

Silence in Hanover Close

Anne Perry

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When Inspector Thomas Pitt is asked to reopen a three-year-old murder case which had taken place in London's luxurious Hanover Close, he knows that his superiors want him to smooth things over. But that is just not the way Pitt operates. With his wellborn wife, Charlotte, to aid him in penetrating the well-known reserve of high society, the inquisitive Pitts discover a secret so shocking it would lead to more deaths--and, quite possibly -- Pitt's own....

Silence in Hanover Close Details


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From Reader Review Silence in Hanover Close for online ebook

Kathy Davie says

Ninth in the Charlotte and Thomas Pitt mystery series based in late 19th century London.

The Story

Thomas has been ordered to look back into a three-year-old murder of a Foreign Office dignitary that was never solved. It seems the powers-that-be are concerned about his widow's marrying a fellow dignitary and want assurances that she's as pure as driven snow.

Poor Thomas. He has such a high solve rate and his marriage to Charlotte along with his speech and manners mean that he's often requested to take on cases, which involve the upper classes. It does not mean that he's supported by his...ahem...superiors. And this case is no exception. A cold case with no forensic evidence and no truly desired ending at least by the Foreign Office.

A man killed in his library with some few things of middling value that never show up in the market. Whispers of a lady in cerise appearing at the murdered man's home as well as at a close friend's besides several public places. A lady who has never been seen in the three years hence. Charlotte takes it upon herself to investigate pulling her sister, Emily, in as well to help alleviate Emily's boredom. George has been dead for six months now and Emily is going mad with staying home observing the period of mourning.

Emily decides to take their investigation several steps deeper and gets herself hired on as a lady's maid to the widow where she will have numerous opportunities to observe their suspects from behind the scenes. It's Jack Radley who maintains the connection between Emily and Charlotte. A very necessary aid when Thomas is arrested for murder. And Superintendent Ballarat hangs him out to dry.

My Take

Another excellent tale from Anne Perry with an excellent understanding of the culture, mores, and style of speech for the late 19th century in England. She pulls in such a tangle of misdirected love and keeps the reader hopping as we try to determine who did what only to blow us away at the end.

Linda says

When Inspector Thomas Pitt is asked to reopen an unsolved murder that had happened three years earlier he has no idea how much help he will need to solve the murder and check into the possibility of treason as the murdered man had been high up in the foreign office. And, the family of the murdered man has so many secrets it is nearly impossible to distinguish the truth from the lies that everyone seems to be telling.

Not only does Charlotte help her husband once again but her sister Emily gets involved too. Both Thomas and Emily however, find themselves in very sticky situations that could lead to their own deaths.

Once again Anne Perry keeps you guessing with the twists and turns she creates and she makes it seem that our heroes and heroines will not survive. However, they must, if only to keep us from writing hate mail to her.

Sharyn says

Number 9 and the best one yet! As always, the evocation of time and place, the language and the patter, and the love of Thomas and Charlotte almost outdoes the mystery. Emily also comes in to her own in this book, disguising herself as a maid to help solve a murder, she begins to realize how the other half live. I hope we will find she treats her servants better after this, and she also realizes she loves Jack. Thomas actually finds himself in prison , and it will be interesting to see how that affects him in the future. Also as always, the murders is discovered in the last 2 pages, and what a surprise, although I was starting to put some clues together. Charlotte saved the day once again.

Lesley says

I like mysteries/thrillers/detective stories, they are usually quick, easy reads that fulfill a certain need (like when I've just finished a very demanding book). Finishing this book was tedious and I did so only because a friend had recommended the book.

This is the first book I have read in Perry's series and perhaps that is why it fell so flat. That said, I believe it can stand alone as I easily understood the characters and relationships.

And therein lies part of the problem - the characters were one-dimensional, relationships were predictable and the story just too boringly ridiculous.

The characters felt predictable and, in many ways, stereotypes from history books and novels from the era in question; I had met them before and found nothing new in this book.

None of the relationships offers deeper insight into the characters, the dialogue is dull and boring and it was hard to feel any emotion rippling under the story.

The overall story is overworked and, without characters and relationships to carry it, there are too many irrelevant distractions. The actual mystery might have merit but, unfortunately, the story overshadows any potential.

This book does too many things poorly; perhaps if one of the three aforementioned elements succeeded it would be worth reading, but for me, as it is, I cannot recommend it.

