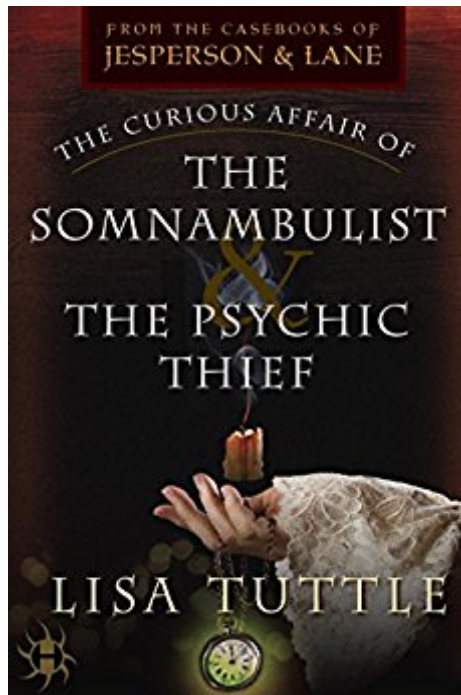




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The Curious Affair Of The Somnambulist & The Psychic Thief



Synopsis

“A lively, entertaining blend of murder mystery and supernatural adventure . . . Arthur Conan Doyle would have approved.” —George R. R. Martin
Sherlock Holmes meets Penny Dreadful in the debut of a delightful Victorian-era fantasy series from John W. Campbell Award winner Lisa Tuttle. Has there ever been a more unlikely pair of consulting detectives than Jespersen and Lane? They certainly make a striking duo: Mr. Jasper Jespersen, with his shock of red hair and seemingly encyclopedic knowledge of all subjects — save common sense — and Miss Lane, whose logical mind is matched only by her fascination with psychic phenomena. Their talents are rare . . . as are their customers. So when Jespersen and Lane are hired to track the nocturnal wanderings of a sleepwalking London business owner, they’re simply happy to be working again. The case begins as a window into the séances and other supernatural parlor games that are so popular these days, and takes a sinister turn as the intrepid investigators pull back the curtain on the cutthroat rivalries underpinning polite society. But after several mediums go missing, it’s clear that Jespersen and Lane are in over their heads. For they’ve uncovered a presence beyond their understanding — an evil force that won’t hesitate to kill in order to achieve its nefarious ends. Advance praise for *The Curious Affair of the Somnambulist & the Psychic Thief* — “Sleepwalkers, psychics, and the spirits of the dead (or are they?) make for a heady stew in Lisa Tuttle’s latest,” — *The Curious Affair of the Somnambulist & the Psychic Thief*, — the first full-length novel about Jasper Jespersen and Miss Lane, — a dauntless duo of Victorian detectives first introduced in — her stories for — *Down These Strange Streets* — and — *Rogues*. — They’re an entertaining pair, and it’s great to see them back in action in — a longer work. — Here’s hoping this is only the first in a long series of Lane and Jespersen adventures. — Tuttle does a lovely job of — putting us back in the foggy streets of Victorian London in this lively, entertaining blend of murder mystery and supernatural adventure. — Arthur Conan Doyle would have approved.” —George R. R. Martin
Praise for Lisa Tuttle — “A stylish, distinctive storyteller.” —The Washington Post
Book World — “This John W. Campbell Award-winning author remains one of fantasy’s best.” —Publishers Weekly

Book Information

File Size: 1566 KB

Print Length: 303 pages

Publisher: Hydra (May 16, 2017)

Publication Date: May 16, 2017

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01N5UFH9H

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,971 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #14

in Kindle Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Supernatural > Psychics #15

in Kindle Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Supernatural > Ghosts #22 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Historical

Customer Reviews

What fun characters...wanted to get the next one immediately so hope there are more in this series

I was fascinated, and a bit disappointed when it ended so quickly. I hope to read more of the adventures of Jesperson and Lane!

