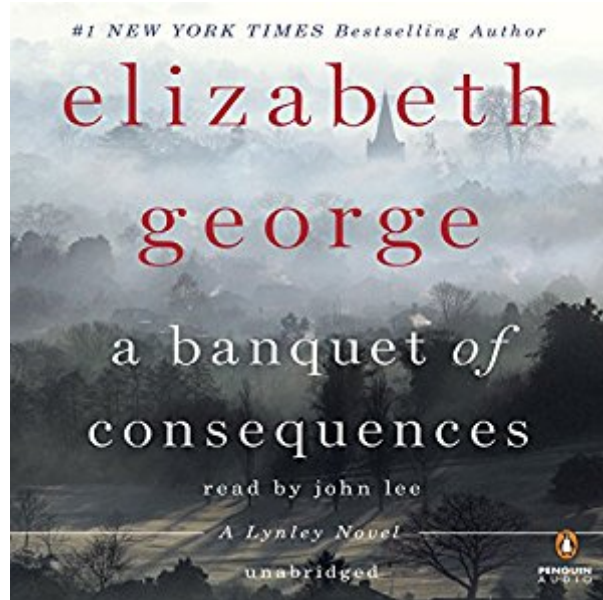


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A Banquet Of Consequences: A Lynley Novel, Book 19



Synopsis

The number-one New York Times best-selling author's award-winning series returns with another stunning crime drama featuring Scotland Yard members Detective Inspector Thomas Lynley and Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers. The unspoken secrets and buried lies of one family rise to the surface in Elizabeth George's novel of crime, passion, and tragic history. As Inspector Thomas Lynley investigates the London angle of an ever more darkly disturbing case, his partner, Barbara Havers, is looking behind the peaceful façade of country life to discover a twisted world of desire, deceit, and murder. The suicide of William Goldacre is devastating to those left behind. But what was the cause of his tragedy, and how far might the consequences reach? Is there a link between the young man's leap from a Dorset cliff and a horrific poisoning in Cambridge? After various career-threatening issues with her department, Barbara Havers is desperate to redeem herself. So when a past encounter with a best-selling feminist writer and her pushy personal assistant gives her a connection to the Cambridge murder, Barbara begs Thomas Lynley to let her pursue the crime. Full of shocks, intensity, and suspense from beginning to end, *A Banquet of Consequences* reveals both Lynley and Havers under mounting pressure to solve one of the most complex cases they have ever encountered.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As I closed this lengthy (573 pages) new book in the Lynley/Havers series I breathed a sigh of relief. Oh my goodness, I think Elizabeth George is back on track. This was actually a good installment in the series. After George killed off Lynley's wife and unborn child on their own doorstep, the series

went amok. She followed that incident with a book that was truly, in my opinion, horrible "What Came Before Her" and then issued four very mediocre novels with Lynley and Havers behaving very uncharacteristically. I had really about given up but thought that I'll give it one more try. I am glad I did. This book goes back to the tried and true formula of being about an actual crime. Clare Abbott, a renowned feminist writer, is found dead in her hotel suite while on a speaking tour. At first it is thought to be a heart attack but after further investigation it turns out she was poisoned. Attention turns to her assistant, Caroline Goldacre, and she is quite a piece of work. Caroline has one of the most dysfunctional families around. One son commits suicide and her employer builds a monument for him. What is the relationship between these two women? Havers is still walking a thin line with her boss, Isabelle Ardery, who desperately wants her gone. With the real threat of transfer hanging over her head, Havers must walk a very disciplined line and that is so hard for her. Dorteia Harriman, the department secretary, tries to befriend her and this is hysterical. Harriman is such a fashion plate and Havers is, well, not. Harriman tries to take her shopping and then they try speed dating which is funny. It's Havers taste in clothes that brings her in touch with Claire Abbott, the murder victim.

I have been an avid fan of Elizabeth George and the (Lynley series) from the beginning. Playing for the Ashes and Deception on his Mind are in my humble opinion two of the finest psychological mysteries I have ever read. Many others in the long running series were almost as good. Unfortunately, in the past few years the caliber of writing has declined. George's last two books were a struggle to get through and if not for Vine I may not have purchased A Banquet of Consequences. Happily, I can give an enthusiastic two thumbs up for her latest. A Banquet of Consequences is flawless, as Elizabeth George has gone back to her roots and written a complex, and nuanced character driven book that is both plausible and heartfelt. This time around, George takes her time developing her characters. There is the psychological undercurrent of a highly dysfunctional family, however, nothing is over-the-top and there is a plethora of clues and intelligent plotting. The story alternates between London and Dorset and begins 39 months before a murder, then 2 months before, 6 weeks before and finally in the here and now. William Goldacre, is trying to win back the affections of his girlfriend Lily Foster after another one of his emotional breakdowns has waylaid their 10 month relationship. This will not happen, as William in despair commits suicide by jumping from a cliff. William has an older brother Charlie, who is a psychologist and is devastated by his brother's death. His inability to help his brother has caused a fissure within his own marriage to his wife India and they are now estranged. The brother's mother, Caroline, has a

strong and domineering personality and does not play well with others, causing strife wherever she goes.

You don't have to have be a fan of Elizabeth George, or have read any of her previous novels to enjoy her newest mystery novel "A Banquet of Consequences". This is the latest in a series of books featuring Detective Inspector Thomas Lynley of New Scotland Yard and his team. For those who have not read the author's earlier works, the reader is again an observer of the relationship between the aristocratic DI Lynley, a very human and likable "Gov" and his Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers - a complex detective from a working class background, whose dogged determination and crime solving acumen is sometimes balanced unfavorably with her impulsivity and tendency to ignore/circumvent the rules when it suits her. She is both an asset and a liability to the Inspector and the Homicide Squad. As this novel begins, Havers is forced to rein in her impulses due to the threat of transfer out of London to an isolated squad in the North by Detective Superintendent Audrey. All the details surrounding this are not given, presumably it is due to something that occurred in the previous novel by Ms. George; the reader is given enough information to understand the magnitude of the issue. The story begins with Lily Foster waiting to surprise her boyfriend William Goldacre with a weekend jaunt to Marrakesh. When he arrives home four hours late, in a disastrous emotional state, having quit his latest job, his life quickly spirals out of control. Enter his mother Caroline Goldacre, to once again rescue her "boy", by taking charge of the situation. The author begins her story 39 months before the murder that DI Lynley's team investigates. There is a lot of backstory and scene setting, along with the introduction of feminist novelist Clare Abbott and her editor Rory Statham.

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