne)	John Bowler..... 1
Ann Bell..... 1	0205 (Jacob Radnor)
0502 (Lady Astwell)	David Bowles..... 2
Rachel Bell..... 1	0405 (Sergeant Evans); 0406 (Sergeant Evans)
0602 (Mrs Nicholetis)	Peter Bowles..... 1
Nigel Bellairs..... 2	1103 (Sir Roderick Horsefield)
0405 (Leatheran); 0406 (Leatheran)	Stephen Boxer..... 1
Derek Benfield..... 1	1204 (Christopher Mabbutt)
0205 (Dr Adams)	Roy Boyd..... 1
Liese Benjamin..... 1	0310 (Jack Stoddard)
0601 (Young Stella)	Zoe Boyle..... 1
Rosalind Bennett..... 1	1104 (Ginevra Boynton)
0210 (Marie Marvel)	Cathryn Bradshaw..... 2
Steve Bennett..... 1	0401 (Mary Drower); 0402 (Mary Drower)
0801 (Policeman)	Oliver Bradshaw..... 2
Anthony Benson..... 1	0405 (Hendry); 0406 (Hendry)
0106 (Skelton)	Orla Brady..... 1
Tushka Bergen..... 1	1304 (Countess Vera Rossakoff)
0507 (Susan Cardwell)	Richard Braine..... 1
Ron Berglas..... 1	0205 (Newsom)
0802 (Dr Eric Leidner)	Richard Breislin..... 1
Andrée Bernard..... 1	1202 (Leopold Reynolds)
0601 (Magdalene Lee)	John Breslin..... 2

0401 (Barnard); 0402 (Barnard)	1
Lucy Briers	1
0904 (Beryl Collins)	
Mark Brignal	1
0702 (Addison)	
Lou Broadbent	1
1302 (Mabel)	
Tom Brooke	1
1302 (Tysoe)	
Linda Broughton	1
0506 (Denise)	
Christopher Brown (III)	1
0102 (golfer)	
Lorna Nickson Brown	1
1304 (Lucinda)	
Clive Brunt	1
0701 (Petty Officer)	
Bob Bryan	1
0102 (barman)	
Fred Bryant	1
0110 (Workman)	
Kate Buffery	1
0604 (Theresa)	
Cordelia Bugeja	1
1002 (Mrs Luxmore)	
Amelia Bullmore	1
1202 (Judith Butler)	
Suzanne Burden	1
0105 (Patricia Matthews)	
"Baby" John Burgess	1
0301 (Harrison)	
Vivienne Burgess	2
0401 (Lady Clarke); 0402 (Lady Clarke)	
David Burke (I)	1
0602 (Sir Arthur Stanley)	
Tom Burke	1
1204 (Lieutenant Colin Race RN)	
Nicholas Burns	1
1302 (Inspector Meadows)	
Andrew Burt	1
0309 (James Ackerly)	
Clemency Burton-Hill	1
1103 (Claudia Reece-Holland)	
Simon Hill Bus	1
1103 (Ticket Inspector)	
Allie Byrne	2
0211 (Cynthia Murdoch); 0212 (Cynthia Murdoch)	

C

Selina Cadell	1
0701 (Caroline Sheppard)	
Jonathan Cake	1
0904 (John Christow)	
Anna Calder-Marshall	1
1003 (Maude Abernethie)	
Anthony Calf	2
0211 (Lawrence Cavendish); 0212 (Lawrence Cavendish)	
Louise Callaghan	1
0902 (Hunterbury Maid)	
Graham Callan	1
0205 (Solicitor)	
Simon Callow	1
1304 (Dr. Lutz)	
Alister Cameron	1
0210 (Lord Yardly)	
Cheryl Campbell	1
1104 (Lady Boynton)	
Peter Capaldi	1
0304 (Claude Langton)	
Anita Carey	1

0305 (Miss Rawlinson)	1
John Carlin	1
0406 (Dr Bennett)	
Timothy Carlton	1
0902 (Judge)	
Andrew Carr	1
0508 (Hubert Devine)	
Antony Carrick	1
0101 (Todd)	
John Carson	2
0108 (Sir George Carrington); 1003 (Richard Abernethie)	
Eric Carte	1
0601 (George Lee)	
Anna Carteret	1
1201 (Mrs Babbington)	
Jon Cartwright	1
0106 (Commander Chantry)	
Raquel Cassidy	1
1101 (Maureen Summerhayes)	
John Castle	1
0702 (Lord Edgware)	
Richard Cawte	1
0307 (young officer)	
Tom Chadbon	1
1304 (Dr. Burton)	
Julia Chambers	1
0103 (Ada Waverly)	
Anna Chancellor	1
0506 (Virginie Mesnard)	
Jessica Chastain	1
1203 (Mary Debenham)	
Hi Ching	1
0204 (Chow Feng)	
Anthony Chinn	1
0209 (Shi Mong)	
Graham Chinn	1
0701 (Landlord)	
Jack Chissick	1
0107 (Bates)	
Morven Christie	1
1304 (Elsie Clayton)	
William Chubb	1
0306 (Blake)	
Teresa Churcher	1
0904 (Elsie Patterson)	
Jemma Churchill	1
0208 (Elsie)	
Kristen Clark	1
0506 (Jeanette)	
Prue Clarke	1
1201 (Hospital Matron)	
Edward Clayton	1
0307 (Rouse)	
Scott Cleverdon	1
0504 (President)	
Pandora Clifford	1
0802 (Sheila Maitland)	
Margaret Clifton	1
0603 (Concierge)	
Sam Clifton	1
0209 (Urchin)	
Claude Close	2
0401 (Doncaster sergeant); 0402 (Doncaster Sergeant)	
Harriet Cobbold	1
0904 (Simmons)	
Lucy Cohu	1
0506 (Marianne Deroulard)	
Christina Cole	1
1104 (Dr. Sarah King)	
Stephanie Cole	1

