



Gone Tomorrow

Cynthia Harrod-Eagles

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"All around, for miles and miles in every direction, in streets and shops and houses, real life was going on, oblivious; but here a dead man sat, the full stop at the end of his own sentence, with a little still pocket of attention focused fiercely and minutely on him. Why him? And why here? Slider felt the questions attaching themselves to him like shackles, chaining him to this scene, to a well-known process of effort, worry and responsibility."

Detective Inspector Bill Slider returns in another thrilling mystery from the prolific pen of Cynthia Harrod-Eagles.

In the heart of Shepherd's Bush, London-Slider's patch-a groundskeeper discovers a well-dressed man seated on a children's swing. Problem is, the man is dead, a single, perfect stab-wound to the heart. Even more mysteriously, someone has clearly rummaged through the man's pockets-but left behind over a thousand pounds in cash.

Initial investigations confront a wall of silence, but this only fuels Slider and his team's determination to solve the case before it gets taken off their hands and they face failure on their own doorstep. The task is made no easier by Slider's qualms over his long-distance romance, or by Detective Superintendent Fred "The Syrup" Porson's mysterious absence from work for the first time in as long as Slider remembers.

As Slider unearths the victim's sordid lifestyle of debts, drugs, and dodgy deals, the trail leads the police through London's neighborhoods, from the seedy pubs of Shepherd's Bush through the brothels of Notting Hill to the mansions of Holland Park. As they probe deeper the body count rises and Slider suspects the machinations of a crime baron who will stop at nothing to keep his identity hidden.

Gone Tomorrow Details

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From Reader Review Gone Tomorrow for online ebook

Jerry B says

9th Bill Slider a little dull, but Joanna & Sue resolved !

We've had to wait close to four years for the latest (Brit) Detective Inspector Bill Slider since "Blood Sinister", so we were delighted to get hold of this hardback and catch up on Slider and love-interest and roommate Joanna; his sidekick Atherton (and his new love interest, Joanna's friend Sue); and the gang at Shepherd's Bush PD. The plot gets going in a hurry as a dead body is discovered in a park; and we're off and running despite a paucity of clues in this entertaining police procedural. It takes an awfully long time and another body or two to head the good guys to the right solution, so the reading gets a little logy at times. Meanwhile, we learn Joanna did take the orchestra job over on the continent, so her live-in relationship with Bill is pretty cold -- phone calls and an occasional visit or two per month is causing its own share of frustrations for our ever so gentle leading man.

Harrod-Eagles is a lovely writer who gets us inside the heads and hearts of our favorite characters. While they busily solve crimes, the leading characters become our friends and companions, and their relationships and affairs matter to us. Their skills at solving murders and other crimes are impressive, and generally the plots satisfy. This one is probably a tad weaker than some other entries in the series, but we do finally find out the status of Joanna and Bill, and Sue and Atherton. In all honesty, this novel will probably appeal to the author's faithful fan club; but read standalone without the previous eight as background, it would probably generate only lukewarm enthusiasm among the average reader. Hopefully now that some of the love-life stuff is resolved, maybe the zip will be back in the tenth entry to be released mid-year 2004. New readers might well just wait.

Kyrie says

There was a whole lot less of Slider's personal life and a lot more of detecting in this novel. I can't even say it was police procedural. Yes, the officers obeyed the law, but there were a lot of hunches followed up, a lot of seemingly unattached ends to pull together, and Harrod-Eagles did a wonderful job of keeping them separate until the penny dropped. I loved the bull sessions where the whole team pooled their info - I love the teasing, the sly remarks, the humor. And while there was not a lot of his personal life, the bits that were there were very interesting. I love this series.

