

► **The Crow Trap Free** ➤

Author Ann Cleeves –

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Posted on 24 August 2019 By Ann Cleeves

My first introduction to author Ann Cleeves and her protagonist Vera Stanhope did not go well. The book first delves into the lives of three women who are sharing temporary quarters while conducting an environmental assessment prior to digging a quarry. One of them is killed. Each woman was given a lengthy chapter. Vera shows up officially to investigate at the start of Part Two, about halfway through. The book is overly long at 535 pages and generally plods along to the conclusion. I checked reviews. Many abandoned this book. Many loved it. I'm in the meh camp. Several readers had prior experience with Cleeves and feel this book is not typical of her. They encourage others to take heart and continue with the series. Based on the fact I have the second book at hand, I will follow that advice, just not immediately. This is book 1 in the series. I enjoyed it and rate it 3.5 out of 5 stars. It is a long book, 535p., and moves slowly at times, while the author builds the scene. The book is told from the perspective of 4 women. Rachael, 1 of 3 women conducting a wildlife assessment to determine whether or a quarry would kill off any protected plants animals. She has issues with Peter Kemp, whose company is running the assessment. Peter had an affair with her in order to steal her work. He then dumped her and married someone else. Anne, the second of 3 women conducting the assessment. She is having an affair with the owner of the quarry firm, Grace. The third woman doing the assessment. She is the product of foster homes and socially awkward. She has reconnected with her father. Vera, Detective Chief Inspector DCI in charge of the investigation, when Grace is found dead. I was not sure who the killer was until the

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end. This book is of a study in how people interact and their relationships than a murder mystery. Some quotes Anne's sexual appetite was legendary Vera leaves the two women to continue their work as decoys In Rachel's words Like the crow, she thought, in the trap This series has been adapted for tv and is found in the US on PBS Thanks to the publisher, Minotaur Books, for sending me this book through the Goodreads Giveaway program. The Hook Begin at the beginning, that's my motto when it comes to most series mystery fiction The Line's The rich onion flan might have come out of the freezer but Barbara had cooked it before it went in It was topped with tomatoes and Parmesan and latticed with anchovies and olives The above lines may seem strange to quote but I was intrigued by this dish intrigued me Searching for a recipe I saw a latticed anchovy onion tart, but flan it was not If anyone has ever heard of this or has a recipe please let me know Anchovies are grand in our family. The Sinkers I'm not quite certain how I feel about The Crow Trap I've heard so many accolades to Ann Cleeves and this series that I thought I should get on the bandwagon One thing I noticed immediately was that Cleeves had a way of drawing us in One moment all was right with the world and in the next sentence all is changed The title is explained in this way The trap was a large wire mesh cage with a funnel in the top Inside a live, tame crow fluttered provocatively, inviting in another to defend its territory Once in through the funnel there was no way out Presumably they had to find some form of co-existence until the keeper came along to put the intruder out of its misery Ann Cleeves is a storyteller and enjoys the use of words, painting a thorough portrait of her characters and environs Detailed and atmospheric it is I was surprised that the central character of the series, Vera Stanhope, herself doesn't truly appear until than 200 pages go by She makes a cameo appearance, showing up at a funeral of one of the victims being described as a bag lady If you're paying attention you'll know it's she Murders, flawed characters and a complicated environmental plot weave in and out in this 500 debut of the beloved, unconventional DI Vera Stanhope She is a piece of work This is not your typical political, sit behind the desk, Detective Inspector She is odd gal out in dress and appearance, a bit unkempt, and older than many among her rank in the written pages of crime mystery fiction

Creek

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

Blueberries for Sal

The Princess and the Pea

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

A Raisin in the Sun

The House on Mango Street

Strawberry Girl

The Catcher in the Rye

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake

It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown

The Cherry Orchard

Each Peach Pear Plum

If Life Is a Bowl of

She loves to eat, often greasy food you might even find a half eaten doughnut in her purse along with papers, keys, photo, five brios. She is outspoken to say the least, barges her way in, has no problem ordering people around for a cup of tea, she'd have preferred a beer if available and expects her team to get on with it. But she gets results she's comfortable with herself and is no one's fool. It's even hard to peg this woman in any hole. Literary novel, suspense fiction, crime or mystery it's a bit of a mix. I think about it, I've decided I could easily become a fan of both Stanhope and Cleeves. It often takes me a bit to get into the rhythm of a new series. Vera Stanhope, her eccentricity and her territory of Northumberland are bound to grow on me. I expect you think I'm odd. Eccentric. That's not the case, and if I do have a reputation for eccentricity, I have one too for getting results. Vera Stanhope attempted to read a physical copy of this book, but couldn't get into it. I knew that I just had to get along with Ann Cleeves, because I'm such a huge fan of both television series based on her books. So I decided to jump into the audiobook, and it was perfect. I chose to start it on a solitary road trip into the quiet of the forest. Such an atmospheric setting for an atmospheric book. Probably one of the slowest mysteries I've read in a long time, but so fulfilling and worth it. I found myself juggling the audiobook and physical book during times when I couldn't listen. I had to know how it would end, and of course it wasn't anything like what I'd conjured in my imagination. What's always fascinated me is the psychology behind crime and murder, and that's what makes the Vera books so much more than a British procedural novel. She really draws you into the characters, whether they realize that they'll be embroiled in murder or fall victim themselves. Definitely a character study. Can't wait to continue the series. I enjoyed this book. I watched Vera on TV a few years ago and enjoyed that too. Now that I've read the book, I think the TV series did the book justice. I enjoyed the different POVs of the 4 women. It did seem a bit too long especially in the central section, not that it put me off. Will probably continue with the series at some point. *The Crow Trap* by Ann Cleeves. This is the 1st in the Vera Stanhope series. This book is divided into sections describing in detail 3 women: Rachel, Anne and Grace. These 3 women are connected by their endeavors in an environmental project. They are all naturalists and educated,

Cherries What Am I
Doing in the Pits?