<p>0308 (Mrs Lacey) Bryan Coleman 2 0211 (Vicar); 0212 (Vicar) Kenneth Colley 1 0206 (Matthew Davenheim & Billy Kellett) Ian Collier 1 0210 (Sergeant) Charles Collingwood 1 0309 (BBC Announcer) Carolyn Colquhoun 2 0405 (Mabelle Sainsbury-Seale); 0406 (Mabelle Sainsbury-Seale) Gloria Connell 1 0204 (Miss Devenish) Patrick Connor 1 0103 (Hughes) Nigel Cooke 1 0701 (Geoffrey Raymond) Barrie Cookson 1 0102 (Dr Brett) James Coombes 1 0506 (Paul Deroulard) Rowena Cooper 1 0504 (Sarah Siddaway) Trevor Cooper 1 0508 (Ed Opalsen) Peter Copley 1 0307 (Burgoyne) Nicholas Coppin 1 0101 (Police Constable) John Cording 2 0102 (Inspector Jameson); 0204 (Sergeant Jameson) Deborah Cornelius 1 0702 (Penny Driver) Georgia Cornick 1 1102 (Patricia Forbes) Oliver Cotton 1 0210 (Gregorie Rolf) Jamie De Courcey 1 0904 (Edward Angkatell) Elliot Cowan 1 1004 (David Hunter) Simon Cowell-Parker 1 0501 (Nigel Harper) Arthur Cox 2 0505 (Dr Hawker); 0508 (Dr Hawker) Claire Cox 1 1301 (Dorothea Jarow) Gregory Cox 1 1305 (Coroner) Julie Cox 1 0901 (Elsa Greer) Jonathan Coy 1 0109 (Bunny Saunders) Janice Cramer 2 0201 (Maid); 0202 (Maid) Sam Crane 1 1203 (II) (Lt. Blanchflower) Adam Croasdell 1 1102 (Adam Goodman) John Crocker 2 0201 (Dr Graham); 0202 (Dr Graham) Jon Croft 1 0507 (Lawrence) Michael Cronin 2 0211 (Alfred Inglethorp); 0212 (Alfred Inglethorp) Anna Cropper 1 0501 (Lady Willard) Sarah Crowden 1 0309 (Receptionist)</p>	<p>Mark Crowdy 1 0309 (Viscount Cronshaw) Dermot Crowley 1 0101 (Arthur Simpson) Rosalie Crutchley 1 0506 (Madame Deroulard) Abigail Cruttenden 1 0109 (Geraldine Oglander) Michael Culkin 1 1302 (Savaranoff) Mark Culwick 1 0109 (Young Man) Emma Cunniffe 1 1104 (Carol Boynton) Mary Cunningham 2 0201 (Ellen Wilson); 0202 (Ellen Wilson) Angela Curran 1 0904 (Frances Simms) Lucinda Curtis 2 0401 (Mrs Marbury); 0402 (Mrs Marbury) Niamh Cusack 1 0109 (Valerie St Clair) Sinéad Cusack 1 1303 (Amy Folliat) Sorcha Cusack 1 0508 (Margaret Opalsen) Iain Cuthbertson 1 0507 (Gervase Chevenix)</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">D</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p>James D'Arcy 1 1001 (Derek Kettering) Phil Daniels 1 1204 (Inspector Hardcastle) Trevor Darby 1 0301 (Trumper) Lucy Davidson 1 0502 (Gladys) Clem Davies 1 0307 (reporter) Jason Davies 1 0801 (Dominic Hobson) Oliver Ford Davies 1 0701 (Dr Sheppard) Edwina Day 1 0205 (Landlady) Nicholas Day 1 1302 (Ingles) Louise Delamere 1 0801 (Arlena Stuart) Steve Delaney 1 0601 (Sergeant Coombes) Nicholas Delve 1 0102 (Freddie) Virginia Denham 1 0702 (Alice) Mark Denny 2 0602 (Passport Officer); 0602 (Manager) Elisabeth Dermot-Walsh 1 0902 (Elinor Carlisle) Richard Derrington 1 0506 (Henri) Georgia Dervis 1 0106 (Greek Girl) Joanna Dickens 1 0601 (Cook) Meriel Dickinson 1 0306 (Katherine Bird) Richard Dillane 1 1101 (Major John Summerhayes)</p>
---	---

Shaun Dingwall.....	1
1305 (Doctor Franklin)	
Paola Dionisotti.....	1
1202 (Mrs Goodbody)	
Richard Dixon.....	1
1303 (Henden)	
Vernon Dobtcheff.....	1
0601 (Simeon Lee)	
Megan Dodds.....	1
0904 (Henrietta Savernake)	
Monica Dolan.....	1
1003 (Cora Gallaccio / Miss Gilchrist)	
Daisy Donovan.....	1
0903 (Cornelia Robson)	
Peter Doran.....	1
0206 (Policeman)	
Amanda Douge.....	1
1004 (Lynn Marchmont)	
Donald Douglas.....	2
0401 (Franklin Clarke); 0402 (Franklin Clarke)	
Hazel Douglas.....	1
1301 (Mrs Matcham)	
Freda Dowie.....	1
0101 (Eliza Dunn)	
Alexandra Dowling.....	1
1301 (Marie)	
Angela Down.....	1
0106 (Marjorie Gold)	
Elizabeth Downes.....	2
0201 (Maggie Buckley); 0202 (Maggie Buckley)	
Jenny Downham.....	2
0403 (Anne Giselle); 0404 (Anne Giselle)	
Penny Downie.....	1
1004 (Frances Cloade)	
Kevin Doyle.....	1
1003 (Inspector Morton)	
Terry Duggan.....	1
0602 (Butcher)	
Gordon Dulieu.....	2
0211 (Clerk of the Court); 0212 (Clerk of the Court)	
John Dunbar.....	1
0308 (Peverill)	
Lindsay Duncan.....	1
1001 (Lady Tamplin)	
Neil Duncan.....	1
0305 (Captain Black)	
Eileen Dunwoodie.....	1
0508 (First Holidaymaker)	
Richard Durden.....	2
0504 (Dr Pritchard); 1004 (Pebmarsh)	
Tom Durham.....	1
0405 (Lionel Arnholt)	
John Hart Dyke.....	1
0702 (Thompson)	

E

Leon Eagles.....	1
0303 (Bank Manager)	
Charles Early.....	1
0701 (P.C. Jones)	
Harriet Eastcott.....	1
0801 (Librarian)	
Christopher Eccleston.....	2
0405 (Frank Carter); 0406 (Frank Carter)	
Mark Eden.....	1
0506 (Boucher)	
Lois Edmett.....	1
1102 (Julia Upjohn)	
Beatie Edney.....	3

0211 (Mary Cavendish); 0212 (Mary Cavendish); 1204 (Mrs Hemmings)	
Jawad Elalami.....	1
1104 (Labourer)	
Avril Elgar.....	1
0109 (Mrs Oglander)	
Jack Elliott (IV).....	1
0209 (John Egan)	
Su Elliott.....	1
0104 (Edith)	
Tom Ellis.....	1
1303 (Inspector Bland)	
Amanda Elwes.....	1
0105 (Mildred)	
Tilemanos Emanuel.....	1
0106 (Customs Officer)	
Adam Englander.....	1
1305 (Curtis)	
Maxine Evans.....	1
1301 (Mrs Buckle)	
Rupert Evans.....	1
1304 (Harold Waring)	
John Evitts.....	1
0502 (Parsons)	

F

Duncan Faber.....	1
0303 (Porter)	
Kate Fahy.....	1
0603 (Bernadette Daubreuil)	
Nicholas Farrell.....	3
0401 (Donald Fraser); 0402 (Donald Fraser); 1001 (Major Richard Knighton)	
Jack Farthing.....	1
1302 (Gerald Paynter)	
Michael Fassbender.....	1
1003 (George Abernethie)	
James Faulkner.....	1
0102 (Major Eustace)	
JJ Feild.....	1
0903 (Simon Doyle)	
Susan Field.....	1
0308 (Mrs Ross)	
Emma Fielding.....	1
0507 (Ruth Chevenix Lake)	
Vera Filatova.....	1
1202 (Olga Seminoff)	
Alistair Findlay.....	1
0902 (Prosecuting Counsel)	
Deborah Findlay.....	1
1202 (Rowena Drake)	
Al Fiorentini.....	1
0106 (Police Inspector)	
Ann Firbank.....	1
0107 (Ellie Henderson)	
David Firth.....	2
0403 (Lord Horbury); 0404 (Lord Horbury)	
Jonathan Firth.....	1
0602 (Nigel Chapman)	
Julian Firth.....	1
0204 (Bank Teller)	
Rory Firth.....	1
0702 (Pageboy)	
Marsha Fitzalan.....	1
0801 (Rosamund Darnley)	
Diana Fletcher.....	1
0603 (Eloise Renauld)	
Mark Fletcher.....	1
0306 (policeman)	
Barbara Flynn.....	1

