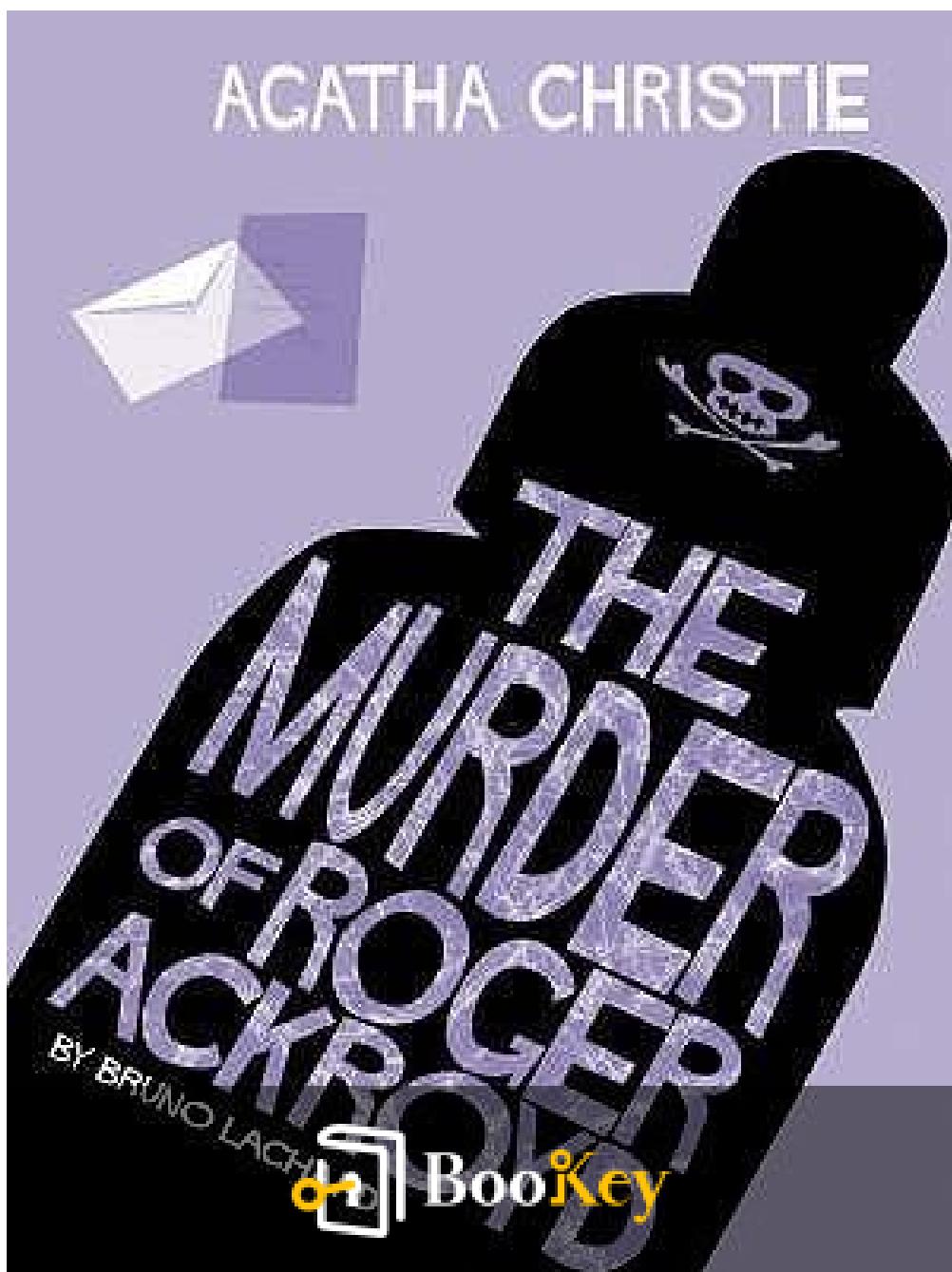


The Murder Of Roger Ackroyd PDF (Limited Copy)

Bruno Lachard



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The Murder Of Roger Ackroyd Summary

Truth hidden in the most unexpected places.

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About the book

In "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," Agatha Christie masterfully constructs a suspenseful mystery that challenges the very nature of truth and deception, as well as the reliability of those we trust. Set in the quaint village of King's Abbot, the story unfolds through the eyes of Dr. James Sheppard, who finds himself embroiled in a baffling murder after the wealthy and secretive Roger Ackroyd is found dead in his study. What follows is a captivating investigation led by the keenly observant detective Hercule Poirot, whose unconventional methods and piercing insights reveal stunning revelations about human behavior and morality. This intricate tale of betrayal and hidden motives will keep you guessing until the final, shocking twist, making it a must-read for anyone who loves a classic whodunit that twists the very fabric of storytelling.

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About the author

Bruno Lachard is a renowned contemporary author known for his masterful storytelling and intricate plots, which often draw inspiration from classic detective fiction. Born in France, Lachard has carved out a niche in the mystery genre, captivating readers with his ability to weave suspenseful narratives that pay homage to literary giants like Agatha Christie. With a background in literature and an affinity for psychological insight, Lachard's work is characterized by its rich character development and unexpected twists that keep audiences guessing until the final page. His novel "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" continues to showcase his flair for crafting engaging whodunits that honor the tradition of classic crime literature while infusing modern elements of intrigue.

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Chapter 1 Summary:

In the first chapter of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," we meet Dr. James Sheppard, who is called to the home of Mrs. Ferrars, a wealthy widow, after her sudden death on a September night. Arriving at his own home shortly after the grim duty, Sheppard is unsettled by a strong feeling that significant events are on the horizon. His sister, Caroline, an inquisitive and opinionated woman, is waiting for him at breakfast, and it becomes clear that she has already learned about Mrs. Ferrars' death through the village grapevine—specifically from the local milkman and the cook.

Caroline, with her sharp insight, has her own theories on the cause of death, suspecting that it might be suicide due to remorse over the rumored poisoning of her late husband, Ashley Ferrars. The discussion between the siblings reveals a clear contrast in their personalities: while Sheppard is more reserved and adheres to a logical medical approach, Caroline thrives on gossip and speculation. She is convinced of Mrs. Ferrars' guilt and believes that her death was intentional, a theory that frustrates Sheppard, even as he finds himself wondering if there is some truth to her intuition.

The chapter illustrates the dynamics of their relationship—Sheppard's annoyance with Caroline's tendency to pry and share gossip, and her unwavering belief in her own intuition—serving as an engaging setup for the mystery to unfold. Themes of death, the nature of truth, and the complexities

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of human emotions emerge, setting the stage for a larger investigation into Mrs. Ferrars' life and the potential secrets she leaves behind. As the chapter concludes, the tension between logical reasoning and emotional speculation foreshadows the conflicts that will arise as the story progresses.

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Chapter 2 Summary:

In Chapter 2 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," the narrator introduces us to the quaint village of King's Abbot, painting a vivid picture of its charm and characters. The village features a bustling railway station, a small post office, and two competing general stores, but it's the residents who truly bring it to life. The close-knit community is filled with unmarried ladies and retired military officers, and their favorite pastime is gossip.

