

## Chapter 1 : Agatha Christie's Marple - Wikipedia

*Murdering Miss Marple and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more Enter your mobile number or email address below and we'll send you a link to download the free Kindle App.*

Agatha Christie Coming from New Zealand, Gwenda is on a mission to build the perfect newlywed nest in England for her soon to follow husband. Touring the countryside, she is captivated by Hillside, an old mansion with a cozy layout, charming atmosphere, and what would be a good view, if only Gwenda has a chance to utilize her landscaping vision. Sure that this is indeed the one, Gwenda buys the house and starts settling in, only odd flashes of psychic intuition, strange knowledge of the house, and finally visions of a dead woman, lying strangled, splayed at the foot of the stairs beneath her assailant leads Gwenda to question the history of Hillside. Helen, the name that sticks in her consciousness, might finally be able to reach from the grave and demand justice. Or is this insanity, the onset of an irreparable mental fissure? Once Giles, the husband, arrives, the couple put two and two together and. Enticed by hints of foul play and murder, the couple begins digging into the past with the help of the kindly local doctor and brother of the missing Helen. Only, Miss Marple thinks that sleeping murder should be left to lie, lest it bring danger to the living. Convinced that investigation is harmless and titillating, Gwenda and Giles follow a course of widening clues, leading Miss Marple to participate in her last, and potentially greatest, sleuthing adventure. With the comfortable whine of my tires and the daily growl of my pickup, I would slip in this hard-found audio book it seems that everyone at my library also wanted to check it out and escape into the cozy yet macabre world of the single greatest mystery author, Agatha Christie. Wiley and crafty, the clues are there, but the mystery is submerged under lies, betrayals, misunderstandings of time, the cleverness of a desperate killer, and the mania of deadly insanity. Red herrings abound, perhaps more here than in previous Miss Marple adventures. The plot is short yet serpentine, complex while keeping to the brevity of serious mystery. All along, traditional Christie, the atmosphere provides all the necessary clues while steeping the reader in an odd combination of creepy and charming. A cozy mystery to the core, Christie never forgets the hard boiled detecting or the endearing characterization that make Gwenda and Giles personal favorites of mine. Long since having given up reading the Miss Marple series in order fellow bookworms have thwarted me on every library visit , I simply grabbed what the library had in stock which in this case was *The Sleeping Murder*. This novel proves a good place for both the initiated and uninitiated into the world of Marple mystique. I dare say it would even be a great story to start with, and is so far a personal favorite of mine. Oddly, this great starting book is the last Miss Marple mystery, although she apparently makes appearances in other Christie works. *Sleeping Murder* was posthumously published although completely finished by Christie and in its own way, history grants it a bygone, ghostly aura. Having deluded myself into believing that I was equal to the task, I assigned a killer and a motive. I even had the logistics of the crime worked out and the necessity for current action on behalf of the murderer. As Gwenda and Giles sleuthing hobby leads to danger and near misses, I sat clucking to myself with conviction. Do I even need to own up to it? I was entirely wrong, wrong in such complete error as to be quite laughable. I feel into the Christie pitfall once again and must bow my head to the master of clues. If only there were more stories involving Gwenda and Giles, both of whom jumped off the page with their lovable eccentricity and dogged conviction. I listened to, and exuberantly enjoyed, the audio CD version as read by Rosemary Leach. Leach is an extraordinary narrator, capturing subtleties of emotion and character. She brought the already rich world to vivid life and took realistic characters, giving them voice and expression. The audio edition is the only way to go.

**Chapter 2 : The Murder at the Vicarage (Miss Marple, book 1) by Agatha Christie**

*A murder is announced in the Chipping Cleghorne Gazette to take place on October 5th, 7 PM at Little Paddocks cottage. The people living there, retired secretary Miss Blacklock, her companion Miss Bunner, Miss Blacklock's two distant cousins, Patrick and Julia and calendrierdelascience.com, a gardener, have no idea what the ad is about.*

