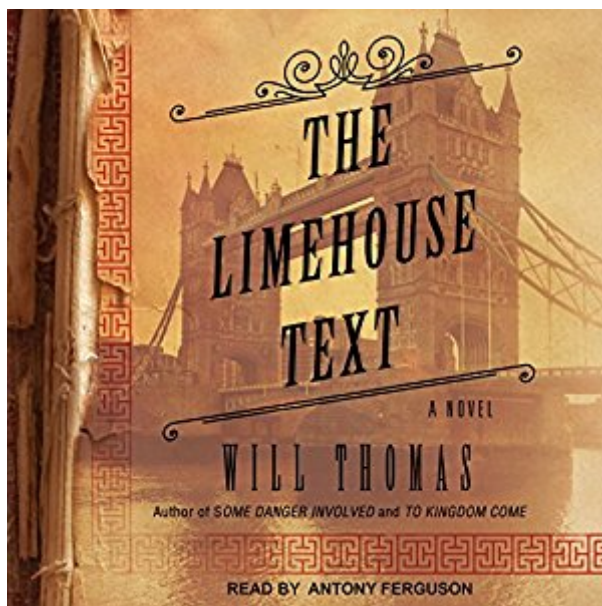


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The Limehouse Text: Barker & Llewelyn Series, Book 3



Synopsis

In *The Limehouse Text*, Cyrus Barker and Thomas Llewelyn discover a pawn ticket among the effects of Barker's late assistant, leading them to London's Chinese district, Limehouse. There they retrieve an innocent-looking book that proves to be a rare and secret text stolen from a Nanking monastery, containing lethal martial arts techniques forbidden in the West. With the political situation between the British Empire and Imperial China already unstable, the duo must not only track down a killer intent upon gaining the secret knowledge but also safeguard the text from a snarl of suspects with conflicting interests. Prowling through an underworld of opium dens, back-room blood sports, and sailors' penny hangs while avoiding the wrath of the district's powerful warlord, Mr. K'ing, Barker and Llewelyn take listeners on a perilous tour through the mean streets of turn-of-the-century London.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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#252 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > British Detectives

Customer Reviews

I am not sure how this book came to me (as it sat on one of my book shelves for almost a year!), but once I started reading it I couldn't stop. This was one of my 'train books' as I read it for 40 minutes a day as I traveled to and from work. I eventually just started reading it at home when I got a chance. I LOVE Barker and Llewelyn! The people, places, and era are so beautifully done. The writing is well crafted in every way imaginable. I honestly cannot think of even one miniscule thing that could have been different or better. From the first word to the last Mr. Thomas had my full attention. I was as stunned as everyone at Ho's who the killer was.....! I have now started the 4th B and L book, and

once again enthralled. Mr. Thomas you are such a gifted and talented author, and I thank you for all your hard work (his research must have been very in-depth) and talent. Will we ever know what lurks behind those dark glasses of Barker? Will Barker ever tell more about his past? Will Barker and Llewelyn ever find Lady Loves? (Barker would make a great 'Book Boyfriend', however he is a tad too much of a curmudgeon Lol!). I would recommend this writer to anyone that wants a good solid Victorian Era read.

Will Thomas' Victorian mysteries echo the place, time and relationship of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classics, but with a fresh take on the genre. This offering is set in Limehouse, a part of east London just as seedy and dangerous as Whitechapel, but with a less notorious reputation. The text to which the title refers is a secret book that discloses the "dim mak" or "death touch" of B-grade kung-fu movies; due to its lethality, several groups compete for its possession - with predictably lethal consequences. The story is solid - the reveal is a surprise, the red herrings believable, and the pace of the action rapid. What I especially enjoyed about the book is the relationship between characters - and how as the Barker-Llewellyn series continues, pieces of the history of both are revealed as the depth of the partnership deepens. The Limehouse Text is a fun read, with winks and nods both to other Victorian detective writers (like Doyle) but also to contemporary film. A great addition to a great series. Recommended.

Just finished this 3rd mystery in the Barker Llewellyn series. Only started with the 1st 5 days ago. Fascinated by the enigmatic "enquiry agent" whose legendary skills once more see him through the tightest spots. Each case takes the reader inside a different ethnic, cultural group living in London...this time offering an intriguing window on 19th century Chinese lore, food, celebrations, allegiances, and values.

Barker and his assistant have solved another case with its twist and turns each layer is being revealed about Barker's mysteries past

Each of the Barker and Llewellyn books tackled a mystery in a different section of old London, the first in a Jewish neighborhood, the second in a group of Irish revolutionaries, and this third in a Chinese ghetto. Barker's first assistant was a young Chinaman. We learn that Barker grew up in China, learning to fight from Chinese masters, and valuing his Oriental training. Now information comes that will help Barker find out who killed young Quong and why, if he can live through the

enquiry. The story is told through the eyes of Llewellyn, who shares his discoveries as they unfold. This is another well-written mystery by Will Thomas, worth every minute of reasons. I am looking forward to the fourth book!

I happen to find the 4th book of the series in a tiny book shop in Cape May. I did not know it was the 4th book, the title just intrigued me because I had been reading about the Hellfire club. And I just hate reading a series starting at the end, so I bought the rest of the books and started reading them. It was the best decision I have ever made. These books are wonderful. They give me my fix of Victoriana, they make me hold my breath at times, they fill me with such impatience---i just want to get through it---i want to know what happens!! I read the first book in a day, I wish I could have read the others that fast too, but there is something called work that kept getting in my way. I finished them in a week. They are intense, they are funny, they are filled with danger and excitement. And I am just dieing to know Barker's past!!! What is behind those glasses?????

New to this author, really enjoying catching up!

Private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker has a mysterious background in China, a rare Pekingese dog given to him from the Empress of China and formerly had a Chinese assistant whose death by gunshot to the head led to the position being open to current assistant, Thomas Llewelyn. The murder has gone unsolved for over a year, but Inspector Bainbridge thinks he has a break in the case when he finds an overlooked pawn shop ticket in the dead assistant's clothing. The pawned item turns out to be a book stolen from China purportedly containing martial arts secrets such as the Death Touch; a book that several governments, crime organizations and individuals out for a quick quid would (and have) killed to obtain. Barker and Llewelyn roam the streets of Victorian Limehouse, going beyond Ho's hidden restaurant to encounter Triad organizations, sailors on the main shipping line between China and London, illegal boxing matches, fights to the death, crime lords, opium dens, lion dances, acupuncturists, sword-fighting girls and other fun and exciting fare... along with a number of murders, including murder by the Touch of Death. In this third book, we get a fascinating background, colorful characters and an involved mystery that is a suitable challenge to a sharp and determined detective. Here we also have the classic denouement in a room full of suspects. Aside from a lamentable lapse in judgment by Llewelyn that requires Barker to risk his life, this may be the best book yet in a delightfully enjoyable mystery series.

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