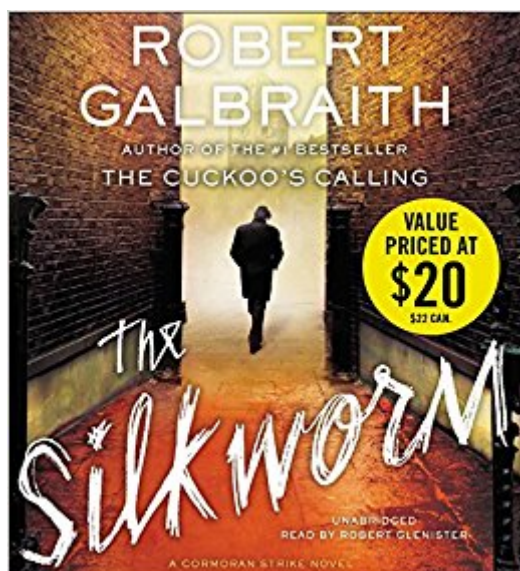


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The Silkworm (Cormoran Strike)



Synopsis

Private investigator Cormoran Strike returns in a new mystery from Robert Galbraith, author of the #1 international bestseller *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 readable 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

This is another very good effort from JKR in the detective fiction milieu. Cormoran Strike grows on you pretty quickly. In this caper he's attempting to find the murderer of an odious novelist, the identity of whom could be any number of the unpleasant victim's unpleasant friends, editors, agents, publishers or other unsavory players in the publishing world. While it's easy to dislike many of the other characters in *The Silkworm*, it's only because Rowling does such a terrific job depicting them.

It seems rather to be the point. The relationships between each of these appalling people are discovered and revealed with surprising twists, allowing them to show off a deep variety of reprehensible, sad and sometimes kinky personality traits. We also get to know more of Strike's back story, which is interesting, and are introduced more thoroughly to his assistant, Robin, and her family, which is also interesting. Both Strike and Robin have complicated personal lives and these are expressed with sympathy and intelligence. All the while, Strike limps back and forth around London, putting together the pieces of an especially nasty homicide. I disagree with those folks who say the book drags (although, ironically, this novel concerning the London publishing scene could do with some editing - it's a bit long). There's a lot going on, the pacing is excellent, the twists and turns are exciting. Rowling's gift for dialogue is tremendous, too. She certainly knows her way around profanity. On the down side, the discoveries made by our hero Strike are tenuous and difficult to swallow. A few of the leads go nowhere and are unceremoniously dropped.

Ever since the end of the Harry Potter days, I always sensed Ms. Rowling's wish to get back into writing simply for the pure joy of composing an interesting and artfully written story. The Silkworm is her 3rd attempt (post Harry P) to grab a loyal following of adults worldwide. Reading the Silkworm has convinced me she is going to succeed with her fresh series of whodunit crime mysteries. The Silkworm is her second book (following the Cuckoo's Calling) featuring the wounded military veteran turned detective Cormoran Strike and his trusted young assistant Robin Ellacot. The crime fighting duo get caught up with the murder of a known novelist. The victim a (self-centered) author named Owen Quine disappearance and murder is tied to a scandalous novel he was composing that would reveal hidden secrets of almost everyone he knew (mostly people in the publishing business). Quine's murder is grisly to say the least and very twisted. The victim's novel is a gothic like fiction that implicates his rivals, editor, publisher, and even his own wife & mistress. The collection of suspects is therefore small, and the author gives you intervals of hints for each character's motive to keep the story moving and interesting. The murder case blends well with the lead character Cormoran Strike as he pursues the murderer. Detective Strike a former Royal Military Police investigator fits well with this dark tale. Strike is a rough and tumble bruiser who is no stranger to the bizarre and wicked. His recent success with solving the murder of a former supermodel (The Cuckoo's Calling) has been a tremendous uplift in his career, and it's opportune to solve the crime that will evolve into the meaning of the title "The Silkworm".

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The Silkworm (Cormoran Strike) On Strike for Respect: The Clerical and Technical Workers' Strike

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