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Why did Agatha  
Christie disappear?

Agatha Christie was the most successful writer of detective stories of all time. People all over the world read her stories of Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. But when she died in 1976 there was a final mystery: why did she disappear for eleven days in December 1926?

Agatha Christie was born in September 1890. She lived with her family in Devon, England. In 1914 she married Colonel Archibald Christie. She wrote her first detective story in 1920 and soon she was very successful.

But Agatha Christie didn't have a happy marriage. On a cold night in December 1926 she left home in her car. The following morning, the police found the empty car but there was no sign of Agatha Christie. Two days later, they told the newspapers that they didn't know where she was. Everyone thought she was dead.

But 250 miles away in Yorkshire, a waiter in a hotel saw a guest who looked like Agatha Christie, and he told the police. Eleven days after her disappearance, her husband found her again in the hotel dining room.

The couple were soon divorced. She married Sir Max Mallowan, an archaeologist, in 1930 and she continued to write her mysteries. But she didn't explain what happened in 1926. Did she want to kill herself? Did she want to show her husband that she didn't love him? Did she hope to sell more books?

Over the years, Agatha Christie wrote more than 80 mysteries and sold over 300 million books. But she didn't tell anyone why she disappeared in December 1926.



