



THE QUEEN OF MYSTERY

Agatha Christie

THE MURDER AT THE VICARAGE

A Miss Marple Mystery

ALL 13 MISS MARPLE MYSTERIES

MISS MARPLE  
Agatha Christie

The Murder at the Vicarage

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MISS MARPLE  
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THE BODY IN THE LIBRARY

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THE MOVING FINGER

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A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED

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THEY DO IT WITH MIRRORS

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A POCKET FULL OF RYE

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4:50 from Paddington

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THE MIRROR CRACK'D FROM SIDE TO SIDE

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A CARIBBEAN MYSTERY

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MISS MARPLE: The Complete Short Stories

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# **The Complete Miss Marple Collection**

**Agatha Christie**

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The Agatha Christie Collection

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MISS  
MARPLE

THE QUEEN OF MYSTERY

# Agatha Christie

THE  
MURDER  
AT THE  
VICARAGE

*A Miss Marple Mystery*



**Agatha Christie**

**The Murder at the Vicarage**

A Miss Marple Mystery

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*To Rosalind*

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# One

**I**t is difficult to know quite where to begin this story, but I have fixed my choice on a certain Wednesday at luncheon at the Vicarage. The conversation, though in the main irrelevant to the matter in hand, yet contained one or two suggestive incidents which influenced later developments.

I had just finished carving some boiled beef (remarkably tough by the way) and on resuming my seat I remarked, in a spirit most unbecoming to my cloth, that anyone who murdered Colonel Protheroe would be doing the world at large a service.

My young nephew, Dennis, said instantly:

“That’ll be remembered against you when the old boy is found bathed in blood. Mary will give evidence, won’t you, Mary? And describe how you brandished the carving knife in a vindictive manner.”

Mary, who is in service at the Vicarage as a stepping-stone to better things and higher wages, merely said in a loud, businesslike voice, “Greens,” and thrust a cracked dish at him in a truculent manner.

My wife said in a sympathetic voice: “Has he been *very* trying?”

I did not reply at once, for Mary, setting the greens on the table with a bang, proceeded to thrust a dish of singularly moist and unpleasant dumplings under my nose. I said, “No, thank you,” and she deposited the dish with a clatter on the table and left the room.

“It is a pity that I am such a shocking housekeeper,” said my wife, with a tinge of genuine regret in her voice.

I was inclined to agree with her. My wife’s name is Griselda—a highly suitable name for a parson’s wife. But there the suitability ends. She is not in the least meek.

I have always been of the opinion that a clergyman should be unmarried. Why I should have urged Griselda to marry me at the end of