



Sparkling Cyanide

Agatha Christie

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Six people reunite to remember beautiful Rosemary Barton, who died nearly a year before. The loving sister, the long-suffering husband, the devoted secretary, the lovers, the betrayed wife - none of them can forget Rosemary.

But did one of them murder her?

Titled in America 'Remembered Death'.

Sparkling Cyanide Details

Date : Published 2002 by HarperCollins (first published 1944)

ISBN : 9780007136858

Author : Agatha Christie

Format : Paperback 336 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Classics

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From Reader Review Sparkling Cyanide for online ebook

Kathy Worrell ? says

4 Stars

Maybe I enjoyed this story because it was a BBC Radio 4-full cast dramatized. Or maybe I enjoyed this story because it was very well written...

Laurel Young says

In 1939, Agatha Christie published a short story featuring Hercule Poirot, entitled "Yellow Iris." A few years later, she expanded the story into this excellent novel, changing the detective to Colonel Race. Having read the story before the novel, I immediately recognized the similarity of the setup (right down to the name Iris). I assumed, therefore, that I knew how the murder was done, and in fact that aspect remains the same. However, if you think that reading the story will make it pointless to read the novel, think again! The murderer is someone completely different, and I was wrong in my suspicions and shocked at the ending. I know it's a 5-star Agatha when she reveals the murderer and I smack myself on the forehead and yell, "Holy crap!" out loud. Sparkling Cyanide is such a novel. I was blindsided by the ending, immediately kicked myself for not seeing it, and went back to re-read earlier passages that contained clues--or significant omissions, for there is a touch of Roger Ackroyd-style omission here.

Sparkling Cyanide is one of my favorite Christie titles, by the way: it suggests the glamour of the elegant 1930s nightclub where the murder takes place, and certainly the idea of cyanide in the Champagne is a dramatic and memorable one. I also have to give Dame Agatha credit for introducing me to the verb "cyanosed" (i.e., killed via cyanide), which I now want to work into a conversation sometime. I think it might supersede "defenestrate" as my new favorite violent verb.

This is one of the novels I will keep and re-read, as knowing the solution does not diminish its style and the bravado with which Dame Agatha carries it off.

classic reverie says

Now this is the Agatha Christie I remembered of my youth! Twists, uncertainty, mystery and the human character in all its faults laid out for the reader. It was hard to determine how this all would play out but I had my ideas but nothing that made it become clear. It all seemed like an enigma unsolvable. I was really surprised by certain twist and loved every page. I must confess it will be hard for Christie to top "The Man in the Brown Suit" which was the first in the Colonel Race series and this being the last. Brown Suit was perfection to me and Christie's humor brilliant. I plan on reading at least 2-3 Christie books a year from now on and enjoy the new stories as well as the once read novels.

The low down spoiling nothing, Rosemary has committed suicide and a year after she is dead the cards come tumbling down and things are known unknown before.

Take a sip of Sparkling Champagne if you dare!

Sura ✨ says

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Nandakishore Varma says

An unusual Agatha Christie mystery without the usual convolutions and red herrings. The murderer, and the reason for murder, is rather obvious - however, the real twist is elsewhere! And it is highly plausible... (to say anything more would be a spoiler).

Brooke says

Agatha Christie has done it again - this book was brilliant, as ALWAYS! She keeps you on the edge of your seat, guessing and thinking and rethinking during the entire book. I suspected nearly every character at one point or another in this book, but not once have I been able to correctly guess the ending and the murderer of an Agatha Christie book. (And I have read a lot of her books.)

The book is about a young woman named Rosemary Barton, who was murdered at her birthday dinner before six friends - her younger sister, her husband, her husband's secretary, a friend, and a husband and wife. The death was assumed to be suicide, but when the woman's husband receives two anonymous messages he begins to suspect it was murder. Part I of the book highlights the thoughts of these six friends, these six characters, revealing their natures and clues that begin to piece themselves together. 'Rosemary' means remembrance, so the first six chapters told from the point of view of each character are memories the characters have of Rosemary.

