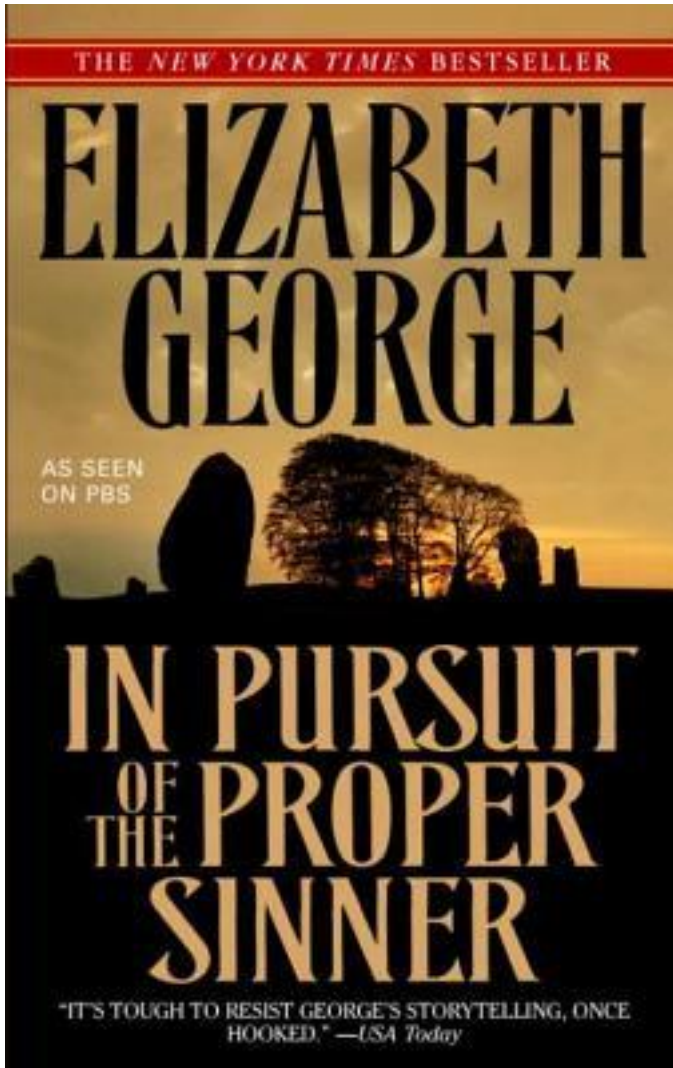


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## Elizabeth George

### In Pursuit of the Proper Sinner (Inspector Lynley #10)



Title: In Pursuit of the Proper Sinner  
(Inspector Lynley #10)

Author: Elizabeth George

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## Description

You don't think of the Agatha Christie style of novel as being overhauled, but in fact, a number of very good writers have been pushing the cozy into some brave new areas. Nancy Pickard, Joan Hess, and Carolyn Hart, to name just a few, have demonstrated that the cozy can be serious as well as seriously (or pointedly, if you prefer) funny.

Over the past decade, Elizabeth George has also been pushing the Christie-style mystery into richer and more rewarding areas. Her new novel, *In Pursuit of the Proper Sinner*, is so rich in character, incident, and theme that one finally has to take it seriously, not just as a mystery but as a novel as well. I'm not going to say that it "transcends the mystery genre," because that's offensive to mystery writers. And rightly so. But I will say that, in much the same way that Sharyn McCrumb has expanded the range of the serious crime novel, George has also pushed her particular form to the limits.

The central plot deals with two bodies found in a circle of prehistoric stones. Who were they? How did they get there? Did the victims even know each other? Detectives Thomas Lynley and Barbara Havers find themselves caught up in a mystery that grows more perplexing the longer they contemplate it. As usual with George, the mystery itself is well devised and a lot of fun to speculate on as you read.

George is now a far better stylist than she was in her first few books, and she has also backed off some of her more labored descriptions of place. Her characters have deepened, too; they're more morally ambiguous than they once were — the good not quite so good, the bad not quite so nasty. She seems more comfortable with police routine, too. Those sections are more animated now, less like riffs on textbook pages and background notes.

There's a lot of tricky stage management here, and George pulls it off with great stylish ease. She lingers when it's appropriate to linger and speeds up when the story starts to lag. There are a lot of people and a lot of subplots, and pacing is critical to a novel of this size and scope. Elizabeth George has written a fine, intense, thoughtful, and sometimes stunning novel of passion and betrayal. I haven't read all her novels, but I can't imagine that she's written a better one than this.

