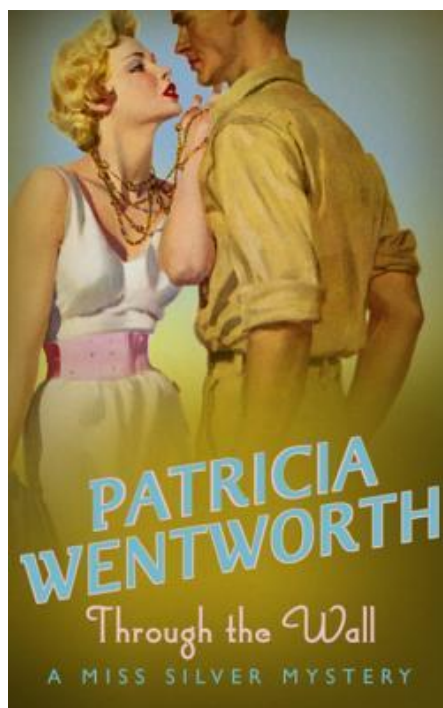




Through the Wall

Patricia Wentworth

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Most of Marion's relations would prefer her dead, and one of them will not stop at murder ...

Through the Wall Details

Date : Published March 19th 1998 by Not Avail (first published 1945)

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Author : Patricia Wentworth

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From Reader Review Through the Wall for online ebook

Eric says

Better than average Miss Silver, with two romances and two suitably unpleasant murderesses and one very nasty murderer. Add a dash of blackmail, an interesting old house, a large inheritance and as Miss Silver says, a dangerous brew of "hatred- jealousy-spite- wounded affection-resentment-deep unhappiness", and you have a most enjoyable afternoon's reading.

3.5stars.

Kathy says

Patricia Wentworth is at her best when writing the Miss Silver mysteries. She rescues the tale from being merely a love-story disguised as a mystery by adding in observations on human behavior, as well as a touch of (sometimes inadvertant) humor.

Emma L. Pierce says

As usual,a good book

I always enjoy reading a Miss Silver mystery and this was no disappointment . Could not quite figure out who the murder was until the end.

Jan P says

I discovered Wentworth's Miss Silver mysteries several years ago and was hooked from the beginning. The books were written in the earlier part of the 20th century and are based in England. There is always a murder involved and family strife as a rule. Miss Silver, a retired schoolteacher, with her knitting always close at hand comes in to solve the crime. It's a more homespun type of writing than Agatha Christie but if you like this type of English noir, I recommend this book and all in the series for a great whodunit.

Allison Henle says

My favorite of the series! The male love interest is merely a cipher, but the remaining characters are vividly and compassionately sketched.

Amanda says

Marian Brand, who has been working hard to support her mopey sister and her ne'er do well brother in law,

has a very...interesting day. First, she finds out she has inherited a house, some unpleasant relatives, and an income of about £2000 per year. Then, her train crashes, and she spends 2 hours trapped in the wreckage with a fellow passenger.

Weeks later, she moves into the house, with the unpleasant relatives, who are all angry she got the house and the cash. Her brother-in-law is also pissed that his wife was left nothing. All these people are aware that if Marian dies, half her income will go to mopey Ina, and half will go back to the family.

Felix, one of the Brand family, is crazed with jealousy over a very pretty singer, who is being blackmailed. Penny, who is only distantly related to the family, is eating her heart out with love for Felix and resentment of Helen and how badly she treats him. And there's the matter of the blackmail.

It's quite an unhappy house, due to all the envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness in the air. Murder is inevitable. Luckily, Miss Silver is nearby, ready to come to the rescue.

Lynda says

Love the Miss Silver mysteries.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Through the Wall (Miss Silver #19), Patricia Wentworth

Starry says

If you enjoy reading mystery novels of the "cozy" genre, like those by Agatha Christie and Ngaio Marsh, you'll love this book. But to me, this novel, published in 1950, exemplifies everything I dislike about the cozy genre.

Things I dislike about the cozy genre of mystery novels (with apologies to the many people who enjoy these books):

1. It's actually a romance novel -- though a very prim romance novel -- disguised as a mystery. (Note: if my library copy had come with the cover shown above, I probably would have known this wasn't the book for me. Sometimes you CAN judge a book by its cover).
2. The intelligence of the pre-WW2 mysteries has been replaced by sentimentality, and the author focuses less on the puzzle and more on "characterization", which usually means coming up with some quirky locals to try to differentiate this book from all others just like it.
3. Because it's a sentimental romance disguised as a mystery, you can usually narrow down who-done-it within the first few chapters: there will be a sweet young couple, modest and moral, with a budding romance. One, or both, will be framed or appear guilty due to circumstances. They will spend a large chunk of the text selflessly protecting each other from being found out, even though they know the other isn't guilty. As soon as you meet the young people in love, you can be ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN that they are not the culprits,

just suspects.

4. Even though the novel is sure to have a twist or two way at the end, you can usually figure out who did in the first chapters once you've narrowed down that it isn't our young lovers or the other stock characters outlined below. Key rule: no one you like (or who likes our young lovers) is the murderer.

Other stock characters:

A. The eccentric rich person, disliked by many people; often ends up as the victim

B. A rude, immoral, loud, beautiful, flamboyant, possibly famous "red herring"; often a house-guest or relative of above rich person; often ends up as the main suspect until the twist at the end. Although the police suspect our young lovers, you the readers are supposed to suspect this person. Don't.

