

Murder On Orient Express

Murder on the Orient Express: A Definitive Exploration Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express" transcends a simple whodunit; it's a masterful exploration of human nature, suspicion, and the intricate web of relationships within a confined space. This will delve into the novel's literary merits, its practical applications in various fields, and offer a forward-looking perspective on its enduring relevance. **A Deep Dive into the Narrative:** The novel, set on a luxurious train traversing Europe, presents a seemingly diverse group of passengers. Each character is a potential suspect, and the unfolding plot reveals a tapestry of secrets and motivations. This is akin to a complex algorithm where each variable – character, motive, alibi – affects the outcome. The train itself becomes a microcosm of society, reflecting the complexities of human relationships and the constant struggle between appearances and reality. This concept of a confined space magnifying tensions resonates with many psychological studies on group dynamics. Christie's brilliance lies in her masterful use of red herrings, creating doubt and suspense. Just like a detective meticulously examining evidence, she leads the reader through various possibilities, building anticipation and then subverting expectations. This is a core principle in investigative work – the importance of questioning assumptions and carefully examining circumstantial evidence. Her meticulous character development, akin to crafting a detailed profile in psychological profiling, allows readers to understand the potential motivations behind each suspect. **Practical Applications and Analogies:** The novel's intricate plot has several practical applications beyond mere entertainment. • Forensic Science & Investigation: The meticulous examination of clues, like the intricate clues about the murder weapon, mirrored in the work of forensic scientists. The methodical analysis of the environment and the importance of alibis are fundamental to modern investigative techniques. • **Psychology & Social Dynamics:** The novel provides insights into human behaviour. The psychological motivations of each character, their conflicts, and their hidden resentments illustrate the depth and complexity of human relationships, much like a social psychologist studying group dynamics. • **Business & Negotiation:** The complex negotiations and power struggles between characters mirror strategic business decisions. Each character's position, their strengths, and weaknesses – analogous to strengths and weaknesses of a business plan – are critically examined for their possible impact. • Education & Critical Thinking: The novel encourages critical thinking. Readers are challenged to analyze the evidence, identify inconsistencies, and draw their own conclusions. This is similar to evaluating different hypotheses in a scientific inquiry. **A Forward-Looking Conclusion:** "Murder on the Orient Express" remains relevant in the digital age. The novel's exploration of suspicion, deception, and power continues to resonate with the complexities of modern social interactions, reflecting the difficulties in determining truth amidst misinformation. The book's lasting impact stems from its capacity to engage the reader intellectually and emotionally, forcing a critical examination of our own assumptions and biases. **Expert-Level FAQs:** 1. **Q: How does the setting of the Orient Express contribute to the narrative?** **A:** The confined, luxurious environment of the train is essential. It amplifies tensions, creates a sense of claustrophobia, and forces characters into close proximity, making their interactions and potential motives even more significant. 2. **Q: What are the most significant recurring themes in the novel?** **A:** Themes of deception, power dynamics, prejudice, justice, and the nature of truth are all meticulously explored through the intricate web of relationships and events. 3. **Q: Why is the character of Hercule Poirot so effective in solving the mystery?** **A:** Poirot's meticulous observation skills, his ability to scrutinize details, and his unique style of questioning, which are analogous to the systematic methodology of a detective, allow for a thorough analysis of the situation. 4. **Q: How does "Murder on the Orient Express" reflect societal attitudes of the time?** **A:** The novel subtly critiques class divisions, nationalistic tensions, and prejudices prevalent during the era it depicts. The characters embody these societal

divisions and are a microcosm of societal attitudes. 5. **Q: What is the enduring legacy of this novel for contemporary readers?** **A:** The novel challenges readers to question their preconceptions, fosters critical thinking, and encourages a deeper understanding of the intricacies of human relationships and the dynamics of power, all while offering a thrilling whodunnit to engage the reader. This exploration underscores the enduring power of "Murder on the Orient Express" as a literary masterpiece, prompting ongoing discussions and offering invaluable lessons about human behaviour and societal dynamics.

