



Silhouette in Scarlet

Elizabeth Peters

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One perfect red rose, a one-way ticket to Stockholm, and a cryptic "message" consisting of two Latin words intrigue art historian Vicky Bliss—as they were precisely intended to do. Beautiful, brilliant and, as always, dangerously inquisitive, Vicky recognizes the handiwork of her former lover, the daring jewel thief John Smythe. So she takes the bait, eagerly following Smythe's lead in the hope of finding a lost treasure. But the trail begins at a priceless fifth century chalice which will place Vicky at the mercy of a gang of ruthless criminals who have their eyes on an even more valuable prize. And the hunt threatens to turn deadly on a remote island, where a captive Vicky Bliss must lead an excavation into the distant past—and where digging too deep for the truth could dig her own grave.

Silhouette in Scarlet Details

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Author : Elizabeth Peters

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From Reader Review Silhouette in Scarlet for online ebook

John Marsh says

One perfect red rose, a one-way ticket to Stockholm, and a cryptic "message" consisting of two Latin words intrigue art historian Vicky Bliss—as they were precisely intended to do. Beautiful, brilliant and, as always, dangerously inquisitive, Vicky recognizes the handiwork of her former lover, the daring jewel thief John Smythe. So she takes the bait, eagerly following Smythe's lead in the hope of finding a lost treasure.

First book I have read of Elizabeth Peters. Her character Vicky Bliss has interest. But hard to fathom. She appears to like the casual relationship approach and also has this love / hate thing with John Smythe the both gentlemanly and yet conniving and at times bumbling and others very deft, well planned out and cunning character,. Vicky in a serious way is hooked into him enough to be manipulated by John and yet also resist him. And as well have an eye for other potential partners.

So Vicky and John are each in their own way characters of contrasts.

The trail of the priceless fifth century chalice goes no where and is based on just a possibility. Others with an axe to grind against John get involved which placed Vicky at the mercy of a gang of ruthless criminals who have their eyes on an illegal, forceful and impromptu excavation. John's demise is part of what the treasure hunters want to avenge past real and imagined wrongs thus turning things deadly on a remote island, where the previous two items were discovered when toiling the soil. Vicky is lured by John's devious plan to the island of the discovered treasure. The gang temporarily annex the island, take Gus the owner hostage (And Gus was the initial problem for John as he was not interested in having his land excavated thus he created a family historical link to Gus including Victory to help persuade Gus) When the gang come they make Vicky and John captives The whole endeavour was a complete non starter for all the criminals involved and started unbeknown to the gang to unravel from the get go as the villagers were suspicious when the servants were suddenly send away on leave. And the kind of project would take many months and often years. And returns, maybe none. Thus one gang maniac gets killed trying to kill John and Vicky as they make their escape from the island with Gus the owner. The others are all caught. All set in Sweden thus some interesting historical and cultural information

Lynne-marie says

The trouble with having been in love with a daring jewel thief is that you're easily set up as if to reacquaint yourself with him and instead find yourself in the hands of brigands. Ever happen to you? Well you probably aren't a voluptuous blond so beautiful that you can't get people to take your impressive academic credentials seriously, are you? Vicky Bliss, to our good fortune, is all those things, including, in this volume in an outstanding pickle, which may have put her in need of saving, things are looking so bad. I've seldom enjoyed a series more or guffawed less politely as I read myself to sleep at night. Happily so.

Gail says

I didn't enjoy this Nearly as much as the Peabody Series!!!!

Stephanie Mohler says

Why am I reading these?

Andree says

Default 3 stars. Found a copy of this, and it fulfills a 2018 Reading Challenge prompt, so I figured I'd give it a try.

I think I need to resign myself to being an outlier when it comes to this series.

1. I grant that I would never be adventurous enough to go on a mysterious vacation just for the chance to meet up with a thief I'd met a few times and quite liked (I would be a terrible heroine in a suspense novel - I'm far too risk-averse); however, if I ever did decide to travel to another country to clandestinely meet up with a gentleman criminal, I'd like to think that I'd at least have the good sense not to call out to him by name (or at least well known alias) while he was in disguise at a crowded airport. Bad sign that one chapter in I was already shaking my head at Vicky. I mean, she's certainly self-sufficient and brave and occasionally entertaining, but sometimes, just *really*?
2. This whole book is essentially (view spoiler)
3. I have very low tolerance for any combination of "I am not telling you this for your own safety" or "I shall tell you later at a better time," in scheme-related narratives.
4. I have heard that Sir John and Vicky are fun. I might come to that conclusion myself if they were ever allowed to interact with each other for longer than a half a page when not in mortal peril.
5. Schmidt was the best part of this for me.

