



The Alington Inheritance

Patricia Wentworth

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When 17-year-old orphan Jenny Hill discovers that she is the rightful owner of the Alington estate, she searches for the paperwork to prove it. When Jenny overhears her relatives plotting against her, she flees. It will take all of Miss Silver's wiles to cut this familial knot without getting hopelessly ensnared.

The Alington Inheritance Details

Date : Published August 1st 1996 by HarperPrism (first published 1958)

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Author : Patricia Wentworth

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From Reader Review The Alington Inheritance for online ebook

Lucy Takeda says

Poor cousin Jenny lives with an elderly governess and spends a lot of her time taking care of her cousins on the wealthy side. Governess dies suddenly, with her dying words suggesting poor young thing is actually an heiress.

This book was almost a parody of a typical romance novel. It was all right, but quite predictable.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

The Alington Inheritance (Miss Silver #31), Patricia Wentworth

Pat says

(Not really this ebook version, but the other isn't listed.)

Other reviewers note that this isn't a typical Miss Silver mystery, which is a good thing, because if this is what they're all like, I can't imagine why anyone reads her. A comfortable read, because it's evident that terrible things won't be happening to any of the likeable characters. HOWEVER, details are repeated and repeated and repeated. Miss Silver has to hear every conversation word for word, even if the reader's already experienced it; and that important letter gets repeated every single time it's mentioned.

Still, I'd like to try another; perhaps this really isn't the best place to start with Wentworth.

Busybee says

When seventeen year old Jenny Hill suddenly finds herself the rightful owner of Alington House, the current residents are none too happy. Then a murder is committed and detective Miss Silver steps in to discover a case of mistaken identity which helps lead to the killer.

I picked up this book because I knew the author had been very popular in the mid 20th century and is often suggested for fans of Agatha Christie. The plot of the Alington Inheritance was predictable and it was easy to stay two or three steps ahead of the story. The details of the murder are laid out for the reader so there is no doubt as to the villain. No whodunit here. There was a tremendous amount of repetition in the story, with entire narratives recounted several times and a steady stream of repetitive phrasing: "Georgiana had two sons, just the two," and "She couldn't do it. But she must. She had got to get away. She couldn't stay here and meet Mac – she simply couldn't do it. She had got to do it – just this once more." Perhaps this was simply a style of writing popular at the time, but I felt like I was swimming against a tide of excess verbiage.

Many of the attitudes expressed by characters in this book will be distasteful to modern readers: the stigma of illegitimacy clouds the view most villagers have of the main character and the murder victim is widely felt

to have deserved her fate simply because she was manipulative and unpleasant. However, the detective Miss Silver is shown to be intelligent and respected by her male counterparts in the police force.

I have no idea if this book is typical of Ms. Wentworth's writing. There must be a reason she was so popular in her day, but I didn't find it in *The Alington Inheritance*. So many people have compared Wentworth to Agatha Christie that I'm planning to give her another try.

Heather Culley says

I don't like when they tell you who the murderer is right away.

Lia Marcoux says

While a little more Gothic and repetitive than its contemporaries, I liked this book just fine! I'd read others by Wentworth (and given that this is 31st (!!)) in the series, they shouldn't be too hard to find).

Mo says

2 ½ stars

This was a bit different from most of the other books in this series. Miss Silver didn't show up until halfway through the book and seemed almost an afterthought. And this time she didn't solve the crime!

The story was just "ok". It didn't help that I didn't much care for the instant romance between a vulnerable, weepy, naive 17 year old girl and a man of 25... I thought it was a bit skeevy.

All the same, I am in a full-blown panic... there is only one more book in this series. Boo-hoo!

Bookworm1858 says

The Alington Inheritance by Patricia Wentworth

JB Lippincott Company, 1958

191 pages

Mystery; Miss Silver

2.5/5 stars

Source: Library

Summary: Jenny Hill has always been content as Jenny Hill; until she finds out that she is actually the natural daughter of her parents and is entitled to be Jenny Forbes and claim a property. But Mac Forbes, as

the current owner of that property who would be supplanted by her, will not let that happen.

Thoughts: I follow Meg Cabot's blog and she recommended the Miss Silver books by Patricia Wentworth for fans of Agatha Christie; well if you skim my archives, you'll see that I am a big fan and I'm currently involved in my own personal challenge to read all of her books so I was interested to give these a try. I went to my library's catalogue and this was the only book they had so I figured I'd give it a try.

This was not the best introduction to Ms. Wentworth's stories, I hope. First the murder does not happen until nearly halfway through the book and the murderer and motive are actually explained at the time of the murder. The only suspense is if the characters will figure it out, which I never doubted they would. So it fails as a mystery.

Then the writing, while enjoyable, is very repetitive. I read every piece of information at least twice although sometimes as many as five times. And it's not as if the words are varied; it is nearly word for word repeated. And it is not as if it happened in the beginning and then was explained at the end again; instead it happens and then is repeated something like two pages later. I ended up having to skim. I hope this is not indicative of Wentworth's other works because I would like to give some of the earlier Miss Silver books a try.

