

**A PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF
SELF-JUSTIFICATION OF CRUEL ACTS IN AGATHA
CHRISTIE'S NOVEL *AND THEN THERE WERE NONE***

A THESIS

By

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**SUBMITTED TO
THE FACULTY OF LITERATURE
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APPENDICES

Appendix A

Biography of Agatha Christie

Agatha Christie is the world's best-known mystery writer. Her books have been sold over billion copies in English and another billion over 45 foreign languages. Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller was born on September 15, 1890, in Torquay, England. She is the youngest of three siblings, and was educated at home by her mother, who encouraged her to write. As a child, she enjoyed fantasy play and creating characters. At 16, she moved to Paris for a time to study vocals and piano. In 1914, she married Colonel Archibald Christie, an aviator in the Royal Flying Corps and had one daughter named Rosalind, before their divorce in 1928.

In a writing career that spanned more than half a century, Agatha Christie wrote 79 novels and short story collections. She also wrote over a dozen plays including *The Mousetrap*, which opened in London on November 25th, 1952, and is now the longest continuously running play in theatrical history. Her first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (1920), was also the first to feature her eccentric Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot. Christie's last published novel, *Sleeping Murder* (1976), featured her other world-famous sleuth, the shrewdly inquisitive Miss Jane Marple of St. Mary Mead. Miss Marple appeared in twelve novels, beginning with *The Murder at the Vicarage* in 1930.

Murder on the Orient Express (1974), *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957), *And Then There Were None* (1945), and *Death on the Nile* (1978) are a few of the successful films based on her works. Agatha Christie also wrote six romantic novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott. She wrote nonfiction as well - Four books including an autobiography and an entertaining account of the many archeological expeditions

she shared with her second husband, Sir Max Mallowan. In 1971, she achieved her country's highest honor when she received the Order of Dame Commander of the British Empire.

Agatha Christie died on January 12th, 1976. At her death, it was estimated that Christie's thrillers had sold around 300 million copies. She is buried in the churchyard of St. Mary's Church in Cholsey, where she attended worship services.

Appendix B

Summary of the novel *And Then There Were None*

Eight strangers have been invited to Soldier Island, they are Vera Claythorne, Philip Lombard, William Blore, Dr. Armstrong, Emily Brent, General Macarthur, Tony Marston, and Judge Wargrave. Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, the butler and housekeeper, welcomed the guests and informed them that the house's owner, Mr. Owen, would not arrive until the next day. After an enjoyable dinner, they hear a recorded voice accusing each of them of committing various killings in the past that went unsolved. They realise that none of them, even the servants, recognise "Mr. Owen," implying that they were brought here as part of some unusual plan.

This is when the terrible tragedy begins. Tony Marston choked on poisoned whisky and died, leaving behind an overwhelming feeling of shame and memories of their crime. Vera Claythorne finds similarities between Marston's death and the opening verse of the nursery rhyme "Ten Little Soldiers," which hangs in each bedroom. The guests discover the next morning that Mrs. Rogers appears to have died while sleeping. Blore, Lombard, and Armstrong conclude that the death was the result of murder and set out to investigate the island in search of the mysterious Mr. Owen. However, they can't find who he is.

Before lunch, Dr. Armstrong found General Macarthur dead from an attack to the head. The remaining guests gathered to talk about the situation and concluded that one of them must be the murderer. Many offered vague accusations, but Judge Wargrave reminded them that the evidence indicated that any of them may be the murderer.

Mr. Rogers was discovered dead before dawn, with axe marks on his head. Emily Brent is discovered dead after breakfast, with a poison injection in her neck. Wargrave conducts an organised search of everyone's things, securing anything that could be used as a weapon. Not long after, Judge Wargrave was found dead wrapped in a red cloth and a gunshot to his forehead.

Afterward, they searched for the missing Dr. Armstrong and suspected that he was the mastermind. The next morning, Blore, Lombard and Vera are left. Blore decides to go back into the house to get some food, but is later found dead after being crushed by a large marble clock. Afterwards, Vera steals Lombard's gun and shoots him, then hangs herself.

The mystery puzzled the police until a manuscript in a bottle was found. The late Judge Wargrave wrote the manuscript explaining that he planned the murder because he wanted to punish those who went scot-free. He confessed his pleasure in seeing the guilty punished.

Appendix C

Characters in the Novel

1. Judge Lawrence Wargrave

Judge Wargrave is a retired judge who is very brilliant with commanding personality. As the characters in the story realise that a murderer is after them, Wargrave's experience and aura of authority make him an obvious leader for the group.

He lays out evidence, organises searches, and ensures that weapons are securely stored. Wargrave's culpability is revealed at the end of the novel in a confession that reveals the attributes that motivate him to perform the series of murders: a strong sense of justice paired with a sadistic delight in murdering.

2. Anthony Marston

Tony Marston is a wealthy, athletic, and attractive young man who enjoys driving dangerously and appears to lack a conscience. He murdered two young children in a car crash caused by his speed.

3. General John Gordon Macarthur

General Macarthur is accused of sending a lieutenant, Arthur Richmond, to his death during the war, because Richmond had an affair with his wife. When the first killings occur, Macarthur, who is already plagued with guilt over his crime, accepts his fate and waits by the sea, waiting for it to arrive.

4. Mr. Thomas Rogers

Rogers remained a good servant even after his wife was found dead. The footage alleges that Rogers and his wife let their previous boss die so they could take his money.

5. Mrs. Ethel Rogers

Ethel is a weak woman, and the death of Tony Marston causes her to faint. Wargrave believes that her husband dominates her and planned their crime for murder their boss.

6. Emily Brent

A ruthlessly religious woman who reads the Bible every day. The recording accuses Emily Brent of murdering Beatrice Taylor, a servant she fired after finding she was pregnant out of wedlock. Beatrice eventually killed herself. Unlike the other

characters, Emily Brent is persuaded of her own goodness and shows no remorse for her deeds.

7. Dr. Edward George Armstrong

Armstrong's medical knowledge frequently raises suspicions among the other guests. He is a recovering alcoholic who accidentally killed a patient after operating on her while drunk.

8. William Henry Blore

Blore is a former police inspector whose experience often leads people to seek his advice. As a cop, he was corrupt and framed a man named Landor at the request of a criminal organisation. On the island, he behaves boldly and often takes the initiative, but he also makes many mistakes.

9. Philip Lombard

A mysterious and resourceful man who appears to have been a mercenary soldier in Africa, who makes 21 Africans die slowly because of hunger, and only saves himself. Lombard is far bolder and more crafty than most of the other characters, allowing him to survive almost to the end of the novel.

10. Vera Claythorne

Vera is a former governess and is recruited as a secretary by Mr. Owen. Vera wants to escape from the past where she killed a boy she was babysitting, Cyril Hamilton, so that the man she loves can inherit Cyril's fortune.