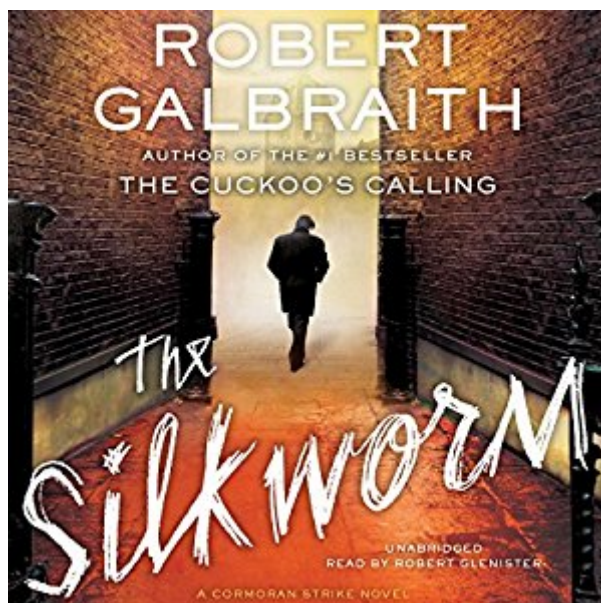


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The Silkworm



Synopsis

Private investigator Cormoran Strike returns in a new mystery from Robert Galbraith, author of the number-one international best seller *The Cuckoo's Calling*. When novelist Owen Quine goes missing, his wife calls in private detective Cormoran Strike. At first, Mrs. Quine just thinks her husband has gone off by himself for a few days - as he has done before - and she wants Strike to find him and bring him home. But as Strike investigates, it becomes clear that there is more to Quine's disappearance than his wife realizes. The novelist has just completed a manuscript featuring poisonous pen-portraits of almost everyone he knows. If the novel were to be published, it would ruin lives - meaning that there are a lot of people who might want him silenced. When Quine is found brutally murdered under bizarre circumstances, it becomes a race against time to understand the motivation of a ruthless killer, a killer unlike any Strike has encountered before... A compulsively listenable crime novel with twists at every turn, *The Silkworm* is the second in the highly acclaimed series featuring Cormoran Strike and his determined young assistant, Robin Ellacott.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I adored the first book, so I had high hopes for this one. I mean, really, really high hopes. I arranged my entire week around reading it so that once I started, I wouldn't have to put it down. This is always a dangerous endeavor, because if the book turns out to be less good than I hoped, I'm deeply disappointed. As you can guess by the title of this review, quite the opposite occurred. In my opinion,

Galbraith's greatest strength is the ability to build believable, unique characters who are realistic and have distinct speaking styles. Well, that and stunningly good prose. It isn't necessary to read *The Cuckoo's Calling* first, but I think it's a good idea. This book begins a few months after the last one left off, and the relationships have progressed accordingly. There aren't particular heroes or villains, just real people who are good and bad, kind and mean, ugly and pretty -- where none of those three things necessarily correspond to any of the others. In any case, Strike and Robin are going about their normal business, with all the usual small misunderstandings and unexpected skills, etc. that go along with most working relationships. Then, when Strike is exhausted and not thinking clearly, he takes on a new client, a rather worn-looking middle-aged woman who wants him to find her husband and thinks it'll be a short, simple job, and she's sure someone else will pay his bill. Ah hah. Sure that's how it's going to work. And so our story kicks off. Oh, I should add -- I am a professional editor and a very prolific reader. Of the dozens of new books I've read so far this year, this is the best.

I love J.K. Rowling's beautiful command of the language, the pictures she paints and the way she weaves the plot of a story; I love Cormoran and Robin and how their relationship builds and matures. I didn't love the story. I found it tedious and by the time it ended, I really didn't care "whodunnit".

Cormoran Strike is back in his second outing. This time his biggest case is trying to solve the disappearance and then murder of the author Owen Quine. He doesn't seem to be a very likable author, husband, or even man but his wife wants him back mainly because their special needs daughter misses him. Robin, Cormoran's assistant, is also having some problems as she is getting ready to marry Matthew who is jealous of her job and of Cormoran. She wants to be a detective but fears that Cormoran is going to bring in someone to do the detecting and leave her the secretarial chores. I found a lot of the characters unlikeable and the plot was too twisted or drawn out for my taste. I like the characters of Robin and Cormoran but have to say that this was not my favorite of the two that I've read. If you have a low tolerance for gore this may not be the book for you.

I enjoyed *"The Cuckoo's Calling"* and was eager for the reappearance of protagonist sleuth Cormoran Strike. What I deduce from *"The Silkworm"* is that Ms. Rowling seems to have achieved such stratospheric fame that no editor will favor her with the revision this novel so desperately needs. His amputated leg hurts. I get it. It's miserable winter weather. I get it. He has unresolved issues with his former fiancée. I get it. I am not permitted not to get it. I found that 450 pages of

numbing repetitive detail reduced the plot to a plod. It was fortunate the suspects did not succumb to old age before the climax. In future installments--and I trust there will be several--I would love to see Cormoran Strike liberated to get on with his job. He's too satisfying a character to languish like this.

Not sure why exactly, but I found this much less fun than Cuckoo. I made the mistake of rereading that immediately before & it turned out to be too much time in a genre I rarely visit, but this was also a bit more gruesome and a bit less gripping than round 1. I had hoped that Robin would be more developed this time around and while she was, it really felt like baby steps & I don't want to be around for the long haul to see where she gets. Cormoran, on the other hand, doesn't really develop at all... he has very convenient contacts and we get little insight into why these people are so eager to do his bidding. I can easily see this becoming mechanical.

I found the murder in this book too repulsive for my taste. If you are not put off by gore it's probably a good story. I quit reading part way through.

I had so much fun reading this. I guess it's not surprising, since it comes from the Harry Potter author under a pen-name. I was looking for a fun new detective series and found it here. Really great.

This is one of the most tedious novels I have read in many years. I thought it would never end. I read the first Strike novel, and it was not bad, but I would classify this as pretty bad. It also has an unappealing protagonist. I hope that this world famous author does better next time.

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The Silkworm

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