C. The devoted servant, usually quirky. This person may also be a primary suspect. However, if he/she is devoted to our young lovers, then he/she is not the perpetrator.

D. The surprisingly well-educated detective/police chief, whom the whole class-conscious cast of characters is surprised to find so educated (good characters either like him or are awed by him; bad characters can't stand him). He is often a kindly advocate for our young lovers. This character solves the mystery unless there is an amateur sleuth (see F). Amateur sleuth always trumps well-educated detective.

E. The pig-headed police officer (underling to above detective/chief) who bullies and pesters and suspects our young lovers. He is a foil to our well-educated detective (or amateur sleuth) because he is always several steps behind in seeing or understanding the clues.

F. An alternative (or addition, as in this novel) to our well-educated detective is the unlikely amateur sleuth with unconventional sleuthing methods. This person does not look like a detective (eg, an old lady), so he/she is able to get the scoop and make our pig-headed police officer look stupid. Also always an advocate for our young lovers.

G. A cat. Oh, I really hate it when cozy novels include a quirky cat in their panel of characters. This novel is especially gruesome because said cat is a good judge of characters (eg, likes our young lovers). You can be certain that the murderer is among the people our cat dislikes.

5. These are novels for people who see the world in black and white. Good and evil are very clearly differentiated, and good always triumphs (okay, I like that aspect of the mystery genre). Romantic love always triumphs too -- the final scene is our young lovers reunited and happily planning a future together (which I wouldn't mind if the romance were secondary to the plot, which it isn't; this novel has some nauseatingly sappy passages). If the murderer is completely unrepentant (eg, is "caught in the act" when the detective sets a trap [often recreating the scene of the crime]; is angry and/or violent when caught), he/she will be carted off to jail. But if the murderer is at all repentant or had a difficult past that explains his/her action or in any other way might pull at your heart-strings, then: (1) our amateur sleuth might let them escape to America or in some other way avoid punishment by distancing self, (2) the detective or the amateur sleuth might knowingly allow the murderer to kill himself/herself thus avoiding jail/death penalty or other exposure, or (3) the murderer is killing himself/herself as his/her identity is being revealed, thus making it impossible for our saddened detective/amateur sleuth to step in and prevent this sobering but just end to a bad life.

Joanne McPortland says

All the very best parts of a Miss Silver mystery. And not too much coughing!

Eileen says

I have enjoyed all of Patricia Wentworth 's books that I have read so far. I will be sorry to finish the Miss Silver books but I found there a few others. Miss Silver is quite a dear old lady but one must n't think she is not to be reckoned with. The other characters in her books are always different but based on the times in that period of which she writes.

CAROL says

Love

Love her and love her stories. Can't wait to read more of her stories. Wish I lived in that time period and had a friend like Miss Silver

Mary says

It is so much different reading British novels of mystery. And this story was pretty wordy, but I liked the clean, crisp story line and good description and personality of each character. It kept you guessing all along as to who would murder Helen Adrian and why. The story starts with the main characters as Marian and Richard, who happened to become acquainted during a train wreck. They were pinned in the train in the dark and seemed to bond during the experience. She confided in him and as she ventured on a new circumstance in life, he joined in and became part of it, even the murder investigation that came about at her new home. It is a good read but takes some patience to keep waiting for the mystery to be solved.

Judy says

I love a good old fashioned mystery with a genteel older lady detective, and this one ticks all the right boxes. Miss Silver is gentle, although not a push over, and the main characters are nice people you are pleased to see get ahead, while the nasty people are truly nasty. In addition there is a sweet romance. This one features a young woman who has struggled all her life, supporting herself and her ailing sister, along with the sister's actor husband. Suddenly she finds she has inherited the fortune of an uncle she did not know, along with his house and the relatives he has been supporting for years. Fortunately the house was originally two houses, and can be split once again by locking a few doors, so the importunate relatives are at least not living in her half of the house. Sadly, that doesn't keep murder from entering the scene, but with Miss Silver's help, the murders are solved and most everyone lives happily ever after. This is one of a long series featuring Miss Silver, but if this one is anything to go by, they can be read independently, so I'll be looking for more of them.

Mary Sue says

Another charming Miss Silver mystery. Who is the killer? Why? coupled with a love story.

Sep says

A fairly twisty mystery embedded with red herrings. Hard working Marian Brand is the sole heir to her late uncle's estate. There is a lot of money 1950 style (2000 pounds a year!) and a house. The house used to be two houses and was neatly joined years before. By the locking of a few doors, it has again become two houses.

Sadly, all of the other possible and disappointed heirs are in one half. Marian, her sister and her sister's lazy husband move into the other one, but who to trust? Fortunately, Marian has met Richard Cunningham in the most romantic train wreck ever.

Blackmail and murder abound, but Miss Silver is on the scene. This book is unique in that there is an appearance of Miss Silver's favorite niece, Ethel Burkett and Ethel's daughter, Little Josephine.

Laura says

Reminiscent of the formidable Miss Marple...

Without being an insipid clone.

I am very interested in reading more of Miss Silver's insights into human nature and in becoming acquainted with more of the characters who inhabit her world.

Katie Hilton says

A very good Miss Silver mystery. A young woman inherits a fortune and house from an uncle she didn't know. The house is inhabited by a collection of distant cousins, several of whom are angry that they weren't remembered in the will. Murder ensues, but Miss Silver untangles the situation.

Nancy says

A perfectly satisfactory visit with Miss Silver.

Sherry says

A cozy, period mystery but Miss Silver is astute & insightful as usual!
