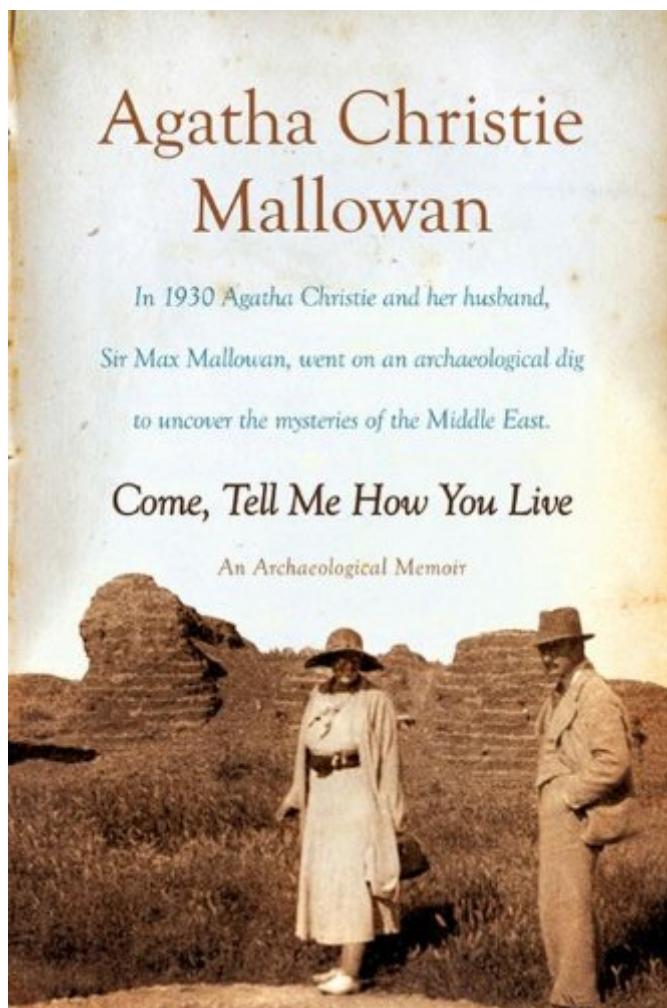


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Come, Tell Me How You Live: An Archaeological Memoir



Synopsis

Over the course of her long, prolific career, Agatha Christie gave the world a wealth of ingenious whodunits and page-turning locked-room mysteries featuring Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot, and a host of other unforgettable characters. She also gave us *Come, Tell Me How You Live*, a charming, fascinating, and wonderfully witty nonfiction account of her days on an archaeological dig in Syria with her husband, renowned archeologist Max Mallowan. Something completely different from arguably the best-selling author of all time, *Come, Tell Me How You Live* is an evocative journey to the fascinating Middle East of the 1930s that is sure to delight Dame Agatha's millions of fans, as well as aficionados of Elizabeth Peters' Amelia Peabody mysteries and eager armchair travelers everywhere.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a memoir of Agatha Christie's adventures in the middle east with her second husband, archeologist Max Mallowan, in the early 1930s. She tells everything with a hint of humor and is able to laugh at herself and everyone else - the English archeologists and architects, the French government officials, and the local Arabs, Kurds, and Armenians. She gives fascinating insight into

the cultures of that part of the world, and also into the world of archeology. There are some areas of repetition, which seem like an editing oversight. But overall, this is an excellent read. I read this at the same time I was reading "They Came To Baghdad" (also by Agatha Christie), and that made both books extra enjoyable.

I bought this for my mother who is a long time Agatha Christie fan, and a lot of people she knows are as well. I thought it would be nice for her to get a taste of her life and personality outside of her books on crime. Now I may have to buy her one of the romance novels Agatha Christie wrote under a pseudonym just to experience that as well. She read this quickly and kept remarking with excitement through it about little points to me, and has told me that I ought to read it. There may be a few other people who would like to share once I am done as well. I have heard it's a great book, even though it's about a short period of her life it's still a nice snapshot of Mrs. Christie Mallowan. The historical value is also noteworthy, not only for the record of the time, people and place where the digs were, the same for the periods they were excavating, but also the world climate during her writing in the 1930s. Imagine the archaeologists of the future unearthing our WWII remains and trying to piece together what kind of people we were from the evidence.

Agatha Christie said that people often asked her "how they lived" when she and her husband, archeologist Max Mallowan went east on digs, so she decided to write about it. This book is much like a daily journal, with much left out of course, of anecdotes of life in Syria over a span of several different expeditions. It took place in the 1930's before WWII, and she remarked at the end how good it was (for others, she didn't achieve it) to be able to live apart from and untouched by war. They had a house built with a central domed room and two additional rooms on each end; this house they lived in during the expeditions and gave to the local shiek at the end of last one. Of course, there was no electricity, no electronics, no running water, no modern conveniences of any kind. They had household servants as well as approximately 250 workmen who actually performed the digs on the tells. They traveled by an old sedan and transported finds and furniture in an old lorry, both of which were given to breakdowns and being stuck in rain-flooded wadis. In this short book, the author includes many anecdotes including stories of injuries and accidental death on the digs, stories of how little concerned the native people were about death, about the beautiful and lively Kurdish women. It's a fascinating glimpse into the primitive daily lives on the people in that part of the world in the early part of the last century. Agatha Christie was a matchless writer with a way with words that has never been equalled. All her books are immensely readable and enjoyable.

In the 1930's Agatha Christie Mallowan joined her husband Max on archaeological digs in Syria and Iraq. This small book is a result of that trip. After the WAR it was a gift to Max. Paints a human side of their expedition and of the people lives. Elizabeth Monroe said in 1946-- the book is a contribution to literature on the Middle East. It contains descriptions of the profusion of the mounds that mark by gone lives and the silence that surrounds them now. If you arrive at the right time in Spring you will see the marigolds that cover them. It is like a letter to a close friend. Some call it a biography. It is nothing of the sort. Agatha says she loves that gentle fertile country and its simple people, who know how to laugh and how to enjoy life.. who are idle and gay. who have dignity, good manners and a great sense of humor, and to whom death is not terrible. She says--INSHALLAH, I shall go there again, and the things that I love shall not have perished from this earth. Agatha gives warning--this is not a profound book. She says it is like a small glass of beer. The book was in good shape, a great price and arrived quickly. AG 15 sept 1890 .. 12 jan 1976. bbp okc ok 62

Ever since I was pre-school-aged (having learned to read early), I've loved books devotedly ~ especially those set in far-away lands I'd probably never get to visit, & about people of many eras I found fascinating. I've no idea how many hundreds & hundreds of books, both fiction/non-fiction, I've read thru my life, & I'm nearly 70 now. But of All books I've ever loved, this autobiographical memoir of Dame Christie's days in the Middle-East would rank very highly among my top-10 favorites in my life. The images painted w/ her words are, in turn, funny beyond description ~ sometimes subtly hysterically so, vividly human & poignant, making me feel as if I'd been "Along for the ride", only W/O the many discomforts! The love she felt for that land, its people, her companions & unique helpers, shines thru the decades since the early 1940's when this was written. Thank you, Dame Agatha ~ Love from Katharine B.

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