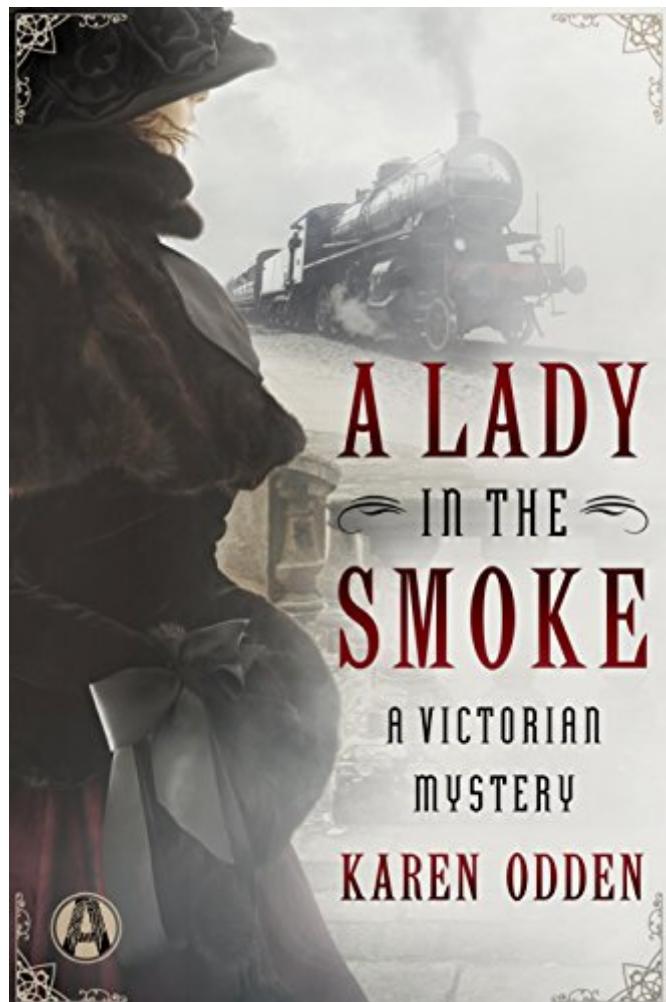


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A Lady In The Smoke: A Victorian Mystery



Synopsis

Featuring all the suspense and historical atmosphere of Anne Perry's Victorian mysteries, Karen Odden's enthralling debut plunges a headstrong young Englishwoman into a conspiracy that reaches the highest corridors of power. Following a humiliating fourth Season in London, Lady Elizabeth Fraser is on her way back to her ancestral country estate when her train careens off the rails and bursts into flames. Though she is injured, she manages to drag herself and her unconscious mother out of the wreckage, and amid the chaos that ensues, a brilliant young railway surgeon saves her mother's life. Elizabeth feels an immediate connection with Paul Wilcox, "though society would never deem a medical man eligible for the daughter of an earl." After Paul reveals that the train wreck was no accident, and the inspector who tried to prevent it dies under mysterious circumstances, Elizabeth undertakes a dangerous investigation of her own that leads back to her family's buried secrets. Not only are her dowry and her reputation at stake; Paul's very life hangs in the balance when he is arrested for manslaughter. Now Elizabeth must risk everything for the man who has found a place in her heart. As the trial draws near, and Parliament prepares for a vote that will change the course of the nation, she uncovers a conspiracy that has been years in the making. But time is running out to see justice done. Praise for *A Lady in the Smoke* : "This riveting historical debut is chock-full of details about Victorian England, spun into a masterful tale of romance, railroads, and mystery. Propelled by an engaging heroine and a deftly plotted conspiracy, it's a great read!" - Stefanie Pintoff, Edgar Award-winning author of *Hostage Taker* : "Pretty much everything I want in a historical novel: trains, historical detail, secrets, family drama, two lovers separated by society, conspiracy, crusading journalists, women sneaking out of the house, lawyering, and a pickpocket who could give Artful Dodger a run for his money. . . . I was a very satisfied reader by the time I finished this book." - Book Riot : "Readers of Anne Perry will enjoy this mystery set in Victorian England. . . . The characters are interesting and the story is fast-paced and engaging." - The Book Stop : "Filled with all sorts of twists and turns and all sorts of secret, and not-so-secret, relationships. . . . Fans of historical mysteries will enjoy this excellent mystery and romance." - "Inside of a Dog" : "Elizabeth was no shrinking violet and had a fire to her. . . . I would definitely recommend this to any fan of the Victorian era or who just wants a good little mystery to keep them busy for awhile." - "Is This Book for Me

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Customer Reviews

This has just about everything I look for in a historical mystery: 1) Excellent use of the historical setting; 2) Lots of intrigue, both political and financial, with murder and sabotage involved; 3) Secrets and lies within family relationships; 4) Courtroom drama; 5) Even a sweet romance. Although this is a debut work, Odden is not new to the writing business, frequently contributing essays, chapters and introductions to books and journals. This mystery appears to be a labor of love which she began 10 years ago and is finally sharing with us. And, more good news, she's presently at work on another novel, about a Scotland Yard Inspector in 1880. This story takes place in 1874 Britain. As it begins Lady Elizabeth Fraser and her mother are returning to their home in Scotland after an unsuccessful season in London. Lady Elizabeth remains single and they discover that a vicious rumor has been circulating that her dowry no longer exists after a financial setback. The train they are traveling on derails, killing or injuring several passengers, among the moderately injured Elizabeth and her mother. It's important to note that this is only the most recent in a series of such serious railway accidents. In the aftermath of the accident, Lady Elizabeth becomes acquainted with railway surgeon Paul Wilcox, who stitches up her forehead and looks after her mother and tirelessly takes care of the seriously injured almost single-handed (with a little help from Elizabeth, who tries to do so as anonymously as possible).

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