0903 (Mrs Allerton)	
Andrew Forbes	1
1204 (Professor Purdy)	
Miranda Forbes	3
0207 (Landlady); 0401 (Mrs Turton); 0402 (Mrs Turton)	
Brigit Forsyth	1
0101 (Ernestine Todd)	
Julian Forsyth	1
0304 (waiter)	
Edward Fox	1
0904 (Gudgeon)	
Terry Francis	1
0602 (Journalist)	
Hugh Fraser	2
1302 (Captain Hastings); 1305 (Captain Hastings)	
Iain Fraser	1
0702 (Donald Ross)	
Carol Frazer	1
0103 (Jessie Withers)	
Joe Frazer	1
0204 (Second Officer)	
Paul Freeman	1
1104 (Colonel Carbury)	
Sandra Freeman	1
0103 (Miss Collins)	
Geoffrey Freshwater	1
0604 (Sergeant Keeley)	
Rebecca Front	1
1303 (Amanda Brewis)	
Roger Frost	1
0701 (Parker the Butler)	
Stephen Frost	1
1304 (Chief Inspector)	
Jenny Funnell	2
0201 (Nurse); 0202 (Nurse)	

G

Paul Gabriel	1
0207 (Speedy Tours Representative)	
Bronagh Gallagher	1
1001 (Ada Mason)	
Don Gallagher	1
1102 (Mr. Forbes)	
Jack Galloway	1
0902 (Marsden)	
Siobhan Garahy	1
0308 (Annie Bates)	
Julian Gartside	1
0210 (hotel receptionist)	
Amanda Garwood	1
0207 (Lady Amanda Manderley)	
Ray Gatenby	1
0603 (Station Master)	
Mark Gatiss	1
1104 (Leonard Boynton)	
Peter Geddis	1
0203 (Museum guard)	
Ian Gelder	1
0502 (Victor Astwell)	
Ruth Gemmell	1
1101 (Mrs. Sweetiman)	
Tristan Gemmill	1
1002 (Despard)	
Paul Geoffrey	2
0201 (Jim Lazarus); 0202 (Jim Lazarus)	
Tom Georgeson	1
0904 (Inspector Grange)	
Billy Geraghty	1
1101 (Joe Burch)	

Ella Geraghty	1
1303 (Marlene Tucker)	
Kenneth Gilbert	1
0801 (Applegood)	
Aidan Gillen	1
0901 (Amyas Crale)	
Grant Gillespie	1
0801 (Jack Lovett)	
Laura Girling	1
0205 (Edwina Marks)	
Peter Glancy	1
0602 (Customs Officer)	
Karen Gledhill	2
0405 (Gladys Neville); 0406 (Gladys Neville)	
Georgie Glen	1
1102 (Mrs. Forbes)	
Iain Glen	1
1301 (Dr Willoughby)	
Philip Glenister	1
1305 (Sir William Boyd Carrington)	
Beth Goddard	2
0504 (Violet Wilson); 1104 (Sister Agnieszka)	
Patrick Godfrey	1
0209 (Lord Estair)	
Michael Godley	2
0211 (Dr Wilkins); 0212 (Dr Wilkins)	
John Golithly	1
0105 (Donovan the removal man)	
Ysobel Gonzalez	1
1103 (Nurse)	
Caroline Goodall	1
0210 (Lady Maud Yardly)	
Harry Goodier	1
0207 (Billy Arkwright)	
Chris Gordon	1
1303 (Bickford)	
Elliott Gould	1
1001 (Rufus van Aldin)	
Helen Grace	1
0702 (Jane Wilkinson)	
Gawn Grainger	1
0109 (Ralph Walton)	
Olivia Grant	1
1204 (Annabel Larkin)	
Elspeet Gray	1
0207 (Elizabeth Penn)	
Joe Greco	2
0405 (Alfred Biggs); 0406 (Alfred Biggs)	
James Greene (II)	1
0507 (Staff)	
Geoffrey Greenhill	2
0201 (Wilson); 0202 (Wilson)	
Melissa Greenwood	1
0107 (Kitty Mooney)	
Stephen Gressieux	1
0106 (Italian Policeman)	
Emma Grey	1
0406 (First girl playing hopscotch)	
Emma Griffiths	1
0903 (Malin Jacqueline de Bellefort James Fox (Colonel Race))	
Stefan Gryff	1
0503 (General Pereira)	
Christopher Guard	1
0702 (Alton)	
Dominic Guard	1
0702 (Bryan Martin)	
Pippa Guard	2
0401 (Megan Barnard); 0402 (Megan Barnard)	
Christopher Gunning	1
0110 (Bandmaster)	

Brian Gwaspari	1
0601 (Harry Lee)	
Haydn Gwynne	2
0309 (Coco Courtney); 1103 (Miss Battersby)	
Alessia Gwyther	1
0308 (Bridget)	

H

Claire Hackett	1
1004 (Beatrice Lippincott)	
Jonathan Hackett	1
0506 (Claude Chantelier)	
Kenneth Haigh	1
0303 (Mackenzie)	
Cheryl Hall	1
0104 (Molly)	
Ian Hallard	1
1202 (Edmund Drake)	
Emma Hamilton	1
1303 (Sally Legge)	
Christopher Hammond	1
0603 (Policeman)	
Stephen Hancock	1
0210 (Mullings)	
Scott Handy	1
0601 (Young Simeon)	
Gillian Hanna	1
0504 (Margaret Baker)	
John Hannah	1
1104 (Dr. Gerard)	
Terrence Hardiman	1
0504 (John Siddaway)	
John Harding	2
0201 (Commander George Challenger); 0202 (Commander George Challenger)	
Edward Hardwicke	1
0904 (Sir Henry Angkatell)	
David Hargreaves	1
0207 (Sergeant Vinney)	
Janet Hargreaves	1
0702 (Lady Corner)	
Jeffrey Harmer	1
0109 (Assistant Director)	
Kate Harper	1
0309 (Mrs Mallaby)	
Tom Harper	1
1001 (Corky)	
Laurence Harrington	2
0405 (Henry Morley); 0406 (Henry Morley)	
Cathryn Harrison	2
0403 (Lady Horbury); 0404 (Lady Horbury)	
Lisa Harrow	1
0209 (Imogen Daniels)	
Alice Hart	1
0701 (Mary)	
Terence Harvey	1
0203 (Mr Lavington)	
Stewart Harwood	1
0206 (Man Delivering Parrot)	
Victoria Hasted	1
0107 (Pamela Cregan)	
Yannis Hatziyannis	1
0106 (Purser)	
Andrew Havill	1
1204 (Sven Hjerson)	
Jeremy Hawk	2
0401 (Deveril); 0402 (Deveril)	
Denys Hawthorne	1
0104 (Bonnington)	
Luke Hayden	1
0208 (Romero)	
Carole Hayman	1
0203 (Mrs Godber)	
Pippa Haywood	1
1102 (Mrs. Upjohn)	
Serge Hazanavicius	1
1203 (Xavier Bouc)	
Mary Healey	1
0405 (Beryl Chapman)	
Dorian Healy	1
0503 (Anthony Chapell)	
Roger Heathcott	2
0403 (Daniel Clancy); 0404 (Daniel Clancy)	
Roy Heather	1
0209 (Transport Superintendent)	
Vivien Heilbron	1
0701 (Mrs Ackroyd)	
David Henry	1
0309 (Eustace Beltane)	
Guy Henry	1
1204 (Matthew Waterhouse)	
Randal Herley	1
0603 (The Judge)	
Barbara Hershey	1
1203 (Caroline Hubbard)	
Colin Higgins	1
0107 (Skinner)	
Michael Higgs	1
0801 (Patrick Redfern)	
Dan Hildebrand	1
0108 (Chauffeur)	
Anastasia Hille	1
1201 (Cynthia Dacres)	
Robert Hines	1
0105 (Jimmy)	
Ronald Hines	1
0209 (Sir Bernard Dodge)	
Michael Hobbs	1
1201 (Coroner)	
Patricia Hodge	1
1302 (Madame Olivier)	
Cassandra Holliday	1
0406 (Receptionist)	
Ewan Hooper	1
0302 (Vavasour)	
William Hootkins	1
0208 (FBI Agent Burt)	
Richard Hope	2
1004 (Superintendent Harold Spence); 1101 (Superintendent Harold Spence)	
Gerard Horan	1
0207 (P.C. Flagg)	
David Horovitch	1
0209 (Commander Tony Daniels)	
Bernard Horsfall	1
0310 (Harrington Pace)	
John Horsley	1
0601 (Tressilian)	
Helen Horton	2
0405 (Julia Olivera); 0406 (Julia Olivera)	
Jane How	2
1001 (Lady at Ball); 1102 (Lady Veronica Carlton-Sandways)	
Alan Howard	1
0110 (Hugo Cornworthy & Benedict Farley)	
Richard Howard	1
0104 (George Lorrimer)	
Arthur Howell	1
0110 (Fencing Instructor)	
Peter Howell	1
0208 (Mr Paul)	