Unraveling the Mystery: Agatha Christie's Enduring Masterpiece, Murder on the Orient Express

Agatha Christie. The very name conjures images of dusty libraries, cryptic clues, and the brilliant, eccentric detective Hercule Poirot. And perhaps no novel embodies the queen of mystery's genius quite like "Murder on the Orient Express." This timeless tale, first published in 1934, continues to captivate readers with its intricate plot, unforgettable characters, and a twist that still has us gasping decades later. It's more than just a whodunit; it's a deep dive into human nature, justice, and the blurred lines between right and wrong. For those who haven't had the pleasure, imagine this: a luxurious train, the eponymous Orient Express, chugging through a snow-drifted Turkish landscape. Inside, a menagerie of intriguing passengers, each with their own secrets and stories. Then, a scream. A murder. And the world's most famous detective, Hercule Poirot, finds himself not only a passenger but also the sole investigator, trapped with a dozen suspects, one of whom is undeniably a killer. The stage is set for a masterful game of deduction.

The Allure of the Orient Express: More Than Just a Train

The Orient Express itself is practically a character in this story. It's not just a mode of transport; it's a gilded cage, a microcosm of society, and a breeding ground for suspicion. Agatha Christie uses the confined space brilliantly. The snowstorm that halts the train adds to the claustrophobia, trapping everyone together and forcing them to confront their circumstances and each other. The opulence of the train contrasts sharply with the grim reality of murder, creating a compelling atmosphere that draws you in from the very first page. The journey, meant to be a luxurious escapade, transforms into a tense, psychological battleground. The limited setting forces Poirot to rely on his keen observation and understanding of human psychology rather than extensive legwork. This is where Christie's genius truly shines, creating a narrative that's both grand in scope and intimately detailed. The exotic locations, the international cast of characters, all contribute to the exotic and thrilling backdrop of this classic murder mystery.

Meet the Suspects: A Cast of Intriguing Characters

One of the most captivating aspects of "Murder on the Orient Express" is its rich tapestry of characters. Christie populates the train with a diverse group, each meticulously crafted with their own motivations, backstories, and potential guilt. From the stern and imposing Colonel Arbuthnot to the seemingly demure Princess Dragomiroff, every passenger is a potential suspect, and none are entirely innocent. Let's delve into a few of these unforgettable individuals: * **Mrs. Hubbard:** A garrulous and somewhat intrusive American socialite, prone to dramatic pronouncements and a fear of everything from mice to murder. Her constant presence and often irrelevant interjections serve as a red herring, or perhaps, something more. * **Hector MacQueen:** The victim's secretary, a young man who seems genuinely distressed by the murder. But can his grief be trusted? * **Mary**

Debenham:** A cool and collected English governess with an air of mystery. Her calm demeanor and sharp wit make her a formidable presence. * **Greta Ohlsson:** A Swedish missionary, seemingly devout and kind, yet her quiet nature could be hiding a darker side. * **Antonio Foscarelli:** An Italian car salesman, full of bluster and charm, but is he all show? Each character is a puzzle piece, and Poirot must meticulously examine them, separating truth from deception. Christie masterfully imbues them with just enough detail to make them believable and just enough ambiguity to keep us guessing. The brilliance lies in how their individual stories, seemingly unconnected, eventually weave together to form a complex and shocking truth.

Hercule Poirot: The Little Belgian Detective at His Finest

And then there's Hercule Poirot himself. With his meticulously groomed mustache, his fastidious nature, and his unwavering belief in "the little grey cells," Poirot is one of literature's most iconic detectives. In "Murder on the Orient Express," he is at the height of his powers. Poirot's approach to detection is as unique as his appearance. He's not one for brute force or chase scenes. Instead, he relies on his extraordinary powers of observation, his deep understanding of human psychology, and his ability to see through even the most elaborate deceptions. He interviews each passenger, noting their reactions, their word choices, and their inconsistencies. He examines the crime scene with an almost surgical precision, searching for the smallest detail that others might overlook. His famous dictum, "The impossible cannot have happened, therefore the impossible must be the explanation," guides his investigation. He's not afraid to challenge assumptions or to explore unconventional theories. In "Murder on the Orient Express," his task is particularly challenging, as the evidence seems to point in multiple directions, and the suspect pool is as diverse as it is suspicious. His unwavering commitment to justice, even when it leads to difficult conclusions, is what makes him such a compelling figure.

