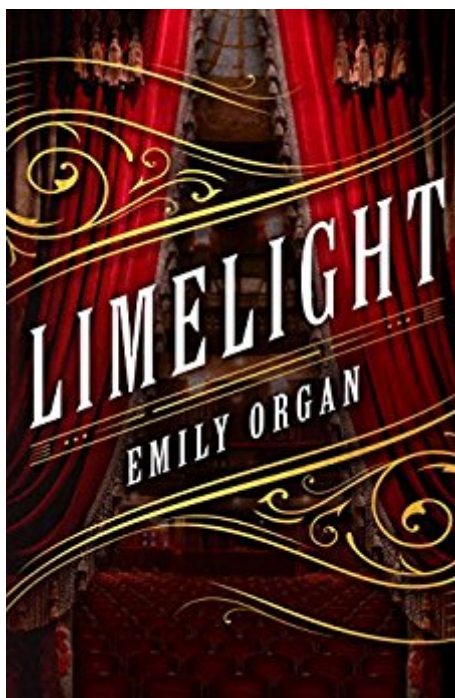


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Limelight (Penny Green Series Book 1)



Synopsis

How did an actress die twice? London, 1883. Actress Lizzie Dixie drowned in the River Thames, so how was she murdered five years later in Highgate Cemetery? Intrepid Fleet Street reporter Penny Green was a friend of Lizzie's and Scotland Yard needs her help. Does Penny unwittingly hold clues to Lizzie's mysterious death? Penny must work with Inspector James Blakely to investigate the worlds of theatre, showmen and politicians in search of the truth. But who is following her? And who is sending her threatening letters? Penny is about to discover that Lizzie's life was more complicated, and dangerous, than she could ever have imagined. If you like a murder mystery then you'll love this atmospheric Victorian mystery by Emily Organ.

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Customer Reviews

In 1883 London bachelor-girl reporter Penny Green is struggling to make ends meet after losing her newspaper job. When the death of actress Lizzie Dixie, an erstwhile close acquaintance of Penny's, is reported, this causes a big public stir since, supposedly, Lizzie had died five years earlier in a

boating accident on the Thames. What had she been doing in these five years and who had now wanted her dead? Since Penny knew Lizzie, she is asked to help young Scotland Yard inspector James Blakely to investigate the murder. As incentive, she is offered her job back. Their investigation leads Penny and James to various parts of London, to interviews with politicians and theatre persons and Astley's Amphitheatre personnel, all friends, relatives or acquaintances of Lizzie's in her "pre-first-death" life. They need to find out who knew Lizzie was alive, who was happy about that fact and who not. The mystery is relatively interesting and the historical and cultural background well researched. I enjoyed this enough to want to try the second of the series when it's released. However, I do believe there's room for improvement in character development, in plotting of the mystery, and in dialogue. This story is written in 1st-person POV, in Penny's voice. Usually this POV puts the reader in sync with the narrator and we should get to know her and her feelings and impressions well (as long as the style is not "unreliable narrator", which it is not here). That didn't happen for me. Penny's personality felt underdeveloped. I learned to like Penny's married sister Eliza, a Modern Woman, a bicycle-riding women's rights advocate, the "rational dress" (more comfortable, practical clothing for women) wearing wife of a solicitor, in the few pages she appeared, more than I liked Penny. As for the plotting of the mystery, that could have been done a bit more deftly. And I pretty much figured out whodunit much before the big "reveal" moment and I'm not usually the brightest bulb in the chandelier about solving mysteries, much as I love to read them. Nevertheless, this was an entertaining read for the most part. I'm hoping the author will make Penny into a more interesting person as the series progresses and also make the dialogue slightly less wooden.

Good read for those that like historical period "whodunit" books. Only complaints are the main character was well developed, all other characters (even those that were quite present throughout) could have used more developing. Also, the last few chapters seem rushed.

Thoroughly enjoyed it! Characters were entertaining, including an attractive glasses-wearing female lead! What a relief. I guess the major reason to continue the series is to see how long it takes the inspector and the reporter to figure out they're in love with each other!

Penny Green, a journalist in the latter half of the nineteenth century is paired up with Scotland Yard detective in investigating the death of a famous actress who has been found shot to death on the grave where she had been buried five years before following her death by drowning. The author has

done considerable research into the period, but for me the book was spoiled by the almost baby boom mania where all characters must immediately become on first name status which certainly does not reflect the manners of that time. A bit of formality is not off-putting and it seems to have worked well in the author's chosen time period. Aside from that, the book is recommended for its plot and the unraveling of the mystery.

This book is a solid 4 and really a 4.5 and I am not easy. PRO - There were several things I liked. One is the period social accuracy. Another is the city geographic accuracy. Yet another is that she did not rely on sex for interest and scarcely mentioned it except for the bought kind. The plot and characters are believable. CON - Not much. I found one small factual oversight. I wish a better physical and emotional description of Penny Green had been given so I could visualize her and relate to her better. I suspected the right person but only when nearing the end and even at that got a final surprise.

Wonderful start to a new series! Kept me guessing until the very end- very easy to read. Hoping more developments between Penny and the Inspector!

I enjoyed this light-hearted murder mystery (is there such a thing?) in a time period and place that Americans might find distant and unfamiliar. Newspaper reporter Penny Green and Scotland Yard Inspector James Blakely became endearing characters through the story. There is a budding romance that I hope future books in the series bring out. I did not doubt that this would happen when close to the end there is hint a "the future Mrs. Blakely" in James' life that puts Penny on edge. The murder mystery develops in fairly predictable ways even though the murderer's identity isn't revealed until the end. While it is a surprise, we knew all along that Penny and James would somehow come up with the solution. A good light read that left me wanting more. I ordered "The Teacher" to see if the winsome characters and easy-going story continues.

I appreciate the author's desire to get it right by doing her homework about the time and the setting for this novel. Without becoming preachy, she does a wonderful job of showing the difficulties women faced during one of those times of conflict between tradition and change. The characters have depth and foibles, while keeping the reader in suspense about the mystery at the heart of the plot. Well-done!

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