

APPENDICES

Summary of Agatha Christie's *Towards Zero*

The story is about a family reunion which is held at Gull's Point. The reunion is attended by six people, namely Nevile Strange, his wife Kay Mortimer, Audrey, who is Nevile Strange's former wife, Ted Latimer, who is Kay's best friend, Thomas Royde and Mary Aldin. The owner of the Gull's Point is Lady Tressilian, who is also Nevile Strange's surrogate mother. One morning, Lady Tressilian is found to be slain in her room. The police come together with a smart-brilliant detective, Superintendent Battle. The first investigation makes the police suspect Nevile Strange because all the evidences lead him to be the murderer. His motive is expected to be a case of inheritance. But then detective Battle finds that such motive does not suit Mr. Strange because as a rich athlete, it is impossible for him to murder someone for money. Then, detective Battle decides to do the investigation once again. Finally, after several difficult investigations which confuse him, Mr. Battle successfully reveals the murder case. The real culprit is Nevile Strange. Battle says that in the beginning Mr. Strange deliberately makes himself appear to be framed by someone else. He wants the police and detective to suspect his ex-wife, Audrey. His motive to kill Lady Tressilian is to take revenge on Audrey, who has actually divorced him.

Biography of Agatha Christie

Agatha Christie was born on 15 September 1890 in Torquay, a town in England. Her real name is Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller. She was born in a high-class family. Her father was an American stockbroker with good income, while her mother was a daughter of an English army captain. Her father died when she was eleven years old. She never went to school. She was educated by her mother and sometimes got an educational tutor in her house. Her mother taught her to write short stories and poems. Agatha spent a lot of time alone because of the great age difference between her and her sister's age, about ten years. Her moments of solitude increased her imagination ability.

Agatha started her first detective novel when she was 25 years old. Her first work is titled *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. The year 1930 is the most productive period for her because in this year she wrote many novels. She made 27 novels, which consist of 14 Hercule Poirot novels, 2 Jane Marple novels and 4 non-serial mystery novels. During the World War II, she wrote 2 novels, *Curatin* (1975) and *Sleeping Murder* (1976), which were published after her death. Christie was awarded a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1956. Such a reward related to her services as a military nurse. She died in Wallingford, Oxfordshire, when she was 85 years old, in 12 January 1976.

Source : "Agatha Christie Biography"