The Crime: A Brutal Murder and a Trail of Clues

The victim, Samuel Ratchett, is a man no one seems to mourn. In fact, it quickly becomes apparent that many on the train had a reason to wish him harm. Ratchett, we learn, is an alias for Cassetti, a notorious criminal responsible for the kidnapping and murder of Daisy Armstrong, a young girl from a prominent American family. This revelation adds a layer of vengeance to the already complex motives. The murder itself is brutal and perplexing. Ratchett is found stabbed multiple times in his locked compartment. The clues are contradictory: a woman's handkerchief, a pipe cleaner, a fragment of a foreign newspaper, a faint scent of perfume. Each clue seems to implicate a different suspect, creating a tantalizing maze for Poirot to navigate. The beauty of Christie's plotting here is how she uses these seemingly disparate clues. They aren't just red herrings; they are carefully placed pieces of a much larger, more intricate puzzle. The snowstorm that has trapped the train becomes a literal and metaphorical barrier, forcing Poirot to work within its confines and to confront the truth, however uncomfortable it may be.

The Revelation: A Twist That Redefined the Genre

Without giving away the ultimate spoiler (though if you're reading this, you might already know!), the ending of "Murder on the Orient Express" is arguably one of the most shocking and audacious in literary history. Poirot, after meticulously piecing together the evidence, presents his findings to the assembled suspects. The solution he proposes is not a simple matter of identifying a single killer. Instead, Poirot uncovers a conspiracy, a collective act of justice enacted by the passengers themselves. Each suspect, it turns out, has a personal connection to the Armstrong case, and each had a motive to see Cassetti brought to justice. The sheer ingenuity of their plan, and

the moral ambiguity it presents, is what makes the ending so profoundly impactful. This twist challenges our traditional notions of crime and punishment. Is it murder if it's an act of retribution? Can a group of individuals acting in unison be held accountable in the same way as a lone killer? These are the profound questions that "Murder on the Orient Express" forces us to confront, long after we've closed the book. The brilliance of the ending is its ethical complexity, leaving the reader to ponder the nature of justice.

Why "Murder on the Orient Express" Endures: A Timeless Masterpiece

"Murder on the Orient Express" isn't just a great mystery novel; it's a testament to Agatha Christie's unparalleled storytelling ability. Its enduring appeal lies in several factors:

- The Ingenious Plot:** The twist ending is legendary for a reason. It's surprising, logical (in its own twisted way), and deeply satisfying.
- Unforgettable Characters:** The diverse cast of suspects is brilliantly drawn, each with their own secrets and motivations, making them both relatable and suspicious.
- Atmospheric Setting:** The Orient Express, with its luxury and isolation, provides the perfect backdrop for a tense and thrilling mystery.
- Hercule Poirot:** The iconic detective is at his sharpest, showcasing his unique deductive skills and his unwavering moral compass.
- Moral Ambiguity:** The novel doesn't offer easy answers. It forces readers to grapple with complex questions of justice, vengeance, and the blurred lines between right and wrong.

Whether you're a seasoned Christie fan or a newcomer to the world of Hercule Poirot, "Murder on the Orient Express" is an absolute must-read. It's a journey into the heart of a thrilling mystery, a masterclass in suspense, and a thought-provoking exploration of the human condition. It's a book that stays with you, a puzzle that continues to fascinate, and a story that reminds us why Agatha Christie remains the undisputed queen of crime fiction. The intricate details, the compelling narrative, and the unforgettable climax solidify its place as one of the greatest murder mysteries ever written. It's a true classic that continues to thrill and enchant generations of readers. Keywords: Murder on the Orient Express, Agatha Christie, Hercule Poirot, murder mystery, detective novel, classic literature, whodunit, Orient Express, crime fiction, literary analysis, character analysis, plot twist, literary masterpiece, Poirot mysteries, suspense novel.

Unraveling the Enigma: Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express" Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express", a timeless masterpiece of detective fiction, continues to captivate readers with its intricate plot, compelling characters, and masterful use of suspense. More than a simple whodunit, the novel explores themes of guilt, innocence, and the human condition amidst the opulent backdrop of a luxury train. This delves into the intricacies of the story, its enduring appeal, and the literary legacy it has left behind.

A Masterful Puzzle Box: The Story's Structure The novel's power lies in its carefully constructed narrative. It follows the investigation of a murder aboard the Orient Express, with a disparate group of passengers as suspects. Christie masterfully employs red herrings, cleverly veiled clues, and subtle character development to keep readers guessing until the very end. The confined space of the train, with its interconnected lives and hidden agendas, becomes a crucial element in the suspenseful atmosphere. The novel expertly contrasts the opulent exterior of the train with the darkness simmering beneath the surface.

