



## The Adventure of the 'Western Star': A Short Story

*Agatha Christie*

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## **The Adventure of the 'Western Star': A Short Story Agatha Christie**

Movie star Mary Marvell consults with Hercule Poirot after receiving threatening letters that warn her to return her diamond, the famous "Western Star," to its rightful owner. But who does own the diamond, and is it even the genuine article?

## **The Adventure of the 'Western Star': A Short Story Details**

Date : Published December 11th 2012 by HarperAudio (first published April 11th 1923)

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Author : Agatha Christie

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## From Reader Review The Adventure of the 'Western Star': A Short Story for online ebook

### bella says

Hercule Poirot and Captain Hastings get involved in another mystery when they are called upon by a Miss Marie Marvell. She has received threatening letters from someone who wants her necklace, thus named the Western Star. Her husband, Gregory Rolf, bought her the necklace three years ago. The pair are due to visit the Yardly's, at Yardly Chase, but Miss Marie won't leave her necklace with Poirot for safekeeping because she wants to show Lady Yardly, who has a similar necklace, named the Eastern Star. When Captain Hastings finds out that Lady Yardly has received similar letters he instructs Poirot that they must go down to Yardly Chase to "save the day". However, before they can stop them, both diamonds are stolen, and Poirot and Hastings are left wondering who stole them.

The Adventure of the Western Star is the very first Agatha Christie short story and was published in 1923. It features Hercule Poirot and Captain Hastings, and whilst there is no murder there is a fabulous mystery to be solved. A mystery surrounding two diamonds!!

At the time of publication, Agatha Christie had already published two full-length novels with Hercule Poirot and Captain Hastings (The Mysterious Affair at Styles and Murder on the Links) and it is clear from this short story that she was really getting into her stride with these two characters. I love the friendship between them, and quite possibly they may be the first "frenemies" since Captain Hastings has a love/hate relationship with Hercule Poirot. The heated discussion between Poirot and Hastings absolutely made this story for me. No matter how many of their stories I read I never get tired of this pair.

The mystery itself was great quality, and for a short story it was very intricate.

I listened to this one on audio, and at 46 mins long it was a short, fun listen. I really recommend the audiobooks of the short stories. They are quick listens, and the narrators are outstanding.

All in all another great Agatha Christie to add to the list, and I can't wait to pick up the next short story.

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### Richard Derus says

Rating: 3\* of five

**The Publisher Says:** A classic Agatha Christie short story, available individually for the first time as an ebook.

Movie star Mary Marvell consults with Hercule Poirot after receiving threatening letters that warn her to return her diamond, the famous 'Western Star', to its rightful owner. But who does own the diamond, and is it even the genuine article?

**My Review:** Again, a 99¢ Kindle Single as well as an episode of *Agatha Christie's Poirot*'s second season.

Good lord, society was racist in those days. In 1923, when this story was published, making the villain

Chinese was a piece of shorthand for morally degenerate furriner. That the ultimate culprits were not Chinese and that the reason for the jewel theft was simple and sordid adultery made the entire tale predictable. This was more of a Columbo episode than it was a typical Christie.

The look of these shows is stellar. I love it, this Art Deco beauty and lushness. What's very strange to me is how much the atmosphere of the stories (in these early seasons) depends on Poirot and Hastings acting like an old married couple. Bicker bicker bicker! Smile and make up. Bicker some more, Poirot says something cutting, Hastings acts hurt, smile and make up! It was 1990 when these were made, no one can convince me that there's any chance of this being unconscious or accidental.

Well anyway it's a charming way to pass an hour.

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### **Abdullahmd Wasim says**

nice story. but it could have been a very long and romantic one too.

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### **Jason Koivu says**

A movie star is worried about threats she is receiving about her very expensive diamond. She goes to Hercule Poirot for advice. I got a chuckle when at one point the lights go out and \*presto!\* the diamond is stolen. A few quick deductions and the mystery is solved. The story feels a bit rushed. I knew exactly what was coming and "whodunnit" well in advance.

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### **Randa Mcnair says**

I used to love reading Agatha Christie novels, but these short stories are not doing it for me.

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### **Sealstitchery says**

cw: racial slurs

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### **Dodecahedron says**

Twists, turns, espionage and intrigue abound in this short story about a missing diamond. It was a very fun read (or listen) that will keep you guessing until the end.

I discovered the audiobook read by Hugh Frasier in July 2013. It is positively excellent. Couldn't recommend it more.

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### **Gloria says**

[ The diamond of the East and the Western Star were the same diamond - a paste fake was used to fool others. The movie star's husband had been with the other woman, and had stolen the gem, giving it to the movie star. When

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### **D. Starr says**

#### **Priceless Diamonds & a Mysterious Threats**

G rated

My only warning is to be aware that the story was written nearly 100 years ago, so if you are easily devastated by what is now politically incorrect, your gasps will suck the oxygen out of the room.

For the rest of us: we have here a classic Hercule Poirot short story.  
Relax, read, and enjoy.

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### **Cathy Cole says**

I've lately learned that I can read and enjoy Christie's short stories instead of struggling-- and failing-- with her novels. After having read all her Miss Marple short stories, I'm now embarking on the Poirot stories. I really enjoyed the storyline of this one; there must be something about fabulous jewels that inspire writers to new heights with inventive plots. The only thing to dull the sparkle of this story for me was the racist comments sprinkled throughout. Christie was indeed a writer of her times, and readers back then thought nothing of it. It's good to know that we've progressed enough as a species for most of us to know that racism is wrong. Do as I did and enjoy the concise plotting and characterization.

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### **itsnikhat says**

A typical Agatha Christie filled with twists and drama. I liked the plot, but there were was something about it that didn't quite work for me. I listened to this as an audiobook, and had to listen to it twice to understand the ending as my concentration had strayed away towards the end. I loved the Hastings and Poirot's relationship, poor Hastings is always so excited to solve things but somehow misses the mark. XD

Overall an okay read, a must for people who enjoy short crime mysteries.

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**twice\_baked? says**

Interesting, but not that interesting. She's not that good at writing short stories so it doesn't totally surprise me.

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**Molly Smith says**

This was a short but sweet Agatha Christie mystery starring her witty round detective, Hercule Poirot. The story of this stolen jewel was familiar and listening to the story brought back wonderful memories of watching Agatha Christie with my mom. I enjoyed the narration and look forward to listening to the next mystery.

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**Karen says**

This was a VERY short story, it took maybe 20 minutes to read, and yet I was still confused at the end.

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**Carolyn F. says****Audiobook. This was part of Poirot Investigates**

I'm almost positive this was a Poirot Presents on PBS because I knew the story as soon as it started. Great story. 4 stars.

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