Edit "Let sleeping murder lie": She believes that her father took her directly from India to New Zealand when she was a two year-old girl and that she has never been in England before. While her husband Giles is still abroad on business, she drives around the countryside looking for a suitable house. She finds an old house in the small seaside resort of Dillmouth, in Devon, which instantly appeals to her, and she buys it. After moving in, Gwenda begins to believe that she must be psychic, as she seems to know things about the house which she could not possibly know: She insists that she does not know anyone named Helen, and she believes she is going mad. Miss Marple suggests that she may be remembering something she witnessed as a small child looking through rather than over the banisters , and that it may have happened in the house she has just bought, despite her belief that she has never been in England before. The Reeds and Miss Marple do a bit of research, and they discover that Gwenda is not psychic at all, but in fact she did spend a year during early childhood in the house she was later to buy. Her young stepmother, Helen, disappeared, having presumably run off with a man. The young couple realize that there may be an unsolved crime to investigate. Miss Marple, who first advises the young couple to "let sleeping murder lie", later suggests to her own doctor that he prescribe her some sea air, and she travels to Dillmouth. The investigation that now sets in is completely in the hands of amateurs: Giles and Gwenda Reed and Miss Marple. The police are absent, as it has not even been established that a crime has been committed; officially, Helen Halliday ran off with one of her lovers and either died sometime later or made a clean break with her brother and never contacted anyone at home. The amateur sleuths find two old gardeners who remember the Halliday family and some of the former household staff. He presents two letters posted abroad which he says he got from his half-sister after her disappearance, and which seem to prove that she did not die that night. It is later revealed that Dr Kennedy forged the two letters. It seems very likely to Giles and Gwenda that one of them must be the murderer: Kennedy interprets her letter to him as a blackmail attempt. He writes back to her, inviting her to see him at his house and including a train timetable and exact instructions on how to get to his house. He misdirects her to a deserted stretch of woodland, where he meets and strangles her. He then replaces his original letter with a fake one and is back at his house in time to "wait", together with Giles and Gwenda Reed, for her arrival. When the police inspector sees Miss Marple he comments on a case of poison pen near Lymstock; thus Sleeping Murder is set after the happenings in The Moving Finger , which was published in Now it dawns upon the Reeds that with a murderer still at large, their lives are in danger. But Miss Marple has foreseen this: Miss Marple explains that she believes that Helen was an ordinary, decent young woman, trying to escape from Kennedy, who was unhealthily and pathologically obsessed with her, and that the only evidence of her being "man-mad" came from him. He strangled her to prevent her moving to Norfolk in the east of England to live an ordinary, happy life away from him with her husband. An English Mystery; both biographers state unequivocally, without further explanation, that Sleeping Murder was written in Jared Cade provides much greater detailed proof of this in the paperback and e-book versions of his biography Agatha Christie and the Eleven Missing Days: The Revised and Expanded Edition. The original manuscript of Sleeping Murder was entitled Murder in Retrospect after one of the chapters in the book. On the basis of these dates John Curran argues that Christie had still to write the manuscript. But according to Jared Cade and Janet Morgan the manuscript was written in and Christie did not undertake these alterations until early She had removed all the political references and remarks that emphasized the period, although she stressed that the story must remain set in the s, as so much of the action depended on houses with plentiful servants, ample pre-war meals and so on. She observed that it was especially catchwords and particular phrases that seemed to make a book old-fashioned. Following the publication of P. So much time had passed that she was unable to remember if the manuscript was still called Cover Her Face or She Died Young. On page of her autobiography Christie refers to the last Poirot and Miss

Marple novels that she penned during the Second World War by saying she had written an extra two books during the first years of the war in anticipation of being killed in the raids, as she was working in London. One was for Rosalind, she says, which she wrote first â€” a book with Hercule Poirot in it â€” and the other was for Max â€” with Miss Marple in it. She adds that these two books, after being composed, were put in the vaults of a bank, and were made over formally by deed of gift to her daughter and husband. Aware that she would write no more novels, Christie authorized the publication of Curtain in to send off Poirot. She then arranged to have *Sleeping Murder* published in , but died before the publication. But perhaps it is her best. Agatha Christie wrote it years ago but if I was going to pick a swansong book this is certainly the one that I would choose. Concerns a house where murder has been committed, bought by the merest coincidence by someone who as a child saw the body. But why should an astute businesswoman hold back one of her better performances for posthumous publication?

### Chapter 3 : Agatha Christie's Miss Marple: A Murder Is Announced (TV Mini-Series) - IMDb

*Sleeping Murder: Miss Marple's Last Case* is a work of detective fiction by Agatha Christie and first published in the UK by the Collins Crime Club in October and in the US by Dodd, Mead and Company later in the same year.

