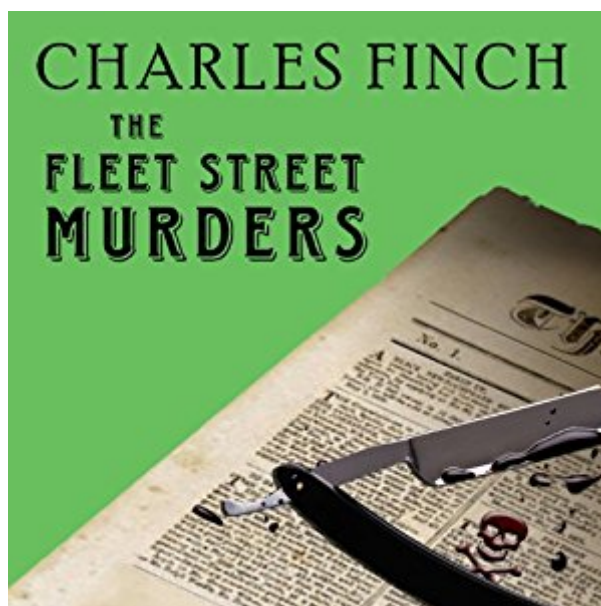


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The Fleet Street Murders: Charles Lenox Mysteries Series #3



Synopsis

It's Christmas, 1866, and amateur sleuth Charles Lenox, recently engaged to his best friend, Lady Jane Grey, is happily celebrating the holiday in his Mayfair townhouse. Across London, however, two journalists have just met with violent deaths - one shot, one throttled. Lenox soon involves himself in the strange case but must leave it behind to go north to Stirrington, where he is running for Parliament. Once there, he gets a further shock when Lady Jane sends him a letter whose contents may threaten their nuptials. In London, the police apprehend two unlikely and unrelated murder suspects. From the start, Lenox has his doubts; the crimes, he is sure, are tied. But how? Racing back and forth between London and Stirrington, Lenox must negotiate the complexities of crime and politics, not to mention his imperiled engagement. But as the case mounts, Lenox learns that the person behind the murders may be closer to him - and his beloved - than he knows.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Another excellent story in the Charles Lenox series. This one is the third. The plot is a little more involved in this one--more lines, I think, than in the last two. Followers of the series will remember that at the end of the second installment--The September Society--Lenox proposed marriage to Lady Jane Grey and was asked to stand for a seat in Parliament. Here, despite the pressures of campaigning in a rural area, he is trying to keep abreast of the developments in two seemingly linked murders back in London and maintain his relationship with Lady Jane. I can highly recommend this book. I certainly hope Mr. Finch continues to favour us with the Lenox series.

In the third book in Finch's neo-Victorian series, "The Fleet Street Murders," Charles Lenox returns with his warm circle of friends, his invaluable servant Graham, and a new mystery to solve. The mystery, that of the murder of two Fleet Street journalists, plays a bit of a secondary role to the other events in Lenox's life. His personal life is going a bit astray, as Lady Jane Grey voices concerns about their upcoming wedding, his friends Toto and Thomas face another challenge in their marriage, and Lenox makes his first attempt to enter Parliament. Thankfully, Graham is there to help Lenox through these struggles. As always, Finch delivers the story in an immensely readable fashion. The joy is in the details, particularly when Lenox spends time in the northern town of Stirrington, which he hopes will launch his political career. The description of the town and its people is enough to make the reader feel as if they are there with Lenox, drinking the beer, eating the roasted beef sandwiches, and shaking hands with the locals. Perhaps the best part is that it is not all roses and sunshine for Lenox, which makes him identifiable as a character and the story more accessible. The murders also bring back into play George Bernard, a character who is extremely easy to dislike. Finch deftly weaves a lot of plot elements into this narrative without crowding the story or losing focus. At the end you are left thankful for fireplaces and tea, and hopeful that many more Lenox books will be forthcoming!

You know the novels in this series won't grip you in suspense or chilling detail, but what is so gripping is that they are comforting, the lead players have strength and nobleness of character and exhibit a restraint that is so interesting and exerts a powerful effect on the reader. This period in history also adds drama. Each time I read another Charles Lenox tale, I am pulled into the heart of it and find myself wanting more. Rough and tumble thrill seekers who dote on hard-boiled crime would not be persuaded to crack such a book, but even they might be surprised. It has an effect you can't explain.

It must be a phase that I am going through since I have not had much luck with books recently. Fleet Street Murders has multiple storylines and I found myself drawn to one more than the rest and was bothered with all the bouncing around. It is Christmas 1866, Charles Lennox and Lady Jane Grey are wanting to celebrate together but Charles is forced to leave for Stirrington where he is running for a Parliamentary seat. At the same time, there are two murders in London that seem at first blush to be unrelated, yet Charles is piecing information together that makes them all but unrelated. While all of this is going on, their best friends, Toto and McConnell are going through a personal crisis and

Charles wants to be there to help them through. Charles cannot be everywhere but with the help of his butler Graham, he seems to bounce around quite well and in the end, all is right with the world. The series is atmospheric and full of humor, but this particular book is too scattered. Two of the storylines would have sufficed, but the interweaving of the three was too distracting. I loved the first book, was okay with the second and this one just left me with the so-so feeling. I guess once a year I will drag out a Charles Lennox just to check back in with Lady Grey, the only character worth following in this series.

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