Then another astonishing event brings these six people together, and two detectives set out to uncover the truth of the matter, though Rosemary's death was over a year ago and it will be hard to prove that her death was not suicide after all.

What happened COULD NOT have happened; but it did. How, why...and WHO?

This book was genius. I love reading Christie's ingenious plots; which you think might be somewhat similar but by the end of the books are totally and completely different.

READ THIS BOOK.

Ellie says

The book begins with 17-year-old Iris Marles remembering her sister Rosemary's birthday the previous year. Iris must come to terms with her life as the exceptionally beautiful Rosemary, who got all the love, all the attention-and all the money.

I've read Sparkling Cyanide at least 3 or 4 times - and continue to love it. I must admit the last quarter, until the unveiling of the killer-dragged a bit for me but this is undoubtedly because I know it so well. The first

half is outstanding and the ending is very satisfying.

One of Christie's better ones, I think. At least one of my favorites despite its not being either a Poirot or Miss Marple.

Sylvie says

Sparkling Cyanide
by Agatha Christie.

4/5 Stars.

I have no words for this. Agatha Christie has done it again! Never a disappointment, she is truly The Queen of Mystery. However this book is more for the old-schoolers, either way this book was amazing. What I always think while reading Agatha Christie's books is that literally everyone is a suspect you can never trust any of her characters that were involved in a crime scene. This has started off very interestingly but halfway through it was a bit dull and then the last few chapters kept me at the edge of my seat, I was anxious to know what was about to happen and how. Overall, I really liked this, it was exciting, very suspenseful and raw.

huda nasir says

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Simona Bartolotta says

3.5

“Six people were thinking of Rosemary Barton who had died nearly a year ago...”

Ok, well, I think it got old about a couple of years ago, me saying I love Christie and you smiling and nodding and then –as politely as possible– proceeding to scroll down and just ignore me because *the whole Goodreads* must have got it by now. But this is just the honest truth, folks: **I love Agatha Christie**. And the simple fact that this book was written by her is the first reason why you should read this.

The second reason is: come on, it's called *Sparkling Cyanide*. How can you say no to a title like that?

And the third... I guessed it! For once in my sorry life, I actually got the murderer! (It wasn't that I desperately wanted all the other suspects to be innocents and happy and so I fixed my suspicions on that one. It wasn't like that *at all*.)

So, basically, *Sparkling Cyanide* bought my favour by presenting me with irresistible characters and then making me think I'm smarter than I actually am. **Well played, Christie**. Well played.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Sparkling Cyanide = Remembered Death (Colonel Race, #4). Agatha Christie

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ATHARY says

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Julie says

Sparkling Cyanide by Agatha Christie is a 2001 Minotaur publication. (Originally published in 1945)

Classic Agatha Christie- Always a treat!

It has been a long time since I read a book by AC. With a nip in the air and the days getting shorter, I always find myself in the mood for a good old fashioned golden age mystery to curl up with.

This classic whodunit is very cleverly plotted and centers around Rosemary Barton, a beautiful young heiress who suddenly committed suicide.

Now one year after her death, her husband, George, begins receiving anonymous notes suggesting his wife may have been murdered. Thus, unfolds the sordid tale of the events leading up to Rosemary's untimely death.

George then plans to host a remembrance party for Rosemary, inviting all the people who were present at the dinner when Rosemary decided to end her life. He is determined to discover if his wife was indeed murdered, and if so, by whom.

This classic mystery hit the spot. It was perfect for the mood I was in, plus it is a Christie novel that I had never read.

This book was originally published in 1945, but it has certainly aged well. I thought the dialogue was crisp and sharp, with the entertaining trademark twists Christie was so gifted with.

I thoroughly enjoyed this quick and easy mystery and think I'll start working more of these titles into my reading schedule more often.

how in this story and I definitely did not catch on until the very end when all is revealed.

