



Last Seen Alive

Dorothy Simpson

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While Alicia was a schoolgirl a jilted boyfriend had killed himself, and her parents had moved from Kent. When she turns up after twenty years she is welcomed back although nobody knows why she has returned. Within hours Inspector Thanet has to investigate her murder.

Last Seen Alive Details

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Author : Dorothy Simpson

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From Reader Review Last Seen Alive for online ebook

Joy says

It seems someone held a grudge against Alicia Doyle for 20 years; the day she showed her nose in Sturrenden once more, she was strangled to death. An elegant, secretive woman, the only thing she told anyone was that she had plans to meet someone. It is up to Inspector Thanet to unravel the tragedy of Alicia and her crowd, the stars of Thanet's old school. Author Simpson pulls it off again - with psychology and remarkably few clues she finally leads us to a moving ending.

My Favorite Contemporary Mystery reread of 2018

Read 2 times

Damaskcat says

Alicia Parnell hasn't been back to Sturrenden since she left with her family twenty years ago. Within hours of her arrival she is found strangled in her hotel room. Before she left, her jilted boyfriend had committed suicide - has someone taken their revenge after all this time? DI Luke Thanet and DS Mike Lineham must dig deep into the past to find where the seeds of the tragedy started to germinate.

This is a thoughtful and thought provoking mystery which has an all too human tragedy at its heart. I found it poignant and moving when the truth is actually revealed. I had worked out part of the solution though not all of it. I thought the characters were well drawn and I could believe in their motivations.

Dorothy Simpson is an underrated writer in the crime genre in my opinion and deserves to be better known. Her characters are well drawn and her plots are complex and interesting. The series can be read in any order.

Holly says

I think this is my favorite book, so far, in the series. In this one, we find a woman that has been murdered in a hotel. She used to live in Sturrenden but nobody has seen her for 20 years. Not since her then boyfriend committed suicide. The thing with these mysteries, is you kind of know who the killer is but at the same time, you really don't care. At least, I don't. I like the way they're written, I like the characters, and I enjoy "watching" the mystery unfold. I've said this before, they are very reminiscent of Agatha Christie. I'm finished with the 5th book in the series and I still can't wait to read the rest.

**Thank you to the publisher and Netgalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Marybeth says

Another great Inspector Thanet novel, this time tied to the theme of parents and children. I still enjoy the

interactions between the inspector and Lineham, which were more centralized this time than some of the other books. The way the characters continue to grow older, rather than staying static, makes it feel more like they're real people. I actually figured out who dunnit about the same time as Thanet. The way the clues were laid out was cleverly done, plus plenty of red herrings to distract the attention, too. Will be picking up the next in the series as soon as I can get a copy.

Chet says

Twists and turns

I like Inspector Thanet and his partner. This should be a good series. The ending was weak to me. I couldn't tell if their conclusion to the murder was right or not. I thought Rain's confession was true or not. Several other characters could have been the murderer and Rain was protecting family.

Laura says

This was a quick read and hard to put down. Simpson's very concise writing really gets to the core of the mystery - and the characters - quickly. There aren't a lot of clues here, but the book is well written and there are twists right through to the last page. I think this is the strongest installment in this series.

Bonnye Reed says

GNAb I received a free electronic copy of this novel from Netgalley, Dorothy Simpson and Open Road Integrated Media in exchange for an honest review. This novel was originally published December 1988 by Penguin. Thank you for sharing your hard work with me.

A Dorothy Simpson novel is always a good choice for an entertaining read. Her mysteries stay nicely hidden until she is ready for you to figure them out, Her characters are interesting and very completely known by the reader, and you will always feel good about the way things end. Last Seen Alive is excellent, a novel I can highly recommend to friends and family. As always, Ms. Simpson delivers.

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Open Road Integrated Media

Jeannine Stewart says

The 5th book in the Inspector Thanet mysteries and my first time reading the series. This is a well plotted and developed police procedural with lots of red herrings and a twist in the end. Set in a small village outside of London, Inspector Thanet and his partner are called to the scene of a murder at a local hotel. Thanet, who

grew up in the village, recognizes the victim as a beautiful girl, and one of a group of popular teens, who left the village twenty years ago and returned for one night only to be murdered. Many secrets are unlocked in their search for the murderer and motive. Fast read.