David Howey	1
0308 (Jesmond)	
Peter Hughes	1
0601 (Charlton)	
Roger Hume	1
0107 (General Forbes)	
Christopher Hunter	1
0802 (Father Lavigny)	
Robin Hunter	1
0302 (policeman)	

I

Edward Holmes II	1
0308 (Michael)	
Celia Imrie	1
1004 (Aunt Kathy Cloade)	
Richard Ireson	2
0403 (Inspector Fournier); 0404 (Inspector Fournier)	

J

Philip Jackson	1
1302 (Assistant Commissioner Japp)	
Paula Jacobs	1
0904 (Mrs Pearstock)	
Aliza James	1
0702 (Lucie Adams)	
Geraldine James	1
1003 (Helen Abernethie)	
Godfrey James	2
0201 (Inspector); 0202 (Inspector)	
Raji James	1
1102 (Prince Ali Yusuf)	
Samuel James	1
1001 (Steward)	
Trilby James	2
0405 (Agnes Fletcher); 0406 (Agnes Fletcher)	
Pauline Jameson	1
0604 (Isabel Tripp)	
Louisa Janes	1
0107 (Ismene)	
Martin Jarvis	1
1303 (Captain Warburton)	
Kieron Jecchinis	1
0302 (Tom Franklin)	
Paris Jefferson	1
0602 (Sally Finch)	
Alex Jennings	1
1002 (Dr Roberts)	
Dominic Jephcott	1
1003 (Dr Larraby)	
Melanie Jessop	1
0304 (Molly Deane)	
Edward Jewesbury	1
0305 (Dr Bernard)	
Caroline John	1
0107 (Mrs Tolliver)	
Daniel John	1
0209 (Urchin)	
Julia St. John	1
0604 (Bella)	
Karl Johnson	1
0508 (Saunders)	
Rebecca Johnson	1
0801 (Gladys Narracott)	
Gemma Jones	1
0901 (Cynthia Williams)	
Jona Jones	3

0101 (Police Constable); 0103 (Constable); 0105 (Police Constable)	
Toby Jones	1
1203 (Samuel Ratchett)	
Holly de Jong	1
0104 (Dulcie Lane)	
James Carroll Jordan	1
1302 (Abe Ryland)	
Patrick Jordan	1
0103 (Tredwell)	

K

Panayotis Kaldis	1
0107 (First Hawker)	
Amara Karan	1
1102 (Princess Shaista)	
Richard Katz	1
1304 (Gustave)	
Alexi Kaye-Campbell	1
0802 (Joseph Mercado)	
Sara Elizabeth Kean	1
0505 (First bridesmaid)	
Sidney Kean	1
0505 (Count Foscantti)	
Michael Keats	1
0601 (policeman)	
Claire Keelan	1
1305 (Nurse Craven)	
Dawn Keeler	1
0406 (Mrs Pinner)	
Pat Keen	1
0305 (Civil Defence officer)	
Sinead Keenan	1
1204 (Nora Brent)	
Sam Kelly	1
1303 (Merdell)	
Polly Kemp	1
0602 (Patricia Lane)	
Roger Kemp	1
0307 (doctor)	
Elodie Kendall	1
0903 (Joanna Southwood)	
Merelina Kendall	2
0211 (Mrs Dainty); 0212 (Mrs Dainty)	
Diana Kent	1
0310 (Zoe Havering / Mrs Middleton)	
Carol Kenyon	1
0503 (Singer)	
Elizabeth Kettle	1
0701 (Mrs Folliott)	
David de Keyser	1
0506 (Gaston Beaujeu)	
Ayub Khan-Din	1
0601 (Horbury)	
Ian Boo Khoo	1
0204 (Chinese Street Boy)	
Timothy Kightley	1
0106 (Major Barnes)	
Georgia King	1
1202 (Frances Drake)	
Ferdinand Kingsley	1
1301 (Desmond Burton-Cox)	
Sean Kingsley	1
1103 (Policeman)	
Mark Kingston	1
0504 (Andrew Marsh)	
Barbara Kirby	1
1302 (Mrs Andrews)	
Vanessa Kirby	1
1301 (Celia Ravenscroft)	

Jack Klaff.....	1
0109 (Prince Paul of Maurania)	
Alex Knight.....	2
0401 (Andover Sergeant); 0402 (Andover Sergeant)	
Rosalind Knight.....	2
0405 (Georgina Morley); 0406 (Georgina Morley)	
Yorgos Kotanidis.....	1
0107 (Photographer)	
Adam Kotz.....	1
0207 (Norton Kane)	
Daryl Kwan.....	1
0204 (Oriental Gentleman)	

— L —

Paul Lacoux.....	1
0110 (Dr John Stillingfleet)	
Stuart Laing.....	1
0902 (Ted Horlick)	
Christopher Lamb.....	1
0307 (Party Dancer)	
Annie Lambert.....	1
0106 (Valentine Chantry)	
Lexie Lambert.....	1
1101 (Eva Kane)	
Jenifer Landor.....	1
0208 (Carla Romero/Elsa Hart)	
Caroline Langrishe.....	1
0307 (Marguerite Clayton)	
Daniel Lapaine.....	1
0903 (Tim Allerton)	
Geoffrey Larder.....	1
0104 (Harry Clarke)	
Bernard Latham.....	1
0603 (Lucien Bex)	
Jon Laurimore.....	1
0504 (Walter Baker)	
Phyllida Law.....	2
0108 (Lady Carrington); 1202 (Mrs Llewellyn-Smythe)	
Josie Lawrence.....	1
0105 (Mrs Grant)	
Marjie Lawrence.....	1
0104 (Irene Mullen)	
Christopher Leaver.....	1
0308 (Parsloe)	
Howard Lee.....	1
0603 (Golfer)	
Susan Leong.....	1
0204 (Chinese Tart)	
Stephanie Leonidas.....	1
1303 (Lady Hattie Stubbs)	
Anton Lesser.....	1
1102 (Inspector Kelsey)	
Katie Leung.....	1
1102 (Hsui Tai Wan)	
Damian Lewis.....	1
0602 (Leonard Bateson)	
Lucy Liemann.....	1
1002 (Miss Burgess)	
Denis Lill.....	1
0502 (Sir Reuben Astwell)	
Andy Linden.....	1
0602 (Giorgios)	
Helen Lindsay.....	1
1001 (Sister Rosalia)	
Nigel Lindsay.....	1
1304 (Francesco)	
Sophie Linfield.....	1
0603 (Marthe Daubreuil)	
Alec Linstead.....	1
0602 (Pharmacist)	