Leigh says

While I have always been a fan of this series, it's sort of a love hate type thing. I don't like the often abrupt endings without any sort of resolution to it. This book while highly entertaining had me scratching my head numerous times and required great leaps of imagination. On to the story. This time Pitt is asked to look in a cold case, an unsolved murder from three years ago that involves the Foreign Office (spies!) and whether or not the widow of the victim was involved in any way. As always as soon as Charlotte learns of the case she find a way to involve herself in it. This is the first puzzle for me. After nine cases are you telling me that no one attends the same parties? No one knows or recognizes Charlotte at all. They keep saying society is small

but apparently not that small after all. She gains the trust of the young widow Veronica but it unable to learn much of anything from her. Then came the part where I thought Anne Perry decided to turn from a mystery author to a comedy author when Emily decides she will go and become a ladies maid to Veronica, after her own maid fell (or was pushed) out of a window (I won't get into that). I was expecting to see Emily be somewhat like Queenie from Rhys Bowen's Royal Spyness Series, clumsy, burning holes in clothes, spilling. Somehow Emily who has been waited on all her life is quite capable of doing the work of a lady's maid and even able to fool those around her, but changing her accent. Even though she did concede she was bad at ironing this was all a bit too perfect for me. Frankly I was also a bit disappointed as it's grey and miserable outside and I looked forward to having a good laugh. That's where this otherwise entertaining story lost it's five star lustre. Charlotte is thrown into more turmoil when Pitt is arrested for murdering a prostitute and servants and local merchants refuse to do business with her. The story truly went from being a five star to a four maybe three and a half at best as it went on. There were times when the book got bogged down by details and my eyes wandered off the page, and then there was the ending. My first thought was Perry was channeling Agatha Christie and Hercule Poirot, calling all the suspects together in one room to reveal a murderer. It didn't happen quite like that and the ending was rushed again and I just didn't find it believable at all. I would say three stars, but will give three and half, as I said it was mostly entertaining and you can't beat Perry's description and setting the scene, she is always able to make me feel like I am right there with my characters. Too bad I wasn't, I might've smacked some sense into parts of this story.

Rose Laurel says

(spoilers)

I've read several other books in this series, so I'm not sure why the unrealistic turns of the plot bothered me so much. But they did. Charlotte's sister just happens to know X and Y, and can introduce them. X happens to need a new maid, and of course no one remembers Charlotte from the other investigations she's been involved in, so she can take the job. And the ending was ludicrous.

Chequers says

...e con questo libro, penso sia finito il mio idillio con la Perry!

Sto lavorando molto in questo periodo quindi volevo un libro non impegnativo, ma questo sfiora gli Harmony! Non che gli altri fossero capolavori, ma almeno un minimo ti appassionavano.

Questo e' banale, scontato, improbabile, non va bene neanche "da ombrellone", che peccato.

Sue says

Ninth in the Pitt series, this was the best one yet. The story was tightly constructed and kept my interest throughout, despite being slightly longer than previous installments. Pitt is asked to investigate the three-year-old murder of a Foreign Office diplomat because his widow is about to marry another diplomat. He soon learns that he's not meant to really investigate and as he finds more interesting evidence suggesting a spy and treason, he is reprimanded by the pompous Supt. Ballarat. Charlotte and Emily assist him in surprising ways and as always, the differences between average people and the "quality" is highlighted.

Domestic servants also become a focus here as Emily makes some realizations about their conditions. I never guessed the ending and was surprised at how it all unfolded. Good, satisfying mystery.

Ana Bolox says

Llevo leídos bastantes libros de la colección del inspector Pitt y, sin duda, éste es uno de los que más me ha gustado (si no el que más).

¿Qué tiene de especial? Entre otras cosas, y la mejor de todas, que, durante la investigación de un caso, Pitt es acusado de asesinato y encarcelado, de modo que su mujer, Charlotte, esta vez tendrá una razón para investigar el caso mucho más importante que su simple afición a "jugar a detectives". Si no descubre al culpable, Pitt podría acabar en la horca.

Muy buena, la recomiendo sin ninguna duda. Claro que el lector que no haya leído todavía ninguna historia de este matrimonio tan peculiar debería quizá empezar por el principio.

"Silencio en Hanover Close" es la novena novela de la serie y aunque he leído las 8 anteriores y muchas de las posteriores, insisto: ésta es la que más me ha gustado de todas por el momento.

Jenny says

I really, really liked this installment of Charlotte & Thomas Pitt (though I think it's a shame Emily isn't a part of the name of the series since we have been spending almost more time with her in the past two books). I was intrigued by the cold case, and I thought there were several twists that were fun to discover.