Central to village life are two prominent houses: King's Paddock, owned by the late Mrs. Ferrars, and Fernly Park, home to Roger Ackroyd. Ackroyd is described as an affable and prosperous manufacturer, resembling a quintessential country squire. He leads a vibrant social life, actively contributing to village affairs while also raising his late wife's son, Ralph Paton, who has had a troubled upbringing filled with rebelliousness.

The connection between Ackroyd and Mrs. Ferrars has been a hot topic among villagers, particularly after her husband's death. Speculation runs rampant that they might marry, a union fitting for two individuals who have suffered at the hands of alcoholism in their pasts. However, the narrative hints at tension with the arrival of Mrs. Cecil Ackroyd, Ackroyd's sister-in-law, who has taken up residence and may complicate the situation.

The chapter transitions from idle gossip concerning potential wedding plans

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to somber reflections on Mrs. Ferrars's recent death, stirring up mystery and concern. The narrator ponders over her passing, questioning whether it was suicide and recalling a strange encounter between Mrs. Ferrars and Ralph the day before her death. This moment, characterized by an earnest discussion between the two, raises unsettling implications.

As the day unfolds, the narrator crosses paths with Roger Ackroyd, who appears visibly distressed over the news of Mrs. Ferrars's death. Ackroyd invites the narrator to dinner, signaling a desire to discuss urgent matters that may involve Ralph Paton. The chapter serves to heighten the intrigue, as the weight of personal relationships and hidden motives begins to loom large over the village, setting the stage for the ensuing tragedy.

We also glimpse Miss Russell, the current housekeeper, who harbors an unsettling curiosity about poisons and their detection, hinting at deeper layers of mystery in the unfolding narrative. The blend of social dynamics, secrets, and impending drama lays a rich foundation for the tale's murder mystery, as the reader is drawn deeper into the lives of the villagers of King's Abbot.

Element	Description
Setting	Quaint village of King's Abbot with a railway station, post office, and general stores.
Community	Close-knit, with unmarried ladies and retired military officers who enjoy

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Element	Description
	gossip.
Key Locations	King's Paddock (late Mrs. Ferrars's house) and Fernly Park (Roger Ackroyd's house).
Roger Ackroyd	A prosperous manufacturer and affable country squire, involved in village affairs.
Ralph Paton	A troubled son of Ackroyd's late wife with a rebellious past.
Speculation	Rumors about a potential marriage between Ackroyd and Mrs. Ferrars following her husband's death.
Conflict	Arrival of Mrs. Cecil Ackroyd, sister-in-law, complicating Ackroyd's life.
Mystery	Reflection on Mrs. Ferrars's death raises questions of suicide and hints at her last encounter with Ralph.
Intrigue	Ackroyd invites the narrator to dinner, indicating urgent matters regarding Ralph Paton.
Miss Russell	The housekeeper with an unsettling interest in poisons, hinting at deeper mysteries.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The power of community and relationships.

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 2, the relationships within the close-knit village of King's Abbot serve as a reminder of the profound impact that connections can have in our lives. Just as the gossip and camaraderie among the villagers influence their perspectives and decisions, we too are shaped by our interactions with others. This chapter inspires us to cherish and nurture our own relationships, recognizing that they not only enrich our experiences but also play pivotal roles in shaping our communal and personal narratives. Engaging with those around us can lead to deeper understanding, support during challenging times, and a shared sense of belonging that is essential for a fulfilling life.

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Chapter 3:

In Chapter 3 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," we are drawn deeper into the intertwining lives of the characters in the village of King's Abbot. The narrator discusses his plans to dine at Fernly with his sister, Caroline, who hastily reveals that Ralph Paton is staying at a local inn, despite everyone thinking he was in London. This piques Caroline's curiosity, and she speculates that Ralph is secretly engaged to Flora Ackroyd, Roger Ackroyd's niece, which sets the stage for family tensions.

The chapter further introduces the mysterious neighbor, Mr. Porrott, whose odd habits and exuberant personality provide a comical contrast to Caroline's nosy nature. He apologizes profusely for throwing a large vegetable marrow over the wall and shares his thoughts on the ennui that comes with retirement from his mysterious profession, which he prefers to keep under wraps. Amused and intrigued, the narrator also finds himself analyzing Porrott, suspecting he might have been a hairdresser due to his insights into human nature. Their conversation hints at Porrott's past but raises more questions than answers, leaving him somewhat enigmatic.

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Chapter 4 Summary:

In Chapter 4 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," Dr. Sheppard arrives at the grand Fernly Park for dinner, greeted by Parker, the butler. The evening begins with a sense of normalcy, despite Dr. Sheppard's expectation of a potential emergency call. He encounters Miss Russell, the housekeeper, and notes her breathlessness, suggesting she may have been rushing. Curiously, he hears a sound from within the drawing-room but dismisses it.

As he enters, he meets Flora Ackroyd, who shares her excitement about her recent engagement to Ralph Paton. Despite her charm and vibrant presence, Dr. Sheppard is struck by the more ominous atmosphere in the home, particularly stemming from Roger Ackroyd, who seems emotionally distressed. Flora's mother, Mrs. Ackroyd, enters, displaying her usual blend of enthusiasm and calculating demeanor, urging Dr. Sheppard to speak to Ackroyd about financial settlements regarding Flora's engagement.

Guests gather, including Major Blunt, whose taciturn nature contrasts with the lively conversation. Dinner proceeds with a heavy ambiance as Ackroyd, visibly troubled, partakes little in the meal. Afterward, Ackroyd seizes a moment with Dr. Sheppard in his study, revealing a multitude of worries on his mind. He confides the shocking confession he received from Mrs. Ferrars before her recent death — that she poisoned her husband, a secret she had kept hidden and that now weighs heavily on Ackroyd.

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Their conversation intensifies as Ackroyd expresses concern about the blackmailer who had been extorting Mrs. Ferrars, hinting that the blackmailer's identity might be closer than one would expect. When Parker enters, bringing coffee, Ackroyd dismisses the servants, reiterating his desire for privacy. The tension mounts when Ackroyd receives a letter from Mrs. Ferrars, which he believes contains crucial information regarding the blackmail and murder.

However, he hesitates to read the letter aloud in Dr. Sheppard's presence, insisting it was meant only for him. Despite Dr. Sheppard's urging, Ackroyd refuses to divulge its contents. The chapter closes with Dr. Sheppard encountering a mysterious stranger outside Fernly Park and later returning home, only to be jolted by a phone call informing him of Ackroyd's murder.

This chapter adeptly builds suspense, intertwining themes of secrecy, betrayal, and the moral dilemmas surrounding love and loyalty, while deepening the character of Ackroyd, whose burdens and unanticipated revelations leave the reader on edge as two significant deaths now loom large over the storyline.

Element	Summary
Setting	Dr. Sheppard arrives at Fernly Park for dinner.

