

Agatha Christie's Marple

The Life and Times of Miss Jane Marple



Anne Hart

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**Agatha Christie's Marple: The Life
and Times of Miss Jane Marple**

«HarperCollins»

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This is the definitive companion to the MISS MARPLE novels, films and TV appearances. 'I have had a lot of experience in solving different little problems that have arisen.' Most of the 'little problems' tackled by Miss Marple occurred in the pretty rural village of St Mary Mead and came in the shape of murder, robbery and blackmail. In the 40 years of her career, she even solved cases as far afield as London and the Caribbean. But though she usually masqueraded as 'everybody's favourite great aunt', what was she 'really' like? In this authorised biography of the world's most famous female sleuth, Anne Hart combs through the 12 novels and 20 short stories in which Miss Marple appeared, uncovering clue and amassing all the evidence to solve the most difficult case of them all – the mystery of Miss Marple.

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MARPLE
THE LIFE AND TIMES
OF MISS JANE MARPLE**

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For a very dear aunt,
Anita Elliott Baird,
whom Miss Marple would have
enjoyed knowing

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PREFACE

It has been a great pleasure to write this biography of Agatha Christie's beloved and resilient Miss Marple, the best known of a notable group of women who have played leading roles in detective fiction. Of course, not a word of this book would have been written had not a benevolent genius created Miss Marple in the first place, and I am immensely grateful to Rosalind Hicks, Agatha Christie's daughter, for giving her kind approval for my use of her mother's writing in this way.

Unlike other biographers, I cannot claim to have unearthed new material. Everything we know of Miss Marple is contained in the twelve books and twenty short stories devoted to her remarkable sleuthing. To search through these books and stories, not for murderers but for clues to Miss Marple herself, is the aim of this biography. I hope its readers will enjoy reading it as much as I have enjoyed writing it. Together we are indebted to the incomparable Agatha Christie.

I am grateful to a number of people who have encouraged me along the way. I would particularly like to thank Susan Hart, Nancy Grenville, David Grenville, and Percy Janes for their helpful advice on the manuscript, and June Mescia, my editor, for her suggestions and good judgment.

ANNE HART

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

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