



# The Travelling Hornplayer

*Barbara Trapido*

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## **The Travelling Hornplayer** Barbara Trapido

Barbara Trapido is a brilliant novelist who has been delighting British readers for more than a decade. Here, the Whitbread Award-winning author of *Brother of the More Famous Jack* weaves a funny, sexy, and poignant story that begins with the death of a young woman and blossoms into an Austen-esque comedy of manners that explores the connections between friends, lovers, and families. With a switchback plot that shifts from Scotland to Rome, from London to the Cotswolds, Barbara Trapido's fifth novel is elegant, surprising, and peopled with wholly original characters whose extraordinary fates are at once uniquely hilarious and immensely touching.

## **The Travelling Hornplayer Details**

Date : Published February 1st 2000 by Penguin Books (first published January 1998)

ISBN : 9780140281903

Author : Barbara Trapido

Format : Paperback 144 pages

Genre : Fiction, Contemporary, European Literature, British Literature

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## **From Reader Review The Travelling Hornplayer for online ebook**

### **Claire says**

Trapido's such a brilliant and wonderful and readable writer that I could almost overlook the lackluster plot and its ten million unbelievable coincidences. Almost.

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### **Kathy says**

An ok read.....

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### **Elizabeth says**

This book wasn't really what I needed at this point so maybe that's why I didn't give it that great of a rating but it seemed like it was just full of a lot of strange people.

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### **Johanna Markson says**

The Traveling Hornplayer, Barbara Trapido

Another witty and captivating novel from Barbara Trapido. Here she intertwines biting satire and comedy and tragedy, to treat us to a charming, intelligent and moving story. The novel revolves around the death of teenager Lydia Dent. The story is told through the experiences of Lydia's elder sister Ellen, Jonathan, the writer Lydia sought help from on a paper she was writing, and Jonathan's college student daughter Stella. All of them are living through dramas of their own, unaware of how the death of Lydia has intertwined their lives or will connect their lives in totally unexpected ways. All tell this engaging, constantly funny and offbeat story from their own points of view, but serve to bring us to understand our shared experiences about love, bereavement, awakening sexuality, passion, marriage, friendship and making choices.

Thrown into the mix are British gentry foibles, intellectual snottiness, ineptitude, bad marriages, learning disabilities, helicopter parenting, and teen angst and we can't but help to admire the talent and power of this marvelous writer. Ordering the next one now.

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### **JoAnne says**

I enjoyed this book at the start and thought that parts were well versed and well written. I had not quite finished reading when I went to book group and after the discussion there, and my utter and total disbelief surrounding the intersecting consequences which wrapped up the novel, I have to say, this is a very weak 3. Disappointing.

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### **Adam says**

I'm not sure exactly why but Trapido's novels have always hit the spot for me. This one is no different - despite a self-consciously middle class setting, it is charming in its literariness, intelligent observation and rich mix of characters.

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### **Jeanne says**

This book was recommended highly by two friends so I suggested it to my book club for June's book. Turns out to have been a big winner as every single person who read it loved it! The novel's central vehicle is the death of a character who we never actually meet alive. Each of the other narrative voices is in some way connected to this character and/or her death. The novel is alternately funny and achingly sad and the different perspectives of the characters make for interesting reading. We get to see characters from multiple points of view and from their own. The best thing someone in my book group said was "Did anyone notice that she managed to write a 500 page novel in under 250 pages?" I plan to read all of Trapido's books.

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### **Janet Elsbach says**

Barbara Trapido's writing is delicious and smart and this is a fine read that just utterly falls apart at the end. She gets a bit drunk on her admittedly VERY impressive ability to deftly sketch characters and masterfully intertwine their lives. Still read it though, just don't feel bad if you bail before the end because you might be better off imagining it winds up better than it does.

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### **Mandy says**

The Travelling Hornplayer is typical of Trapido's style and approach. She is particularly good at showing how people's lives are inextricably linked and the reverberations one character's actions can have on so many disparate people. Here, we observe how the tragic death of 17-year-old Lydia Dent impacts on all those who have come into contact with her, however tangentially. For me this isn't one of her best books, as the plot is just a little too contrived, as is the set-piece ending. There are just too many characters, not all of them totally successful. But all Trapido's hallmarks are in evidence here and it is, in spite of its faults, a good read.

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### **Kate says**

Couldn't finish this. Try again one day.

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### **Graham says**

never believe the copious burble of journalists sprayed over the first few pages. whilst this is an engaging book for half the novel, you want to slap some sense into the characters, especially Stella. the last few pages were a tying of loose ends and reminiscent of a tiresome poirot story where all the characters are gathered into one place on a pretext and some form of resolution is effected. moral of the story? don't write essays for other people.

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### **Liz Lou says**

Another perfect book from Barbara Trapido. The culmination of all the stories. I will sorely miss how dozens of lives intersect and affect each other - the good, the bad, the beautiful, the ugly.

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### **Sophie says**

Just loved it. I am hooked on this author. How has it taken me so long to discover her?

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### **Lyn says**

I love Barbara Trapido. I haven't read her for a number of years, but now I am reminded how good she is and am on a mission to read all her books.

Apart from a smallish gripe about the ending, this was a fascinating and absorbing story and, although told from the perspective of several characters, it was easy to click into, and relate to, all the narrators.

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### **Carla says**

This slender novel has sparkling prose, and what I am coming to see as Trapido's trademark wit. For me, the plot dilemma was that

Trapido introduces the utterly enchanting Lydia (whose death starts the novel) and Ellen, and the equally absorbing relationship between their father and stepmother-- only to switch gears to distinctly less interesting (and often irritating) character of Stella. I kept hoping to hear more about Ellen, and less about Stella.

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