



## The Benevolent Treasure

*Patricia Wentworth*

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## **The Benevent Treasure** Patricia Wentworth

Invited to live with her two great-aunts, the Misses Cara and Olivia Benevent, Candida Sayle has no home of her own and accepts. But the offer takes on an eerie quality when the aunts recall the family legacy--the Benevent Treasure that brings death to all who touch it. When Candida becomes reacquainted with local architect Stephen Eversley, he worries for her safety and calls in Miss Silver. But she is already on the case, investigating the mysterious disappearance years earlier of a man who worked for the sisters, and knew a bit too much, perhaps, about the Benevent Treasure.

## **The Benevent Treasure Details**

Date : Published September 18th 1997 by Hodder Paperbacks (first published 1939)

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Author : Patricia Wentworth

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## From Reader Review The Benevent Treasure for online ebook

### **Janette says**

This is one of her best, a really great old mystery.

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### **Mo says**

I just could not connect with the main character Candida.

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### **Clara Benson says**

This started well and certainly held my interest until the end, but I'm not quite sure why Miss Silver's assistance was required, as there wasn't really much of a mystery and it was quite clear from the start what was going on. I did enjoy the entertainingly homicidal Miss Olivia.

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### **Andrea Hickman Walker says**

[I suspected the two old ladies at the boarding-house or whatever it was of being the great aunts as soon as I heard of their existence and wondered why they wanted Candida with them. I imagine they - well, Olivia at least - were not pleased that she had survived. And the idea that she wouldn't remember, or might've completely overlooked their names in the register or whatever it was. A very cool head on Miss Olivia. I was not expecting Joseph's

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### **Felicity says**

I had never heard of Patricia Wentworth before and I started off excited about finding another! British! 30s! Mystery writer! but then I read the entire book and realized that it was not a mystery at all (unless, I guess, you are considerably mentally disadvantaged and manage to miss the giant clues that she keeps hitting you over the head with) but instead is one of our old friends, a classic Women Fleeing Architecture Gothic Romance. And in fact there is actual architecture to be fled, although she doesn't do this quickly enough to avoid being tied up in a secret part of it. That right there is the problem with this book and so many of the genre: the old Amityville Horror conundrum, which is to say, if blood is running down the walls and a spectral voice is groaning geeeeetttt ooooouuuuuttt then anyone, I mean anyone, would get the fuck out and fast, too.

Well, the heroine here, when confronted with the world's creepiest relatives in the form of two identically dressed elderly great aunts who already tried to kill her once when she was a teenager (which she has, like, forgotten despite the fact that it's the whole first chapter of the book and where she gets saved for the first time by her True Love Dudley Do Right clone) doesn't leave the terrifying house. No, she hangs out in

Sketchyville, Creep Acres waiting to be murdered. Why? Why would she not leave like any sensible person? Because then there would be no plot, or, let's be honest, vague facsimile thereof.

Still, it's a fun read. Old British mystery/gothic writers could actually write and it all flies along nicely with little sharp sentences spiced with Wodehousian period slang, so, you know, ripping yarn, what?

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### **Susan says**

Atmospheric mystery. A bit slow in the middle but the last part of the book really took off and I enjoyed it very much.

Will have to say that having read a few Miss Silver mysteries, I found that she usually doesn't show up till half way or even near the end of a story to solve the mystery. She tends to take in all the information and does internal processing so the reader does not see her methods of how she comes to the conclusion. I find this all a bit frustrating. And that cough. From day one it got on my nerves.

The other characters in this book were interesting. Combined together made up for some interesting personality conflicts and contributions towards the crime.

I'm glad I read this but am sorry that as a reader I wasn't privy to Miss Silver's thought process on how she comes up with the solution to the many crimes she solves.

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### **Learnin Curve says**

26 in a series is long past when I would expect it to go off the boil, but no Wentworth found us yet another character to truly dislike and wish dead. Yes they are formulaic but who cares when you are checking the page number and complaining that someone isn't dead yet each time.

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### **Peggy says**

Another great book with Miss Silver. This book repeated itself often & rambled quite a bit. But Patricia Wentworth has another good murder mystery.

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### **chrisa says**

This was a fun, old-fashioned read. I enjoyed the twists and turns of the plot and the steadfastness of Ms. Silver.