Catherine Woodman says

I have read several entries in the Bill Slider series this past month, and this one follows Blood Sinister, but after a somewhat lengthy period of time (4 years)--the author is also the author of romance novels so maybe she got wrapped up in writing something else, but in any case, I was getting a bit unhappy with the contrived convolutions of her plots. The body of a man is found in a park with a single well placed stab wound to the heart and alot of cash. There follows several other dead bodies that ultimately lead SLider in the right direction, and interspersed with the mystery are the ongoing love lves of Slider and his gal Joanna--which is maturing into an interesting long distance relationship--and a plot twist at the end that promises more in the

next book in this arena, and Atherton's getting seriously entangled with a musician of his own. I like the non-mystery parts of these books more than the mystery, which might be explained by the fact that she is a romance novelist at heart.

Jill Hutchinson says

Another quick and satisfying read in the DI Bill Slider series. A murder in the heart of Shepherd's Bush, London sets Slider and his team on the hunt for a killer who may be a professional hit man. And the body count keeps rising with no clues in sight except the presence of four distinctive leather jackets which seem to have a connection to the crimes. The story takes us through the dark underside of the city and the characters who inhabit it.....prostitutes, gamblers, loan sharks and others who live on the edge of society. They are a closed mouthed group and the team, even with some of it's inside connections, is having trouble making any sense of these crimes. Is there a Mr. Big running a crime syndicate which is unknown to the police or is Slider making more of these crimes than he should. He doesn't think so and the pressure is being put on him to deliver. And, of course, he does eventually.

I like this series in which the stories move along smoothly even though the humor of one of Slider's team gets a bit tiring. This is a series that can be read for a change of pace in between more serious works.

Nancy says

Like other Bill Slider mysteries, I enjoyed the reading of it. The variety of characters and language pulls me in. Although Slider never seems to have time to eat or sleep the pace is not frenetic so you can enjoy each scene of this police procedural. For some reason, I have never really engaged with the love interest part of the Slider mysteries so it was fine that there was little of it until the last chapter.

Lynn says

As always, the language in this novel is so wonderful. It must take a long time to make the prose flow this beautifully. Sounds like an odd thing to say about a murder mystery, but Harrod-Eagles is a fine stylist. And so funny/punny.

In this novel, the perp seems so likely to skate away, given that he's Mr Big, and I didn't entirely believe that he wouldn't have found his target, Teena, or his former shipmate, who "knew him when." The latter maybe, but the former is too much of a stretch.

There were also so many characters that I had a hard time keeping them straight. So many detectives and suspects and passers-by. It could have been streamlined a bit. That said, it was still a fine read. And I'm glad Slider's life will be more settled. We'll see, won't we?

D says

I'm generally a Bill Slider fan but the mystery in this book was rather weak. There was lots of clues but the

conclusion pretty much had nothing to do with them. In fact if Slider and his crew had simply followed the most obvious path they would have got to the end much quicker. The eastern connection and the hints of exotic sexual practices and superior tailoring were nothing but distractions. Red herrings can add to the entertainment but this one had a whole shoal of them. Not to mention one death that was totally unexplained.

The original publication date was 2002 and the background does feel dated.

As for Slider and Atherton's personal lives-- there was a not I found particularly interesting. Joanna kept putting off having a conversation with Slider in a manner that suggested the author was trying to ratchet up the suspense. It fell a bit flat. I wished Atherton's SO had bonked him on the head with the bottle of wine and bouquet.

There were several cameo portraits of characters from the London streets and pubs that were interesting. I liked Atherton's tailor, "James Mason-- not the actor" who made a brief appearance with some useful information.

LJ says

gone Tomorrow - G

Cynthia Harrod-Eagles - 9th in series

Inspector Bill Slider is called to cope with a disfigured corpse grotesquely left in a children's playground. His enquiries plunge him into the shadow world behind the fashionable facade of Shepherd's Bush, among the victims of the Welfare State and the crime barons who prey on them; a world where no-one is who he says he is, and lying to the police is second nature. Slider's thankless task is to convince the witnesses, against all available evidence, that honesty really is the best policy. And with his lover Joanna away, fate seems suddenly determined to strew his private life with temptations...

