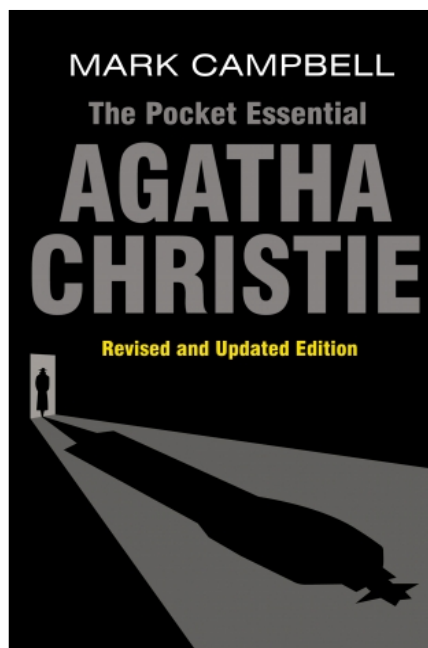




Pub. Date:	18 August 2022
Price:	£12.99
ISBN:	978-0-85730-515-2
Binding:	Paperback
Format:	B (198 x 129mm)
Extent:	160
Weight:	
Publishing Rights:	World
Sales Rights:	World
Market:	Biography, Classic Crime Fiction, Literary Criticism
BISAC Code:	BIO007000: Biography & Autobiography : Literary BIO022000: Biography & Autobiography : Women LIT004230: Literary Criticism : Mystery & Detective
THEMA Code:	DSK: Literary studies: fiction, novelists & prose writers DNBL: Biography: literary
Country of Manufacture:	UK
Rpt. Code:	IP
Previous ISBNs:	978-1-84344-423-7 978-1-90404-860-2

Marketing & PR
publicity@oldcastlebooks.com

Pocket Essentials
Harpenden
Herts AL5 1EQ
Tel: +44 (0)1582 766348

UK Distribution: Turnaround
Second Floor, Crown House
47 Chase Side
Southgate
London N14 5BP
Tel: +44 (0)208 829 3000
www.turnaround-uk.com

agatha-christie

ISBN 978-0-85730-515-2



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AGATHA CHRISTIE

MARK CAMPBELL

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An informed, engaging and accessible introduction to the Christie phenomenon, examining all her novels and short stories. This edition has been updated to include new material on all recent film, TV and literary adaptations

Agatha Christie is the most popular novelist in the world. With total sales of 2 billion books (4 million a year in the 21st Century) she is outranked only by Shakespeare and the Bible

Christie is best known for her 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, as well as the world's longest-running play, *The Mousetrap*, which will mark its 70th anniversary in the West End this November

Published ahead of the International Agatha Christie Festival (10-17 September 2022), which takes place each year in Torquay to mark the anniversary of Christie's birth

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Since her debut in 1920 with *The Mysterious Affair At Styles*, Agatha Christie has become the chief proponent of the English village murder mystery. Although she created two enormously popular characters - the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, and the inquisitive elderly spinster and amateur sleuth Miss Jane Marple of St Mary Mead - it is not generally acknowledged that she wrote in many different genres: comic mysteries (*Why Didn't They Ask Evans?*), atmospheric whodunnits (*Murder On The Orient Express*), espionage thrillers (*N or M?*), romances (under the pseudonym of Mary Westmacott), plays (*The Mousetrap*) and poetry. She was never afraid to break the rules either, and provoked a storm of controversy with the unorthodox resolution of *The Murder Of Roger Ackroyd*, now acclaimed as one of the classics of British crime fiction.

Christie wrote complex whodunnits in a clear, readable style, which is why her books are as popular now as they were when she first wrote them. Exemplary film and TV adaptations (Kenneth Branagh, John Malkovich, Peter Ustinov and David Suchet as Poirot; Margaret Rutherford and Joan Hickson as Miss Marple), have also encouraged new readers to search out her work.

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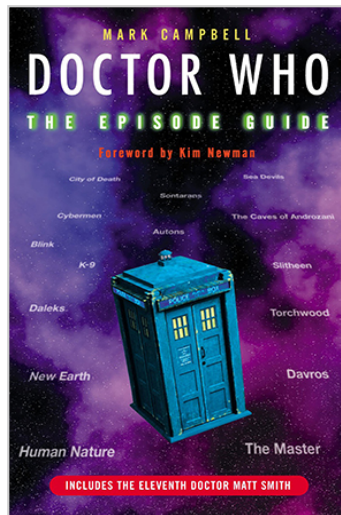
MARK CAMPBELL has written for various publications, including *The Independent*, *The Bookseller*, *Midweek*, *Girl About Town*, *The Dark Side* and *Infinity*; he was one of the main contributors to the exhaustive two-volume encyclopaedia *British Crime Writing* in 2009. He has written Pocket Essentials about *Doctor Who*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Agatha Christie* (obviously) and *Carry On Films*. He was theatre critic for *The Kentish Times* for eight years. He lives near the river in Crayford, Kent and still hasn't got around to watching all those box sets.



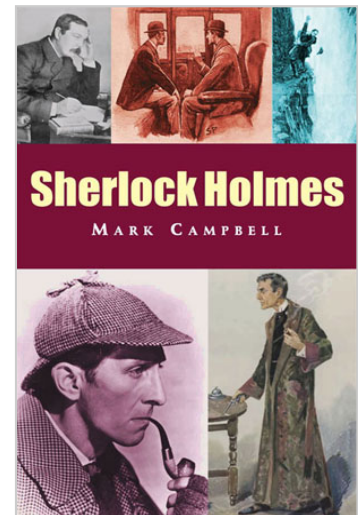
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