2018 Reading Challenge - A book with your favourite colour in the title (I probably don't have a single favourite colour - I like several - but red is one of the contenders, so...)

Hannah says

#3 in the series, and John & Vicky are in true form! I'm so happy these are as fun and frothy as I remember them.

Renee M says

3.5 Vicky and John are like Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant in Charade, only blonde. I love the screwball comedy/mystery/romance of it all. And this one is set in Sweden! With plenty of bad guys, a bit of a treasure hunt, dash of danger, plenty of wit, and a fickle feline. Lots of escapist fun!

Lois Bujold says

More Vicky Bliss, whisking us off this time to exotic 1970s Sweden. I am going to end up reading all of these this week, I can tell, my public library making them all instantly available to my tablet.

Ta, L.

Gerry says

Having had this book on my to read shelf for some time I was quite pleased when I decided to pull it out and proceed.

What a mistake; it is dull and uninteresting from first page to last. The storyline is so poor that I struggled to come to terms with it (perhaps that says more about me than about the book) and although there are passages of good descriptive writing they do not add up to making the book a good, and understandable, read.

Vicky Bliss is a boring character, her co-conspirators and opponents are no better, and what the heck she is doing in chasing around Stockholm and remote islands is beyond me. I am therefore afraid I am unable to comment on the tale because I am not sure of its purpose.

It was far from a blissful experience and one that I do not think I will be repeating despite Elizabeth Peters' good reputation for great entertainment.

Teri-K says

This may be my favorite of the Vicky Bliss stories. It's that great, almost old-fashioned combo of mystery, adventure and romance, though it's very light on the romance. Peters generally manages a bit of humor, too which is always welcome. Worth reading or rereading.

Alison says

I keep trying to like the Vicky Bliss series and I just can't. This is essentially a kidnapping plot mystery with a twist and it's objectively pretty well done. I liked that aspect of it, and it's why I didn't rate it lower than 3 stars.

What I disliked was the relationship between Vicky and Sir John, and it baffles me that this is what intrigues most fans. They are, quite simply, terrible to each other. I think it's meant to be "quippy" and perhaps the dialogue is just dated...but what I read is an almost continuous stream of disrespect or abuse. They're being mean and pretending that it's flirting. This is not a relationship to be fantasized about or to aspire to.

Katie says

["Most heroines (in which category I account myself, of course) pick up handsome, dashing heroes as they pass through their varied adventures. I seem to be building up a collection of critical grandpas." (hide spoiler)]

Gina says

Finding a good cozy can be a bit like panning for gold. You have to go through a lot of grit to find a nugget worth keeping. Elizabeth Peters' books are those nuggets.

I fully admit I'm biased. I've loved the Elizabeth Peters books since I stumbled across them in elementary school. Vicky's my favorite of her heroines, and Silhouette is a close second to my all-time favorite, Trojan Gold.

Silhouette has wit and charm. Are parts of it well, maybe a bit implausible? Yeah, probably, but for me, that just adds to the charm. It every so subtly parodies the great romances (in the adventurous sense, not the Harlequin sense) while at the same time praising them.

Gigi says

I fell in love with the Vicky Bliss mystery series during high school, and rereading the books is like curling up on a cozy couch with an old friend -- if that old friend brings intrigue, adventure, foreign travel, a puzzling mystery, and romance all in one package.

Silhouette in Scarlet isn't one of Elizabeth Peters' most clever mysteries (she writes some absolutely brilliant ones), but it's one of my favorites because it's a mad-cap adventure that features John Smythe at his roguish best.

Jennifer says

Listened to the Recorded Books cassette edition. Not as good as *Street of the Five Moons* but better than *Borrower of the Night*. I wish I could give it 3 1/2 stars - that would really be more accurate. Looking forward to listening to the next one in the series. The tone of these very much reminds me of the TV show *Remington Steele* and John Smythe as the charming, international art thief brings things awfully close. Since I believe the TV series came later, I wonder if the producers had read these at all.
