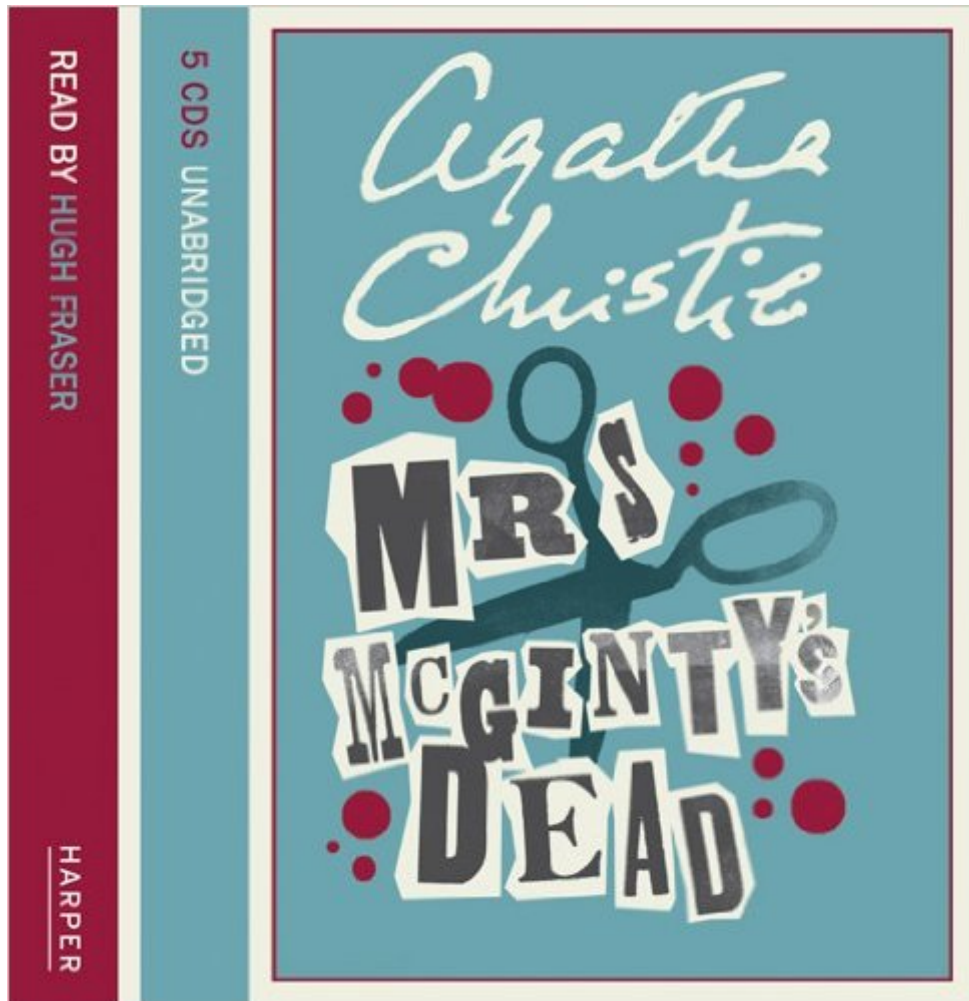


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# Mrs. McGinty's Dead: Complete & Unabridged



## Synopsis

Following the new-look of Hercule Poirot books for the 21st century. Available completed and unabridged for the first time on CD. Mrs McGinty died from a brutal blow to the back of her head. Suspicion fell immediately on her shifty lodger, James Bentley, whose clothes revealed traces of the victim's blood and hair. Yet something was amiss: Bentley just didn't look like a murderer. Poirot believed he could save the man from the gallows - what he didn't realise was that his own life was now in great danger...