Thomas is asked to look into a small case of what might be treason, having to do with a murder 3 years ago. He discovers that it all centers around a woman who wears cerise, a magenta pink color that seems flattering to no one (IMO) but apparently makes her look like a million bucks. No one has seen her in years, but he doggedly treks all over the city, asking costers and sandwich sellers about her. (view spoiler)

Perry's endings always come at the very end of her books and there's not much resolution, but I thought this solution made some kind of sense, and I'm happy with the ending.

Mary Corbal says

Como siempre, además del asesinato que se debe resolver, la autora expone la hipocresía de la aristócratas ingleses de la época, además de la tristeza y la soledad en la que se ven obligados a vivir muchos de ellos.

Carole (in Canada) says

This is #9 in the Thomas and Charlotte Pitt Victorian Murder/Mystery series. This time Inspector Pitt has been asked to quietly re-visit a cold case that was never solved and to make sure no scandal is uncovered while he does it. However, in his search for the killer and a mysterious woman, he is accused of murdering a woman he has been trying to find! Only Charlotte and his sister-in-law Emily can save him. How they each go about it is rather shocking!

The disparity between upstairs/downstairs is clearly shown in this novel. The weather is like a character all to itself. You can just feel the cold creeping into your bones. I am finding these books addictive as you watch the secrets/skeletons among the upper class unravel before you. The nuances of facial features that reveal hidden pain, passion or anger as Thomas, Charlotte or Emily try to understand the characters they are dealing with. Fascinating!

Chana says

Inspector Thomas Pitt is assigned an old case that was never solved, a break in to a wealthy home in which a young man, a member of the Foreign Office, had been killed. It appeared to be a home invasion killing, but not much was stolen, nothing was fenced and the method of entry was oddly unprofessional. The reason for the second look at the killing is that the widow of the victim is now engaged to another member of the Foreign Office and the powers that be want to make sure there is no potential scandal attached to this widow. Inspector Pitt does not appreciate this assignment but he gets on with it. He does all the police work but to get the secrets out of the house of the murdered man is going to take getting inside information. When he speaks to one of the maids he hears about the woman in cerise, a woman spotted briefly in the house a couple of times. The maid is overheard telling Inspector Pitt about the woman in cerise and then the maid suffers an untimely death. Inspector Pitt's wife Charlotte and her widowed sister feel that the only way to find out what happened is to get inside the house. Charlotte goes undercover as a visiting guest, her sister Emily goes undercover as a maid in the house. Inspector Pitt gets set up to appear to be a murderer and he ends up in jail. Now it is up to the women to solve the crime and get Inspector Pitt out of jail. The manner of the reveal seemed unrealistic, but the reveal itself was elegant and sly, surprising and clever. Quite good.

Chris says

An enjoyable & quick read. # 9 in this series. I gave it only 3 stars vs. 4, r/t some far-fetched machinations by the main characters to try to ferret out the murder mystery. I did not see the plot twist coming, which is always a good thing! All in all I do like Thomas & Charlotte Pitt & Great-Aunt Vespasia, and this time Emily showing more spine. Thomas also sees the other side of prison and those who inhabit it. I wonder if in the next books that will change his approach to potential suspects. Usually nothing quotable from these books, but two passages struck me:

"naming all her fears, rather than forcing them down inside her like black devils, had robbed them of some of

their horror, now that she had spoken them aloud and shared them, they no longer seemed unconquerable." So True!!

"No one grows to maturity without acts to be ashamed of; in accepting that, we love not only the strengths but also the weaknesses, and real bonds grow between us."

Scot says

Ninth in the series and one of the strongest installments so far in what proves to be an always entertaining read from Perry. She adroitly gives the character of Emily an opportunity for far greater development and inclusion as part of the loosely affiliated (through Charlotte) investigative team, and this was done by having her go undercover as the lady's maid Amelia, which also has the bonus of giving Perry the opportunity to delve more deeply into "downstairs" social codes of conduct, routines, and life options. Pitt must deal with a boss whose ambition will let Pitt be found guilty--even hang!--for a crime we know he did not commit, and Charlotte also goes undercover as a lady from the countryside, done with years of expected service to a sick relative and come to London on the prowl for a good catch as a husband. The ending surprised me and the movement toward the climax kept me guessing--both effective techniques to sustain reader interest. As a bonus, there is a charming depiction of what the Christmas celebration would have been like in the home of a late Victorian police inspector.