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Element	Summary
Key Characters Introduced	Dr. Sheppard, Parker (butler), Miss Russell (housekeeper), Flora Ackroyd, Mrs. Ackroyd, Major Blunt.
Initial Observations	Normalcy mixed with tension; Dr. Sheppard notes the distressed state of Roger Ackroyd.
Flora's Engagement	Flora shares excitement about her engagement to Ralph Paton.
Acknowledgment of Tension	Roger Ackroyd is troubled and engages Dr. Sheppard in a private discussion about his worries.
Mrs. Ferrars' Confession	Ackroyd shares his knowledge of Mrs. Ferrars confessing to poisoning her husband prior to her death.
Blackmail Concern	Ackroyd expresses fear about a blackmailer connected to Mrs. Ferrars' death.
The Letter	Ackroyd receives a letter from Mrs. Ferrars, potentially relevant to the murder, but refuses to read it aloud.
Suspense and Closure	Dr. Sheppard encounters a mysterious stranger, then receives a phone call about Ackroyd's murder, heightening suspense.
Themes	Secrecy, betrayal, moral dilemmas surrounding love and loyalty, deepening character exploration.

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Chapter 5 Summary:

Chapter 5 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" unfolds with an atmosphere thick with tension and urgency as Dr. Sheppard rushes to Fernly Park after receiving a distressing phone call. Upon arrival, he encounters Parker, the butler, who seems bewildered by the suggestion that Mr. Ackroyd has been murdered. Parker adamantly denies sending the message, leading to a confusing and alarming situation for both men. Eager to ensure Ackroyd's well-being, Dr. Sheppard insists on checking the study but finds the door locked.

After Parker confirms that the key is inside, Dr. Sheppard becomes increasingly anxious and decides to break down the door. When they finally enter, they discover Mr. Ackroyd lifeless in his chair, a dagger lodged in his back. The gruesome scene propels both men into action; Parker is dispatched to call the police, while Dr. Sheppard maintains the integrity of the crime scene, refusing to touch anything.

The entry of Geoffrey Raymond and Major Hector Blunt reveals their shock and horror at the sight of Ackroyd's body. As they ponder the possible motives behind the murder, the atmosphere is fraught with suspicion and uncertainty. Blunt speculates that robbery might be the motive, but the room shows no signs of theft, complicating the investigation.

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As the local inspector arrives, he quickly assesses the situation, noting that the locked room and the open window suggest the murderer escaped easily. A crucial piece of evidence emerges: a conversation Ackroyd was having shortly before his death, hinted at by Raymond. It suggests a financial request made shortly before Ackroyd's demise, which piques the inspector's interest and muddies the water with the idea of possible motives from various parties.

The realization that Parker had received conflicting messages about Ackroyd's wishes adds layers of complexity to his character. The narrative raises questions about trust and loyalty, as Parker vacillates between professionalism and nervousness. The chapter culminates with the inspector keen to question Flora Ackroyd, the last person to see her uncle alive, who is soon brought down to hear the bad news.

When Flora learns of her uncle's death, she is struck with disbelief and faints, highlighting the emotional toll of the murder. The chapter is a gripping mix of suspense and intrigue, intricately detailing the aftermath of Ackroyd's shocking murder while building a web of mystery about the identities, motives, and circumstances surrounding the crime. Through tension-filled dialogues and engaging characters, the narrative deepens the readers' investment in unraveling the mystery.

Chapter Title	Summary
Chapter 5	<p>Dr. Sheppard rushes to Fernly Park after a troubling phone call about Mr. Ackroyd's murder. He meets Parker, the butler, who denies sending the message. The door to Ackroyd's study is locked, prompting Dr. Sheppard to break it down, revealing Ackroyd dead with a dagger in his back. Parker calls the police while Dr. Sheppard secures the scene. Geoffrey Raymond and Major Hector Blunt arrive, shocked by the murder, and speculate on motives but find no signs of robbery. The local inspector arrives, noting that the locked room and open window suggest the murderer escaped. A conversation Ackroyd had shortly before his death hints at financial issues, complicating potential motives. Parker's conflicting messages about Ackroyd's wishes add complexity, and the chapter ends with Flora Ackroyd fainting upon hearing of her uncle's death, intensifying the emotional impact of the murder and setting the stage for further investigation.</p>

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Chapter 6:

In Chapter 6 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," the tension escalates as Inspector Davis continues his investigation into the murder. The chapter opens with Dr. Sheppard discussing the recovery of Caroline, the young lady affected by the night's events, while questioning the household staff. They confirm that no one entered through the back door, but the inspector is puzzled by the vague description of a stranger seen the night before. Dr. Sheppard hesitates, recalling the stranger's voice that seemed familiar.

Davis suspects blackmail may be involved, having noted that Parker, the butler, reacted nervously when questioned. Dr. Sheppard decides to share all the facts he knows about the evening, revealing Ackroyd's hint about a potential blackmail situation and the disappearance of an important letter. This revelation gives a possible motive for the murder, piquing Inspector Davis's curiosity.

The inspector obtains a Tunisian dagger, a gift to Mr. Ackroyd from Major Blunt, which becomes a critical piece of evidence. Raymond, Ackroyd's

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Chapter 7 Summary:

In Chapter 7 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," Dr. Sheppard recounts a busy morning filled with unexpected developments in the wake of Roger Ackroyd's murder. While making his rounds, he learns from his sister Caroline that Flora Ackroyd has been waiting to see him, visibly distressed. Flora, dressed in mourning, is determined to recruit Hercule Poirot to investigate her uncle's murder. This news surprises Dr. Sheppard, as he and Caroline had initially speculated about Poirot being a retired hairdresser.

Flora expresses her doubts about the local Inspector, Davis, and insists that Poirot is their best hope for finding the truth. Despite Dr. Sheppard's hesitation and concern for dragging a retired detective into the case, Flora's passion convinces him to accompany her to The Larches to meet Poirot. Their conversation reveals Flora's unwavering faith in her fiancée, Ralph Paton, suggesting his innocence despite concerns about his whereabouts.

At The Larches, they are greeted by Poirot, who quickly becomes serious upon hearing about the murder. Flora directly requests his help, worried that the police might make errors in their investigation. Poirot, intrigued by the case but cautious, emphasizes that he requires complete truthfulness if he is to take on the case, to which Flora readily agrees.

Dr. Sheppard narrates the details of the murder to Poirot, who listens

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attentively and poses astute questions, noting the inconsistencies surrounding Captain Paton's behavior and presence. Poirot's observations stir curiosity in Dr. Sheppard, particularly regarding the significance of a chair's position in the study and the state of the fire. Poirot argues that careful observation can provide essential insights into the case.

As the chapter unfolds, Poirot insists on engaging with the local police, despite Inspector Raglan's dismissive attitude. Poirot's respect for the police, combined with his strategic approach, wins over Colonel Melrose, who recognizes Poirot's potential value in solving the case. They discuss the discrepancies surrounding Ralph Paton and the timeline of events leading up to the murder, including a crucial telephone call traced from a public call office, raising further questions about the suspects.

The chapter explores themes of truth-seeking, trust, and the complexities surrounding moral character—particularly in how appearances can be deceiving. As Poirot prepares to delve deeper into the investigation, Dr. Sheppard reflects on how everyone involved seems to be hiding something, setting the stage for a gripping exploration of deceit and revelation.