It is 1893 and psychics are all the rage in London. Aphrodite Lane (call her Di) has left her employ as a psychic fraud investigator when she discovers her employer, herself, is a fraud. She answers an ad for an investigative assistant to detective J. Jesperson. The money isn't great but she will be provided room and board and, since job opportunities for young women are somewhat scarce, she accepts. They are soon offered a case to follow a man who suffers from sleepwalking. He wants to know where he goes at night and, hopefully, find a way to stop him. It seems a rather odd job but, as paying cases for detectives are even scarcer than jobs for women, they accept. At the same time, psychics are disappearing from all around London. Di is contacted by her old employer who believes that these mediums are being kidnapped and wants the agency to investigate. As the pair begin their new investigation while still following the somnambulist, they begin to suspect the two cases are linked especially after being invited to a séance with a visiting American psychic who seems to have some very unusual and amazing skills. I had rather

mixed feelings about *The Curious Affair of the Somnambulist and the Psychic Thief* by Lisa Tuttle. On the plus side, both Jespersen and Lane are very likable protagonists. There is no real attempt to follow the mores of the time especially as they pertained to women - Miss Lane is no delicate Victorian Lady but rather brave, opinionated and very liberated, learning karate and wearing, oh my, trousers. But given the somewhat tongue-in-cheek nature of the tale, that works very well. On the con side, the book seemed to be unsure what it wanted to be- historical fiction or historical fantasy. The first half of the book seems a sort of homage to Sherlock Holmes - logic and rational detecting skills, rather than psychic phenomena, will solve the case. However, somewhere in the middle of the book, it takes a turn to the fantastical that for me at least kind of upset the rhythm of the story and, not too surprisingly, my willing suspension of disbelief. Still, overall, I enjoyed the book (and loved the title). Despite my criticisms, the story never takes itself too seriously and was a lot of fun to read and, for people who like their mysteries with likable protagonists, Victorian atmosphere, just a touch of humour, and a bit of the fantastic, this one is definitely worth the read.

3.5 Thanks to Netgalley and Random House/Hydra for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review

Mystery lovers: prepare yourselves for a new pair of crimesolvers - the unlikely duo of Jespersen and Lane. Set in Victorian England when chivalry was alive and the suffragettes were forming their movement, Miss Lane found herself in need of work. She chanced upon a handbill that Mr. Jespersen had placed seeking an assistant. And the rest, as they say, is history. Author Lisa Tuttle fully immersed herself in 1890's London. Her verbiage is impeccable. My kindle managed to pick up many of the now archaic words with the wi-fi turned off, but scratched its head and wanted it turned on with some of the more bizarre. Never have I used the dictionary...I was going to so much, but, I realized I never use it! Regular readers of gothic novels will really love this one! I have to admit, it was a little mindboggling. But the mystery was terrific. As unusual and original an idea that I have read. I highly recommend this to all mystery fans. I was given a copy of *THE CURIOUS AFFAIR OF THE SOMNAMBULIST AND THE PSYCHIC THIEF* from the publishers at Random House/Hydra.

I requested to read and subsequently review this book via NetGalley as I loved the title. There was no doubt that interesting things were to come from such a book! It is a Victorian Era novel with decidedly unVictorian elements, which is part of the appeal for me. I tend to get bogged down with British-English to American-English translations when I read or watch something with Brits. That

was not a problem whatsoever here. I can see why some people would be annoyed by this, but it was a plus for me. Also Ms. Lane is a very strong female character placed in an era where women weren't supposed to be. The book was everything the title promised: mediums and psychics and hypnotists, oh my! It's difficult to give too much information without spoilers, but suffice to say that if you enjoy supernatural/paranormal books or a good mystery, this one is for you. Plus the ending gives promise of more adventures with Ms. Lane and her fellow detective, Mr. Jesperson. I'm looking forward to meeting them again!

This story is set in 1893 Victorian England during the spiritualist period when psychical research and mediums and séances were popular. The title of the book caught my interest as well as the description and I found it interesting, but a bit slow in building the plot and the characterizations. Miss Aphrodite (Di) Lane leaves the Society for Psychical Research suddenly and takes a job as an assistant to Jasper Jesperson, private investigator. One of their cases involves following a sleep walker to find out where he goes at night and what is triggering the episodes. Miss Lane's letters to former associates and renewed contact with Miss Fox lead to meeting a couple of new mediums that have arrived in London. A new mystery involving missing mediums draws the interest of Jesperson and Lane and interesting revelations are made. I'm looking forward to reading new stories in this series. Thanks to the publisher and to NetGalley for an ARC; all opinions are my own.

if you enjoy a cutesy book with British humor and high-styled language, then this is the book for you. The plot is interesting and suspenseful, but the real fun is in the development of the characters and the interactions between them. The ongoing action made the book very difficult to put down. The very end of the book reveals that a new episode is coming. I am looking forward to it.

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