—Ed Gorman

Ed Gorman's latest novels include *Daughter of Darkness*, *Harlot's Moon*, and *Black River Falls*, the latter of which "proves Gorman's mastery of the pure suspense novel," says Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine. ABC-TV has optioned the novel as a movie. Gorman is also the editor of *Mystery Scene* magazine, which Stephen King calls "indispensable" for mystery readers.

## Insightful reviews

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M: Yea! YaY!! Tommy finally sees why Barb had to shoot at the DCI to save her little neighbor. Of course his illumination comes about because of Helen, who is far more intelligent than she or her friends give her credit. I love Helen, she is by far my favorite character, she is bubbly, happy and yet conflicted about her importance in the world. She is the kind of friend I would love to cultivate, someone who is loyal to a fault and fun to be with. The mystery was so involved--as all EG's books are--It made me think about the murdered girl's choices. Her parents were baffled by her choice to lead a low lifestyle when she had been brought up with love and advantages. It all comes down to free will. You can teach a child to follow a path but there comes a time when they must decide if they will stay on it. Sad ending for the murdered girls parents all around. Good read.

Lois Wood: A re-read for me -- couldn't find anything that appealed, and Thomas Lynley and Barbara Havers have never let me down. Elizabeth George is a stunning writer -- every sentence is a joy to read. I never tire of reading her books ...

Agnes Ross: I loved this book! Detective Chief Inspector Thomas Lynley of Scotland Yard and his crew uncover numerous crimes and wrongdoings as they investigate murder. And in the midst of all the sinners people uncover their own shortcomings and omissions and the best forgive themselves and go on.

Toni Osborne: e-book 10, within the Inspector Lynley's secret series Elizabeth George hasn't misplaced her contact and her paintings remains to be amazing. She is likely one of the real masters at spinning webs of intrigue. A speedy speed and an interesting protagonist had a stimulating impact on my imagination; it was once rather exhilarating attempting to bet the following move. it is a mind-absorbing fiction, as robust and provocative as the entire prior ones. This problematic plot and intricate story has D.I. Thomas Lynley at the scene of a grisly crime, during which a tender guy and lady were brutally murdered and their our bodies present in the wilds of Calder Moor. The case can also be a delicate one, it occurs that one of many sufferers is, Nicola Maiden, the daughter of a former undercover officer and one among Lynley's previous mentors.D.C. Winston Nkata is his lead assistant at the case. His ordinary partner, Barbara Harvers, has been demoted to Detective Constable for an incident the former summer time and ever since, either have suffered from a strained relationship. even supposing within the puppy condominium for over stepping her boundaries, Barbara is determined, she is a girl of sturdy personality and never the kind to take a seat at the sideline. With this in mind, she clandestinely starts off her personal investigation, hoping to end up to Lynley that her renegade angle can carry confident effects and be an asset to his team....When Lynley figured out what she was once up to, my first response used to be can he take the grrr out of the tiger and get her to persist with orders....As they dig deeper into the lifetime of the 2 victims, a traumatic development emerges, suspects are plentiful, not anything is because it turns out and everybody seems to be concealing something. the stress grows as each one layer of deceit is peeled away, the outcome created an severe secret populated with nice characters. i discovered myself completely engaged until the end, it's a huge ebook yet I loved each second spent with it.

Deb : considered one of Lynley's former colleagues Andy Maiden has requested for his assist in discovering the person that murdered his daughter. it is a grotesque double homicide and

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suspicion falls on Maiden. Barbara Havers has been demoted to Detective Constable after her functionality in Essex and Lynley can't forgive her behavior. He relegates her to basic dogsbody and as an alternative takes Winson Nkata as his partner. Other than the gripping homicide investigation, the true famous person of the publication is the fight either Havers and Lynley suffer as neither can comprehend the other's actions. George depicts the strain among them superbly.

Kellie: (#10 of the Havers-Lynley series)-This is one other complicated plot with a number of characters and mini-plots taking place all at once. George writes in a manner the place you don't wander away and every thing comes jointly on the end. This used to be in regards to the homicide of Nicola and Terry. Nicola was once a stunning lady wanted by means of many. Terry, it was once thought, used to be only a sufferer of circumstances. Lynley is at the case simply because he is familiar with Nicola's dad and he asks Tommy to be at the activity force. Andy, the father, is a former undercover cop with the yard. Lynley isn't really pleased with Havers after the final e-book the place she nearly kills her fellow officer to get her to assist keep a victim. Havers is demoted and Tommy isn't on Barbara's side. So he asks Nkata to be his partner. However the case has leads in London and Nkata is going to Barbara for help. I admire Havers. She is a brilliant character. She is nice at her job. She is sort of an obdurate bull-dog. It doesn't matter what the consequences, she will remedy this case. And resolve it she does. This sequence simply will get higher and better. I believe like I do know those characters personally.

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