Richard Lintern.....	2
0507 (John Lake); 1101 (Guy Carpenter)	
George Little.....	4
0105 (Mr Dicker); 0106 (Mr Dicker); 0110 (Dicker); 0207 (Dicker)	
Natasha Little.....	1
1102 (Ann Shapland)	
Roger Lloyd-Pack.....	1
1001 (Inspector Caux)	
Bernard Lloyd.....	1
0602 (Endicott)	
David Lloyd (II).....	1
0305 (museum attendant)	
Gabrielle Lloyd.....	2
0403 (Elise); 0404 (Elise)	
Jessica Lloyd.....	1
0602 (Celia Austin)	
Lala Lloyd.....	2
0211 (Dorcas); 0212 (Dorcas)	
Philip Locke.....	1
0104 (Cutter)	
Robert Locke.....	1
0303 (Naval Officer)	
Preston Lockwood.....	1
0506 (François)	
Phyllis Logan.....	1
0902 (Nurse Hopkins)	
Joseph Long.....	1
0503 (Luigi)	
Jade Longley.....	1
1103 (Young Norma)	
Tim Curry Lord.....	1
1104 (Boynton)	
Susanne Lothar.....	1
1203 (Hildegard Schmidt)	
Frances Low.....	1
0106 (Pamela Lyle)	
Olga Lowe.....	1
0601 (Stella)	
Simon Lowe.....	1
1302 (Dr Quentin)	
Adrian Lukis.....	1
1301 (General Alistair Ravenscroft)	
Norman Lumsden.....	1
0105 (Vicar)	
Kate Lynn-Evans.....	1
0304 (Mrs Henderson)	
David Lyon.....	1
0306 (Marcus Hardman)	

— M —

Alastair MacKenzie.....	1
0903 (Ferguson)	
Eileen Maciejewska.....	1
0406 (Manageress)	
Andrew Mackintosh.....	1
0104 (Doctor)	
Steven Mackintosh.....	1
0303 (Paperboy)	
Carol Macready.....	2
0201 (Mildred Croft); 0202 (Mildred Croft)	
Ciaran Madden.....	1
0108 (Lady Mayfield)	
Anna Madeley.....	1
1305 (Barbara Franklin)	
Jonathan Magnanti.....	1
0103 (Policeman)	
Dejeb Magri.....	1
0802 (Murdered Man)	
Leonard Maguire.....	1

0503 (Grove)	0105 (Coffee Stall Owner)
Nigel Makin 1	Ian McCulloch 1
0303 (Reception Clerk)	0305 (Jonathan Maltravers)
Patrick Malahide 1	James McCusker 1
0901 (Sir Montague Depleach)	0508 (Journalist)
Art Malik 1	Sandy McDade 1
1201 (Sir Bartholomew Strange)	1304 (Mrs. Rice)
Kevork Malikyan 2	Brian McDermott 1
0405 (Amberiotis); 0406 (Amberiotis)	0602 (Chief Inspector)
Tamzin Malleon 1	Norman McDonald 2
0801 (Christine Redfern)	0401 (Strange); 0402 (Strange)
David Mallinson 1	John McEnery 1
0801 (Kenneth Marshall)	0307 (Colonel Curtiss)
Simon Malloy 1	Paul McGann 1
0508 (Excited Man)	0902 (Dr Peter Lord)
Nick Maloney 1	Nicholas McGaughey 1
0208 (Bernie Cole)	1304 (Inspector Lementeuil)
Phillip Manikum 3	Elizabeth McGovern 1
0101 (Police Sergeant); 0103 (police sergeant); 0108 (Sergeant)	1104 (Dame Celia Westholme)
Guy Manning 2	Lawrence McGrandles Jr 1
0403 (Jean Dupont); 0404 (Jean Dupont)	0801 (Simon Kelso)
Lesley Manville 1	Lloyd McGuire 1
1002 (Mrs Lorrimer)	0203 (Museum guard)
Nina Marc 2	Lizzy McInnery 1
0401 (Thora Grey); 0402 (Thora Grey)	0302 (Nurse Long/Miranda Brooks)
Rosalind March 1	Christian McKay 1
0801 (Mrs Castle)	1104 (Jefferson Cope)
Marie-Josée 1	Fergus McLarnon 2
1203 (Croze Greta Ohlsson)	0201 (Hood); 0202 (Hood)
Kika Markham 1	Shelagh McLeod 1
0306 (Countess Vera Rossakoff)	0303 (Florence Carrington)
Lyndsey Marshal 1	Adrian McLoughlin 1
1002 (Anne Meredith)	0303 (Station Official)
Caroline Martin 1	Jodie McNee 1
0904 (Midge Hardcastle)	1201 (Annie)
Gilbert Martin 1	Matthew McNulty 1
0602 (Colin McNabb)	1305 (Major Allerton)
Mel Martin 1	Darren McSweeney 1
0206 (Charlotte Davenheim)	0604 (Intellectual on bus)
Bob Mason 1	Tim Meats 1
0206 (Sergeant)	0801 (Stephen Lane)
Hilary Mason 1	Michael Mellinger 2
0104 (Mrs Hill)	0401 (Franz Ascher); 0402 (Franz Ascher)
Margery Mason 1	Andrew Melville 1
0301 (Amelia Barrowby)	0603 (Dr Hautet)
Anna Massey 1	Denis Menochet 1
1204 (Miss Pebmarsh)	1203 (Pierre Michel)
Bryan Matheson 1	Colin Meredith 1
0309 (Butler)	0601 (Shopkeeper)
Tony Mathews 1	Nicola Michaels 1
0206 (Gerald Lowen)	0702 (Airport Clerk)
Tony Maudsley 1	Helena Mitchell 1
1201 (Superintendent Crossfield)	0308 (Sarah Lacey)
Stathis Mauroopoulos 1	Alfredo Michelson 1
0107 (Second Hawker)	0303 (Comte de la Rochefour)
Joseph Mawle 1	John Michie 1
1203 (Antonio Foscarelli)	0208 (James Robinson)
Charmian May 1	Isobel Middleton 1
0306 (Lady Runcorn)	1304 (Policewoman)
Anna Mazzotti 1	Oliver Milburn 1
0505 (Margherita Fabbri)	1001 (La Roche)
Aidan McArdle 1	Sarah Miles 1
1305 (Stephen Norton)	0904 (Lady Angkatell)
Fiona McArthur 1	Jonty Miller 1
0206 (Maid)	0206 (Mechanic)
Robin McCaffrey 1	Tracy Miller 1
0503 (Iris Russell)	0503 (Singer)
Joanna McCallum 2	Caroline Milmo 1
0211 (Evie Howard); 0212 (Evie Howard)	0207 (Mary Durant)
Helena McCarthy 1	Clifford Milner 2
	0401 (policeman); 0402 (Constable)

Tom Mison.....	1
1103 (David Baker)	
Allan Mitchell.....	2
0401 (Dr Kerr); 0402 (Dr Kerr)	
Brian Mitchell.....	1
0309 (Second Actor)	
Iain Mitchell.....	1
0802 (Superintendent Maitland)	
Juliette Mole.....	1
0102 (Jane Plenderleith)	
Elsa Mollien.....	1
1301 (Zélie Meauhourat)	
Simon Molloy.....	1
0508 (Second Holidaymaker)	
Patrick Monckton.....	1
0106 (Hotel Manager)	
Bruce Montague.....	1
0210 (Hoffberg)	
Flora Montgomery.....	1
0701 (Flora Ackroyd)	
Bill Moody.....	1
0603 (Giraud)	
Kevin Moore.....	1
0801 (Coroner)	
Robyn Moore.....	1
0308 (Gloria Lee-Wortley/Iris Moffatt)	
Pauline Moran.....	1
1302 (Miss Lemon)	
Dorcas Morgan.....	1
0301 (Lucy)	
Ann Morrish.....	1
0604 (Emily Arundel)	
David Morrissey.....	1
1203 (Colonel John Arbuthnot)	
Elinor Morriston.....	1
0602 (Valerie Hobhouse)	
Joseph Morton.....	1
0603 (Policeman)	
Henry Moxon.....	1
0209 (McAdam)	
Malcolm Mudie.....	1
0206 (Chief Engineer)	
Jacinta Mulcahy.....	1
0603 (Bella and/or Dulcie Duveen)	
Andy Mulligan.....	1
0307 (reporter)	
Aimee Mullins.....	1
0901 (Lucy Crale)	
Annabel Mullion.....	1
1301 (Lady Molly Ravenscroft)	
Hugh Munro.....	1
0205 (Judge)	
Tim Munro.....	2
0211 (Edwin Mace); 0212 (Edwin Mace)	
Cathy Murphy.....	1
0109 (Maid)	
Katy Murphy.....	1
0101 (Annie)	
Jaime Murray.....	1
1001 (Ruth Kettering)	

