



The Second Gong: A Short Story (Hercule Poirot)

Agatha Christie

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A classic Agatha Christie short story, available individually for the first time as an ebook.

Previously published in the print anthologies *The Witness for The Prosecution and Other Stories* and *Problem at Pollensa Bay and Other Stories*

Lytcham Close, one of the oldest stately homes in England is owned by the last remaining heir and is a house ruled by his intolerable whims. Old Hubert demands complete silence when he plays selected music and dinner is timed exactly by the resounding gong, no matter to trifle with. Rushing down at the hearing of the second, or is it the first gong, Joan Ashby is about to find out that not only is dinner delayed, but, she is about to hear a sound that no one can explain. Everyone is thrown into disarray when Old Hubert never materialises and instead a new guest is announced. The new guest is Hercule Poirot himself. What unfolds is a mystery of lovers, michalmas daisies and a death that is not as it appears.

The Second Gong: A Short Story (Hercule Poirot) Details

Date : Published (first published 1932)

ISBN :

Author : Agatha Christie

Format : Kindle Edition 40 pages

Genre : Mystery, Short Stories, Fiction, Classics

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From Reader Review The Second Gong: A Short Story (Hercule Poirot) for online ebook

Jill says

Good story, but too short.

Tara says

Tidy little mystery with my favorite detective.

Bekah says

Well, that was unexpected. I think, of all of the short stories I have read this year, this one was the most altered when it went from page to screen. While that meant that I could listen to the story without feeling like I already knew everything that was going to happen, it also meant that I sat here with a furrowed brow, trying to figure out the changes and what that would mean for the conclusion. Very enjoyable though, worth a read (or listen).

Darinda says

A Hercule Poirot short story. A clever locked room mystery.

Susan says

First published in 1932, this story was later extended into a novella length version, “Dead Man’s Mirror.”

This, original version, sees a house party at Lytcham Close, home of the eccentric Hubert Lytcham Roche. The controlling Hubert Lytcham Roche is a stickler for certain behaviour from his guests – including silence while music is playing and punctuality at dinner. Therefore, when the dinner gong sounds, Joan Ashby and Harry Dalhouse, Mr Lytcham Roche’s nephew, rush down the stairs. However, was it the first, or second gong, they heard?

Other guests include secretary, Geoffrey Keene, Hubert’s wife and their adopted daughter, Diana Cleves, the financier, Gregory Barling and a certain Belgian detective, with an egg-shaped head... Poirot had been invited by Hubert Lytcham Roche, who asked him to investigate a sensitive matter for him but, when he is found dead, a suspected suicide, it is up to Poirot to discover the truth. This is an interesting, if short story, which certainly deserved to be extended.

Jessica says

Wow, that was a very quick solve. Wouldn't t be great if we had detectives around when needed and able to move so quickly in real life?

Anne says

A classic locked room mystery, solved with only with the flair Hercule Poirot can bring.

Kirsti says

This audio version runs about an hour. Fun if you already like Christie, but not the best of her work.

Margarita says

A version of Dead Man's Mirror.

Dreamer says

a.k.a. The Dead Man's Mirror.

Denise McLachlan says**An excellent short story**

As always Agatha Christy wrote a good mystery using the talented detective and his little grey cells. I enjoyed this short story.

Emily Weigel says

Not my favorite Christie short story, but Poirot once again figures out what we'd consider an unsolvable murder.

Fuad Al Fidah says

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Amy Gideon says

Would have liked this better as a full length novel. Felt a bit rushed.

Vanessa says

The only other work I have read by Agatha Christie is an all-time favorite of mine, the incomparable And Then There Were None (AKA Ten Little Indians). This short story was interesting, but a little formulaic for my liking. Maybe that's not entirely fair, as Christie is one of the authors responsible for creating the formula.

In the first few pages, I was instantly put in mind of the Clue family of entertainments. As the story progressed, I was reminded more and more of Sherlock Holmes in the sense that the reader is not given all of the information necessary to work out the mystery. Rather, the solution is presented as an explanation of the brilliant deductions made throughout the investigation, which the reader is not privy to until this revelation.