The Complete Short Stories, published , includes 20 from 4 sets: These were popular and successful light comedies, but were disappointing to Christie herself[ citation needed ]. Rutherford presented the character as a bold and eccentric old lady, different from the prim and birdlike character Christie created in her novels. As penned by Christie, Miss Marple has never worked for a living, but the character as portrayed by Margaret Rutherford briefly works as a cook-housekeeper, a stage actress, a sailor and criminal reformer, and is offered the chance to run a riding establishment-cum-hotel. Her education and genteel background are hinted at when she mentions her awards at marksmanship, fencing and equestrianism although these hints are played for comedic value. This first film was based on the novel 4: In the film, Mrs. McGillicuddy is cut from the plot. Miss Marple herself sees an apparent murder committed on a train running alongside hers. Likewise, it is Miss Marple herself who poses as a maid to find out the facts of the case, not a young friend of hers who has made a business of it. Actress Joan Hickson who would later play the role of Miss Marple in plays the daily in the household. The music to all four films was composed and conducted by Ron Goodwin and is still played on radio today. The same theme is used on all four films with slight variations on each. The main theme has a distinct s feel to it and is known to be a highly complex piece of music due to the quick playing of the violin. The score was written within a couple of weeks by Goodwin who was approached by Pollock after Pollock had heard about him from Stanley Black. Black had worked with Pollock on "Stranger in Town" in and had previously used Goodwin as his orchestrator. Unlike most incarnations of Miss Marple, this one smoked cigarettes. A Caribbean Mystery and Murder with Mirrors Sue Grafton contributed to the screenplay of the former. Joan Hickson played the lead role. In the s, she appeared on-stage in an Agatha Christie play, Appointment with Death , which was seen by Christie who wrote in a note to her, "I hope one day you will play my dear Miss Marple". As well as portraying Miss Marple on television, Hickson also narrated a number of Miss Marple stories on audio books.

**Chapter 4 : Miss Marple - Wikipedia**

*The Murder at the Vicarage is Agatha Christie's first mystery to feature the beloved investigator Miss Marple as a dead body in a clergyman's study proves to the indomitable sleuth that no place, holy or otherwise, is a sanctuary from homicide.*

There she meets a handsome man, Mike Rogers. Ellie is a rich heiress and they soon fall in love. They are warned however that the land is cursed and once into their new house, it becomes apparent that someone is trying to scare them off. When someone is killed in a apparent riding accident, Miss Marple believes it to be. Differences to novels Edit The episodes of the series have some differences compared to the novels of Agatha Christie. In the first episode, adapted from *The Body in the Library* , the identity of one of the killers is changed the identity and a lesbian affair is introduced in the plot: From the second season, some of the episodes were also adapted from novels in which the character of Miss Marple is not present. The character of Mrs. Easterbrook is not present. The Colonel is a divorced alcoholic expelled from the army. Swettenham is a single mother trying to convince Colonel Easterbrook to marry her; his son, Edmund, is not keen to see the thing. The love story between Edmund and Philippa has been eliminated. Hinch and Murgatroyd, unlike the novel, are two young lesbian women. Patrick and "Julia" Emma are much more intimate than it appears in the novel. Inspector Craddock is impatient and much more aggressive. When it is discovered that Miss Blacklock is the murderer, the ghost of Dora Bunner enters the room not seen by anyone apart from Miss Marple and Miss Blacklock. The episode ends with the death of Belle Goedler, which did not occur in the novel. In episode Gwenda remembers the murder of Helen after witnessing the death of the Duchess of Amalfi in the tragedy represented in theater. In the novel is a line spoken by an actor of the play to bring back the memory. In the episode Dr. In the novel, this is not present. Also at the end of the episode she leaves him and becomes engaged to Hugh. Kennedy does not try to kill Gwenda as happens in the novel and does not seem to be mad. Kennedy kills Kelvin Halliday throwing it off the cliff. In the novel Kelvin Halliday is drugged by the doctor and then locked up in hospital. In the episode the sprightly old lady appears and replaces the character of Tommy Beresford. In the episode posters of a Jane Eyre movie are often shown.