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Chapter 8 Summary:

In Chapter 9 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," we find Poirot and the narrator walking back to the house, where Poirot contemplates the beauty of the estate and raises the subject of inheritance, catching the narrator by surprise. They then stroll through a lovely garden and arrive at a picturesque spot by a goldfish pond. Here, they witness a light-hearted interaction between Flora, Roger Ackroyd's niece, and Hector Blunt, a friend of the family. Flora's playful demeanor contrasts with her somber black dress, a fitting reflection of the recent tragedy. As she playfully mocks Blunt's reticence and age, the exchange reveals a connection between them that runs deeper than mere friendship.

Flora's excitement about a newly revealed inheritance of twenty thousand pounds sets a different tone, as she expresses a sense of liberation from her previous financial struggles. Blunt listens intently as Flora articulates her desire for freedom, hinting at her complex feelings amidst the chaos of the murder investigation. Their conversation flows naturally but is interrupted by Poirot's arrival, who is eager for information regarding the events surrounding Ackroyd's murder.

As Poirot questions Blunt about his last interactions with Ackroyd, Blunt's nervousness begins to show. He admits hearing Ackroyd's voice from the terrace but falters when pressed for details, raising suspicions about his

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honesty. Poirot's probing nature hints at his keen perception of hidden truths, and it's clear he is piecing together a larger puzzle.

When Flora is questioned about an important dagger that was found, she staunchly defends her recollection of events against Inspector Raglan's doubts, showcasing her loyalty to Ralph, her love interest, who is embroiled in the investigation. The dynamics among the characters deepen amidst their shared uncertainty, complicating their relationships further.

Poirot, in his characteristically meticulous style, attempts to investigate a gleaming object in the pond. Pulling a wedding ring from the mud, he cleverly conceals it from view before revealing it to the narrator, underscoring his need for discretion and his ever-present air of mystery. The ring carries an inscription, suggesting connections that may be crucial to unraveling the mystery at hand.

This chapter artfully blends elements of tension, humor, and budding romance against the backdrop of a murder investigation. As secrets swirl around Flora and Blunt, and Poirot continues his relentless pursuit of the truth, the complexities of human emotions and motivations come alive, propelling the narrative toward its ultimate climax.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Complexity of Human Emotions and Relationships

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, the interactions between Flora and Blunt reveal how our emotions can intertwine with our relationships, particularly in times of crisis. Just as Flora navigates her newfound freedom amid a tragedy, we too face moments where difficult emotions can coexist with joy and hope. Life teaches us that while challenges may arise, the connections we nurture can offer us strength and clarity. Understanding this complexity allows us to embrace our feelings and those of others more openly, paving the way for deeper, more meaningful relationships even during turbulent times.

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Chapter 9:

In Chapter 10 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," the tension continues to build as Poirot, Doctor Sheppard, and the other characters navigate the complex aftermath of Roger Ackroyd's death. The chapter opens with Poirot and Sheppard meeting Mrs. Ackroyd and her lawyer, Mr. Hammond, who is there to discuss the will of the deceased. Mr. Hammond reveals Ackroyd's substantial fortune and the specifics of his will, which raises suspicions about motives and potential beneficiaries, notably pointing to Captain Ralph Paton, who stands to gain a significant inheritance.

As Poirot digs deeper into the circumstances surrounding the murder, he questions the financial troubles of Captain Paton, implied to be a chronic issue, and explores the bequests in Ackroyd's will, which creates unease among the family, particularly Mrs. Ackroyd, who feels slighted by being left less than her late husband's niece, Flora.

During a conversation between Poirot and Major Blunt, Blunt shares that he had met Mrs. Ferrars before her death and that she wasn't universally liked,

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Chapter 10 Summary:

In Chapter 11 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," Dr. Sheppard visits Mrs. Folliott at Marby Grange to inquire about a former parlourmaid, Ursula Bourne. Upon mentioning Ursula's name, Mrs. Folliott's demeanor changes drastically; her warmth fades, and she becomes visibly uncomfortable and evasive. Although Mrs. Folliott initially agrees to answer questions, her nervousness reveals that she is hiding something, leading Dr. Sheppard to sense a deeper mystery surrounding Ursula's past. Realizing that he won't get any useful information from Mrs. Folliott, he leaves feeling defeated.

Later, Dr. Sheppard returns home to find his sister, Caroline, in a state of excitement, indicating that she has had an intriguing encounter with Poirot. As she recounts her meeting, it's clear that Poirot has charmed her and shared stories about his detective work, reinforcing her admiration for him. Caroline's delight shifts to the case at hand, as she mentions that Poirot is eager to find Ralph Paton, the prime suspect in the murder, since his absence looks suspicious.

Tension rises when Caroline reveals she told Poirot about what she overheard in the woods, leading Dr. Sheppard to argue that this could incriminate Ralph. Caroline firmly believes that Ralph is innocent and that sharing information might even help him if it pertains to an alibi. The conversation teeters between sibling banter and serious implications, with

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Dr. Sheppard frustrated by Caroline's tendency to unwittingly complicate matters.

As they discuss Poirot's inquiries further, Caroline emphasizes that he has a keen eye for details and has lingered on Miss Russell's visit to Dr. Sheppard's surgery, insinuating that there's something suspicious about her as well. This echoes Mrs. Ackroyd's earlier suspicions about Miss Russell, leaving Dr. Sheppard to mull over the implications of Caroline's inferences. The chapter closes with Dr. Sheppard heading upstairs for dinner, pondering how much of Caroline's speculation is accurate versus her imaginative storytelling, all while navigating the growing tensions around the murder investigation.

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Chapter 11 Summary:

In Chapter 12 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," the tension thickens as a joint inquest is held to discuss Roger Ackroyd's tragic death. Inspector Raglan expresses his concerns about Ralph Paton, the prime suspect who is currently missing. Poirot and the inspector share their findings about the case, focusing particularly on a mysterious telephone call made shortly before the murder which could potentially reveal the truth. Poirot intriguingly suggests that the fingerprints on the murder weapon might belong to the victim, raising questions about how they ended up on the dagger.

After their conversation with the inspector, Poirot organizes a gathering of key characters—Mrs. Ackroyd, Flora, Major Blunt, and Raymond. He implores Flora to persuade Ralph to return, emphasizing that his silence only deepens the suspicion against him. Flora becomes significantly distressed, especially when Poirot hints at the dire consequences of Ralph's absence.

The atmosphere around the table is emotionally charged. Mrs. Ackroyd expresses her concern about Ralph's unconventional behavior, while Flora passionately defends her fiancé, declaring her loyalty to him. In a bold move, Flora decides to announce their engagement publicly despite the turmoil, demonstrating her unwavering support for Ralph. Poirot, however, urges her to postpone the announcement for a couple of days to protect both

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their interests.