Another problem for me is that it takes place in 1958 and a huge part of the plot is whether someone is illegitimate (and thus not an heir to a piece of property) and the goings on of stereotypical small English villages. The first just seems so stupid to me in a time where it seems like so many people are having children out of wedlock and the latter is gossip women with no ambitions in life other than to gossip about each other.

The detective Miss Silver seems a bit Marpleish, which is good as I adore Miss Marple but she doesn't appear until almost halfway through the book. Jenny, the main character, is super lame. And most of the other characters don't have much personality. The most irksome part is the way everybody blames the victim of the murder: she deserved it because she had a strong personality and knew what she wanted (ugh, the attitudes about women that are sometimes expressed.)

Overall: Repetitive and without suspense. Not recommended.

Cover: My copy from the library did not have any cover but I like the purple and I find it funny that the author's name and the detective's are bigger than the title and thus more important/recognizable to the audience, presumably.

Digby says

Boring if one knows the murderer from the beginning.

Andrea says

The murderer in this case appears normally intelligent, but sets himself up in a fantastically stupid way (thanks, I guess, to his overweening arrogance). He may as well have flipped a coin with regards to what

happened with his note.

Sally says

This is the 31st of the 32 Miss Maud Silver series. It is an enjoyable cozy mystery. It doesn't seem to be as loaded with characters to keep straight as in many of others in the series, nor is the mystery particularly puzzling, but the story comes to a satisfactory resolution as I have come to expect from the Patricia Wentworth mysteries. Although this can be read as a stand-alone, the enjoyment of Miss Silver is enhanced by following her cases through the whole series.

Mary Sue says

Published in 1960, The Alington Inheritance is, in my opinion, in one of the best of the Miss Silver Mysteries.

Kay says

Good, solid Miss Silver, although a little slow ...

Learnin Curve says

Sagged heavily in the middle.

Amanda says

A departure from the author's norm, in that the reader knows all along who the criminal is and the tension comes from watching the other characters figure out what happened. I particularly enjoyed the characterizations in this one, as well as Wentworth's creatively vivid descriptions.

David Thompson says

Good story. Can't wait to read her earlier books. I usually try not to start at the end of a series.

John Poen says

I picked this up on sale and I'm really glad I did. It's one of those quaint little books that just kind of fill your

heart with knowing that everything works out in the end. A solid 4 star read. I recommend this book to those who like simple kind-hearted stories that have some intrigue and very little violence. BTW, I was unaware that this book is part of a series, when I read it. So, it is fine, standing well, on it's own. JP

Sherry says

This book lacked mystery because the murder & motive are apparent from the start! There's an element of suspense but not much to puzzle out!

Damaskcat says

Jenny Hill has been brought up by an elderly lady she calls Garsty and who was her mother's governess. Just before her tragic death following a hit and run accident she tells Jenny that there is a letter from her father to her mother showing that they were actually married and that therefore the local big house should actually belong to Jenny.

The letter seems to have gone missing. Jenny is taken in by Mrs Forbes at the big house to look after her two girls. But Jenny overhears a conversation between Mrs Forbes and her eldest son - Mac - with whom Jenny is just a little in love, which shows her that they are aware she should own what they regard as their own house.

Jenny feels she cannot stay in the house any more and runs away that night. Fortunately she meets up with a distant cousin who takes her to his aunt, who takes her in while they decide what to do. Then a murder is committed nearby and Jenny herself is in danger. Here is an ideal case for Miss Silver to look into and she does so very efficiently but not before the wrong person is accused and it looks as though the real murderer will never be revealed.

I enjoyed both reading and listening to this well written Golden Age mystery though it was actually first published quite a long time after that Golden Age of British crime fiction. Miss Silver is always clever and perceptive and her knowledge of human nature and the minutiae of everyday life is second to none.

The Miss Silver series can be read in any order even though they are part of a series as the only things which mark out the passage of time are the promotions of Frank Abbot and other detectives of Miss Silver's acquaintance and the marriages of her various relatives.

Silvio111 says

When I first discovered Miss Silver, I started with Wentworth's first book. I liked it, but I remember thinking that Miss Silver did not have much of a presence.

Now, after sporadically reading several more in the series, I suddenly came upon #31, and was impressed by how Miss Silver has developed as a character. Now she is not just that inscrutable elderly lady at a desk knitting, listening carefully to her clients, but not interacting much in the plot or in the lives of the characters.

Now she is the person who impresses others with her kindness and compassion as well as her steely ability to look right through a person to discern the truth.

the plot in this one was quite interesting. It learned somewhere between Dickensian human circumstance and Jane Austen-like impending peril for young ladies. I think my favorite moment was when 11-year-old urchin-about-the-village, "Dicky" discovers how easy and unstressful it is to just tell the truth. To his devious young mind, it is almost as if he has discovered a new dodge to fool people with.

In the canon of brilliant elderly female sleuths, you have Miss Marple, you have Josephine Tey's various old lady characters, you have Lord Peter Wimsey's occasional sidekick, Miss Climpson, you have Alexander McCall Smith's Precious Ramotswe, and you have Simon Brett's Miss Pargeter, who is probably the closest to Miss Silver.

I am sure I have left someone out. I do think Miss Silver has it all. She keeps in the background of the plot, but once she walks onto the scene, she takes charge, in the most polite way possible.