N

David Neal.....	1
0505 (Bruno Vizzini)	
Jonathan Newth.....	1
0604 (Dr Grainger)	
Lesley Nightingale.....	1
0702 (Miss Carroll)	
Kimberley Nixon.....	1
1201 (Egg Lytton Gore)	

John Noble.....	1
0307 (Rigoletto)	
John Normington.....	1
0107 (Colonel John Clapperton)	
Hermione Norris.....	1
0508 (Celestine)	
Jeremy Northam.....	1
0507 (Hugo Trent)	
Jim Norton (I).....	1
0310 (Roger Havering)	
Ralph Nossek.....	1
0301 (Dr Sims)	
Macy Nyman.....	1
1202 (Joyce Reynolds)	

O

Marion O'Dwyer.....	1
0902 (Nurse O'Brien)	
Caroline O'Neill.....	1
1103 (Lavinia Seagram)	
Fiona O'Shaughnessy.....	1
1304 (Katrina)	
Vicky Ogden.....	1
1003 (Janet)	
Jenny Ogilvie.....	1
1002 (Millie)	
Natalie Ogle.....	1
0302 (Esmee Dagleish)	
Guy Oliver-Watts.....	1
0406 (Benedick)	
Sofia Olympiou.....	1
0106 (Good Woman)	
Alice Orr-Ewing.....	1
1305 (Judith Hastings)	
William Osborne (II).....	1
0306 (receptionist)	
James Ottaway.....	1
0107 (Russell)	
Julian Ovenden.....	1
1003 (Michael Shane)	
Christopher Owen.....	1
0302 (Chief Purser)	
Stephen Oxley.....	1
0504 (Doctor)	

P

Steven Pacey.....	1
1302 (Stephen Paynter)	
Michael Packer.....	1
0306 (Redfern)	
Patrick Page.....	1
0206 (Illusionist)	
Alex Palmer.....	1
1302 (Robert Grant)	
Geoffrey Palmer.....	1
1204 (Vice Admiral Hamling)	
Etela Pardo.....	1
1001 (Dolores)	
Judy Parfitt.....	1
0903 (Miss Van Schuyler)	
Sarah Parish.....	1
1302 (Flossie Monro)	
Nathaniel Parker.....	1
0309 (Chris Davidson)	
Oliver Parker.....	1
0302 (Philip Ridgeway)	
Isabella Parriss.....	1
1204 (Jenny Mabbutt)	

Alan Partington	1
0105 (Inspector Flint)	
Jane Paton	2
0201 (Hotel Receptionist); 0202 (Hotel Receptionist)	
Stuart St. Paul	1
0109 (Stuntman)	
Muriel Pavlow	1
0604 (Julia Tripp)	
Tessa Peake-Jones	1
1204 (Valerie Bland)	
Eve Pearce	2
0403 (Madame Giselle); 0404 (Madame Giselle)	
Oscar Pearce	1
0601 (Gerrit)	
Anthony Pedley	1
0208 (Mafia assassin)	
Nigel Pegram	1
1201 (Reverend Stephen Babbington)	
Donald Pelmear	2
0211 (Judge); 0212 (Judge)	
Antonia Pemberton	1
0307 (Lady Chatterton)	
Charles Pemberton	1
0104 (Stooge)	
Steve Pemberton	1
0903 (Dr Bessner)	
Alan Penn	1
0406 (Antonio)	
Peter Penry-Jones	2
0401 (Superintendent Carter); 0402 (Detective Superintendent Carter)	
Rupert Penry-Jones	1
0902 (Roddy Winter)	
Jeffrey Perry	1
0207 (hotel receptionist)	
Morris Perry	2
0211 (Wells); 0212 (Wells)	
Sean Pertwee	2
0109 (Ronnie Ogländer); 1303 (Sir George Stubbs)	
Stephen Petcher	1
0301 (photographer)	
John Peters (II)	1
0406 (Leatheran)	
Joanna Phillips-Lane	2
0405 (Gerda Grant/Helen Montessor); 0406 (Gerda Grant/Helen Montessor)	
Dorothea Phillips	1
0107 (Kelly Morgan)	
Edward Phillips	1
0302 (flower seller)	
Jestyn Phillips	1
0604 (Steward)	
Jonathan Phillips	1
0502 (Charles)	
Neville Phillips	1
0110 (Holmes)	
Siân Phillips	1
1101 (Mrs. Laura Upward)	
Carolyn Pickles	1
0801 (Emily Brewster)	
Olivier Pierre	1
0501 (Henry Schneider)	
Tim Pigott-Smith	1
1004 (Dr Lionel Cloade)	
Edward Pinner	2
0201 (Pageboy); 0202 (Pageboy)	
Angela Pleasence	1
1104 (Nanny)	
Deborah Poplett	1
0802 (Marie Mercado)	

Susan Porrett	1
0105 (Trotter)	
Jo Powell	1
0508 (Woman with Lucky Len)	
Brian Poyser	1
0101 (Salvation Army Speaker)	
Philip Praeger	1
0301 (policeman)	
Tim Preece	2
0211 (Phillips KC); 0212 (Phillips KC)	
Leonard Preston	1
0505 (Graves)	
Nicholas Le Prevost	1
1004 (Major James Porter)	
Claire Price	1
0904 (Gerda Christow)	
Ian Price	1
0208 (Teddy Parker)	
Janet Lees Price	1
0505 (Miss Rider)	
Nicholas Pritchard	1
0105 (Donovan)	
Stephen Pruslin	1
0104 (Pianist)	
Robert Pugh	1
1002 (Colonel Hughes)	
Ben Pullen	1
0603 (Jack Renault)	
Lucy Punch	1
1003 (Susannah Henderson)	
Robert Putt	1
0103 (Rogers)	

Q

John Quentin	1
0702 (Sir Montagu Corner)	
Diana Quick	1
0902 (Mrs Welman)	
David Quilter	1
0302 (Shaw)	

R

Catherine Rabett	1
0601 (Lydia Lee)	
Iain Rattray	1
0308 (Head waiter)	
Terry Raven	1
0603 (Tramp)	
Paul Ready	1
0801 (William)	
Peter Reeves	1
0501 (Sir John Willard)	
Vincent Regan	1
1301 (Detective Inspector Beale)	
Anne Reid	1
1305 (Daisy Luttrell)	
Gordon Reid	1
0308 (Dupré)	
Kelly Reilly	1
0902 (Mary Gerrard)	
Douglas Reith	1
1002 (Serge Maurice)	
Julian Rhind-Tutt	1
1202 (Michael Garfield)	
Paul Rhys	1
1101 (Robin Upward)	
Lee Richards	1
0204 (Car Surveillance Policewoman)	