As the chapter progresses, Poirot makes it clear that he suspects every individual present is hiding something connected to the case. His assertion leaves everyone on edge, as his sharp observations reveal the complexities and unspoken tensions among them. The chapter ends with Poirot's declaration to uncover the truth, regardless of the secrets held by those around him, leaving readers eager to see how the mystery will unfold. The themes of loyalty, secrecy, and the pursuit of truth resonate strongly throughout this chapter, setting the stage for the inevitable confrontations to come.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of loyalty amidst adversity

Critical Interpretation: In a world filled with deception and uncertainty, Flora's unwavering loyalty to Ralph Paton amidst the turmoil of suspicion serves as a powerful reminder of the strength loyalty can provide in turbulent times. Her decision to publicly announce their engagement, despite the chaos surrounding them, showcases the profound impact of standing by those we care for, even when challenges seem insurmountable. This chapter inspires us to cultivate loyalty in our own lives, encouraging us to support our loved ones through their struggles, as true partnership and unwavering commitment can help us weather any storm together.

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Chapter 12:

In Chapter 13 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," we find Dr. Sheppard visiting Hercule Poirot at his home after dinner, a decision that Caroline, his sister, seems unhappy about. Poirot warmly welcomes him and sets up a rather odd pairing of Irish whiskey and hot chocolate, showcasing his peculiar tastes. The conversation quickly shifts to the case at hand, with Poirot referencing the local gossip and the appropriate usage of his "little grey cells."

As they dive into the details of the investigation, Poirot presents Dr. Sheppard with a mysterious goose quill that he discovered in a summerhouse, linking it to dangerous heroin use and suggesting that their mysterious stranger is likely from Canada or the United States. Poirot's deductions reveal that the path leading to the summerhouse is significant—not merely a shortcut but potentially a meeting point for clandestine rendezvous, hinting that someone from the Ackroyd house might have met the stranger there.

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Description
Why do so many of us fail to lose weight? Why can't we go to bed early and wake up early? Is it because of a lack of determination? Not at all. The thing is, we are doing it the wrong way. More specifically, it's because we haven't built an effective behavioral habit. This book is that habit.

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Chapter 1 of 5
Overview
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Interpretation

is first for me. How the book makes me feel, it's like it has to match my life. It's happening around me. That's where it comes from.

- Boots Riley

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Chapter 13 Summary:

In Chapter 14 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," the narrative shifts as Dr. Sheppard recounts an urgent visit to Mrs. Ackroyd. This chapter highlights the growing complexity of the murder investigation following Roger Ackroyd's death. Mrs. Ackroyd claims to be emotionally overwhelmed but her conversation reveals her evasive nature and underlying anxiety. As she discusses her feelings and opinions about the investigation, particularly about Hercule Poirot, she seems more concerned with her own reputation and the potential repercussions of the investigation than with mourning her husband.

Their dialogue underscores Mrs. Ackroyd's inclination to manipulate the situation, hinting that she has something to hide. She reflects on her financial difficulties and the stress caused by unanswered questions surrounding her late husband's will. Her desire to know its contents without appearing prying adds layers to her character, making her seem desperate and calculating simultaneously.

Dr. Sheppard, who initially plays a supportive role, begins to suspect that Mrs. Ackroyd is not being entirely forthcoming. Moments in their conversation suggest she is avoiding certain truths, particularly when it comes to Ursula Bourne, a character with whom she seems to have a contentious relationship. Mrs. Ackroyd's guilt manifests when Dr. Sheppard

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questions the open state of a silver table, revealing her sneaky attempts at hiding her intentions regarding valuable possessions.

The chapter also includes a curious exchange with a parlormaid, Bourne, hinting at her own concerns and emotional distress, thereby broadening the scope of suspicion to the other characters involved. It shows how interconnected their lives are, with secrets and emotions bubbling close to the surface.

Eventually, Dr. Sheppard leaves Mrs. Ackroyd's room with a sense of the mystery deepening. He has gathered vital information but also recognizes that there is still much to uncover. As he leaves, he reflects on the clues that have emerged and the various pieces of the puzzle he and Poirot are attempting to fit together.

As the chapter unfolds, Mrs. Ackroyd's character is painted as both a tragic figure and a potential suspect, exploring themes of secrecy, betrayal, and the complexity of familial relationships. Dr. Sheppard's observations hint at the intricate web of motives and emotions that surround the central mystery, setting the stage for further revelations as the investigation progresses. The chapter closes with a seeming miscommunication regarding the color of Ralph Paton's boots, which underscores a theme of misunderstanding and deception that permeates the narrative.

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Chapter 14 Summary:

In Chapter 15 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," the narrative continues to unfold as the enigmatic detective Hercule Poirot meticulously pieces together the mystery around Roger Ackroyd's murder. The chapter begins with the main character reflecting on Poirot's successful manipulation of human emotions, which encourages Mrs. Ackroyd to reveal her hidden truths. Just as the protagonist returns home, he learns that Geoffrey Raymond had visited Poirot, seeking to speak with him, and was deeply troubled by Poirot's earlier accusations about concealed truths.

Caroline, his sister, presses him to follow up on Raymond's visit, showcasing her insatiable curiosity. Ultimately, he reluctantly agrees to take a pot of medlar jelly to Poirot, a gesture from Caroline, before delivering confidential information about Mrs. Ackroyd's nervousness on the night of the murder. Poirot listens with keen interest, relating this to the housekeeper's earlier evasive behavior, suggesting that something significant lies beneath her agitation.

When Geoffrey Raymond reappears, he confesses to having concealed a minor detail about his financial situation, stating he had been in debt but felt his inheritance had cleared his conscience. Poirot, while acknowledging Raymond's honesty, uses this moment to highlight the ways in which money can drive a person to commit nefarious deeds. Several individuals in the

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household, including Mrs. Ackroyd, Miss Flora, and Raymond himself, stand to benefit from Ackroyd's death, establishing a theme of greed as an underlying motive.

The conversation shifts as Poirot directs attention to Parker, the butler, whom he suspects might have ulterior motives linked to Mrs. Ferrars's blackmail. Poirot schemes for an experiment to delve deeper into Parker's actions during the night of the murder, collecting details about the interactions and movements of the household members.

Engaging with Miss Flora, the plan involves reenacting Parker's delivery of a tray to Ackroyd's study to ascertain whether his account holds up under scrutiny. As they perform the scene, it becomes evident that Poirot is assessing not just the facts but the truthfulness of those involved. This experimentation accentuates Poirot's belief that the truth, like a puzzle, can often be uncovered through careful observation and interrogation, revealing ongoing themes of investigation and moral ambiguity.

The chapter closes with Poirot reflecting on the truths unveiled, leaving readers pondering the complexities of honesty and deceit in human relationships. The tension mounts as the narrative weaves through the intricacies of character motives, underscoring the perpetual dance between those seeking the truth and those clinging to their secrets.

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Chapter 15:

In Chapter 16 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," the story unfolds during a cozy Mah Jong evening hosted by Dr. Sheppard and his sister Caroline. Set against the backdrop of a chilly night in King's Abbot, the atmosphere is light, yet a current of tension lingers as they engage in both the game and lively gossip.