Great series.

Jen says

A while back NetGalley offered a Bill Slider mystery (Old Bones) by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles that succeeded on a number of levels: good police procedural, great characterization and dialogue, an intricate plot, great writing, and excellent use of comic relief to break the tension. I knew I wanted more of the series, and I happened to find Gone Tomorrow on my last trip to the library.

A well-dressed man is found murdered in a park. All identification is missing, but a thousand pounds of cash has been left, so robbery was not the motive. Slider and his team's first step is to discover the name of the victim. This doesn't turn out to be as easy as they hoped; in fact, nothing in the investigation turns out to be easy, and the death toll mounts.

Harrod-Eagles scatters allusions to literature and contemporary culture throughout, and in the text they feel pretty natural and not at all distracting. In the chapter titles, on the other hand: "How Grim Was My Valet" and "From Err to Paternity" were obvious and amusing, but most, while funny in their own right, detracted from the seriousness of the plot. Some were just strained and awkward. It must have been fun for the author to come up with them, but perhaps the temptation should have been avoided.

Plot and characters--excellent. Chapter titles--not so much.

I liked Gone Tomorrow (2001) but Old Bones (2017) shows some differences in writing style that I appreciated more. Harrod-Eagles has progressed from very good in Gone Tomorrow to excellent in Old Bones--I'm eager to read more in the Bill Slider series, picking up from Gone Tomorrow and moving forward to the more recent books.

Library Copy.

Police Procedural/British. 2001. 367 pages.

Susan W says

Love the chapter headings.

Harriet says

A good story marred by being too long. Also clearly one of the early Sliders, her style has benefitted from maturity.

Anne says

The books in this series are, of course, deadly serious. But, they are also lots of fun with lots of word play and many, quite funny mangled metaphors. I like the intelligence of the main characters. And, only once in a while am able to figure who dunnit. Not this one though.

George says

#9 in the Detective Inspector Bill Slider mystery series set in a London suburb. A body is found in a small park which sends Slider and his team on a quest to find the murderer in what becomes more complicated as the investigation continues.

This is a bit of a slow moving police procedural which mimics the actual pace of an investigation starting from scratch with no real information. So Slider and his team slog through the process of seeking information, then following up on the bits and pieces they discover to build a case.

Bettie? says

Gone Tomorrow (Bill Slider #9)

Fraudio> rosado> narrated by Terry Wale
summer 2013> tbr busting 2013
series> police procedure
brit> eng> london
under 100 ratings

Blurb: #9. *Gone Tomorrow* [2001], 11 hours 14 mins

When a body turns up in a gated Shepherd's Bush playground, DI Slider and his workaholic staff quickly realize that the victim was an unlikely candidate for murder. The baffling case of unlucky Lenny, a small-time dealer in stolen goods and drugs, blows open when, through a fortuitous but believable coincidence, Slider's sidekick and best friend, Det. Supt. Jim Atherton, discovers a connection between the victim and a mysterious crime syndicate. The meat of the story is how the methodical, intuitive Slider and his people identify the ringleader and unravel the mechanics of his organization, which ensures loyalty by viciously threatening its members.

- 3* Orchestrated Death (1991)
- 3* Death Watch (1992)
- 3* Death to Go (1993)
- 3* Dead End (1994)
- 3* Blood Lines (1996)
- 3* Killing Time (1996)
- 3* Shallow Grave
- 3* Blood Sinister
- 2* Gone Tomorrow (2001)

This number in the Bill Slider series only served to keep me up to date with the personal lives of the main players because the story lacked credibility.

Jon says

Maybe i'm reading too many of these too close together, but I'm starting to notice some repetitions and similarities in plotting. Nevertheless, the characters are still winning, and the writing is literate and funny. These are really police procedurals, and the development of the case can be a bit painstaking and slow. There is very little suspense--the interest lies in the characters, dialogue, and unravelling of the mystery.