<p>Joely Richardson 1 0110 (Joanna Farley)</p> <p>Vincenzo Ricotta 1 0505 (Mario Asciano)</p> <p>Stephen Riddle 1 0303 (Barman)</p> <p>Elizabeth Rider 1 0508 (Grace)</p> <p>Ben Righton 1 1204 (Constable Jenkins)</p> <p>Tom Riley 1 1104 (Raymond Boynton)</p> <p>David Rintoul 2 0211 (John Cavendish); 0212 (John Cavendish)</p> <p>Jeffrey Robert 2 0211 (Jury Foreman); 0212 (Jury Foreman)</p> <p>Michael D. Roberts 2 0211 (Tindermans); 0212 (Tindermans)</p> <p>Simon Roberts 1 0601 (Alfred Lee)</p> <p>Ken Robertson 2 0211 (Army Officer); 0212 (Army Officer)</p> <p>Struan Rodger 1 0210 (Henrik van Braks)</p> <p>John Rogan 1 0301 (pathologist)</p> <p>John Rolfe 1 0507 (Journalist)</p> <p>Jemima Rooper 1 1103 (Norma Restarick)</p> <p>Amanda Root 1 1101 (Shelagh Rendell)</p> <p>Zoe Telford Rosalie 1 0903 (Otterbourne)</p> <p>Clifford Rose 1 0104 (Makinson)</p> <p>Hugh Ross 1 0503 (Stephen Carter)</p> <p>Hichem Rostom 1 0802 (Hotel Receptionist)</p> <p>Dominic Rougier 1 0103 (Johnnie Waverly)</p> <p>Graham Rowe 1 0508 (Hotel Manager)</p> <p>John Rowe 1 0205 (Prosecutor)</p> <p>Amanda Royle 2 0403 (Venetia Kerr); 0404 (Venetia Kerr)</p> <p>Moya Ruskin 1 0102 (singer)</p> <p>Catherine Russell 2 0301 (Katrina Reiger); 1101 (Pamela Horsefall)</p> <p>William Russell 1 1003 (Lanscombe)</p> <p>Richard Ryan 1 0306 (Porter)</p> <p>Patrick Rycart 2 0604 (Charles); 1304 (Sir Anthony Morgan)</p> <p>Georgina Rylance 1 1001 (Katherine Grey)</p>	<p>Tobias Saunders 1 0604 (Alexis)</p> <p>Carmen du Sautoy 1 0108 (Joanna Vanderlyn)</p> <p>David Savile 2 0211 (Summerhayes); 0212 (Summerhayes)</p> <p>James Saxon 1 0204 (Reggie Dyer)</p> <p>Rolf Saxon 1 0501 (Dr Ames)</p> <p>Granville Saxton 1 0602 (Casteman)</p> <p>Greta Scacchi 1 1301 (Mrs Burton-Cox)</p> <p>Guy Scantlebury 1 0108 (Reggie Carrington)</p> <p>Victoria Scarborough 1 0307 (dancer at party)</p> <p>Annabel Scholey 1 1003 (Miss Sorrell)</p> <p>Shaun Scott 2 0403 (Norman Gale); 0404 (Norman Gale)</p> <p>Christopher Scoular 1 0310 (Sergeant Forgan)</p> <p>Andrew Seear 1 0502 (Humphrey Naylor)</p> <p>Nicholas Selby 1 0306 (Johnstone)</p> <p>Yitkin Seow 1 0306 (Pecore)</p> <p>John Sessions 1 0104 (Radio Voices)</p> <p>Hilary Sesta 1 0305 (doctor's receptionist)</p> <p>Shaughan Seymour 1 0310 (Archie Havering)</p> <p>Mozaffar Shafeie 1 0501 (Hassan)</p> <p>Michael J. Shannon 1 0207 (Baker Wood)</p> <p>Lesley Sharp 1 1204 (Miss Martindale)</p> <p>Martin Shaw 1 1201 (Sir Charles Cartwright)</p> <p>Ruth Sheen 1 1301 (Madame Rosentelle)</p> <p>Simon Shepherd 2 0508 (Andrew Hall); 1101 (Dr Rendell)</p> <p>Sheri Shepstone 1 0107 (Emily Morgan)</p> <p>Chris Sicer 1 0406 (Claudio)</p> <p>Alexander Siddig 1 1002 (Shaitana)</p> <p>Charles Simon 1 0701 (Hammond)</p> <p>Josette Simon 1 1001 (Mirelle Milesi)</p> <p>Malcolm Sinclair 1 0307 (Edward Clayton)</p> <p>Anna Skellern 1 1204 (Fiona Hanbury)</p> <p>Natalie Slater 1 0309 (Mrs Davidson)</p> <p>Anne Small 1 0207 (pianist)</p> <p>Sam Smart 1 0307 (Smithy)</p> <p>Sarah Smart 1 1101 (Maude Williams)</p> <p>Derek Smee 1</p>
---	--

S

<p>Chloe Salaman 1 0205 (Freda Stanton)</p> <p>Gordon Salkild 2 0401 (commissionaire); 0402 (Comissionaire)</p> <p>Elena Satine 1 1203 (Countess Andrenyi)</p> <p>Christopher Saul 1 0110 (Tremlett)</p>

0507 (Auctioneer)	
Darien Smith	1
0901 (Young Amyas)	
Julie Smith	2
0405 (second hopscotch girl); 0406 (Second girl playing hopscotch)	
Geraldine Somerville	1
0503 (Pauline Wetherby)	
David Soul	1
0903 (Andrew Pennington)	
Georgina Sowerby	1
0802 (Amy Leatheran)	
Milo Sperber	1
0209 (Fingler)	
Elizabeth Spriggs	1
1004 (Mrs Leadbetter)	
Linda Spurrier	1
0902 (Mrs Bishop)	
Dinah Stabb	1
0802 (Annie Johnson)	
Anne Stallybrass	1
0301 (Mary Delafontaine)	
Guy Standeven	1
0104 (Vicar)	
John Standing	1
1305 (Colonel Toby Luttrell)	
Tim Steed	1
0702 (Ronald Marsh)	
Toby Stephens	1
0901 (Philip Blake)	
Tony Stephens	1
0203 (Sergeant)	
Colin Stepney	1
0508 (Guest)	
Alison Sterling	2
0201 (Frederica Rice); 0202 (Frederica Rice)	
Tim Stern	2
0508 (Bellboy); 1103 (Alf Renny)	
Belinda Stewart-Wilson	1
0603 (Dubbing Secretary)	
Sara Stewart	2
0405 (Jane Olivera); 0406 (Jane Olivera)	
Colin Stinton	1
0204 (Charles Lester)	
Rachael Stirling	1
0901 (Caroline Crale)	
Jo-Anne Stockham	1
1301 (Mrs Willoughby)	
John Stone (II)	1
0303 (Gordon Halliday)	
Eric Stovell	2
0211 (Chemist); 0212 (Chemist)	
Jonathan Stratton	1
0302 (passenger)	
Jon Strickland	1
0501 (Dr Foswell)	
Phoebe Strickland	1
1204 (May Mabbutt)	
John Stride	1
0108 (Tommy Mayfield)	
Neil Stuke	1
0504 (Peter Baker)	
Matilda Sturridge	1
1103 (Frances Cary)	
Hugh Sullivan	1
0205 (Vicar)	
Donald Sumpter	2
0401 (Alexander Bonaparte Cust); 0402 (Alexander Bonaparte Cust)	
Geoffrey Swann	1
0305 (Police Sergeant)	

Caroline Swift	2
0211 (Nurse); 0212 (Nurse)	
David Swift (I)	1
0109 (Henry Reedburn)	
Eric Sykes	1
1202 (Mr Fullerton)	
Peter Symonds	1
1302 (Jonathan Whalley)	