The guests include the gossipy Miss Gannett and the pompous Colonel Carter, who quickly diverts the conversation toward the ominous events surrounding Roger Ackroyd's murder. Colonel Carter, with a conspiratorial air, mentions a rumor of blackmail, implying a woman's involvement, and ignites Caroline's curiosity further. The interplay of gossip reveals the characters' personalities—Caroline is sharp-witted and intuitive, while Miss Gannett relishes in her theories about the murder, asserting that the last person to see Ackroyd alive, Flora, should be scrutinized.

As the game progresses, the Mah Jong tiles are not the only things being laid out; speculation flies about the relationships among the primary characters.

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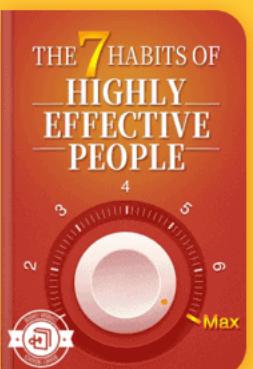
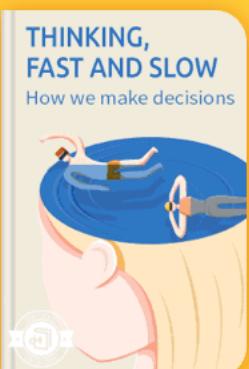
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Chapter 16 Summary:

In Chapter 17 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," the story picks up with the aftermath of a joint funeral for Mrs. Ferrars and Roger Ackroyd. The protagonist is wrestling with guilt over possibly revealing information about a discovery Poirot made regarding a ring. At this somber point, Poirot's excitement takes center stage as he plans to interrogate Parker, the butler, whom he suspects might be involved in the blackmail case tied to Mrs. Ferrars' past.

Upon their return to The Larches, they find Parker waiting. Poirot engages him in a tense conversation about blackmail, suggesting that Parker might know more than he's admitting. Poirot skillfully reveals that Parker previously worked for a Major Ellerby, who was involved in a drug-related scandal. Under pressure, Parker admits to overhearing discussions that might involve blackmail but insists he didn't harm his late employer, Ackroyd. Poirot appears to consider Parker's account credible, though he remains watchful for any signs of deception.

After dismissing Parker, Poirot and the narrator visit M. Hammond, the lawyer who handled Mrs. Ferrars' affairs. Through careful questioning, they uncover that over the past year, she had withdrawn significant sums of money totaling £20,000, presumably to satisfy blackmail demands. This discovery intensifies the investigation, suggesting that the motives behind

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Ackroyd's murder were more complex than initially thought.

Poirot's mind continues to churn as he considers the implications of this new information. He begins to suspect other characters, including Major Blunt, who also has motives related to the considerable sums mentioned. Their conversation is laced with Poirot's insightful reflections on human nature and the potential for weakness to lead someone to commit terrible acts when faced with overwhelming temptation.

As the chapter progresses, the scene shifts to the domestic setting of the narrator's home, where unfinished lunches and lively banter with Caroline, the narrator's sister, reveal their differing perspectives on the murder investigation. Caroline boldly speculates on the motives of individuals in the house the night of the murder, showing her perceptive nature and challenging Poirot's deductions.

Their discussion is abruptly interrupted by a phone call informing the narrator that a man named Charles Kent has been detained in Liverpool as a suspect, propelling the narrative into a new, adrenaline-fueled direction. This final reveal captures the intrigue and suspense of the ongoing murder mystery, promising fresh developments in the plot and foreshadowing more complex interactions as Poirot continues unraveling the tangled web of deceit in King's Abbot. The themes of greed, moral weakness, and the shrouded truths of human nature weave throughout, adding depth to this

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captivating chapter in the investigation.

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Chapter 17 Summary:

In Chapter 18 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," we find Poirot, the narrator, and Inspector Raglan on a train heading to Liverpool, energized by the prospect of unveiling more about the case. Raglan is particularly enthusiastic about a suspect named Charles Kent, whom they believe has links to blackmail. He's described as a rough character involved with drugs, and although they don't have solid evidence directly tying him to Roger Ackroyd's murder, the investigation is tangled with various leads.

Upon arrival, Superintendent Hayes greets Poirot with high regard, almost as if he believes Poirot's presence guarantees a swift resolution. The conversation indicates that Kent has refused to cooperate with authorities, responding with hostility instead. Poirot, ever the keen observer, insists on meeting the suspect. They encounter Kent, a physically imposing young man in his early twenties, who exhibits nervousness and defiance.

Kent, confused and irritable, recognizes the seriousness of his situation but is uncooperative, denying any involvement in the murder while asserting he was elsewhere at the time of the crime. Poirot reveals the goose quill found in a summer house at Fernly Park, directly linking Kent to the murder scene. Kent's reaction to the quill shows his anxiety but he tries to maintain his innocence, claiming to have left Fernly Park before the murder occurred.

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As the interrogation progresses, Kent boasts about being away from the scene before the murder window, trying to protect himself with a flimsy alibi. Poirot teases out more detail, including Kent's name, which might hint at his background, suggesting he has more ties to the crime's geography than he wants to admit. Kent's defensive demeanor and his refusal to answer pressing questions intrigue Poirot.

After leaving the interrogation, Poirot discusses with Raglan and Hayes but keeps his thoughts close to his chest, hinting that he has a significant insight about Kent that isn't fully revealed yet. The atmosphere is filled with speculation about Kent's possible motives and connections to the murder.

Upon reflecting on Kent's identity and actions, Poirot shares a vague but confident assertion that he has a theory about the situation that interweaves with all the evidence, though he understands it may not make sense to everyone else just yet.

This chapter encapsulates themes of mystery and deduction, emphasizing the complexity of truth, the nature of justice, and the psychological games of cat and mouse between suspects and detectives. Poirot, as always, balances arrogance with profound insight, leaving readers curious and eager to see how these threads come together as the narrative unfolds.

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Chapter 18:

In Chapter 19 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," we find Dr. Sheppard meeting with Inspector Raglan, who reveals that Charles Kent has a solid alibi: he was seen by the barmaid at the Dog and Whistle, which is a mile away from the crime scene, around the time Roger Ackroyd was murdered. Despite this, Kent remains uncooperative about his reasons for visiting Fernly Park that fateful night. Poirot, however, urges Raglan not to release Kent just yet, hinting at deeper connections to the case that need exploring.

Poirot raises doubts about Flora Ackroyd's credibility, pointing out that while she claims to have said goodnight to her uncle, she could have been hiding on the stairs leading to Ackroyd's bedroom. He suggests that she may have taken the forty pounds, having been in desperate need of money. The conversation escalates into discussions about Flora's financial troubles and moral dilemmas. Poirot proposes that Flora's allegiance to her uncle prevented her from revealing the truth about the money and the murder.

When Raglan confronts Flora with the suspicion that she lied about her

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Chapter 19 Summary:

In Chapter 20 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," tensions rise as Inspector Raglan grapples with new insights into the murder investigation. After a revelation about faulty alibis, he and Poirot embark on a quest to piece together alibis from the crucial window of time after 9:30 PM, the night Roger Ackroyd was killed. Raglan also considers Captain Paton a potential suspect due to the chaos surrounding the research on alibis, demonstrating his commitment to uncovering the truth despite feeling overwhelmed by the developments.

