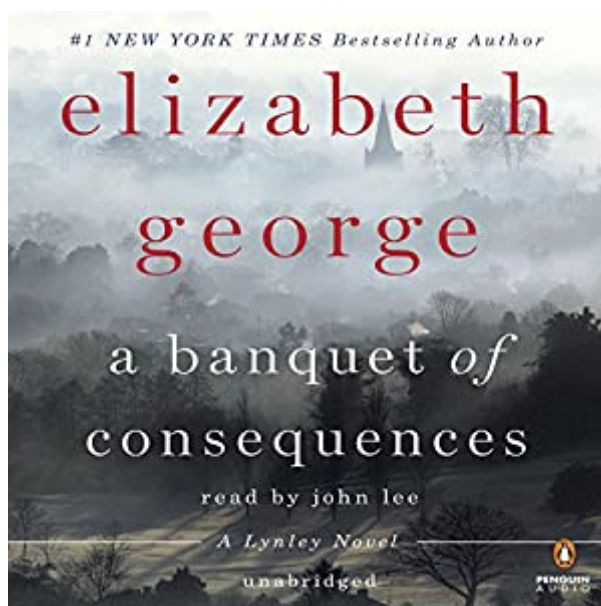


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# A Banquet Of Consequences: A Lynley Novel, Book 19



## Synopsis

The number-one New York Times best-selling author's award-winning series returns with another stunning crime drama featuring Scotland Yard members Detective Inspector Thomas Lynley and Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers. The unspoken secrets and buried lies of one family rise to the surface in Elizabeth George's novel of crime, passion, and tragic history. As Inspector Thomas Lynley investigates the London angle of an ever more darkly disturbing case, his partner, Barbara Havers, is looking behind the peaceful façade of country life to discover a twisted world of desire, deceit, and murder. The suicide of William Goldacre is devastating to those left behind. But what was the cause of his tragedy, and how far might the consequences reach? Is there a link between the young man's leap from a Dorset cliff and a horrific poisoning in Cambridge? After various career-threatening issues with her department, Barbara Havers is desperate to redeem herself. So when a past encounter with a best-selling feminist writer and her pushy personal assistant gives her a connection to the Cambridge murder, Barbara begs Thomas Lynley to let her pursue the crime. Full of shocks, intensity, and suspense from beginning to end, *A Banquet of Consequences* reveals both Lynley and Havers under mounting pressure to solve one of the most complex cases they have ever encountered.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As I closed this lengthy (573 pages) new book in the Lynley/Havers series I breathed a sigh of relief. Oh my goodness, I think Elizabeth George is back on track. This was actually a good installment in the series. After George killed off Lynley's wife and unborn child on their own doorstep, the series

went amok. She followed that incident with a book that was truly, in my opinion, horrible "What Came Before Her" and then issued four very mediocre novels with Lynley and Havers behaving very uncharacteristically. I had really about given up but thought that I'll give it one more try. I am glad I did. This book goes back to the tried and true formula of being about an actual crime. Clare Abbott, a renowned feminist writer, is found dead in her hotel suite while on a speaking tour. At first it is thought to be a heart attack but after further investigation it turns out she was poisoned. Attention turns to her assistant, Caroline Goldacre, and she is quite a piece of work. Caroline has one of the most dysfunctional families around. One son commits suicide and her employer builds a monument for him. What is the relationship between these two women? Havers is still walking a thin line with her boss, Isabelle Ardery, who desperately wants her gone. With the real threat of transfer hanging over her head, Havers must walk a very disciplined line and that is so hard for her. Dorteia Harriman, the department secretary, tries to befriend her and this is hysterical. Harriman is such a fashion plate and Havers is, well, not. Harriman tries to take her shopping and then they try speed dating which is funny. It's Havers taste in clothes that brings her in touch with Claire Abbott, the murder victim. Lynley meanwhile is continuing his relationship with Daidre, the zoo veterinarian. I think this thread is still a troubling part of the book. It just doesn't fit and I find the relationship awkward. It is just so unlikely. I don't know why George keeps trying to make a square peg fit into a round hole. No matter how many times you pound that peg, you just can't make it work. It doesn't work. Stop it. I have a lot of time invested in this series. I have read all the books as they come out. They require an investment of time as they are all over 550 pages. I have stuck to it through the very rough times when it appeared George had lost control of the series. I am glad it's back on track with a very readable book. The plot was interesting. The characters were interesting. Havers was back in form. Now if she could only stop trying to force the Lynley relationship, things would be great. Even so, I can recommend this book to all those readers who have stuck with George. It is possible to read this as a stand alone and enjoy it but for long standing fans, it is a breath of fresh air.

I have been an avid fan of Elizabeth George and the (Lynley series) from the beginning. Playing for the Ashes and Deception on his Mind are in my humble opinion two of the finest psychological mysteries I have ever read. Many others in the long running series were almost as good. Unfortunately, in the past few years the caliber of writing has declined. George's last two books were a struggle to get through and if not for Vine I may not have purchased A Banquet of Consequences. Happily, I can give an enthusiastic two thumbs up for her latest. A Banquet of

Consequences is flawless, as Elizabeth George has gone back to her roots and written a complex, and nuanced character driven book that is both plausible and heartfelt. This time around, George takes her time developing her characters. There is the psychological undercurrent of a highly dysfunctional family, however, nothing is over-the-top and there is a plethora of clues and intelligent plotting. The story alternates between London and Dorset and begins 39 months before a murder, then 2 months before, 6 weeks before and finally in the here and now. William Goldacre, is trying to win back the affections of his girlfriend Lily Foster after another one of his emotional breakdowns has waylaid their 10 month relationship. This will not happen, as William in despair commits suicide by jumping from a cliff. William has an older brother Charlie, who is a psychologist and is devastated by his brother's death. His inability to help his brother has caused a fissure within his own marriage to his wife India and they are now estranged. The brother's mother, Caroline, has a strong and domineering personality and does not play well with others, causing strife wherever she goes. Caroline has secured a position as an assistant for a well-respected feminist lecturer/writer, Clare. Caroline is jealous of the relationship Clare has with her friend and editor, Rory. Caroline's second husband is having an affair with one of his employees. As the story unfolds all of their dark secrets and motivations come to light after Clare is found poisoned. One of Elizabeth George's greatest strengths is her spot-on observation of people and their psychological states. All the pieces come together and the ending made perfect sense with the story staying taut and surprising. Detective Inspector Thomas Lynley is on the case in London. Lynley appeared to be going through the motions after the murder of his beloved wife Helen and perhaps his inertia and erratic behavior will remain a thing from the past. His partner, the incomparable Barbara Havers is trying to strike a compromise with her true self and the role that Detective Superintendent Isabelle Arderly is insisting she play. While Havers has always had flashes of brilliance as a homicide detective, her inability to follow the rules has her in jeopardy of being transferred to Berwick-upon-Tweed if she steps out of line again. Thomas Lynley once again pleads Havers' case to their superior and she is partnered with Detective Sergeant Nkata Winston to handle the Dorset investigation. The dynamics between Lynley and Havers has always been only of the stronger aspects of the series and their banter includes some delightful moments of needed levity. Lynley is courting Daidre the veterinarian and their relationship is reminiscent of his earlier relationship with his departed wife Helen. Daidre is not ready to make a full commitment to the aristocratic Thomas Lynley. Like the best of Elizabeth George, these character are fated by their past mistakes, temperament and character flaws. All is forgiven, A Banquet of Consequences is a keeper

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