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### **Nancy Oakes says**

Number 26 in the Miss Silver series.

If you fancy a good British mystery story and like little old ladies who can somehow remain unobtrusive yet solve the crime, then I would suggest you try this series.

The story begins with a short prelude. Here we meet Candida Sayle, who will become the main character in due time, who is then 15 and has gone to a seaside hotel to wait for a friend who is delayed. She decides to take a walk along the beach, and is told by two other guests at the place that it shouldn't be a problem since there won't be a high tide for another two hours. Well, as it turns out, they were wrong, and she finds out only too late when she is stranded on a cliff as the tide comes in. Along comes help, though, in the form of Stephen, who is out birdwatching and hears her cries for help.

Fast forward five years, and we now meet the older Candida, whose guardian-aunt has just died and left Candida with no prospects. So as luck would have it, she receives a letter from a great-aunt, the sister of her grandmother, inviting her to come and stay with her (Olivia) and her sister (Cara) at a house called Underhill. So off our heroine goes and almost immediately strange occurrences begin that end in murder. Luckily for all involved, Miss Silver just happens to be visiting a cousin in the area, but she is also there to investigate the disappearance some time back of a young man named Alan Thompson. Eventually the two storylines, of course, merge, making for one hell of a good mystery story. I would love to say more, but it would just spoil it for anyone else who wishes to read this book!

Miss Silver is no Miss Marple, but she does get the job done. People who like cozies would like her, but the prose is a bit wordy and a bit dated, so it might put off some readers. Overall, not too bad.

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### **Ahmad Sharabiani says**

The Benevent Treasure (Miss Silver #26), Patricia Wentworth

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### **smetchie says**

I obtained this actual edition with the creepy skele-hand on the cover!!

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### **Sherry says**

I think this one of Patricia Wentworth's best! Several intrigues & a host of characters!

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### **Isil says**

Une vieille dame qui s'immisce dans toutes les maisons, qui écoute les différents protagonistes qui gravitent autour d'un meurtre et qui finit par dénouer les fils de l'intrigue avant de désigner l'assassin, ça vous rappelle quelqu'un ? Eh bien miss Marple n'était pas la première vieille fille détective puisque miss Silver est apparue quelques années auparavant.

Ce n'est probablement pas un hasard si miss Marple l'a emporté auprès du public. Agatha Christie use de toutes sortes d'astuces pour que chaque intrigue ait l'air différent. Chez Patricia Wentworth, il y a moins de recherche et d'originalité et j'ai fini par ressentir une certaine lassitude au fil des livres. J'en ai lu beaucoup mais avec de moins en moins de plaisir.

En plus, c'est souvent long. Là où Christie s'attache avant tout à l'intrigue, miss Silver sert aussi d'entremetteuse dans chacune de ses affaires et les histoires d'amour sans intérêt et délayées rallongent inutilement.

Dans cet épisode, j'ai trouvé lassant que l'impression et le ressenti servent artificiellement aux personnages à justifier l'intrigue. Il ne se passe rien qui justifie leurs pressentiments permanents. C'est dommage car cela alourdit inutilement une histoire par ailleurs réussie. Même si j'avais deviné ce qui c'était passé assez vite (il faut dire que ça manque un peu de suspects), passé le premier tiers, je ne me suis pas ennuyée. L'intérêt n'est pas tant la recherche de l'assassin lui-même que la quête du trésor et comment les morts ont été tués. « Le trésor des Benevent » n'est pas le meilleur de la série. Néanmoins, les amateurs de "whodunit" et d'ambiance anglaise y trouveront leur compte.

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## **M. says**

The Benevent Treasure is best classified as a novel of suspense. There is a murder in the last quarter of the book, but by that point the reader is so engrossed in the goings on at Underhill that it really just serves to heighten the drama.

Underhill is the name of the ancient house in the English countryside built by Ugo di Benevento upon his arrival in Britain from Italy. It was in that house that he hid his treasure...and it is whispered that it remains there to this day. It is into this setting that Candida Sayle sets foot, the last in the line of the Benevents. Upon the invitation of her elderly aunts, she arrives at Underhill and almost immediately finds danger and intrigue. Something is very wrong at Underhill...

