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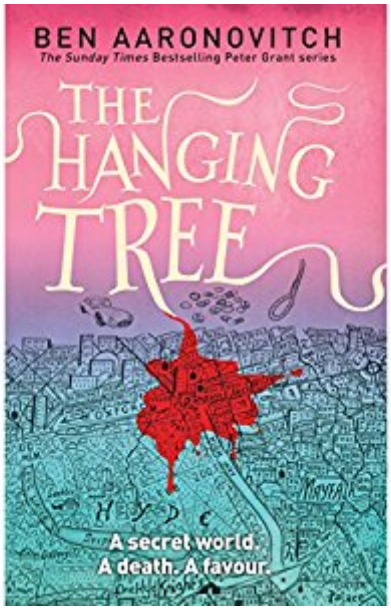
The Hanging Tree: Rivers Of London, Book 6



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Synopsis

Where the Marble Arch stands today in London was once the Tyburn gallows - also known as The Hanging Tree. The walk toward those gallows along Oxford Street and past the Mayfair mansions has a bloody and haunted history as the last trip of the condemned. Some things never change. For both blood and ghosts have returned to those mansions of the super-rich. And it’s up to Peter Grant - England’s last wizard and the Metropolitan Police’s reluctant investigator of all things supernatural - to get to the bottom of the sinister doings.

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Customer Reviews

In the alternate reality that is 2017, I need good escapist reading but it has been surprisingly difficult to find. IÃ¢Â Â™ve started many good books like Joe HillÃ¢Â Â™s Ã¢Â ÂœThe FiremanÃ¢Â Â• and had to set them aside as a little too reminiscent of our current reality. So I have to say that I was overjoyed when Ã¢Â ÂœThe Hanging TreeÃ¢Â Â• was (finally) released :)IÃ¢Â Â™ve been a huge fan of AaronovitchÃ¢Â Â™s Rivers of London series since I discovered Ã¢Â ÂœMidnight RiotÃ¢Â Â• a few years ago. In addition to extremely likable characters- especially narrator Peter Grant- the blend of fantasy, mystery, British police procedural and clever humor are tailor made for me. We get the added bonus of a detailed London setting with excursions into LondonÃ¢Â Â™s different cultures- both real and imaginary.After the bucolic diversion of Ã¢Â ÂœFoxglove SummerÃ¢Â Â• I was happy to see Peter return to his London stomping grounds and the key story of the Faceless Man in Ã¢Â ÂœThe Hanging TreeÃ¢Â Â•. It is an engrossing story with the

introduction of new characters along with old favorites. Several story lines took a while to converge and once again police work plays a key role.At several points there were references to cases and events that I didnÃ¢Â Â™t remember from previous books. Understandable since Ã¢Â ÂœBroken HomesÃ¢Â Â• was released three years ago (and Ã¢Â ÂœFoxglove Summer almost two). While that was fine since it gave me an excuse to re-read the entire series, hereÃ¢Â Â™s a tip- Aaronovitch also has a series of Rivers of London graphic novels. Most of what I thought I had forgotten comes from those. Nothing is lost if you havenÃ¢Â Â™t read them (I havenÃ¢Â Â™t, not really my thing) but if you enjoy graphic novels, they are available.Individually I might have said that other than Ã¢Â ÂœMidnight RiotÃ¢Â Â• I merely strongly liked each book. But cumulatively- I absolutely love this series and have to say it is one of my favorites.

I had a lot of trouble with reading this one, kept finding it confusing about what was happening in the story and had to keep re-reading some passages and dialogue attempting to clarify what the action was and what the characters were doing and saying. I'd found the numerous acronyms more mystifying in this book than in prior books, and also kept getting the impression that I must have missed a book in the series too--though that hadn't been the case. Perhaps it was due to there being a long gap between this book and the previous one, or maybe some refer to the other series, but I'd had trouble following some of the action in this book and had only somewhat hazy recollections of some of the references being made in it to certain earlier books, too. For all the activity and action in this one, though, it didn't really seem to amount to anything of importance or to move the story along much, if at all, and the characters seemed a bit flat compared to usual too--not quite as likable, compelling, enchanting, or interesting as usual. Leslie, the faceless guy, and hints of Punch have become a bit of a yawn, and seemed to have been plonked into this one without much purpose, really. Might be time to either redeem or dispose of those, in favor of more amusing and compelling plots, twists, and enchantments, perhaps? A little more fun to balance the intensity, as in earlier books, maybe? Well, this one certainly wasn't my favorite in the series, but that is par for the course when reading any series, of course, since some books will be hits and others not so much. A longer wait for a next book often causes people to expect more from a book, too, but I'm not as disappointed as some readers seem to be, and will definitely read the next book.

Enough with the forced grammar errors, Ben. With every book, you introduce new systemic grammar problems with the protagonist's speech to make him seem more down-to-earth (along with the original use of backwards multiple objects in place of multiple subjects, we now have incorrect

subjunctive, use of a subject in place of an object, and incorrect use of prepositions). Basically, we're down to protagonist grammar errors every couple of pages. It doesn't make Peter Grant any more "common," since his vocabulary and other use of the language is beyond multi-disciplinary post-doctorate levels (and you even have other characters comment on that in the stories). It just irritates me, the reader. I don't read these books because Peter Grant is a believable copper. I read them because Peter Grant IS erudite, his phrasing IS clever, and the stories are darn well done. And, come to that, worrying about Peter being believable as an officer of the law because of his grammar is silly when the whole premise of these books is that he uses magic as a police officer. So, just stop dumbing down Peter.Anyway, Ben Aaronovitch's "The Hanging Tree (Rivers of London)" is the 6th in his "PC Peter Grant" series and is right in there with the rest of the series, i.e., it's darn good. Besides the above mentioned grammar issue, the only other complaint I have is that the long-term story arc (i.e., the Faceless Man) isn't really going anywhere. That's a bit frustrating. Still, I'm happy to rate the book at a Very Good 4 stars out of 5.

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