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Georges Simenon

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«E se quella sera Maigret aveva iniziato di colpo a parlare era per distogliere l'amico dai suoi pensieri, certo, ma soprattutto perché la telefonata ricevuta da Pardon aveva risvegliato in lui sentimenti non dissimili da quelli che agitavano il dottore. Non era senso di colpa: Maigret, del resto, detestava quell'espressione. Ma neppure rimorso. Entrambi erano a volte costretti, in virtù del mestiere che avevano scelto, a prendere una decisione da cui dipendeva il destino degli altri. Nel caso di Pardon un destino di vita o di morte. Nel loro atteggiamento non c'era nulla di romantico. Né sconforto, né ribellione. Solo una certa serietà venata di malinconia».

Maigret Has Doubts Details

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Author : Georges Simenon

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From Reader Review Maigret Has Doubts for online ebook

Darius Ostrowski says

Very much a psychological character study, told as a flashback. Not much mystery solving taking place, quite a bit of talking

Nanosynergy says

Previously published with title: "Maigret Has Doubts" (1959). Classic Maigret.

Tony says

MAIGRET HAS DOUBTS. (1959). Georges Simenon. ****.

As you soon discover when reading the Maigret novels, our inspector goes into every case with a clean slate. He has no preconceived notions about guilt or innocence, but is finally swayed only by the evidence discovered in each case. To say that he has doubts is an understatement. Even when all looks really bad for the suspect, Maigret reserves a small portion of his brain to reserve judgement until all the facts are in. In this case, the murder of a woman in a grisly manner in her apartment, it seems almost a sure thing that the husband is the guilty party. Maigret, however, has his doubts. Later in the book he makes a statement that summarizes his attitude: "The public makes up its mind by instinct, prompted by sentimental considerations and elementary logic. But we have to doubt everything, to look everywhere, not to leave any theory untested." It is this approach that characterizes each case in the Simenon series.

Sandra says

Un Maigret insolito, dedito alle confidenze con il suo amico Pardon, tra un budino di riso e un bicchierino di liquore, ci fa rivivere in differita uno dei casi che ha affrontato tempo prima, un caso che gli ha lasciato una forte amarezza ed ha mosso in lui interrogativi sul suo lavoro. La confidenza del commissario ci svela il tormento che egli ancora sente per come è stato risolto il caso apparentemente semplice, chiarito in quattro e quattr'otto dall'opinione pubblica e dal giudice Coméliau, di una donna ricca sgozzata nel letto sposata in seconde nozze con un uomo proveniente da un ceto inferiore, che con il matrimonio si è arricchito. Nulla di più facile che accusare il marito stesso, il colpevole per eccellenza. Una situazione che conosciamo bene, oggi tutti i processi più eclatanti sono risolti dall'opinione pubblica sui giornali e in televisione, ognuno di noi si erge a giudice che condanna o assolve sulla base di convinzioni che i media ci impongono e così ... giustizia è fatta.

L'impotenza di fronte al destino di un uomo che la società benestante cui la moglie apparteneva non ha mai accettato e che è rimasto incatenato al suo ruolo di arrampicatore sociale grava sul commissario Maigret a distanza di tempo, mettendolo in crisi per non aver potuto esercitare il suo dovere, quello di "dubitare di tutto, di cercare altrove, di non trascurare alcuna congettura...". Non è andata così, ed una vita umana forse innocente è stata sacrificata.

Uno dei Maigret più amari e belli che abbia letto.

Jan says

Is de moordenaar wel de moordenaar? Het plot doet wat geforceerd aan: een vertelling in een vertelling.

Terry says

Interesting. Not best of Maigret but fine.

Phillip Kay says

Maigret Has Doubts was first published as *Vue Confidence de Maigret* in 1959, and was translated into English by Lyn Moir. Doctor Pardon, Maigret's old friend, confides the details of one of his cases after he has entertained the Maigrets to a dinner in his apartment. It is the story of a dying Polish tailor whom he cannot save. Pardon is more concerned about the man's hysterical wife, needlessly as it turns out. Maigret understands. In turn he tells Pardon about one of his own cases, something he rarely does with anyone. The story is told in flashback, as the two men drink and smoke after their dinner. It was the story of Adrien Josset, a pharmaceutical firm executive accused of the savage murder of his wife.

The law of criminal procedure has recently been changed, and Maigret makes no secret of his regret at the loss of autonomy he has consequently experienced. Cases are now completely in the hands of the examining magistrate, who controls whatever evidence the police uncover. This is particularly uncongenial for Maigret, who likes to question and understand the background of everyone involved with his cases before making up his mind what to do. Slowly, he begins to form his impression of Josset, and it is not unfavourable. Then a malicious witness sends a letter to the newspapers, and the story is eventually tried and judged by journalists, who inflame public opinion. Everyone believes Josset is guilty long before his trial. The examining magistrate is under pressure to achieve a quick conviction, and his instructions to Maigret end up suppressing a lot of inconvenient evidence.

The book provides a convincing portrait of Josset and his world. He was a man who achieved good fortune by luck rather than his own efforts, who unfortunately comes across in the newspapers as a bit of a gigolo. Maigret of course finds a lot more than such a stereotype. But his hands are tied. He cannot save Josset. There is no resolution to the story. Even the rumours concerning someone who could be the real killer are not substantiated. The real tragedy for Maigret is that the man was not adequately tried. His guilt is still, at least in Maigret's mind, undecided. He has doubts.