Character Portrayals: A Gallery of Suspects Christie's characters are meticulously crafted, each with their own motivations, secrets, and flaws. From the wealthy and aloof to the downtrodden and desperate, every passenger holds a piece of the puzzle. Their individual stories and complex personalities intertwine to create a dynamic narrative. Examining these characters, their relationships, and their hidden agendas is key to understanding the novel's overarching themes.

Thematic Exploration: Beyond the Murder While the murder is central to the plot, "Murder on the Orient Express" explores deeper themes. These include:

- The Burden of Guilt:** Many characters grapple with past actions and unresolved conflicts. This internal struggle intensifies the novel's psychological depth.
- Justice and Morality:** The novel prompts readers to

question the nature of justice and the consequences of our choices. Who determines right and wrong? • **Social Commentary:** The novel subtly critiques social hierarchies and class distinctions prevalent in early 20th-century society. **Why Does *Murder on the Orient Express* Endure?** The novel's enduring popularity stems from several factors: • **Intriguing Plot:** The meticulously crafted plot, full of twists and turns, ensures sustained reader engagement. • **Engaging Characters:** The diverse cast of characters, each with compelling motivations, allows readers to connect on a human level. • **Classic Storytelling Techniques:** Christie expertly utilizes suspenseful techniques and literary devices to maintain a high level of anticipation. • **Timeless Themes:** The exploration of human nature, guilt, and justice transcends time, making the novel relevant to modern readers. **The Adaptations:** **From Page to Screen** *Murder on the Orient Express* has been adapted multiple times for the big screen. These adaptations reflect the novel's enduring popularity and offer distinct interpretations of the source material. From the 1974 film starring Albert Finney to Kenneth Branagh's 2017 version, the different portrayals highlight the novel's ongoing appeal across generations. **Expert FAQs** 1. **Q: What makes *Murder on the Orient Express* a unique detective novel?** **A:** Its unique setting, the confined space of the Orient Express, combined with a large cast of complex characters and intricate plot twists, differentiates it from other detective novels. 2. **Q: How does the novel explore societal themes?** **A:** By showcasing the diverse passengers and their interactions, the novel subtly critiques class divisions and social hierarchies. 3. **Q: What is the significance of the train's isolation in the plot?** **A:** The enclosed environment of the train enhances the suspense and intensifies the mystery, as everyone is trapped within a confined space with their secrets. 4. **Q: How has the novel's adaptation to film impacted its reception?** **A:** The different adaptations have allowed various audiences to engage with the story, expanding its reach and ensuring its continuous resonance. 5. **Q: What are the key takeaways from studying the novel's structure?** **A:** The use of red herrings, the development of characters, and the meticulous build-up of suspense are valuable lessons for any writer looking to craft compelling narratives. **Conclusion:** Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express* stands as a testament to the enduring power of storytelling. Its intricate plot, compelling characters, and timeless themes have captivated readers for generations. The novel continues to resonate with its insightful exploration of the human condition, reminding us of the importance of examining our own motivations and the weight of our choices.

Murder on the Orient Express: A Masterclass in Suspense and Deception

Agatha Christie's enduring classic, 'Murder on the Orient Express', continues to captivate readers and viewers with its intricate plot, unforgettable characters, and shocking conclusion. This detailed analysis explores the novel's brilliance, its thematic depth, and its lasting impact on the detective fiction genre.

Unraveling the Enigma: The Core of 'Murder on the Orient Express'

Agatha Christie, the undisputed "Queen of Crime," gifted the world with countless literary mysteries, but few have achieved the iconic status of '**Murder on the Orient Express**'. Published in 1934, this novel stands as a testament to Christie's unparalleled ability to weave complex narratives, populate them with memorable

individuals, and deliver a final twist that leaves readers breathless. At its heart, the story is a classic locked-room mystery, set against the opulent and atmospheric backdrop of the luxurious Orient Express train, traveling from Istanbul to Calais. The murder of the wealthy and detested Samuel Ratchett during the night throws the confined space of the train into a frenzy of suspicion, forcing the brilliant Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot, to confront a crime where everyone is a suspect, and the truth is anything but straightforward.

