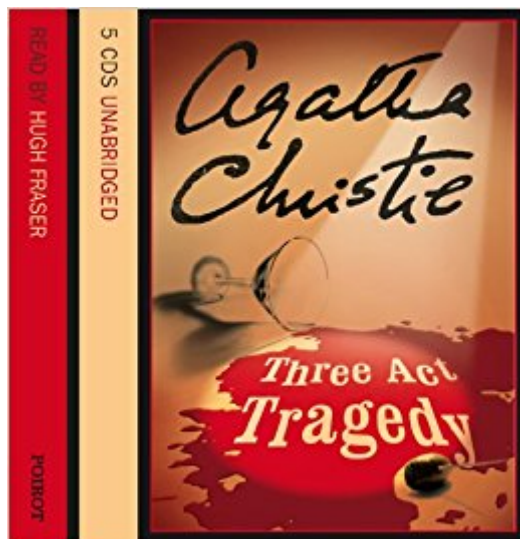


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# Three Act Tragedy



## Synopsis

A dinner party thrown by theatre actor Sir Charles Cartwright at his home in Cornwall ends in tragedy...

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd; Unabridged edition (August 1, 2002)

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Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 95 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,471,159 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \( C \) > Christie, Agatha](#) #326 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Classics](#) #2260 in [Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers](#)

## Customer Reviews

"Makes uncommonly good reading."--New York Times  
"Mrs. Christie at the top of her form."--Dorothy L. Sayers, Sunday Times (London)  
"There has never been, and probably never will be, a P.I. more fun to observe and listen to, than Hercule Poirot."--Joseph Wambaugh, "New York Times" bestselling author  
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"Makes uncommonly good reading. --New York Times  
"Mrs. Christie at the top of her form. --Dorothy L. Sayers, Sunday Times (London)" --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Sir Charles Cartwright should have known better than to allow thirteen guests to sit down for dinner. For at the end of the evening one of them is dead—choked by a cocktail that contained no trace of poison. Predictable, says Hercule Poirot, the great detective. But entirely unpredictable is that he can find absolutely no motive for murder. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

I really liked how character development didn't play second fiddle to the plot. And what a twist at the end!

Always beware of romances in Christie's books. Also as I understand it the American version *Murder in Three Acts* and *Three Act Tragedy* differ.

Good read when you are sick!

Poirot really doesn't play a big part in the story until the last act. I enjoyed the last part of the story. Not my favorite AC tale, but still good.

This book was different from most of the others in the Poirot series. For one, no Hastings. I know a few other books are also missing Hastings but for most of those books, there is a Hastings-like sidekick. We have 3 sidekicks in this book, which throws off the chemistry a lot. Not to mention the fact that Poirot is only present for maybe 1/3 of the book. The thing that works so well with the Hastings- Poirot partnership is that Hastings narrates all the details and Poirot is there to filter out the nonsense. In this book, all the details are thrown at you by 3 different POVs with no Poirot to filter most of them out, making it difficult if you are actively trying to solve the case. Still, I would have given this book 4 stars with those flaws mentioned. The big thing for me was that I found it difficult to reconcile with the motive of the murderer. It just seems like something that could have been dealt with with one simple conversation. I did not care for it, or the dramatics of the love story intertwined with the mystery. I think for once, the plot may have been too contrived.

I love how this book gives you a glimpse of life before WW2. It has a very different feel compared to Christie's later works. The world it depicts is so different from the post-war world (society, technology, culture). (Example: so many servants--I don't think that's something like survived the 2nd war.)

In a lot of terms, this story is a lot more superior than many of Agatha Christie. In terms of complexity, murder motive, murder backdrop used and murderer taking chances with death of people. A certainly unusual story. Definite good read.

This book will keep you thinking even after you think you know who did it! Hercules is not prominent in a lot of the book, but it is still his little gray cells that solve the puzzle in the end.

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