

## Agatha Christie

Dame Agatha Christie was born in 1890 to an upper middle class family in Torquay, Devon, England. She worked at a hospital in Torquay during the First World War while her newlywed husband, Archibald Christie, served in France. At the conclusion of hostilities, the Christies moved to London and started a family.

In 1920 Christie launched her extraordinary literary career with *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. In the novel, she introduced her polymath sleuth, Hercule Poirot. (Poirot usually put his 'little grey cells' to best use, but he wasn't infallible. In *The Chocolate Box*, for example, Poirot fails because he finds life a bit too complex.) Eventually Christie authored thirty-seven mysteries that featured the former Belgian police official, along with thirteen Miss Marples and a whole host of other arcana. All in all, Christie wrote seventy-three novels and sixteen plays. Her books are among the most popular of all time, ranking in sales slightly below Shakespeare and the Bible. Many have been adapted to television and radio; thirty have been made into movies. Her play *The Mousetrap* holds the record for a stage production's longest run. (At the end of 2015 *The Mousetrap* had logged in more than 25,000 continuous performances.)

The Queen of Mystery's forte, of course, is the whodunit with a tricky ending. (Occasionally it's Professor Plum in the library with a candlestick.) In 1930 Christie - after extricating herself from a marriage that rapidly turned ugly - wed her second husband, archeologist Sir Max Mallowan. In 1955 Lady Mallowan received the Mystery Writers of America's (MWA) Master Award. That same year the MWA accorded her drama, *Witness for the Prosecution*, an Edgar. Although Agatha Christie passed away in 1976, she's still remembered - and honored. In 2013 the UK's Crime Writers' Association proclaimed her novel, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, to be the best mystery story ever written. Two years later they announced that *And Then There Were None* was the 'World's Favorite Christie', followed closely by *Murder on the Orient Express*.

Essay by Bill Lounsbury

*KRL has many of Agatha Christie's books*

### **INSPIRE** Summer Issue Available Now

The new issue of *Inspire* is now available that includes the Summer Learning tracker. Summer Learning, previously known as Summer Reading, is not just for kids anymore! This program officially begins June 1 and ends August 31 -- it celebrates all of the reading and learning going on in our community. Read for 10 hours and win a prize! Kids will earn a free book and a ticket to the county fair. Adults will earn a copy of the next winter's One Book - One Community selection. If you read for 100 hours, adults, teens, and children, all will be eligible for a trendy tee shirt. Be the envy of all your friends and enter the learning extravaganza at your library!!

## *The Shepherd's Life:*

### *Modern Dispatches from an Ancient Landscape*

by James Rebanks (Read by Bryan Dicks; MP3 Audiobook edition)

James Rebanks grew up in England's Lake District, son of a shepherd. His family lived and farmed there longer than there has been written history. He has written a beautiful, lyrical autobiography about a way of life that is centuries old.

As the title implies, the book is as much about the land, sheep and sheep farming as it is an autobiography. The Lake District of *The Shepherd's Life* is not the Lake District of summer holidays. It is a land carved by glaciers to test men's stamina with rough terrain and long, wet winters. Rebanks' attachment to the land and farming are clear in his descriptions of sheep, dogs, day-to-day successes and challenges of farming in Cumbria.

I "read" the Audiobook and I highly recommend it. Bryan Dicks' reading was the best I have experienced in many years. He gives the book a sense of intimacy that feels more like the author is speaking than a book being read. (And he has a lovely accent.)

Available formats: book (KRL), Ebook (KRL), Audiobook (Seattle Public Library and King County Library System\*)

I found I wanted to know more about the different breeds mentioned in the book:

<http://www.britishwool.org.uk/british-sheep-breeds.php>

----- reviewed by Mary Margaret Cromarty

\* If you have a **Kitsap Regional Library** card you can obtain a library card from other libraries including: ...**King County Library System**, ...**Seattle Public Library**... Just take your KRL library card, valid identification and proof of your home address to any of their library locations to get a free library card. Complete list of cooperating libraries is on the KRL website.

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## **Plant & Book Sale Results**

April's Plant Sale took in \$10,320  
(including pre- & post-sales, even the Flea Market)  
Special Book Sale: \$975

Plant & Book Sale total: \$11,295 (WOW !)

Congratulations to Frank Gilbert & Cherm Mercer-Gilbert, this year's Plant Sale Chair-persons, who heartily express: "A good season's work, and thank you ALL for the hard work to make it happen."

### HELP WANTED !!

Help Setup and Takedown at the Salmon Bake

Setup - 7:30 am

Takedown - 4:00 pm

Father's Day - Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>

Email John Winslow [Johnwinslo@aol.com](mailto:Johnwinslo@aol.com)