The Unforgettable Hercule Poirot

Central to the enduring appeal of 'Murder on the Orient Express' is its protagonist, Hercule Poirot. Introduced in earlier novels, Poirot's meticulous nature, his distinctive appearance (the immaculate mustache, the egg-shaped head), and his unwavering belief in order and justice make him the perfect foil for the chaos of murder. He is not a detective who relies on brute force or luck; rather, his genius lies in his profound understanding of human psychology, his keen observation skills, and his methodical approach to piecing together seemingly disparate clues. In this particular case, Poirot's personal connection to the victim, as a passenger who had previously refused Ratchett's plea for protection, adds a layer of complexity to his investigation. His famous "little grey cells" are pushed to their limits as he navigates the labyrinthine testimonies and veiled motives of the diverse cast of characters trapped with him on the snowbound train.

The All-Star Cast of Suspects

One of the novel's most compelling strengths is its remarkable ensemble of characters, each meticulously crafted with distinct personalities, backgrounds, and secrets. Christie masterfully populates the train with a motley assortment of individuals, each seemingly unrelated but all united by their presence on that fateful journey. From the stern British governess, Miss Mary Debenham, to the flamboyant Russian princess, Natalia Dragomiroff, and the garrulous American evangelist, Mrs. Hubbard, every passenger is a potential murderer with a plausible motive. The author uses the confined setting to amplify the tension, forcing these individuals into close proximity, their forced civility masking underlying animosities and hidden agendas. The character development is crucial, as Poirot must sift through layers of deception, class distinctions, and past traumas to uncover the truth. This intricate web of relationships and hidden histories is a hallmark of Christie's storytelling, making 'Murder on the Orient Express' a true masterpiece of ensemble mystery.

The Ingenious Plot and Its Deceptive Simplicity

The narrative structure of 'Murder on the Orient Express' is a masterclass in misdirection. Christie employs a classic detective fiction trope: the "impossible crime." The murder occurs in a seemingly secure compartment, with the train immobilized by snow, leaving no escape route for the perpetrator. This immediate challenge sets the stage for Poirot's deductive prowess. However, what truly elevates the novel is the ingenious solution to this seemingly unsolvable puzzle. Christie expertly plants seeds of doubt and suspicion, leading the reader down multiple plausible paths of deduction, only to reveal a far more intricate and morally ambiguous truth. The pacing is deliberate, with Poirot interviewing each suspect, gathering their alibis, and examining the physical evidence. The recurring motif of the dagger, found in the victim's body, and the fragmented clues scattered throughout the compartment are all part of Christie's intricate design.

The Art of Misdirection and Red Herrings

Christie's genius lies in her ability to skillfully deploy red herrings, misleading the reader at every turn. The obvious suspects, those with the most apparent motives, are often too obvious. Poirot himself acknowledges that the truth might be far more complex than a simple case of revenge or greed. The discovery of the victim's true identity as Cassetti, a notorious criminal responsible for the kidnapping and murder of Daisy Armstrong, a young child, fundamentally alters the investigation. This revelation introduces a powerful collective motive, a desire for justice that transcends individual greed. The various clues, from the dropped watch to the burnt fragment of a letter, are carefully placed to create a tapestry of deception, each thread designed to pull the reader away from the ultimate solution.

The Shocking Revelation: Justice, Vengeance, and Morality

The climax of 'Murder on the Orient Express' is one of the most celebrated and debated in detective fiction history. Poirot, after meticulously examining all the evidence and confronting the passengers, presents two possible solutions to the crime. One is the conventional explanation, a single murderer acting alone. The other, far more audacious and ethically charged, suggests a collective act of vengeance. The sheer brilliance of Christie's twist lies in its audacity and its moral complexity. It challenges the very notion of justice, prompting readers to question whether the perpetrators, driven by a shared grief and a desire to right a horrific wrong, are truly guilty. The ending forces a profound moral reckoning, leaving the reader to ponder the blurred lines between law and morality, and the lengths to which people will go to seek retribution.

Themes and Enduring Relevance

'Murder on the Orient Express' transcends its genre by delving into deeper thematic territory. Beyond the puzzle of who committed the murder, the novel explores profound questions about justice, revenge, collective responsibility, and the nature of truth itself. The shared trauma of the Armstrong case binds the disparate passengers together, creating a unique bond that ultimately leads to their extraordinary act. Christie doesn't shy away from depicting the devastating impact of crime and the yearning for closure.