As the story progresses, Poirot enlists Dr. Sheppard's help in speaking with Miss Russell, revealing their suspicion of Charles Kent, who was arrested under false premises. Poirot's keen observations lead him to suspect a deeper connection between Miss Russell and Kent, hinting that Kent is her son. This connection culminates when Miss Russell admits to having seen Kent the night of the murder, shedding light on her past and the events leading up to the tragic night.

Miss Russell, who initially presents a composed front, shows visible signs of distress as Poirot reveals the timeline and pressures her for details. She recounts her careful approach to meeting Kent in secret, driven by concern for her reputation as a housekeeper. These revelations expose her complicated familial ties and the emotional turmoil underlying her calm

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demeanor.

The chapter explores themes of deception, the complexity of familial relationships, and the unexpected depths of human emotion. Poirot has meticulously connected the dots, linking Miss Russell's former life to the murder investigation, while also confronting societal norms that compel her to hide her true identity. As she navigates her fears for her son, the narrative illustrates the lengths a mother will go to protect her child. The chapter concludes with Poirot's confidence in the unfolding investigation, leaving readers eager to see how the tangled web of secrets will ultimately unravel.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The complexity of familial relationships and the lengths we go to protect our loved ones

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, you are reminded that the bonds of family can challenge societal norms, forcing individuals to navigate a landscape rich in deception and hidden truths. Like Miss Russell, who faces incredible emotional turmoil for the sake of her son, you may find inspiration in the courage it takes to uphold family connections, even in the midst of chaos. This underscores the importance of empathy and understanding within your own relationships, encouraging you to confront difficulties with honesty, protecting those you love while also being true to yourself.

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Chapter 20 Summary:

In Chapter 21 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," the conversation between Dr. James Sheppard and his sister Caroline unfolds with a mix of humor and suspense. Caroline is convinced that Miss Russell visited the surgery with ulterior motives, seeking insights from James, who is in Hercule Poirot's good graces. She suspects that Miss Russell knows more about Roger Ackroyd's murder than she lets on, revealing Caroline's flair for intuition and intrigue. The chapter highlights Caroline's tendency to speculate dramatically, leaving James both bemused and a bit frustrated by her deductions.

The daily newspaper features a paragraph inspired by Poirot that stirs Caroline's confidence in her own theories, despite her reluctance to admit she might be wrong. Their banter is filled with sarcasm and affection, demonstrating their sibling dynamic. Caroline's imaginative leaps suggest that Poirot's methods are not just logical but also require a touch of creativity.

As James relates the morning events, Caroline mentions a covert visitor to Poirot's home, described mysteriously as a "Home Office expert." Her wild theories about a poisoning scheme contrast sharply with the facts known to James, who examined Ackroyd's body and insists he was definitely stabbed before death.

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Meanwhile, Poirot arrives, and the atmosphere shifts. Caroline attempts to extract information from him about his secretive guest, but Poirot, with his usual charm, deflects her inquiries. The playful cat-and-mouse interaction shows Poirot's keen awareness of Caroline's intentions, as well as his ability to control the flow of the conversation.

James is then tasked with gathering the household members for an important meeting Poirot intends to host later that evening. As he interacts with Mrs. Ackroyd, the motherly figure expresses concern over family matters, including Flora's engagement and the recent scandal involving Ralph's arrest. Her anxieties reveal more about the family's dynamics and tensions, setting the stage for further complications in the plot.

The chapter culminates with an unexpected arrival: Ursula Bourne, the parlormaid from Fernly. Caroline's excitement hints at an impending revelation or twist, encouraging readers to remain engaged with the unfolding mystery. Both the lighthearted sibling exchanges and the intricately woven plot threads maintain a balance of intrigue and character development that drives the story forward.

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Chapter 21:

In Chapter 22 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," the emotional tension mounts as Ursula, a key character, opens up to Hercule Poirot about her troubles. Overwhelmed by the recent events and the arrest of her husband, Ralph Paton, she breaks down in tears, seeking comfort from Poirot and the observant Caroline. As Ursula expresses her despair, Poirot encourages her to be honest about everything, emphasizing the importance of uncovering the truth to help Ralph.

Ursula reveals her background as the impoverished daughter of Irish gentry, forced to make a living as a parlormaid. She recounts a secret marriage to Ralph, driven by love but complicated by Ralph's financial struggles and the pressure from his stepfather, Roger Ackroyd. When Ackroyd proposes marriage for Ralph to Flora, Ursula is blindsided and confronts Ralph, which culminates in a heated argument. That same evening, Ackroyd is murdered, and their tumultuous relationship weighs heavily on her as suspicions swirl around Ralph.

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I've learned. Highly recommend!

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Chapter 22 Summary:

In Chapter 23 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," the atmosphere is tense as Poirot prepares for a gathering of suspects at his home. Caroline urges Ursula to stay with her, insisting that Poirot will take care of her, while Poirot expresses a yearning for his old friend Hastings, who used to assist him with cases. This sets a nostalgic tone as Poirot mentions how Hastings often stumbled upon truths unintentionally. The discussion turns to Poirot's appreciation for Sheppard's manuscript about the case, praising its accuracy while noting that it lacks the self-centric tone of Hastings' writings. Poirot is intrigued and eager to see the details documented by Sheppard.

As the evening approaches, Poirot meticulously sets the atmosphere in his sitting room for the meeting, ensuring the lighting and arrangement create a specific ambiance. When the guests, including Mrs. Ackroyd and Flora, arrive, Poirot makes a significant revelation: Ursula is Mrs. Ralph Paton, married secretly. This news shocks everyone, particularly Mrs. Ackroyd, who cannot comprehend how Ralph could have married without her knowledge. Flora, however, expresses kindness and understanding toward Ursula, but the air is thick with tension as they realize the implications of their disclosures.

Poirot then addresses the gathered suspects, ominously declaring that each of them had the opportunity to murder Mr. Ackroyd. This announcement

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plunges the room into unease, fueling the sense that they are all trapped in a web of suspicion. Poirot begins to reconstruct the events surrounding Ackroyd's murder, highlighting the findings of his investigation, such as the discovery of the cambric scrap and the empty goose quill in the summerhouse, which he believes relates to drug use. He connects these clues to the possibility of Ralph Paton's whereabouts and motivations, setting the stage for further revelations.

As Poirot pieces together testimonies and evidence, he skillfully navigates the doubts of his audience, particularly concerning the sounds heard by Major Blunt and Geoffrey Raymond. His deduction that Ackroyd was likely dictating aloud using a newly acquired Dictaphone shifts the focus on the circumstances of the murder, suggesting that the true nature of events was carefully concealed. Poirot's methodical approach and sharp intellect shine as he opens up questions about who truly was in the room with Ackroyd at the time of his death, creating an atmosphere of suspense and intrigue.

