



The Gentle Art of Murder: The Detective Fiction of Agatha Christie

By Earl F. Bargainnier



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This study of the technique of Agatha Christie's detective fiction-sixty-seven novels and over one hundred short stories-is the first extensive analysis of her accomplishment as a writer. Earl F. Bargainnier demonstrates that Christie thoroughly understood the conventions of her genre and, with seemingly inexhaustible ingenuity, was able to develop for more than fifty years surprising variations within those conventions.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Earl F. Bargainnier was Fuller E. Callaway Professor of English Language and Literature at Wesleyan College. A former president of the Popular Culture Association, he was the author of more than sixty articles and edited *Ten Women of Mystery* and *Twelve Englishmen of Mystery* and co-edited *Cops and Constables*. Professor Bargainnier died January 3, 1987.

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