

## BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

### About this script

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### **Agatha Christie** 阿加莎·克里斯蒂

Jo: Welcome to another BBC Learning English Ask About Britain programme where we answer your questions about British life and culture. I'm Jo.

Feifei: 大家好，我是冯菲菲。今天这个问题来自于北京的 Chen Jing.

Jo: They said they were a big fan of Agatha Christie and they want to know what British people think of her and her stories.

Feifei: 原来这位听友很喜欢阿加莎·克里斯蒂，很想更多的了解她。Chen Jing 想知道英国人对阿加莎·克里斯蒂这个人的看法和对她小说的评价。

Jo: Now for those of you who may not know who Agatha Christie is – she is an author of crime novels.

Feifei: An author 作家，侦探小说 crime novels. Here's some more information about her for you from BBC radio programme Woman's Hour.

### **Insert**

*Three decades after her death our appetite for the queen of crime is still insatiable. She sells millions of books worldwide each year.*

*In a career that spanned more than half a century she wrote more than 80 books, a series of plays and 6 romantic novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott.*

Jo: We heard the word decade there – a decade is ten years. So three decades is...?

Feifei: Thirty years!! A decade 10 年。

Jo: So three decades after her death our appetite for the queen of crime is still insatiable. So Agatha Christie is called there the queen of crime.

Feifei: 阿加莎·克里斯蒂被称为侦探小说之后 the queen of crime, 也正是由于她是史上最畅销侦探小说作家。

Jo: Our appetite for her is still insatiable.

Feifei: Appetite 食欲，通常用来谈论对食物的渴求，不过它也表示一种很强烈的欲望或需要。读者对于阿加莎·克里斯蒂的小说是读不够的，无法满足的 insatiable.

- Jo: So people can't get enough of Agatha Christie. She sells millions of books worldwide, around the world, each year. Millions.
- Feifei: 数百万的。
- Jo: She's had a career that has spanned more than half a century. A career.
- Feifei: 大红大紫了半个多世纪的事业。To span 持续了。A century 有 100 年，那么 half a century 就有 50 年。
- Jo: She wrote more than 80 books – and a series of plays. A series.
- Feifei: A series 一系列, 剧本 a play.
- Jo: She also wrote six romantic novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott. A pseudonym. P.S.E.U.D.O.N.Y.M. Pseudonym.
- Feifei: 这里的字母 p 不发音 a pseudonym 匿名 – 她以 Mary Westmacott 的笔名写了六部浪漫小说。这里值得注意的是在英语里我们通常说 under the pseudonym 用笔名写作。
- Jo: On today's Ask About Britain we're answering Jing's question about Agatha Christie. They want to know more about her and what British people think of her and her stories. So what do British people think of Agatha Christie? Well, she might be the number one crime writer but not everyone knows that much about her work it seems.

### **Insert**

- *What do you know about Agatha Christie?*
- *She writes good books.*
- *Have you read any of them?*
- *No, none at all.*
- *Have you heard of Agatha Christie?*
- *Yes.*
- *And what do you know about her?*
- *Very little.*
- *Or what do you know about her work?*
- *Very little. I've never read any.*
- *Or her films – have you seen any of the films? No I haven't no.*
- *I can't say that I've read any of her books. Agatha Christie's always struck me as one of those, one of those sort of people you get round to reading when possibly you get a bit older! My mother's a huge fan of the Agatha Christie series. And is constantly pushing them on me but right now I suppose there's other things I'd rather be reading.*

Jo: So the first man there said he'd heard of her but when asked if he'd read any of her books, he said "none at all".

Feifei: 一本都没有读过。下一位男士说他对阿加莎·克里斯蒂了解很少 very little.

Jo: And the third man said "I can't say I've read any of her books".

- Feifei: 意思是他没有读过阿加莎的小说。 动词 **strike** 用来形容能使某人深有感触的事情或给人留下的印象。
- Jo: Agatha Christie has always struck me as one of those people you get round to reading when you get a bit older. To get round to doing something.
- Feifei: 去做某事。这位男士的妈妈非常喜欢阿加莎的小说，是她的忠实粉丝，所以总不断的让我也去尝试的看看。
- Jo: She's constantly pushing them on him – trying to persuade him to read her. But there are of course some people who are more familiar with her work. Here's some language to help. Detectives.
- Feifei: 侦探。
- Jo: One woman said she couldn't "get into" the programme.
- Feifei: 这里 **get into** 是指陷入，进入- 这位女士说她试着看过由小说改编的电视剧，可是总是进入不到剧情里去，不能被其所吸引。
- Jo: Talking tapes.
- Feifei: 音频小说。
- Jo: Prolific.
- Feifei: 多产的。
- Jo: To be kept on the edge of your seat.
- Feifei: 很多悬念。Let's have a listen.

### **Insert**

- *I've seen lots of her films and her detectives and all the rest of it yeah.*
- *Did you enjoy them?*
- *Yeah.*
- *I haven't read the books, I've seen the programmes and some of the films. Miss Marple, I don't really like that. I like the woman but I just couldn't get into the programme.*
- *I've read a lot of her books and listened to a lot of her talking tapes. She's so prolific! And they're always highly entertaining aren't they?*
- *What do you enjoy about them?*
- *The mystery and the whole kept on the edge of your seat until the end and I mean the series they have on the television is usually quite good isn't it?*

- Feifei: 看来在英国对阿加莎·克里斯蒂有很多不同的评价。So have you read any Agatha Christie Jo?
- Jo: Well I'm afraid I am one of those people who hasn't but I do know of her and her famous characters. How about you, Feifei?

Feifei: I'm afraid I haven't either. 希望你对我们的回答还满意 Chen Jing.

Jo: If you have a question you want to ask us you can email us at [chinaelt@bbc.co.uk](mailto:chinaelt@bbc.co.uk) or you can visit our website and look at all the questions other people have asked us at [www.bbcchina.com.cn](http://www.bbcchina.com.cn). So until next time, bye for now.

Feifei: 感谢收听，下次再会。

## Glossary

author – 作家	crime – 侦探
novel – 小说	a decade – 10 年
insatiable - 不够的，无法满足的	to span – 持续了
a century – 一个世纪	a series – 一系列
a play – 一个剧本	a pseudonym – 笔名，匿名
to get round to doing something – 去做某事	detective – 侦探
prolific – 多产的	to be kept on the edge of your seat – 留下悬念