## Book Information

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (91 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Mrs. McGinty is an elderly cleaning woman whose brutal murder in her village of Broadhinny leads to the arrest of her lodger, James Bentley. The motive appears to be robbery as her small cache of savings is found hidden near her cottage and her blood and hair are found on Bentley's coat. But Superintendent Spence (whom we met in *Taken At The Flood*) suspects something is not quite right and calls in Hercule Poirot to investigate this crime. Poirot is most unhappy at the Summerhayes family home where Mrs. McGinty had been the domestic help. Without Mrs. McGinty the home is a disaster, and Poirot's love of order, method, and delicious food suffers greatly. Poirot persists in his investigation, however, and discovers an old newspaper with cut-out pages. The discovery of the missing article leads him to investigate the homes Mrs. McGinty cleaned, and he finds guilty secrets in each one. With the help of Ariadne Oliver who adds much comic relief, Poirot finds the person with a shameful past who feared exposure by Mrs. McGinty. In 1964 this novel was adapted to the big screen. Poirot was replaced by Miss Marple (Margaret Rutherford) in the screen version known

as "Murder Most Foul." The substitution is understandable since Miss Marple is the noted authority on village crime, but the result was less than pleasing. The plot was changed to such an incredible degree that there is very little resemblance to Christie's outstanding novel.

What "improvements" have been made for the Berkley edition? There are already major differences in punctuation, word choices, and scene breaks between the original Collins and Dodd Mead editions of this novel. There are further differences between the Dodd Mead editions republished by Random House/Avenel and the Dodd Mead editions republished by Simon & Shuster/Pocket. There are further differences still in the Signet, Bantam, and Black Dog & Leventhal editions. For every publishing house putting out her works, there seem to be a new batch of editors altering Agatha Christie's words and the sound of her voice. What's the matter with these publishers? Whose voice do they think we want to hear when we sit down to a novel by Agatha Christie? And what will she sound like twenty years from now? It's frightening that her estate has failed to see the importance of guarding her words as she wrote them. Please tell me I'm not the only one here who senses that a crime has been committed.

Hercule Poirot is bored, so he is delighted when he is visited by his old friend Superintendent Spence of the Kilchester Police. Spence has recently conducted an investigation into the murder of an old charwoman Mrs McGinty, in the village of Broadhinny. her lodger, James Bentley has been convicted of the murder and is due to hang, but Spence is convinced Bentley is innocent, and wants Poirot to investigate. Poirot goes to stay in the village of Broadhinny, and soon begins to uncover reasons why other people might have wanted Mrs McGinty dead. While investigating the murder, he has to cope with staying at the dreadful guest house run by the Summerhayes, a couple who have no idea of how to keep house or cook an edible meal. The scenes where the sufferings of Poirot at the guest house are described are among the most amusing in this very amusing book. There are many interesting characters, particularly the scatty but charming Maureen Summerhayes, whom Poirot likes in spite of her atrocious cooking. And there is the maddening James Bentley, the convicted murderer, whose unprepossessing character only makes Poirot more determined to prove him innocent. One of the most amusing exchanges in the book occurs near the end: ' "Mon Dieu, how stupid I have been," said Hercule Poirot, "The whole thing is simple, is it not?" It was after that remark that there was very nearly another murder - the murder of Hercule Poirot by Superintendent Spence.' Enjoy it.

Hercule Poirot has been enjoying his retirement. His main concern of each day is planning the menu for his next meal - it is a pity that one can only truly enjoy three meals a day! His old friend Inspector Spence asks him to look into a case for him. Mrs. McGinty, a charwoman in a small village was brutally murdered. Spence has already caught the murderer, (the woman's lodger) a jury has found him guilty and the date for the execution has been set. The only problem is that the good inspector has doubts. Poirot agrees to look into the matter and sets off for the village of Broadhinny, where the crime took place. He takes up residence in the only available lodging in town, a very disorganized bed and breakfast, suffering dreadfully from the terrible accommodations and worse meals and begins working on the case. While there Poirot meets an old friend, Ariadne Oliver, famous mystery novelist who was in Broadhinny working on a stage adaptation of her work. In the end of course, Poirot solves the crime and sees that justice is served. The mystery here is a recurring theme of Christie's, an old crime that has resurfaced years later and requiring many old secrets to be revealed. The only problem with this particular novel is that it is quite complicated with many characters and their stories that tend to become a bit difficult to keep straight. On the plus side we are treated to yet another visit with Ariadne Oliver, always a delight. We are also introduced to the Summerhayes family, a wonderfully disorganized group that really deserve their own book.

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