Patricia Wentworth has produced a great thriller that keeps the reader guessing. It has everything a good book or movie could want: a heroine, a hero, a romance, a sprawling old manse filled with secret passages and talk of treasure, strong supporting characters and tight plotting. Oh, Miss Silver is here, but she is more of a bystander than a direct participant in the action.

The ending is particularly satisfying as it took the form of those paragraphs some movies have letting the audience know what happened to the various characters months after the action ends. This should be utilized by more authors!

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## **Marjorie says**

One of the darker Miss Silver books.

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## **Jenn Ravey says**

Candida Sayle has one incredibly memorable event as a young girl. Invited to the coast with a friend's family but arriving before them, she asks about the tide. Two elderly women note her name and tell her the tide will not rise until 11 p.m. She walks upon the beach, only to be stuck on the cliff side when the tide begins to rise much earlier. Fearing death, she calls out for a time. Stephen Eversly happens to hear her and pulls her up to safety, though they cannot get back to the inn until the next morning. Much her senior, he protectively holds her until dawn.

This is one of the best openings to a book I've read in a long time, and though this particular motif (young woman stuck on the side of a cliff in danger of drowning) returns in several Wentworth books, it's particularly effective here. Plus, it's incredibly romantic, and I was so sad that it appeared Stephen and Candida would never meet again.

But five years later, a lot has changed. The last of Candida's relations has died, and she has no options until two great-aunts reach out, past a family dispute, to ask Candida to visit. Eccentric and co-dependent, the Misses Cara and Olivia Benevent make Candida uncomfortable, especially after she has a dream that these two women were the same who nearly drew her to her death on the coast five years earlier. As Candida sees more of her aunts and learns of the Benevent Treasure and its terrible curse, she becomes more and more afraid of the Benevent home and family.

As usual with a Miss Silver book, the star here is not Maud Silver. Instead, Wentworth writes a novel of characters: Candida, an innocent but intelligent young woman. Olivia Benevent, who I swear is very similar in demeanor to Mrs. Danvers in *Rebecca*. Cara Benevent, a poor soul who only wants love but who has been browbeaten by Olivia for so many years, she is withdrawn and skittish.

Miss Silver comes in - only when called and takes charge of the situation, knitting needles in hand, rising to the occasion in the final pages of the book. If you haven't read Miss Silver yet, don't let the knitting needles deter you. Yes, she knits with them, but mostly she uses them as a way to disarm her clients, who are usually hesitant to talk to her, whether it's because they feel silly or that they shouldn't discuss family business with a stranger.

Read this: and be prepared to be drawn into the wilds of England with missing secretaries, a mysterious legend, and a healthy dose of romance.

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## **Melissa says**

A number of lovely ladies from the cozy mystery group on Goodreads recommended reading Patricia Wentworth. They said, "If you like Agatha Christie's Miss Marple, you'll love Patricia Wentworth's Miss Silver." Well, having recently read a little Agatha Christie and quite enjoying it, I simply had to try Patricia Wentworth. These ladies were absolutely correct. I love Miss Silver and I adore Patricia Wentworth's writing. This was a fun mystery with eccentric aunts, a hidden treasure, and even a little romance. I will definitely be reading more Patricia Wentworth.

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### **Katie Hilton says**

An intriguing mystery involving an ancient British country home, a long-missing aide to two little old ladies, and their legendary treasure. Spoiler alert: the treasure is found, but not before tragedy strikes again.

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### **Robyn says**

Most of the Miss Silver mysteries aren't truly mysteries. You know who the killer or killers are right off the bat, the motive is pretty straightforward, and the method is clear before it even happens. They're also not thrillers, because there isn't any particular suspense. But I do enjoy them despite these things. I don't love them, but they're comforting and when I want to read a cozy British murder written between the 1920s and 1950s, but don't want to *reread*, they fit the bill. Agatha Christie is ever my preference if I'm rereading, but sometimes I want a story I don't know inside and out, in which case I can turn to Patricia Wentworth, because there are still over a dozen of her books I haven't gotten to yet. The early Miss Silvers are worlds better than the ones written later, and so this one should fall into the poorer category, but two things redeemed it: there weren't any truly terrible men either demanding that the heroine love them or getting her love despite his actually being an abusive prick; the treasure was a new detail to the series.

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