



NANCY: I read this mystery curiously, trying to understand the interesting characters, trying to figure out whodunit. I have to admit, she kept me guessing up until the very end. A somewhat darker story than I like, but she certainly wove a tail of intricate details and landscapes. What I appreciate most about the author is that even though this wasn't a best seller, she persisted to write more, developing Vera Stanhope further. Eventually it got picked up for a film series, and now she's famous! She teaches me to never give up!



KATHARINE: I like mysteries because they are for thinking people like me. It's a puzzle for the mind to solve. My kind of recreation, this book. And since it's the first one in the series, I can read more as Vera Stanhope develops in future novels. I also like the women with careers, out of the mold.



JANE: Yes! I like the strong women in this book, getting involved in scientific research, breaking out of the mold. Working in the outdoors,, living without men, doing the work. And I loved the woman detective, not a stereotypical woman, that detective. Kudos to Ann Cleeves for giving women strong roles in this book!



PRISCILLA: Well, all I can say is these people need a firm grounding in a belief system. They aren't part of any religion from what I can tell. They just go to church for the funeral. They would have a better life if they followed Jesus. I wish the author would have included at least some faithful people.



MOLLY: What I saw in this book was the stratification of society, the rich and the poor. Set in England, you see the sort of thinking the British brought to the Americas and their other colonies. Not a pretty sight. I mean it wasn't as bad as slavery where they used people as animals, but you could tell that some people just thought they were better than others. She described this well. And always I find it disturbing the way people do this in most cultures. How can we stop the inhumane treatment, Ladies?'



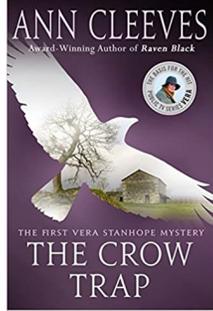
ABIGAIL: I found the whole environmental review issue intriguing. It didn't sound too different than what happens here in the USA. A lot of time the businesses and landowners control the outcomes of studies. Sometime the environmental reviews make a difference, sometimes not. Here I got the impression they wouldn't change the course of development. Disturbing.



SALLIE: What a horrible story for that young child to suffer kidnapping and... well I won't spoil it all for you. And although there weren't many children in this book, they didn't seem to have very happy lives. Grace and Rachel didn't know who their fathers were as children. Grace's dad was ostracized because of his mental health problems. A little too dark for me.



Discussion Guide



About the Book

Title: The Crow Trap

Author: Ann Cleeves

Published: McMillan, 1999

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/anncleeves>

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Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. Do you like mystery books? Why or why not? How did this compare to other mysteries you've read?
3. This is the first book in Ann Cleeve's Vera Stanhope series. The author didn't plan to include a detective, but decided the book needed something more. What did you think of the detective and her contribution to the story?
4. Have you read other Vera Stanhope books? If so, how did they compare to this one?
5. What characters did you find most intriguing? Explain.
6. What was the environmental issue in this book? What did you think the author's perspective was on the environmental review being conducted? What was your perspective?
7. Grace Fulwell's father was an alcoholic. How was this relationship portrayed? Did you think it was typical of such a relationship? Discuss.
8. The book seemed to expose the underbelly of the wealthy class. How did you respond to this aspect of the book?
9. What was the Crow Trap and how did it figure in the story?
10. Were you surprised with the ending of the book, or had you figured it out? Discuss.
11. Read over the MAMs perspective on the book. With whom do you most agree and why?
12. In what ways, if any, will this book change your life or perspective?

Listen to Ann Cleeves on YouTube: "Ann Cleeves on her Vera Stanhope novels" (3:37), Vera Series by Ann Cleeves: Everything You Need to Know, with Brenda Blethyn" (4:08)