Watermelon

Oranges Are Not the
Only Fruit

The Five Orange Pips

Five Little Peppers and
How They Grew

Dandelion Wine

The Orange Girl

but there's so much to their backgrounds and what brought them together in the first place. The story begins with Rachel discovering Bella had committed suicide. Shocked by this tragedy, she is interviewed by the local police. Joe, Vera's right hand man, begins the investigation. A shadowy figure appears to enter and then leave just as suddenly during Bella's funeral. A strange figure that no one seems to know. This was the first brief appearance of Vera. There is another section devoted to Vera's upbringing and her experiences in that neck of the woods. This was quite a long story but I was involved from the first page. The author brought out details in each character's past that began to knit a story together. I loved this book and highly recommend it to any mystery lover of in-depth stories. The truth is uncovered at the very end as only Vera can unravel this years-old mystery.

The Crow Trap is the first in the Vera Stanhope series by Ann Cleeves and one of the books in the series that the hugely popular ITV television show *Vera* is based upon. The extremely talented Brenda Blethyn is excellent playing the role of Vera in the TV show and it's definitely worth a watch. If you enjoy English murder mysteries, this is an extremely well-written, engaging read and a great start to the series. Although over 500 pages long, it doesn't feel like it as the writing reads easily and the story flows along nicely. Vera doesn't appear until about two-thirds the way through the book but she is definitely worth the wait. I love the normality of her character, her straight talking, no-nonsense approach to everything. I was definitely second-guessing who the murderer was all the way through and still never got it right. Full of interesting and varied characters with absorbing back stories, lots of red herrings and ultimately beautiful descriptions of the North East of England, this is an ideal English murder mystery which kept me wanting to keep reading on until the end. I have since bought all the books in the series. Loved it and I recommend this series if you love series like *Morse*, *Frost*, *Midsomer Murders* etc.

Vera Stanhope's First Appearance Was In The Crow Trap, Published In And Now Available In A New Edition. It Forms The Third Episode Of The TV Series *Vera*, Adapted By Stephen Brady. At The Isolated Baikie's Cottage On The North Pennines, Three Very Different Women Come Together To Complete An Environmental Survey. Three Women Who, In Some Way Or Another, Know The Meaning Of

Betrayal For Team Leader Rachael Lambert The Project Is The Perfect Opportunity To Rebuild Her Confidence After A Double Betrayal By Her Lover And Boss, Peter Kemp Botanist Anne Preece, On The Other Hand, Sees It As A Chance To Indulge In A Little Deception Of Her Own And Then There Is Grace Fulwell, A Strange, Uncommunicative Young Woman With Plenty Of Her Own Secrets To Hide When Rachael Arrives At The Cottage, However, She Is Horrified To Discover The Body Of Her Friend Bella Furness Bella, It Appears, Has Committed Suicide A Verdict Rachael Finds Impossible To Accept Only When The Next Death Occurs Does A Fourth Woman Enter The Picture The Unconventional Detective Inspector Vera Stanhope, Who Must Piece Together The Truth From These Women S Tangled Lives I had read many good reviews about this author, so being a lover of British mysteries, I decided to give her book a try Well I was not disappointed, what a great read This is the first novel I had read by Ann Cleeves and it won t be my last It is also the first book in the Vera Stanhope detective series She is not even introduced until you have read 2 3 of the book but the other characters are so fascinating that you don t even notice Before I had even finished this book, I ordered the second one in the series, Telling Tales, from I can t wait to read it While I m waiting for it to be delivered, I ll have to content myself with other authors Prior to this book, I had read novels by various Scandinavian authors I found that these books were too dark and depressing for me If you enjoy interesting characters, and a good puzzle all wrapped up neatly in the end, then you will find this an enjoyable crime novel This is the best new author I have read in the last 5 years I m surprised that it took so long for me to find her This is the first Vera Stanhope novel It took a long time to get the the point when Stanhope enters the story which is my reason for 4 stars There are characters who hide their past and even their identity There is an early suicide which leads Vera to investigate hidden links between characters The setting is the North Pennines which are in County Durham, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, Cumbria Vera s backstory in the book varies somewhat from the TV series And although she is not a fashion plate on TV, she is described in a way in the book which makes her sound like she could be mistaken for someone who is homeless, and living on the street The

audiobook is pleasantly narrated by Anne Dover I can't comment on the accuracy of the accent I have a friend who lives in Northern England and finds the accent of the TV character, Vera Stanhope, quite inaccurate I'm venture a guess that there is quite a lot of variation in accents in the region Living in Boston for many years, I found there were many differences from neighborhood to neighborhood.

