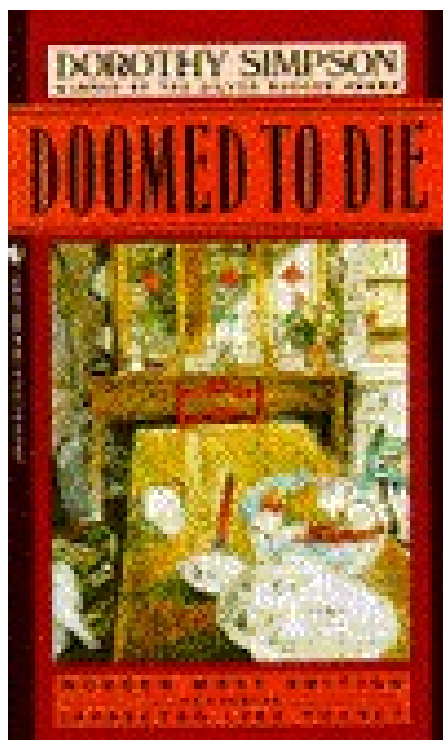




Doomed to Die

Dorothy Simpson

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Detective Inspector Luke Thanet investigates the murder of diminutive artist Perdita Master and discovers that Perdita's secret life could have cost her her life. Reprint. *PW*.

Doomed to Die Details

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Author : Dorothy Simpson

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From Reader Review Doomed to Die for online ebook

Tamsen says

This was a good one; I really enjoyed the descriptions of the paintings and homes, and this was maybe the first murder victim that I would have really enjoyed "meeting" alive. I think my enjoyment of this one had a lot to do with my recent reading of the latest Cormoran Strike book (a series that, in my opinion, has really gone downhill...) but perhaps I only think that because of this Inspector Thanet series. Simpson's mysteries are quite different than Rowling's. Of course, Rowling is master character writer, but ultimately I believe I might prefer Simpson. Her books are short, but deliver, her execution is swift but encompassing, and there is something sweet about her books set across so many years of Thanet's life. I like that "murder most British" happens only every so often, so that when Thanet is called to a case, his life is always changing a bit (his kids getting older, his relationships with others shifting, changes on the force). It is comforting in a way.

That said, I remain on the edge of my seat... when do you think DNA will really be a contributing factor to this police procedural?! How much will it change everything? PS I had an idea for a new Thanet book, set today, where Thanet realizes he mistakenly arrested the wrong man. He and a team of forensic scientists put the murderer away, finally achieving justice. On the side, Thanet has lost his beloved wife Joan and his children petition him to seek a second marriage. Simpson: you're welcome. Use it.

Nancy says

I skimmed this book. A young woman was killed in the home of a friend for whom she was babysitting - being a nanny. The friend, a solicitor, knocked the woman out because she left the children alone, but the nanny's step-father, who, when she was living at home, abused her, and ended up killing her. Slow moving British mystery. Ok, but I wasn't in the mood for it.

Nancy says

I purchased a "pile" of Dorothy Simpson books and have been trying to bond with Inspector Thanet---it was an unsuccessful endeavor up to this point, but I loved this book.

Yes, it is a mystery. And, a rather routine "police procedural" from some perspectives, but it is also a psychological drama with a lot of human interest. The characters are much more complex and compelling than the other Simpson books I've read and I found myself really drawn in to the life of the deceased artist.

I am not sure if this novel is really more interesting than the others I've read, or if I am just more accepting of the author's style and the very low key, somewhat plodding, approach of her detective team. But, there was a humanity--and a tragedy-- to this book that really drew me in.

Lauren Albert says

I'm afraid that Thanet's "leaping" conclusions at the end just don't feel tied up after his explanations to his wife.

Pat says

Thanet never disappoints.

As always a good read. This one was somewhat different. I think I sometimes feel much sympathy for the murderer in this series but not this time!

Peggy H. Olson says

It was very well written and kept you guessing who was the murderer. I like a book where you think you have figured it out and of course you really haven't

This is the first of Simpson's books that I have read and it won't be the last. Thank you for putting this series on Goodreads

Sara Aye Moungh says

Found this on a bookshelf at home. Couldn't remember reading it so took it down to read. Very good . Will look out for more.

John R. Goyer says

I really enjoy reading these volumes - another good story with lots of human interest and a good plot. The ending seemed a bit hard to figure, in that we really weren't given enough information to figure it out and even our good inspector solved the mystery in a dream supposedly - very emotional ending and not at all what I expected - satisfying but very sad...

Kate says

The cover and format of the book screams "cozy mystery" so I was surprised that it addressed head on a gravely serious subject. Dorothy Simpson's books can't be easily pigeonholed: they aren't gory or intense like Gillian Flynn's thrillers, but they aren't exactly light reading, either.

The characters inspire some interest and sympathy, but they are still somewhat shallowly developed, as if Thanet is getting a mere glimpse into their lives (which he is.) The same seems to hold for his personal life. Family life occupies a reasonable amount of Thanet's time. The lives of the families he investigates have interesting, though simplistically defined, problems. While Simpson seems to have a good understanding of human nature, her characters do not stand out as individual or quirky. Thanet is a sober man who takes his job seriously and empathizes for the victims and survivors of the murders he solves.

Lana L Fiems says

A whole series

I have been reading, in order, the Luke thanet series. Dorothy Simpson writes a good mystery, the setting in Kent gives back nice atmosphere. I find it strange that as someone who loves English mysteries I had never read Simpson. Glad that I discovered them, even if 20 years late.

Cyndy says

Sleepy cozy

Likeable characters but the pace made it feel interminable. No big surprises and lacking in both suspense and intrigue, although it is written well enough.

Ruth says

Couldn't get to sleep last night! Read the whole thing. I can probably stop reading these now, but it's been kind of fun visiting an "old" author and they are very recreational reading.

Donna says

These are nice little mysteries set in the 80's. The main inspector is a happily married man with two imperfect children. He spends long hours at work & therefore chooses to tell his wife about his cases so she feels part of it all. His partner is rather stiff & has a stiffer mother, then wife. They work well together & are very organized. There's no gratuitous violence, no sex, no cussing & that's a good thing. The author doesn't waste words or our time, she gets on with it. I like that each night the inspector goes home to his family, that they share their lives & struggles with the reader. It's what kept me reading all of them up to the final four. The final four had a serious price increase over the first 14 or so, why I don't know. I've sadly resolved not to read those as a result.

Jane Glen says

Perfect mystery series. Good characters, fine investigative work, and interesting plot lines. A nice go-to when I need something quick and relatively light (but not frivolous.)

Damaskcat says

Perdita Master is found murdered at the house of a friend where she is looking after her friend's children temporarily. She has just told her jealous and possessive husband that she wants a divorce. DI Luke Thanet and DS Mike Lineham must try and weed out the suspects. There's her husband, his mother, her lover and his wife for starters. Perdita, in spite of the fact that she was very quiet and apparently inoffensive, appear to have upset rather a lot of people in her short life.

This is a well written and intriguing mystery. I didn't work out who had murdered her so it came as a shock to me when the killer was revealed. Thanet himself has to balance work and home as his mother in law is ill. Draco - the fiery superintendent - obviously has something on his mind and lacks his usual verve and vigour.

This is a well written series of police procedural crime novels and if you enjoy crime novels which do not contain lots of graphic violence and bad language then you will probably will enjoy the series. The books can be read as a standalone novels but are probably better read in the order in which they were published.