Andrew says

I just binge read 5 of Dorothy Simpkins Detective Thanet series. The first being "Six Feet Under". This the 5th of the series.

My review will be the same for all 5 that I read. I don't like to recap what happened in the book. We can all read the blurb on the jacket, or online versions. I find it much more important to tell you, the potential reader, what I liked and why or what I disliked and why.

What i liked:

Detective Thanet is a fully realized character. We find out that he hates the first contact with a corpse. There is a mixture of anger and empathy. He often wonders if this makes him ineffective detective. We get a chance to see his family life. His wife and two children. We see the struggles and joys of a normal family. Adds a distinct layer to his character.

There are only 2 other recurring characters, Doc Mallard, the curmudgeonly coroner, and DS Lineham, Thanet's partner who has two strong women in his life, his mother and his wife. They aren't as fully realized as characters but we gather enough information to relate to them.

The tedious work of interviewing and writing reports is frequently related. Since this is a vital aspect of police work we are given an insight to the working life of the police.

The interaction between characters works well. Suspects getting annoyed with the interruptions to their lives. Family members being interviewed shortly after the murder. The difficult job the police have in doing their investigation.

Dorothy Simpson makes the whole process seem real.

What I don't particularly appreciate. One caveat is that reading all 5 books in a row these "problems" are amplified.

There is a formula that is followed in each book. The finding of the body. the early interviews, the lack of forensic evidence, secondary interviews, the insights that lead to the murderer. Connections to evidence is lacking.

As I stated this becomes more apparent when reading one after the other.

I would like to thank the Publisher, NetGalley, and the author for my copy in exchange for an unbiased review.

Jenna Victoria says

As always I find Titles In Dorothy Simpson's Inspector Luke Thanet's British police procedural series to be first-rate. So sad that illness forced her to stop writing altogether. A mystery reader's loss but of course wish her continued improved health.

Marilyn says

I think an earlier review of this series was spot on. It's nice to read a police procedural with a lead who has a normal private life. Dorothy Simpson also does a wonderful job of making you want to turn the page.

Sg.00 says

#5 in the series ~ very engaging and a quick read.

Susan says

This is the second Inspector Thanet book that I have read, and I felt that it was not as well written as the first. In book #4, the first I read, Thanet has a brilliant flash of insight to solve the whole crime, and I was okay with that, but when it happened in this book also, I start to assume that it's going to be the author's way of solving the crime in each book. Too hokey for me. Also, the dialogue was well-written in book #4. In this one, every time Thanet speaks to Lineham, he uses his name. Every Time. If I saw the word "Mike" one more time, I was going to scream.

Pat says

So nice to read about a nice and normal family.

I know not all families are nice but then not all families are horrible either. Thanet has a loving relationship with wife and children. I like the cerebral stories, not violent and psychologically insane people. I firmly agree with Thanet's last opinion on telling the secret. Only fair to the woman.

Joyce says

4 stars

Alicia Parnell was last seen in Sturrenden some twenty years earlier when her then boyfriend committed suicide. When she returned to the town, she is found murdered less than a day after her return.

DI Luke Thanet and DS Mike Lineham are on the case. Since Thanet knew Alicia from years ago when the attended school together, he finds himself enmeshed in his personal feelings about the victim.

After a few false starts and following some red herrings, Thanet and Lineham find the murderer.

What I like about these mysteries is the easy style in which they are written. They are a refreshing and cozy way to spend a rainy afternoon. They are well written and plotted and the suspense starts immediately and builds to a close, with surprises along the way. I especially enjoy the interactions between Thanet and his wife and children. They are a very pleasurable aside from the mystery side of the story and do not detract from the main telling of the story at all. Dorothy Simpson was a fantastic writer and it is sad to realize that she had to abandon her writing.

I want to thank Netgalley and Open Road Integrated Media for forwarding to me a copy of this great book to read.
