

“Murder on the Orient Express” is one of the works written by the famous British detective writer, Agatha Christie. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, Agatha Christie holds the title for the bestselling author in the world. Her family education was the main reason that she became interested in literature. In addition to that, her sister read a lot of Sherlock Holmes’ stories, which motivated Christie to become a detective writer.

The novel begins with a detective named Hercule Poirot who is morally just and intelligent. Poirot has just solved a case in Syria and is about to ride on a train to go back to England. Poirot meets his old friend M. Bouc in the transfer station at Turkey. He knows that M. Bouc is heading to Switzerland , and the first class in the orient express is all sold out. M. Bouc is a wealthy man and would usually choose to sit first-class, but instead of waiting for the next train, Poirot and Bouc choose to ride on the tourist class in the orient express. Poirot makes a lot of friends during his duration the train, talking to a lot of passengers from different countries and different social statuses.

A man called Ratchett, claims that he has received a threatening letter, saying that someone wants to kill him, and comes to ask Poirot for help. However, Poirot rejects him, because he does not like his appearance. The next day, Ratchett is found dead in his room. The corpse is found to be stabbed by different people with same knife with a total of twelve cuts. Besides that, the depths of the wounds were not consistent.

In this novel, Agatha Christie connected of all the passengers on the train to the murder. Poirot observed carefully examined the dead body, paying special attention to the peculiar

wounds. The murder itself was very complex, and there were many mysterious elements. For example, Ratchett conversed with the attendant on the train after midnight at 12:37. There was a girl who dressed a red gown and a watch was found, with the time stopped at 1:15. A woman's handkerchief with a capital "H" and a man's pipe cleaners were also found.

While Poirot was questioning each passenger, all of the passengers lied in order to hide something. Unbelievably, all 14 passengers on the train, excluding Poirot, even the conductor did not tell the truth. Through the incomplete evidence and claims from the passengers, Poirot collected all the clues and made a reasonable deduction to solve the case. He concluded that all of the passengers on the train had conspired to murder Ratchett as revenge for a crime he had committed in the past.

I admire Agatha Christie for her unexpected twist ending. It turns out the victim is not innocent, but was instead a villain who hurt many people. I believe that Ratchett deserved punishment for his crimes. The Murder on the Orient Express did not have any particularly exciting scenes in my opinion. Instead of featuring action sequences, much of the suspense of the novel is built through dialog. The story only progresses through Poirot's conversations with each of the train's 14 passengers. Overall, I enjoyed reading this novel, particularly because I liked Poirot's character. He consistently made logical deductions by thoroughly examining the available evidence, and displayed bravery in times of danger. These are traits that I believe are important for the lead in a murder mystery story. Justice always prevails.