



The Puzzle of the Silver Persian

Stuart Palmer

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Crusty schoolteacher / sleuth Hildegard Withers can't escape mysterious deaths even on a trans-Atlantic crossing on an ocean liner. En route to England she spends part of her time (when not feeling queasy) sizing up her fellow passengers. Her intuition helps when passengers and crew start dropping over the side, or just dropping, period.

The Puzzle of the Silver Persian Details

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Author : Stuart Palmer

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From Reader Review The Puzzle of the Silver Persian for online ebook

Kasey Wilson says

A fun mystery set on a boat.
That's all I got for this one.

Susan says

Beautiful young Rosemary thinks she's disgraced herself forever on her trip to England on the American Diplomat. There's nothing to do about it but jump into the cold ocean. Or--is there? Some of the people she feels humiliated her die suddenly. Was Rosemary really murdered? Were some of the deaths accidental? And why are excerpts from Rosemary's diary showing up in anonymous letters? Miss Hildegarde Withers was too seasick to pay much attention to what happened on shipboard, but once the crowd hits London, she's in there detecting with Scotland Yard. Not the best of this series, perhaps.

Bev says

In The Puzzle of the Silver Persian, Stuart Palmer takes the indomitable Hildegarde Withers--schoolteacher and amateur sleuth--on a vacation to England via the S. S. American Diplomat. She's hoping to get away from crime for a while and recover from her last adventure--a rather ghastly one for her in which she was instrumental in sending a couple to the gallows. But before the passengers go ashore in England one young woman has disappeared, suicide or thrown overboard?, and the suspect in her disappearance is dead from cyanide. The police seem willing to believe that the bartender killed the girl and then himself, but Miss Withers isn't so sure. And when threatening notes begin showing up and more deaths follow, it would seem that she was right to be doubtful. It isn't until she visits the Cornwall castle home of two of her fellow passengers and understands the clue left by Tobermory, the silver Persian cat in question, that the puzzle is finally unraveled.

Miss Withers is a bit out of her element in this one. She suffers from sea sickness which throws her off her balance--and then, of course, in England she doesn't have the trust in her abilities that she enjoys from Detective Piper back home. But the Scotland Yard men soon learn that Hildegarde knows her stuff and can, as she says, smell murder, and it doesn't take her too long to find her sea legs on board ship and get her bearings in England. The humor generally found in Palmer's work is very much in evidence--I particularly like the way he works the titular feline into the story (without making things too cutesy) and he also introduces a rather depressed robin by the name of Dicon. Both will be very important to the solving of the mystery. There are plenty of clues for the observant reader to pick up in this rather fine vintage mystery. Three and a half stars.

This was first posted on my blog My Reader's Block. Please request permission before reposting. Thanks.

Denise Kearney says

I Book- \$1.99. 3.5 stars Miss Withers helps solve mysteries with many twists and turns

Manuel Alfonseca says

SPANISH: Interesante novela policíaca, aunque debo decir que el gato del título desempeña un papel bastante secundario. Fui capaz de detectar quién era la persona que había cometido los crímenes antes que la señorita Hildegarde Withers. Aunque eso normalmente le habría quitado interés a la obra, el autor casi consiguió engañarme, moviéndome a descartar a esa persona justo antes del final, pero después de todo resultó que yo sí había acertado :-)

ENGLISH: Interesting mystery novel, although I must say that the cat in the title has just a rather secondary role. I was able to detect who was the murderer before Miss Hildegarde Withers. Although this usually would have destroyed my interest, the author almost managed to deceive me, by moving me to discard that person just before the end, but after all it turned out that I had been right :-)

Shirley says

great mystery

Jeffrey Marks says

I enjoyed the book, as I do many of the Palmer stories, but the plot was a cliché that immediately pointed out the guilt of the murderer. An interesting twist on an impossible crime though.

Jessi says

This is the first book I've read in this series and, while I think it would have been nice to know more history on Hildegarde Withers, it wasn't absolutely necessary to understand the whole story. Miss Withers is not enjoying her reward from the last case, a trip overseas. But she is having major seasickness and misses the excitement on board. A well-known heiress is on board and one of her tablemates plays a rather cruel trick on her. She had disappeared into a closet, supposedly with a married man, and he gifts her with a reminder of her embarrassment. Later that night, Miss Withers is on deck, sees the girl, and when she turns around, the heiress is gone. Off the boat in the middle of the sea. But was it suicide? Or murder? The English police assume the former. There's nothing to suggest murder and it's just easier to close the case. But then the barman dies. And the rest of the people at the table that night start getting threats that arrive in black-edged (funereal) envelopes. There's another murder before Miss Withers can figure out the solution. But she does. An interesting story and I'm definitely interested in following more of the series.

Ronald says

read some time in 1991

Susanne says

The mystery may not have been the best, but it's an enjoyable read, full of interesting historical tidbits from when the easiest and most economical way to visit Britain from the US was by ship. And an extra star for the Silver Persian himself, who plays an important role in the story. Which was the whole reason I picked up the book in the first place. Mystery with a cat? I'm there! :)

Kate says

For my full review click on the link below:
<https://crossexaminingcrime.wordpress...>