Ed says

As my reading French improves, it is fun to reread Maigrets. This one about a man condemned by the prejudices of others and his own fearful actions is quite poignant, especially as it is told as a tale of Maigret's

regret.

Carl says

A woman of loose morals is murdered. The suspect is her husband--also of loose morals--who has recently told his mistress that he will get a divorce and marry her. He stands to inherit, he acts guilty, but there is no real evidence against him Maigret has his doubts.

Interesting in that the doubts are never resolved. The "villain" is disliked by all on moral grounds, and yet--does that make him guilty of this crime. Different in that there is no clear resolution.

Mikee says

A bittersweet sad little book. Guilty ... or innocent? Then there's the business of Dr Pardon's patient.

Marti Martinson says

Loved the premise that this was an old murder that Maigret was discussing with a friend. I thought this was going to be the BEST yet. Richly drawn characters, but perhaps too many; intriguing story development, but maybe too many side-stories. I read it as really being unresolved despite a conviction.

Steven says

A most unusual and relatively late Maigret mystery written in 1959. A woman with an impeccable reputation but rather tawdry morals is found murdered in her house, and her husband, Josset, immediately falls under suspicion because he fails to alert the police for many hours. Inspector Maigret interrogates him at length and, while Josset's story hangs together in many ways, the "Chief" still has his doubts (when repeatedly asked if Josset is the guilty party, Maigret repeatedly replies, "I don't know.") However, the public has prejudged the case and assumes that Josset is indeed the killer, despite his strenuous protestations.

While most Maigret novels end in a clear-cut verdict, Maigret is never able to come to a conclusion about the case -- and neither can the reader. This is such an evolution in sophistication for the Maigret books that it is quite revelatory. Josset's complex psychology eludes easy explanation, and Maigret, ever the astute analyst, is rather befuddled, and remains so at the end of the book. This is why I continue to read Georges Simenon (after devouring about 45 works). He is a literary master of the first order, and his characterizations are multilayered and brilliant.

A. Miguel says

[SPOILERS!] Este é o primeiro livro do autor que leio, bem como o primeiro livro de mistério de um autor francês. Embora ao longo da história fosse repetidamente avisada de que o desfecho do mistério não era agradável, mantive sempre a expectativa de que o inspetor Maigret descobrisse o verdadeiro assassino no final. Como tal não aconteceu fiquei um pouco triste com o livro, daí só lhe ter atribuído três estrelas, apesar do mistério muito bem construído. Com certeza que nos próximos volumes que ler, Maigret irá suceder nos seus casos e eu irei apreciar mais a trama. Mas a elaboração do mistério e a escrita do autor já me conquistaram!

Jill Hutchinson says

Simenon has such a wonderful minimalist style and this book, one of his multitude of Maigret tales, is another great read. The books are better appreciated if read in the original French as some of the dialogue does not quite translate the nuances of speech and shades of meaning. Whether in original or translation, all Maigret stories are well worth the time and this is no exception. Try it for a different approach to the detective genre.....nothing fancy, just spare and succinct.

Richard says

There is a reflective aspect to the novel that shows the mind and memory of Maigret at work and the skill of the author in presenting a book told largely in flash back.

Those familiar with the Maigrets' habits will know they meet with their friends, the Pardons, monthly for dinner usually in each other's homes.

Usually, the men retire after the meal to smoke and share aspects of their professional lives while the Women discuss more topical aspects of life.

This particular evening Dr Pardon is awaiting a call from the family of a dying patient. He has done all he can to manage the pain and intimates that there is a balance to care in the last days of life where death is a release but can not be ushered forward by the use of drugs. He can only do so much, and advise carers of this fine line. An earlier call showed the end was close, the pain intensifying cut the caution needed in given medication that could bring death sooner.

This fascinated Maigret who in other circumstances may have become a Doctor himself. Published nearly 60 years ago it is a strange insight into palliative care as we understand today.

But this is just the setting for this novel that strikes out to share the Chief Inspector's own views of the judicial system, the 'power' over his inspectors of the examining magistrate and his changing role at a time of greater experience he is less able to raise his voice to share doubts or push the investigation in a particular way.

How in a changing society, with new roles and relationships older and more familiar milieu and individuals of class and trades made police work more challenging. Tasking inspectors to learn the environment that people move and worked. You might say this is the reflections of an elderly man nearing retirement but it isn't just laid before as that in terms of regrets and resistant to modernisation and change. The author's skill is in showing the bits the detective chooses to share or can remember as the 'direction' of the murder case would lead to a conviction and execution.

Maigret has long been seen as someone who likes to spend time with the principle players and determine truth through these discussions. Here he had just one interview and was not convinced of guilt. Josset

maintains his innocence throughout but circumstances and public opinion were always against him. Indeed his team were always playing catch up for once aspects are known to the press the readership it attracts and reflects share the views of the printed word - guilty as charged. Subsequent interviews are marred by this knowledge and so long after the events blur and obscure memories.

Masterful writing even when the reality is known. It isn't Maigret's fault or mistake. It is the present system. His own views of guilt or innocence are not in question for he never jumps to such conclusions. The suspect's own journey is important and Josset has always proclaimed he didn't kill his wife. The facts in the main substantiate all he said when questioned by Maigret that one time.

Yet they could not find the doubt of all the other possible causes or reason Christine Josset was murdered. But many years later Maigret learned of a possible link, too late for Josset and still a little allusive to categorically imply a miscarriage of justice.

A great read; contemporary in many ways and about people always rather than the crimes committed.