————— T —————

Mary Tamm	1
0110 (Louise Farley)	
Mark Tandy	1
0601 (Sugden)	
Doreen Taylor	1
0508 (Woman on Stall)	
Ian Taylor	1
0902 (Turner)	
James Taylor (I)	1
0308 (waiter)	
Joel de Temperley	1
0901 (Young Meredith)	
Malcolm Terris	1
0701 (Roger Ackroyd)	
Richard Teverson	1
0901 (Hollinghurst)	
Grant Thatcher	1
0501 (Sir Guy Willard)	
Abigail Thaw	1
1204 (Rachel Waterhouse)	
Bill Thomas	1
0210 (Steward)	
Damien Thomas	1
0603 (Paul Renauld)	
Serena Scott Thomas	1
0304 (Fashion Model)	
Ian Thompson	1
0801 (Major Barry)	
Sophie Thompson	1
1202 (Mrs Reynolds)	
Paul Thornley	1
1202 (Inspector Raglan)	
Rosie Timpson	1
0109 (Miss Deloy)	
David Timson	1
0801 (Horace Blatt)	
Hilary Tindall	1
0304 (fashion show presenter)	
Stephen Tomlin	1
0604 (Vicar)	
Eleanor Tomlinson	1
1304 (Alice Cunningham)	
Pip Torrens	2
0307 (Major John Rich); 1004 (Jeremy Cloade)	
Kamel Touati	1
0802 (Squat Man)	
Frances De La Tour	1
0903 (Salome Otterbourne)	
Russell Tovey	1
0801 (Lionel Marshall)	
Susan Tracy	1
0504 (Phyllida Champion)	
Clare Travers-Deacon	1
0310 (Joan)	
Frederick Treves	1
0308 (Colonel Horace Lacey)	
Raymond Trickitt	1
0310 (P.C. Cooke)	
David Troughton	1
0503 (Barton Russell)	

Gregor Truter	1
0701 (Inspector Davis)	
Jeremy Turner-Welch	1
0802 (Bill Coleman)	
Martin Turner	1
0304 (John Harrison)	

U

Lottie Unwin	1
0901 (Young Caroline)	

V

Nigel Le Vaillant	1
0308 (Desmond Lee-Wortley)	
Anthony Valentine	1
1003 (Giovanni Gallaccio)	
Richard Vanstone	1
0303 (Sergeant)	
James Vaughan	1
0603 (Adam Letts)	
Michael Vaughan	1
0502 (Sergeant)	
Yolanda Vazquez	1
0503 (Lola)	
Arturo Venegas	1
0503 (Hotel Receptionist)	
John Vernon	1
0308 (David)	
David Verrey	1
0505 (Chef)	
Ronan Vibert	1
1201 (Captain Dacres)	
Frank Vincent (II)	1
0101 (Purser)	
Guy Vincent	1
0801 (Barman)	
Henrietta Voigts	1
0603 (Leonie)	
Tilly Vosburgh	1
0205 (Jessie Dawlish)	
Robert Vowles	2
0211 (Driver of Hired Car); 0212 (Driver of Hired Car)	

W

Peter Waddington	1
0104 (Forensic)	
Julian Wadham	1
0303 (Rupert Carrington)	
Amanda Walker	1
0205 (Alice Pengelley)	
Christopher Walker	1
0204 (First Officer)	
Fiona Walker	1
0507 (Miss Lingard)	
Polly Walker	2
0201 (Nick Buckley); 0202 (Nick Buckley)	
Zena Walker	1
0507 (Vanda Chevenix)	
Bill Wallis	1
0502 (Horace Trefusis)	
Zoë Wanamaker	6
1002 (Ariadne Oliver); 1101 (Ariadne Oliver); 1103 (Ariadne Oliver); 1202 (Ariadne Oliver); 1301 (Ariadne Oliver); 1303 (Ariadne Oliver)	
George Waring	1
0406 (First Coroner)	

John Warnaby	1
1103 (Inspector Nelson)	
John Warner	2
0405 (coroner); 0406 (Second Coroner)	
Marc Warren	1
0901 (Meredith)	
Jason Watkins	1
1204 (Joe Bland)	
Ralph Watson	1
0305 (Danvers)	
Danny Webb	2
0101 (Porter); 1301 (Superintendent Garroway)	
John Webb	1
0602 (Vicar)	
Mark Webb	1
0602 (Journalist)	
Christopher Webber	1
0601 (Steward on train)	
Stanley Weber	1
1203 (Count Andrenyi)	
Honeysuckle Weeks	1
1002 (Rhoda Dawes)	
Albert Welling	1
0108 (Carlile)	
Martin Wenner	1
0110 (Herbert Chudley)	
Norma West	1
0604 (Wilhelmina)	
Samuel West	1
1203 (Dr Constantine)	
Timothy West	1
1202 (Reverend Cottrell)	
David Westhead	1
1002 (Superintendent Wheeler)	
Daniel Weyman	1
1303 (Alec Legge)	
Jonathan Whaley	1
0205 (Policeman)	
Gordon Wharmby	1
0208 (O'Brien)	
Geoffrey Whitehead	1
0506 (Xavier X. Alois)	
Nigel Whitmey	1
0208 (Luigi Valdarno)	
Benjamin Whitrow	1
1003 (Timothy Abernethie)	
Arthur Whybrow	1
0310 (Anstruther)	
Victoria Wicks	1
1204 (Mrs Swinburne)	
James Wilby	1
1103 (Andrew Restarick)	
Don Williams	1
0203 (Constable)	
Jack Williams (VIII)	1
0207 (second urchin)	
Ned Williams	1
0207 (First Urchin)	
Jerome Willis	1
0205 (Edward Pengelley)	
David Willoughby	1
0505 (Lad)	
Melissa Wilson	1
0307 (maid)	
British Concert Winds	1
0203 (Brass Band)	
Ann Windsor	1
0402 (Miss Merrion)	
Sophie Winkleman	1
0901 (Angela)	
Jaime Winstone	1

1204 (Sheila Webb)	
Robert Wisdom	1
0501 (Waiter)	
Tom Wisdom	1
1201 (Oliver Manders)	
Angel Witney	1
1303 (Gertie)	
Tom Wlaschiha	1
1304 (Schwartz)	
Vincent Wong	1
0204 (Chinaman)	
Nicholas Woodeson	1
1303 (PC Bob Hoskins)	
Keith Woodhams	1
0406 (Desk Clerk)	
Sarah Woodward	2
0403 (Jane Grey); 0404 (Jane Grey)	
Tim Woodward	1
1004 (Enoch Arden)	
Susan Wooldridge	1
1102 (Miss Chadwick)	
Barry Woolgar	1
0210 (Inspector Dosgell)	
Fenella Woolgar	2
0702 (Ellis); 1202 (Miss Whittaker)	
Beccy Wright	1
0102 (maid)	
Philip Wright	1
1002 (Sergeant O'Connor)	
Tommy Wright	1
0110 (First Watchman)	
Philip Wrigley	1
0701 (Postman)	
Tim Wylton	1
0301 (Henry Delafontaine)	

Y

Peter Yapp	1
0603 (Lawyer)	
David Yelland	6
0102 (Laverton West); 1004 (George); 1101 (George); 1103 (George); 1302 (George); 1305 (George)	
Hannah Yelland	1
0702 (Geraldine Marsh)	
Metin Yenal	1
0307 (umpire)	
George Yiasoumi	1
0903 (Cruise Manager)	
Jeremy Young	2
0201 (Bert Croft); 0202 (Bert Croft)	
Paul Young	1
0302 (McNeil)	
Ozzie Yue	1
0204 (Restaurant Manager)	

Z

Francesca Zoutewelle	1
1303 (Dutch Girl Hiker)	