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**Josephine Tey**

**A Shilling for Candles (Inspector Alan Grant #2)**

Title: A Shilling for Candles (Inspector Alan Grant #2)

Author: Josephine Tey

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## Description

Beneath the sea cliffs of the south coast, suicides are a sad but common fact of life. Yet even the hardened coastguard knows something is wrong when a beautiful film actress is found lying dead on the beach one bright summer's morning. Inspector Grant has to take a more professional attitude: death by suicide, however common, has to have a motive -- just like murder...

## Insightful reviews

Jean: Inspector Alan Grant #2

Matthew Gatheringwater: I picked up [A Shilling for Candles](#) because *Young and Innocent*, one of my favorite early Hitchcock films, is based on it. I was surprised to realize, however, that the film is only very loosely adapted from the book, Hitchcock having lifted a single idea from the plot: a man, who may or may not be innocent, is a fugitive from the law and finds assistance from a young woman who may or may not be in love with him. People who've watched the film shouldn't have their experience of the book spoiled, since [A Shilling for Candles](#) is full of twists and even the solution to the mystery is different to that which ends the film. Both are good fun for people who like classic British mysteries.

Clare: This was another very good book by Josephine Tey. She surprised me by not having this book be similar to the other- I've noticed that most mystery books that are in a series, where they are solved by the same person, tend to have a formula as to how the book goes... it opens with the death set up, then they go to the home of the Investigator/ or the police-station, or wherever- then to the victim to look them over... whatever. Follow the same flow, every time. This was only the second in the series, but already she's mixing it up.... getting other characters involved, moving things around, and making it interesting. I was quite surprised to see that she had the daughter of the Police Chief acting in a quite emancipated, intelligent manner... and this was published in 1936!

It was an enjoyable story, that had some unexpected twists and turns. I look forward to reading the rest of her books.

Leslie: Even figuring out the solution, this Golden Age secret is a enjoyable read!

Theresa: Well, this one stored me guessing till the end! Josephine Tey is so strong at what she does. I want she had written twenty books! Christine Clay, a favored actress, was once popular with everyone. Her reputé was once no longer so major to her that she forgot to be kind, even to strangers. it isn't going to be effortless for Inspector Alan provide to discover a cause or the individual in the back of her premature death. I had fairly pinned this one on her brother, who's sought after in numerous nations for fraud and different crimes, yet then I replaced my brain and determined it used to be evidently her husband. studying additional on, I thought, hmm, might be not... might be it used to be one among her fellow actresses? with out giving an excessive amount of away, i used to be incorrect all 3 times. In among identifying with the writer who had

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cause and opportunity, the reader is brought to a few pleasant characters. Erica, the enterprising and not-easily-intimidated daughter of a constable, engaged my heart. now not too 'uppity' or avoided by way of her place to provide support and sensible reduction (food!) to somebody she is confident to be innocent, Erica is an admirable younger woman! "Are you hungry?" "Is that simply a tutorial question, or - are you providing me food?" Erica reached into the again of the auto and produced part a dozen rolls, a tumbler of tongue, part a pound of butter, and 4 tomatoes...She break up a roll with a penknife made out of her pocket and started to butter it. Presently he said, "I believe you recognize that every one this can be very wrong." "Why is it wrong?" "For one thing, you are assisting an escaped criminal, that's unsuitable in itself, and doubly improper on your father's daughter. And for one more - and this can be a lot worse - if I have been what they suspect me, you would be within the gravest threat at this minute. you should not do such things as that, you know." and there's Robert Tisdall, who very easily disappears while negative Inspector provide is able to arrest him. Robert who had so irresponsibly come to the tip of his fortune and who have been 'rescued' by way of Christine Clay, tugs on the reader's middle (as he's intended to.) Good is good, and evil brazenly evil, during this book, however the reader must never be too naive and has to profit to envision and figure that is which. Tey's shrewd permanent characterization and plot twists saved me going and that i learn and loved this mystery. 4.5 stars!

Dorothy: I loved this booklet very much. it's the moment publication within the Inspector supply sequence and lines the dying of a truly talented, well known motion picture star. There are few clues on the scene, due to the fact she used to be drowned at a secluded seashore and the tide has obliterated whatever of use. One suspect supplies himself up immediately, yet claims to be innocent. The evidence, despite the fact that circumstantial, all issues to him and he's arrested. The quickness and cleanliness of the arrest pleases everyone: the press, the public, and the constabulary the entire means as much as the Commissioner. supply additionally recognizes that it really is "a more than enough case". But. furnish has a niggling feeling, in response to a small anomaly. Why can't he permit this go, as all people advises? Is it simply his liking for the suspect getting into the way in which of the facts? Tey does a super task of outlining the competing forces pulling at Grant: the conviction of his superiors in regards to the solidity of the case as opposed to his "feeling". This publication additionally has a really attention-grabbing personality in Erica Burgoyne, the 17-year-old daughter of the manager Constable. At issues the booklet breaks in brief to inform the tale from her perspective sooner than returning to Grant's pursuits. She is unconventional, forthright, and has a willing intellect. i'm hoping to determine extra of her in next books! In each one of Tey's books that I've read, she will be able to in a number of strokes provide a pragmatic and targeted photograph of a bit of English society: touts on the racetrack, shopkeepers establishing up on a Monday morning, London theatre-goers. The social satire is light yet hits actual even today. in a single instance, she makes sharp observations concerning the symbiotic courting among the sensationalist celebrity-obsessed press and its readers. this is an excerpt, the place a reporter (Jammy Hopkins) laments being chastised for printing hearsay: "Jammy consigned all of them to perdition... What did the backyard are looking to take it like that for? every person knew that what you wrote in a paper was once simply eye-wash. whilst it wasn't bilge-water. in case you stopped being dramatic over little tuppenny no-account things, humans may well start to suspect that they have been no-account, after which they'd cease deciding to buy papers.... You'd received to supply feelings for all these moribund wage-earners who have been too drained or too dumb to

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think something on their lonesome behalf. should you couldn't freeze their blood, then you definitely may possibly promote them a very good sob or two." (p.172) In this novel, Tey indicates the dogged, unglamorous paintings that policemen need to do to trace down clues and assemble evidence. What might be dry in different palms is delicate in Tey's and doesn't decelerate the story; rather, it provides a deeper size to Grant's character. Though it truly is moment within the furnish series, this is learn out of order from the 1st publication (Man within the Queue) without harm.

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