"Sparkling Cyanide" has the family/friends/others who have known Rosemary Barton getting together a year later on the anniversary of her death. Rosemary many believed committed suicide, but her husband George has been receiving notes saying that Rosemary was murdered. He decides to bring everyone back together in order to flush the murderer out.

We have the sister (Iris), the loyal secretary (Ruth) , the former lover (Anthony), the other former lover (Stephen), the lover's steadfast wife (Alexandra) and the widower (George). Then we follow up with these people on the day of the party, follow up on the aftermath of the party with Colonel Race becoming involved with this whodunit as well.

I honestly suspected each and everyone of the above at one point (except for Race) since they all had wonderful motives for wanting to get Rosemary out of the way.

The writing was very good and I loved that Christie paid attention to all of the potential suspects in individual sections. There is that subtle/not so subtle racism at play in Christie works (slur word against Italians and the less said about the Negro music, the better). Easy enough to ignore though due to the story-line.

The setting of the world of the rich and not so rich was interesting to see play out. I would love to see what happened with some of the characters (too bad) just because there was enough there to definitely want to see some of them in other Christie works. We know Race shows up again in the Hercule Poirot stories, but technically, this one is the last book that he shows up in since the other stories take place before the events shown in this book.

I did love the ending since of course when Christie spells out who did what and why it all makes sense. I did go back and re-read a few parts with that in mind. Very clever.

Raya ???? says

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Bruce Beckham says

This must be 96% the best whodunit I have read.

Six people are suspected of poisoning wealthy heiress Rosemary – a murder that takes place in plain sight at London's salubrious *Luxembourg* restaurant. One of them has slipped cyanide into her champagne.

Husband, lovers, rivals, beneficiaries of her death – they each harbour powerful motives – yet who performed the seemingly impossible sleight of hand?

And when – amidst a misguided reconstruction – a second person falls victim to an identical modus operandi – the peasouper thickens!

I really enjoyed the simplicity of the premise, and the attention to developing each of the characters, and

their immense scope for guilt.

But... the other 4% – pages 230-238; the denouement.

I believe Agatha Christie is quoted as saying that she sometimes calculated who was the least likely suspect, and made them the culprit. I rather feel that something like that went on in the writing of *Sparkling Cyanide*.

This is a pity, for it undoes all the good work that went before – a flaw compounded by a ‘solution’ that definitely errs on the implausible. Indeed, in the climactic melee that ends the mystery, it is difficult to work out if anyone actually solves the crime at all.

Overall, I liked the book – and the usual insight into the lives of the English upper middle classes was particularly entertaining (this novel set in London, around 1945). But it would be fun to come up with an alternative explanation for what took place. If only there were a butler in the story!

Luís C. says

Lately, I have been avidly reading the books written by Agatha Christie, and forward, take a comment, here on Goodreads.

I want to speak now, in particular, of this last book, a toast to the suspense, no doubt.

Of course the tone of various plots, continues to populate this story. The mysterious death of Rosemary Barton, celebrating her birthday at a restaurant, surrounded by her "friends", relatives, in all seven people around her.

A year later, his Husband George Barton, begins to suspect that it was not a suicide, but a murder. George was planning a dinner party to commemorate the birthday of Rosemary's younger sister, Iris Marle, at the same place where a year ago her sister had died.

Most surprisingly, George dies the same way, with potassium cyanide in his glass of champagne. Murder or suicide? From there, another series of investigations begins and the end, you imagine a thousand and one surprises and revelations as always magnificent.

All in all, Agatha Christie, wrote more than 80 books, phew ... She must have had a very productive life ..

I want to read the author's full list of books, but I want to read more about Sherlock Holmes, the fictional detective of Scotland Yard who has his life narrated in several books by Sir Conan Doyle, about 60 books.

To conclude today, I say that for the career that I intend to follow, it will be necessary to know these stories well and take the most imperceptible details from the most attentive readers.
