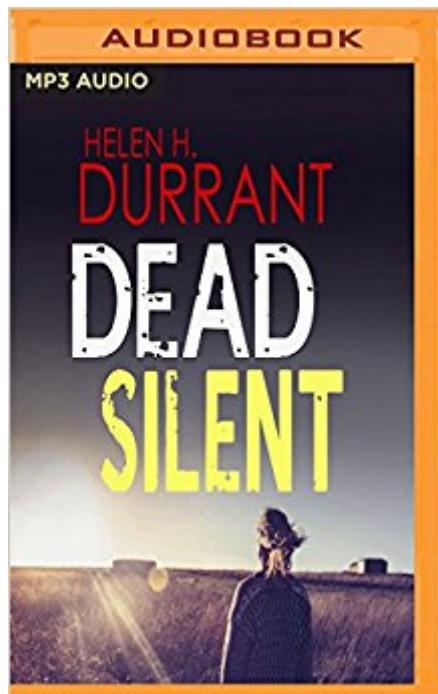


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Dead Silent



Synopsis

A body is found in a car crash, but the victim was already dead.... Police partners, D.I. Calladine and D.S. Ruth Bayliss race against time to catch a vicious serial killer. The first two victims are American university students and both have livestock tags fixed to their earlobes. Who wanted them dead and what's the connection? The detectives piece together the forensic evidence and track down the witnesses, to reach a shocking conclusion. If you like Angela Marsons, Rachel Abbott, Mel Sherratt, Ruth Rendell, or Mark Billingham you will be gripped by this exciting new crime fiction writer. Dead Silent is book two of a new series of detective thrillers featuring D.S. Ruth Bayliss and D.I. Tom Calladine. In this second book, Calladine faces personal tragedy and startling revelations, and Ruth's relationship with Jake Ireson develops. Tom Calladine is a single, 51-one-year-old detective inspector who is devoted to his job. His personal life, however, is not so successful. Having been married and divorced before the age of 21 has set a pattern that he finds difficult to escape. Ruth Bayliss is in her mid-30s, plain-speaking but loyal. She wishes she had more time for the gym and a love life. She uses her demanding workload as an excuse not to try too hard with the men she meets. Her hobby is birdwatching. The series is set in the fictional village of Leesdon on the outskirts of an industrial northern English city. There is little work and a lot of crime. The bane of Calladine's life is the Hobfield housing estate, breeding ground to all that is wrong with the area that he calls home.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Helen sets her books in the area she has lived in for many years. The towns and villages that sit in

the shelter of the Pennine hills. This is an area between two counties, Lancashire and Yorkshire, and between the city and the hills. It offers a rich mix of the industrial and the countryside and all the character therein. Helen always planned to write crime novels. But until she retired from full-time work in a local further education college, it had to go on the back burner. Once she did retire - there was no excuse. She now writes full-time. Retirement proper will have to wait!

This is the first book I've read by Helen Durrant but after finishing this one, it won't be my last. DI Calladine and DS Bayliss make a great team, working well together, the rapport between the two detectives is excellent. When the body of a young American student is found in the backseat of a car during a road accident it quickly becomes evident that was not how the young woman met her death. She had been murdered and tortured before the accident. Racing against time they must find the killer before he kidnaps and murders another unsuspecting victim. The author has some character-based twists and turns to kick things up a notch and keep readers guessing. It's a quick read packed with plenty of action. This is the second in the series and it works perfectly well as a stand alone book.

I read the first book in this series a few months ago and liked DI Tom Calladine so I was looking forward to this second book. In the first book, Tom had a lot of problems. Most have not resolved in this book, but that's what makes him interesting. His love life hasn't changed, his boss is still a poor manager, and his mother has recently died. As in every investigation, there are many things to check. Many times the reader is not privy to these, but this author directs her characters all over the place. I have no idea how she keeps track of who is where doing what, and I didn't try to keep track myself, but the story flowed really well. The chapters from the antagonist's POV were a little difficult to read. A case that was solved early in the book seemed to have little impact and no mention of repercussions, so why was it included? Was it simply to make the team appear overwhelmed with cases? DS Ruth Bayliss was as close as ever to Calladine, but they are just best friends. She seemed to be more of a sounding board and a conscience telling him what to do in his personal life. Bayliss also has her own personal issues. Both were a bit repetitive. While I enjoyed this book and I think it was not quite as strong as the first, it wasn't enough to deduct a star. There are some storylines left as cliffhangers. Hopefully, I'll find out their conclusions in the next book.

Well, I guess if someone does not respond to your conversation, they do have a problem. His feelings go back a long way. Pretty deep too. I have to give Helen credit for how patient she was. I

enjoyed her story very much. Marnie'

Another great mystery from Ms. Durrant. Certainly caught my interest straight from the beginning of the book and kept it all the way through. She knows how to write, that's for sure. She captures her audience, pulls you into a crime scene and has you thinking all the way through. It is more than just a great read. It is something that captures your thoughts and has you thinking even when you have to close the book because you have other things you realize you should be doing!!! I am already on another of her books. Different main characters, but her writing lures you in very quickly for sure.

I like to try new authors. I really liked this book, so ordered some more books by this author!

This book had all the components of a good mystery: interesting, likable main characters, nicely described venues and plenty of suspense. It did all of these things well, but none exceptionally well. So I'm ambivalent between four and five stars, but will go with the higher mark because to get all three right is pretty darn tough.

I loved that there was more than one case to solve. Loved how they intertwined. Love the cliffhanger ending. Definitely going to keep reading.

With the second volume in the series, Helen H. Durrant does not disappoint. A welcome addition to the genre.

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