**Chapter 5 : The Murder at the Vicarage - Wikipedia**

*The murder of Colonel Protheroe -- shot through the head -- is a shock to everyone in St Mary Mead, though hardly an unpleasant one. Now even the vicar, who had declared that killing the detested Protheroe would be 'doing the world at large a favour,' is a suspect -- the Colonel has been dispatched in the clergyman's study, no less.*

Plot summary[ edit ] Newlywed Gwenda Reed travels ahead of her husband to find a home for them on the south coast of England. In a short time, she finds and buys Hillside, a large old house that feels just like home. She re-opens the view to the sea from the terrace and renovates with new bathrooms and improved kitchen, staying in a one-time nursery room while the work progresses. She puts off painting and wallpaper, though she forms a definite idea for the little nursery. When the workmen open a long sealed door, she sees the very wallpaper that was in her mind. Further, a place that seems logical to her for a doorway between two rooms proves to have been one year earlier. During the play, *The Duchess of Malfi*, when the line "Cover her face; mine eyes dazzle; she died young" is spoken, Gwenda screams out; she saw an image of herself viewing a man saying those words strangling a blonde-haired woman named Helen. Gwenda tells her story to Miss Marple. Her father died a few years after her mother. She has memories of being on a ship, but it is clearly two ships. Miss Marple suggests that for at least a short time, Gwenda lived in England with her father and his second wife, which proves to be the case. Her stepmother, Helen Kennedy Halliday, met her father travelling from India back to England, where their shipboard romance led to marriage upon arrival in England. They rented a house in Dillmouth, the seaside town where Helen grew up. Now Gwenda ponders her frightening image and the closing words of the play: Her husband Giles arrives from New Zealand and the couple decide to pursue this mystery. Helen was raised mainly by her half brother, Dr Kennedy, now retired from practice and moved to another village. He replies to an advertisement placed by Giles seeking information about Helen. He, too, wants to hear from Helen. Miss Marple arranges to visit friends in Dillmouth. Miss Marple is often at the house, pulling out bindweed from the neglected garden. She finds the man who once gardened for the Kennedy family, brother and sister, who supplies several useful descriptions of events then. Miss Marple finds the cook from the Halliday household, Edith, who remembers that time well. The Hallidays had purchased a house in Norfolk and were soon to move, before Helen disappeared. Helen was heard to argue with a man who had always frightened her, and she wanted to get away. The servants presumed this was her husband, but it was not. Helen had a few other men in her life before she married Halliday. She married none of them, and was mainly interested in escaping her brother. She did fall in love with Halliday, and loved his daughter. She writes first to Dr Kennedy, thinking he is a friend who will explain to her what might be in store if she replies. She says that she does not believe that Helen ran off, as the clothes packed in her suitcase made no sense taking an evening gown but not the shoes and belt that go with it. The Reeds and Dr Kennedy agree he should write back to her to arrange a meeting at his present home. She has been strangled. Miss Marple advises Gwenda to tell the police everything. Gwenda is in the house alone when Dr Kennedy approaches her, ready to kill her by strangling when his attempt to poison her failed. Miss Marple arrives with a container of soapy solution, which she sprays in his eyes to stop the murder attempt. Dr Kennedy had strangled his sister, saying the closing words from that play, unaware of the toddler Gwenda at the stair railing above. He buried Helen in the garden. He set up her husband to think he had strangled her, but there was no body, so he was taken as insane, and died in a nursing home. His diary from that time showed him to be quite sane, but he could not explain what he had seen, his strangled wife next to him. Kennedy had first given drugs to make Halliday paranoid, and then drugged his drink so Dr Kennedy could pose him next to the strangled Helen. Then Kennedy moved her body again. The letter found with Lily was not the one she received from Kennedy; he switched it after he killed her. He did not want the police involved, as they would see through his scheme. He sent the nanny Leonie home with medicines that killed her. Miss Marple explains all this to the Reeds, the full confession from Kennedy and how they should have seen it from the start, from those words in the play.

Characters[ edit ] Gwenda Halliday Reed: Husband of Gwenda, who met her in New Zealand. Orphaned as she is, and in a business requiring travel. Cook for the Reed household. Well known author and nephew of

