

PUBLICITY SUMMARY: LITTLE DEATHS

Little Deaths is a fascinating, well-paced historical murder mystery in the genre pioneered by Anne Perry, and more recently mined by such authors as Martin Cruz Smith (*Rose*) and your own highly successful Caleb Carr. Compelling characters, taut structure, a vibrant story and complex plot make the book hard to put down, and harder still to forget. *Little Deaths* asks difficult questions about evil, justice and morality through the struggles of its flawed but ultimately life-affirming characters. At the same time, this book will make you laugh and touch your heart.

Little Deaths pulls you headlong into the world of Simon Wise, a Jewish police inspector in Victorian London. With the help of his bluff Scottish sergeant, he investigates the mysterious murder of an aristocratic lady with an intriguing past. Along the way, he encounters dead infants, secret lovers, enduring friendships and ethnic prejudice, as well as representatives of the entire spectrum of English society from the powerful House of Rothstein to the denizens of the Lambeth slums. A widower, Inspector Wise also is trying to raise his seven children, one of whom is mentally retarded, with only the help of his intelligent but irritating suffragist cousin. Throw into the mix issues of class, religion, eugenics, and women's rights and the result is a view of the last century that speaks as much to today as to the past.

Brilliana Goodman is a pseudonym for a psychologist who has taught at the University of California Irvine as a Professor of Family Medicine for the past twenty years. The book reverberates with her profound psychological insights into human nature, gleaned from her extensive experience working with patients and families of developmentally disabled children. An Anglo-American cultural studies major and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Stanford University, her love of history is evident in the book's meticulous research. Ms. Goodman envisages this book as one of a series, for which she has outlined several subsequent volumes proceeding both forward and backward chronologically. She has already begun work on a second Inspector Wise mystery.