



## Star Over Bethlehem and Other Stories

*Agatha Christie Mallowan , Agatha Christie*

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The most popular detective story writer of all time, Agatha Christie, turns her hand to the subject of Christmas. In a manger in Bethlehem, an angel offers Mary a vision of things to come & a chance to change it all. A naughty little donkey learns the meaning of love as he carries a very special mother & child safely to Egypt.

## Star Over Bethlehem and Other Stories Details

Date : Published 1996 by Bantam Books (first published 1965)

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Author : Agatha Christie Mallowan , Agatha Christie

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Genre : Poetry, Holiday, Christmas, Short Stories, Fiction, Mystery, Audiobook, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fantasy, European Literature, British Literature

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## **From Reader Review Star Over Bethlehem and Other Stories for online ebook**

### **Vikas Singh says**

A must for every Christie fan, this facsimile edition was published in 2014. It includes six stories and five stories first published under Star over Bethlehem, illustrated by Elsie Wrigley by Collins in 1965. This special edition also includes A Masque from Italy, Seven ballads and eighteen poems first published in The Roads of Dreams published by Geoffrey Bles in 1924 and 28 poems published under Poems by Collins in 1973. The poems and ballads are not quite enjoyable nor are the short stories. But taken together we get to see a very different aspect of the Queen of mystery. Must read for all Christie fans.

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### **Sandy says**

This was an interesting read. I didn't expect this from Agatha Christie. A few of the stories were interesting and I liked the poems. A few were just too out there for my liking but it certainly was a different perspective than I had read before.

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### **Laurel Hicks says**

Another view of Agatha Christie. Some lovely poems and stories here.

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### **Gail says**

I wonderful find! I only found out about this book this summer. What a surprise to find a religious book by Agatha Christie. It isn't at any of my county's libraries, so I ordered it by interlibrary loan. It was worth the wait. I liked the short stories better than the poems, but all were enjoyable to read.

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### **Pearl Meaker says**

Generally very good and interesting to see this other side of Christie. Some of the stories & poems got a little too esoteric for me.

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### **Laura (Book Scrounger) says**

As with most short story collections, this one had some hits and misses for me, but overall I enjoyed reading something different than what I'm used to reading from Agatha Christie.

I'd say only about 1/3 of the material here specifically revolves around Christmas, but the rest is at least religious. From what I can find out, Christie was a member of the Church of England, and her perspective is more "high church" than mine, but I still found it interesting. Although, there were a few instances of religious fiction that I didn't really care for, such as in "The Island" which seems to imply that Mary was rather ignorant about who her own son Jesus really was, which makes no sense to me (still a neat idea for a story though).

"Promotion in the Highest" at times vaguely reminded me of *That Hideous Strength* with "returned saints" walking around earth much like C.S. Lewis's version of Merlin (though the effects and reasons were very different).

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### **Erin says**

I'm really not sure how I feel about this compilation. Some of it is truly beautiful, others intriguing, and some...well, some are just a bit odd. I loved the parable of the boy in the garden, though.

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### **Pages & Cup says**

3.5 stars. There were some real gems in this collection of short stories and poems by the Queen of Crime.

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### **Heather says**

Some hits, some misses, but surprising overall, and quite beautiful in places.

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### **Caroline says**

This is a side of Agatha Christie that was previously unknown to me.

I am familiar, as a lot of readers are, with her stories and novels with Jane Marple, Hercule Poirot and Tommy and Tuppence. But these stories on a Christmas theme and her poems were a refreshing change. I loved the way Christie took the Biblical information about the Nativity and Passiontide stories and linked them together at the time of Jesus' birth. It gave a different interpretation of how Mary felt as a new mother, especially to the infant Christ-child, and how she felt about realising that her son was to end his life in such a hideous fashion. I also loved the way the animals were portrayed, along with the various, dare I say, 'bit part characters' of the shepherds, wise men and angels.

The poetry, however, I'm not sure about. Some of the poems were lovely and flowed rhythmically, but others I found were rather too deep for me. Maybe I'm just not much of a poetry person, but I like poems that flow nicely and tell a more obvious story.

An altogether interesting and different type of book from one of our best authors.

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### **Kristin says**

Probably my least favorite Agatha Christie experience so far! It's just so very different from her other works. I liked the Christmas short stories best, probably The Water Bus was my favorite. A couple of them were unique, but in general they just weren't that interesting. And I don't really like poetry in the first place, so you can imagine how I felt about the poems. Most of them weren't even Christmas themed.

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### **writer... says**

A fav seasonal read - this year as audio with the exceptional storytelling of Simon Vance.

Recommended. Available via hoopla .

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### **Raymond Bial says**

A lovely collection of stories in a nicely designed and illustrated edition. Very touching insights into the deeply held faith of Agatha Christie.

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### **Nanosynergy says**

And now for something completely different from Agatha Christie...

Illustrated book of poetry and short stories - most with a religious theme. Published in 1965 under her married name "Agatha Christie Mallowan." Six short stories and a number of poems.

This expanded edition also contains "The Road of Dreams" from 1925 which includes a number of poems about Harlequin.

Star Over Bethlehem:

- A Greeting (poem)
- Star of Bethlehem (short story)
- A Wreath for Christmas (poem)
- The Naughty Donkey (short story)
- Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh (poem)
- The Water Bus (short story)
- In the Cool of the Evening (short story)
- Jenny by the Sky (poem)
- Promotion in the highest (short story)
- The Saints of God (poem)
- The Island (short story)

The Road of Dreams:

- A Masque from Italy
- Ballads
- Dreams and Fantasies
- Other Poems

Poems:

- Things
- Places
- Love Poems and Others
- Verses of Nowadays

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### **Rebecca says**

I loved this--no surprise I guess since I have always loved Agatha Christie. I have to admit I skimmed some of the longer poems in the back, A Masque from Italy particularly didn't hold very much appeal to me. But the short stories are gold. A must read for Advent.

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