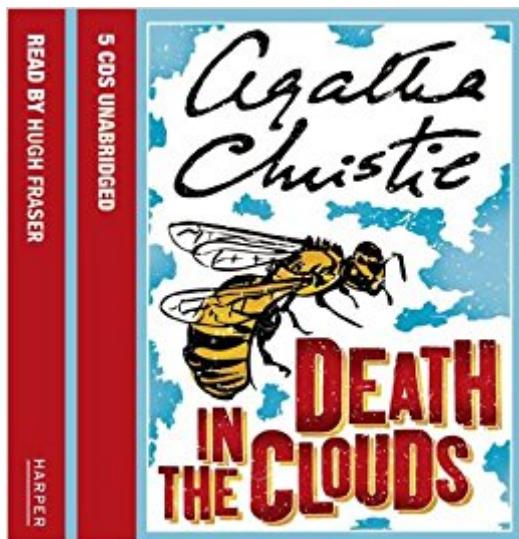


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Death In The Clouds



Synopsis

Designed to follow the new-look series of Hercule Poirot books for the 21st century. Complete and Unabridged edition read by Hugh Fraser now available on both audio cassette and CD. From seat No.9, Hercule Poirot was ideally placed to observe his fellow air passengers. Over to his right sat a pretty young woman, clearly infatuated with the man opposite; ahead, in seat No.13, sat a Countess with a poorly-concealed cocaine habit; across the gangway in seat No.8, a detective writer was being troubled by an aggressive wasp. What Poirot did not yet realize was that behind him, in seat No.2, sat the slumped, lifeless body of a woman.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"It will be a very acute reader who does not receive a complete surprise at the end."Times Literary Supplement

From seat No. 9, Hercule Poirot was ideally placed to observe his fellow air passengers. Over to his right sat a pretty young woman, clearly infatuated with the man opposite; ahead, in seat No. 13, sat a countess with a poorly concealed cocaine habit; across the gangway in seat No. 8, a detective writer was being troubled by an aggressive wasp. What Poirot did not yet realize was that behind him, in seat No. 2, sat the slumped, lifeless body of a woman. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A classic whodunit mystery with the added bonus of Poirot under suspicion for murder! A high

profile lady dies on a plane mid-air, and only those on the plane could have done it owing to the sensational method of murder. However, it seems to appear that those who could have done the deed lack the motive, and those who have the motive could not have done it. I really enjoyed this book, the circumstances of the first part reminds me a little bit of *Murder on the Orient Express*. However, it does differ because we do get to go off the flight and travel with Poirot to England and France as he investigates. No Hastings here, but we have our favorite Japp as well as several new characters who serves as his sidekicks throughout the book.

Agatha Christie, as per usual, does a great job portraying her famous aging eccentric Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot, and his quest to find the person responsible for the murder of a not very well liked wealthy and astute lady money lender. The murder happens without any apparent witnesses on an airplane flight from Paris to London. Poirot is not a good air traveler; therefore, he tries to block out the whole scenario by turning to the medicine others have tried for the same fears....sleep. Because he is seated near the murdered lady, and in fact finds the suspected death weapon, he is very briefly suspected of being the murderer. Well, all Christie fans know that is definitely an impossibility, and Poirot is readily ruled out as having played any part in the murder. But, alas, it did occur almost under his nose. Someone on the plane is a murderer, and he or she is doing a good job of concealing their guilt. The passengers include French archaeologists, a British doctor, a British dentist, a writer, a hairdresser, an aristocratic lady and Hercule Poirot. One (or more) of these passengers could be the murderer including a dead wasp. Wait, there are also the two plane stewards. Could one, or both, have committed the murder? Some of the characters are likable and seem to be upstanding citizens. Then there are those that seem to be rather conniving and just might be capable of murder. Christie helps the reader sort through the clues by revealing secrets in the lives of the passengers, contents of their luggage and pockets. She also lets us be privy to some private conversations between Poirot and other characters. Our little detective does his usual adding and subtracting, manipulating plus some theatrics to solve the puzzle. A very entertaining read for all Christie fans even tho' you may have read *Death in the Clouds* many moons ago. For those of you who might not have ever included Agatha Christie mysteries in your reading material, please note that there is not profanity or gory descriptive text. This is just another entertaining murder mystery with humor, some unexpected happenings and perhaps a plot twist for many readers. Try it, you'll like it!

A hodgepodge group of people board a flight from Paris to Croydon and before they land one turns

up dead! Luckily one of the passengers is the great Hercule Poirot. Thus starts another mystery by Agatha Christie, the most read author of all times. Published in 1935, this novel was originally titled Death in the Air. The victim turns out to be a very rich French moneylender, Madame Giselle, aka Marie Morisot. She is found dead in her seat with a red mark on her neck and a poisoned dart in her lap. Did one of the eleven passengers murder her using a blowpipe dart dipped in snake venom, or did a lone wasp sting her in the neck? Who wanted her dead? That is the dilemma facing our mustachioed Belgian detective, who prefers to speak French and lives in England and sometimes in France. When the plane lands in the aerodrome (I love the flavor of 1935 English language) in England, our stout gumshoe is met by Inspector Japp of Scotland Yard. At the ensuing inquest, Hercule is almost indicted because the blowpipe is found behind his seat on the aeroplane. Level heads prevail and Hercule, inspector Japp, and Monsieur Fournier of the Surete in France combine their efforts to solve this case. Of course the reader knows that Hercule Poirot will solve the mystery using his " little grey cells " without the aide of his fellow detectives. Mais oui! I have to admit that I had no idea who killed Marie Morisot, only our squat Poirot, who depends on logic alone would have a chance of solving this murder. He eventually whittles down the other ten suspects to four and zeroes in on the murderer, or murderess. It's always so much fun trying to figure out who the killer is in Agatha's novels, but this time I didn't have any luck! One of the amazing traits of an Agatha novel is how she can develop the characterization of so many suspects while also leaving the reader with a sense of sympathy for most of them. All that in under 300 pages! She was truly a great writer. I also get a sense of what is happening in the world at the time of publication. In this case it's 1935 and World War II is right around the corner. How about the words and expressions she uses, such as; saltcellar (a salt shaker), or Continental Bradshaw (a guide for railway and steamship navigation) or kerb (curb). This is what I love about a Agatha Christie novel- you get a great mystery and the cognizance of the times. Grab a copy of this Hercule novel and try to figure out which suspect is the killer, then move on to the next novel, 'The A. B. C. Murders'.

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