Miss Jane Marple. Painter, wife of Raymond, and cousin to Giles Reed. Aunt to Raymond, loves to garden, and an old woman with a way of finding out murderers. Cook to the Halliday home St Catherine now called Hillside years earlier, who still resides in Dillmouth. Young Swiss woman who was briefly nurse or nanny for the child Gwenda at St Catherine house, and saw something out the nursery window the night Helen disappeared. House parlour maid in the Halliday household, who is now married. Gardener, now 75 years old, to the Kennedy household when Helen was alive. Married to Megan, and father of Gwenda. After Megan died, he remarried to Helen Kennedy, a young woman he met on the ship back to England with his daughter. He died under the delusion that he murdered his second wife. The aunt who raised Gwenda in New Zealand, sister to her late mother. She was a lively and loving young woman. He is the older half brother to Helen, who raised her once both parents died. He retired from practice soon after his sister disappeared, and now lives in Woodleigh-Bolton. He briefly socialized with Helen when she returned from school. He is now married to Dorothy, and a businessman with a coach tour service in Devon and Dorset, based in Exeter. He proposed to Helen, she went out to marry him, but turned him down when she arrived there, realizing she did not love him at all. Married man who met Helen on the ship to India, when he was travelling alone. They both knew their strong attraction had no future, so gave it up. He resides in Northumberland. Wife of Richard, and mother to their two sons. The family vacationed in Dillmouth at the time when Helen disappeared. On staff at Saltmarsh House nursing home in Norfolk where Major Halliday spent the last years of his life. Colonel Melrose had once pointed Miss Marple out to him. It is on the basis of these dates John Curran argues that Christie had still to write the manuscript. His argument is not supported by two biographers, who state unequivocally that *Sleeping Murder* was written in . She writes that she had written an extra two books during the first years of the war in anticipation of being killed in the raids, as she was working in London. One was for her daughter, Rosalind Hicks , which she wrote first " a book with Hercule Poirot in it " and the other was for Max " with Miss Marple in it. She adds that these two books, after being composed, were put in the vaults of a bank, and were made over formally by deed of gift to her daughter and husband. Aware that she would write no more novels, Christie authorised the publication of *Curtain* in to send off Poirot. She then arranged to have *Sleeping Murder* published in , but she died before its publication in October . By contrast to Poirot, who dies in the final novel, Miss Marple lives on. This last published novel is set in the s, but follows novels that show Miss Marple to have aged. Following the publication of *P*. So much time had passed that she was unable to remember if the manuscript was still called *Cover Her Face* or *She Died Young*. Allusions to other works[ edit ] When the police inspector sees Miss Marple he comments on a case of poison pen near Lymstock, which is the plot of *The Moving Finger*. Detective inspector Primer mentions that Colonel Melrose pointed her out to him in the past, after telling Gwenda that Miss Marple was well known to the Chief Constables of three counties, who relied on her, but not yet his chief. In *Sleeping Murder*, the concept of an unknown person, X, is briefly used by the characters figuring out what happened to Helen. The notation is used throughout *Curtain*, but just briefly in *Sleeping Murder*. In both novels, X proved to be a character already well-known to other characters in the novel. The plot of the early 17th century play, *The Duchess of Malfi* , concerns a woman who is strangled by her brother because of the man she married, exactly Dr. There is a slight plot similarity to her novel *By the Pricking of My Thumbs* , which featured her characters Tommy and Tuppence Beresford. When Gwenda visits the sanatorium to find out about Kevin Halliday, a lady says, "was it your poor child? But perhaps it is her best. Agatha Christie wrote it years ago but if I was going to pick a swansong book this is certainly the one that I would choose. Concerns a house where murder has been committed, bought by the merest coincidence by someone who as a child saw the body. But why should an astute businesswoman hold back one of her better performances for posthumous publication? It was transmitted in two minute parts on Sunday, 11 January and Sunday, 18 January . This adaptation is fairly true to the plot of the novel.

## Chapter 6 : A Murder Is Announced (Miss Marple, #5) by Agatha Christie

*A Murder is Announced* is the fifth story to feature Miss Marple and the fiftieth novel that Agatha Christie published and the post-war era is very much in evidence in the picturesque village of Chipping Cleghorn which is home to many an

*elderly spinster.*

### Chapter 7 : Sleeping Murder (Miss Marple Mysteries) | Readers Lane

*Miss Marple is a fictional character in Agatha Christie's crime novels and short stories. An elderly spinster who lives in the village of St. Mary Mead and acts as an amateur consulting detective, she is one of the most loved and famous of Christie's characters and has been portrayed numerous times on screen.*

### Chapter 8 : Marple (TV Series “) - IMDb

*Miss Marple aids a young mother and son by spiriting them away to the estate of an eccentric botanist, not knowing that it will soon become the scene of murder. 0.*

### Chapter 9 : Murder at the Vicarage (Miss Marple #1) by Agatha Christie

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