The Blurred Lines of Justice and Vengeance

The central thematic conflict revolves around the distinction between legal justice and personal vengeance. The passengers, denied formal justice for Cassetti's heinous crimes, take matters into their own hands. Poirot, as the embodiment of the law, is confronted with a situation where the conventional pursuit of justice might, in his eyes, be a miscarriage of sorts. He grapples with the moral implications of his findings, ultimately making a decision that reflects a nuanced understanding of human suffering and the pursuit of retribution. This exploration of vigilante justice remains remarkably relevant in contemporary society, where debates about accountability and the effectiveness of legal systems persist. The novel prompts us to consider if there are ever circumstances where the law falls short and individuals are compelled to act.

The Power of Collective Memory and Shared Trauma

Another significant theme is the power of collective memory and shared trauma. The murder of Daisy Armstrong, though occurring years prior, continues to haunt the lives of those connected to her. The passengers, each with their own personal connection to the tragic event, are united by their grief and their desire for retribution. This

shared experience creates a powerful bond, allowing them to overcome their individual differences and orchestrate a complex plan. Christie highlights how past events can cast long shadows, shaping present actions and forging unexpected alliances. The train itself becomes a microcosm of society, where individuals united by a common grievance can effect collective action.

'Murder on the Orient Express' and its Literary Legacy

Agatha Christie's 'Murder on the Orient Express' has not only captivated generations of readers but has also profoundly influenced the detective fiction genre. Its intricate plotting, unforgettable characters, and groundbreaking twist have been emulated by countless authors. The novel's success solidified Christie's reputation as a master storyteller and cemented Hercule Poirot as one of literature's most beloved detectives. The story has been adapted numerous times for film and television, each iteration attempting to capture the magic of the original text and the shock of its conclusion. These adaptations, including Kenneth Branagh's visually stunning 2017 film and Sidney Lumet's classic 1974 version, underscore the enduring appeal of this classic mystery. The continued popularity of 'Murder on the Orient Express' is a testament to its timeless themes, its ingenious construction, and its ability to perpetually surprise and engage its audience, making it a true cornerstone of mystery literature.

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Questions & Answers About murder on orient express

No	Question	Answer
1	Who is the victim in 'Murder on the Orient Express' and why was he targeted?	The victim is Samuel Ratchett, a wealthy American businessman. He was targeted because he was secretly Lanfranco Cassetti, the mastermind behind the kidnapping and murder of Daisy Armstrong years prior. The murder is an act of collective revenge by the twelve passengers, all connected to the Armstrong family.
2	What makes Hercule Poirot's deduction in 'Murder on the Orient Express' so unique?	Poirot's deduction is unique because he discovers there isn't one single murderer, but rather twelve. Each passenger on the train played a role in the murder as a form of poetic justice for the Armstrong tragedy, which Ratchett/Cassetti had escaped legal consequences for.
3	How does the snowbound setting of the Orient Express contribute to the mystery?	The snowbound setting is crucial as it traps all the suspects onboard with Poirot. This isolation prevents any escape or outside interference, forcing Poirot to unravel the complex web of relationships and motivations among the passengers within the confines of the train.
4	What is the significance of the number twelve in the story?	The number twelve is highly significant, mirroring the twelve jurors in a trial. This symbolizes the passengers acting as both the jury and the executioners, delivering a collective verdict and sentence upon Ratchett/Cassetti for his past crimes.

5	Who are some of the key suspects and their connections to the Armstrong case?	Key suspects include Mary Debenham (Daisy Armstrong's governess), Colonel Arbuthnot (a friend of Mr. Armstrong), Princess Dragomiroff (Daisy's godmother), Hector MacQueen (Ratchett's secretary, whose father was the DA on the case), and Mrs. Hubbard (Linda Arden, Daisy's grandmother). Many others are also revealed to have a direct or indirect link to the Armstrong family or the aftermath of the crime.
6	What are the two possible solutions Poirot presents, and which one does he ultimately choose?	Poirot presents two solutions: the 'obvious' one where an unknown assailant murdered Ratchett and escaped, and the 'true' one where all twelve passengers acted together in revenge. He ultimately chooses to present the former to the authorities, allowing the latter to remain a secret and bringing a measure of peace to those involved.

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