The chapter culminates in a dramatic reveal of the complexities surrounding the relationships and motives of the main characters, particularly Ralph and Ursula. Poirot's confidence in his deductions adds a layer of intensity as he prepares to delve deeper into the intertwined fates and secrets of the suspects while making it clear that the answers are close at hand. This engagement with both his audience and the unfolding mystery cements Poirot's role not just as a detective, but as a master of psychological manipulation within the

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confines of social interactions fraught with distrust and accusation.

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Chapter 23 Summary:

In Chapter 24 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," tension fills the air as Ralph Paton stands with his wife, both visibly anxious after the recent revelations. Hercule Poirot, with his signature flair, emphasizes the futility of hiding truths from him, leading the group on a journey through the labyrinth of lies surrounding the murder.

Dr. Sheppard, the narrative's focal point, acknowledges his prior concealments and admits to visiting Ralph earlier that day. Their discussion reveals Ralph's emotional turmoil: he feels guilty and conflicted about the implications his situation might have on Ursula, his wife. He passionately asserts his innocence, insisting he left his stepfather's summer house hours before the murder and was merely wandering the lanes, grappling with his thoughts.

As Poirot sifts through the details, he cleverly identifies that Dr. Sheppard must have hidden Ralph at a nearby mental health facility. This information shocks the room, particularly Raymond, who is left grappling with the reality of the situation. Poirot playfully hints that the lack of an alibi could simplify everything, implying that for Ralph to be absolved, the real murderer must step forward.

In a dramatic twist, Poirot announces that the murderer is present and will be

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exposed to Inspector Raglan the following day. A tense silence fills the space as a telegram arrives, heightening the suspense. Poirot reads the message and, with a hint of confident menace, declares that he now knows who the murderer is.

As the chapter closes, the atmosphere is charged with anticipation. Poirot's theatrical demeanor hints at more revelations to come, leaving the audience on the edge of their seats, eager for the truth that will unfold. The themes of trust, guilt, and the complexity of human relationships weave through the interactions, showcasing Poirot's unyielding pursuit of justice amidst a web of deceit.

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Chapter 24:

In Chapter 25 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," the tension deepens as Poirot reveals his deductions regarding the murder of Ackroyd. Poirot's enigmatic behavior prompts a perplexed response from Dr. Sheppard, who tries to grasp the detective's intentions. Initially skeptical, Sheppard wonders why Poirot hasn't informed Inspector Raglan of the truth, and proposes that Poirot's theatrics might be aiming to coax a confession from the real murderer among the guests.

As the conversation unfolds by the fire, Poirot invites Sheppard to follow his reasoning, meticulously analyzing the evidence surrounding the murder. He dismisses Ralph Paton as the culprit, declaring the mysterious telephone call implies an accomplice orchestrating the events. Poirot highlights peculiarities, such as a chair pulled away from the wall, suggesting it was positioned to conceal something on the table—a critical clue linked to the dictaphone, which creates a powerful revelation: Ackroyd's spoken words weren't his but were played back after his death, hinting at a premeditated act.

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Chapter 25 Summary:

In Chapter 26 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," we find ourselves in a tense confrontation between Dr. Sheppard and the brilliant detective Hercule Poirot. The atmosphere is heavy with anticipation as Poirot reveals the intricacies of his deduction. The moment is punctuated by a silence that stretches out before the tension gives way to Poirot's calm and methodical reasoning.

Poirot begins by addressing a key inconsistency in Sheppard's timeline. He brings to light that while Sheppard claims to have left Ackroyd's house at ten minutes to nine, it was a full ten minutes later when he reached the lodge gate. This discrepancy sets off a chain of revelations about the night of the murder. Poirot speculates if Sheppard could have killed Ackroyd before leaving the study and made it back to the lodge to establish his alibi—an audacious theory that ties Sheppard directly to the crime.

As Poirot lays out the details, he connects the dots between Sheppard's potential motives, including blackmailing Mrs. Ferrars over her deceased husband's affair with the doctor and the financial troubles that precipitated his murder. The detective paints a vivid picture of Sheppard's desperate circumstances, which would give him motive—acknowledging the tricky business of blackmail and the ruinous consequences of Ackroyd learning the truth.

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Poirot also challenges Sheppard about the telephone call that supposedly created his alibi. He has unearthed critical evidence from a steward on an American liner, confirming that the call was genuine, but emphasizing that only Sheppard's word about its content stands uncorroborated. This revelation pushes Sheppard into a corner as Poirot unveils layer after layer of manipulation and deceit.

Dr. Sheppard, feeling the weight of Poirot's scrutiny, attempts to maintain his composure and dismisses the detective's deductions as mere conjecture. He puts on a facade of nonchalance, but it's clear that the stakes are incredibly high. Poirot offers him a way out, suggesting a possible accidental overdose, yet emphasizes that Captain Ralph Paton must be exonerated in all this.

The dynamic between the two men is captivating; Poirot's keen intellect clashes with Sheppard's increasingly desperate attempts to retain his facade. Yet, despite the tension, there's a certain respect in their exchange, highlighting how intellectual battles can be just as thrilling as physical confrontations. As Sheppard attempts to exit the conversation with a forced politeness, Poirot's parting warning about the futility of trying to silence him underscores his determination to see justice served.

This chapter encapsulates themes of truth, deception, and the consequences

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of actions. It illustrates the meticulous nature of Poirot's detective work and how the machinations of human emotions can lead to tragic outcomes. The reader feels the gravity of the moment as the walls close in around Dr. Sheppard, and they are left on the edge of their seat, eager to see how this high-stakes game will unfold.

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Chapter 26 Summary:

In Chapter 27 of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," we find Dr. Sheppard reflecting on the dark turn of events surrounding Roger Ackroyd's murder. The chapter unfolds in Dr. Sheppard's handwritten manuscript, intended to document one of Hercule Poirot's failures. Sheppard acknowledges a sense of inevitability about the disaster from the moment he noticed Ralph Paton and Mrs. Ferrars in conversation earlier. His inner conflict is palpable as he recalls urging Ackroyd to read a letter before it was too late, perhaps knowing that it was a futile effort due to Ackroyd's stubbornness.

As he recounts the murder, Sheppard reveals the careful planning behind the crimes, including his choice of a dagger from Ackroyd's collection—a strategic move to eliminate evidence leading back to him. The narrative delves into Sheppard's psychology, showcasing a blend of guilt and detachment as he considers the implications of his actions. His reflections lead to a realization that he may never have the courage to confess the truth, fearing the repercussions on his relationships, particularly with his sister, Caroline.

Sheppard grapples with the concept of justice and accountability, remarking on the lack of pity he feels for Mrs. Ferrars and contrasting it with his impending self-inflicted fate—considering veronal, a sleeping drug, as a means to escape his tormented existence. The correspondence between his

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current feelings and his past actions illuminates a larger theme of moral decay where crime, guilt, and the consequences of human actions intertwine.

Ultimately, the chapter closes with Sheppard's resignation to his fate, reflecting on Poirot's retirement and wishing things were different, culminating in a poignant moment of self-awareness. Through his internal monologue, readers gain insight into the complexities of his character—an intricate blend of intellect, guilt, and conscious choice leading to inevitable tragedy.

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