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# RC 609 Silence Of The Lambs





## Synopsis

There's a serial killer on the loose, who knows that beauty is only skin deep, and a trainee investigator who's trying to save her own hide. The only man that can help them is locked in an asylum. But he's willing to put a brave face on - if it will help him escape.

## Book Information

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Authors, A-Z > ( H ) > Harris, Thomas #20480 in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

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## Customer Reviews

The Silence of the Lambs, by Thomas Harris, is even better than the successful movie. Like his earlier Red Dragon, the book takes us inside the world of professional criminal investigation. All the elements of a well-executed thriller are working here--driving suspense, compelling characters, inside information, publicity-hungry bureaucrats thwarting the search, and the clock ticking relentlessly down toward the death of another young woman. What enriches this well-told tale is the opportunity to live inside the minds of both the crime fighters and the criminals as each struggles in a prison of pain and seeks, sometimes violently, relief. Clarice Starling, a precociously self-disciplined FBI trainee, is dispatched by her boss, Section Chief Jack Crawford, the FBI's most successful tracker of serial killers, to see whether she can learn anything useful from Dr. Hannibal Lecter. Lecter's a gifted psychopath whose nickname is "The Cannibal" because he likes to eat parts of his victims. Isolated by his crimes from all physical contact with the human race, he plays an enigmatic game of "Clue" with Starling, providing her with snippets of data that, if she is smart enough, will lead her to the criminal. Undaunted, she goes where the data takes her. As the tension mounts and the bureaucracy thwarts Starling at every turn, Crawford tells her, "Keep the information and freeze the feelings." Insulted, betrayed, and humiliated, Starling struggles to focus. If she can



understand Lecter's final, ambiguous scrawl, she can find the killer. But can she figure it out in time?

--Barbara Schlieper --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In this thrillingly effective follow-up to Harris's masterful 1981 suspense novel *Red Dragon*, the heroine is new, but the villain isn't: Dr. Hannibal Lecter, the evil genius who played a small but crucial role in the earlier novel, returns, to mesmerizing effect. When a serial killer known as Buffalo Bill (he kidnaps, slays and skins young women) begins a crosscountry rampage, FBI trainee Clarice Starling tries to interview Lecter, a psychiatrist whose brilliant insights into the criminally insane are matched only by his bloodlusthe's currently imprisoned for nine murders, and would like nothing more than the chance to kill again. Lecter, a vicious gamesman, will offer clues to the murderer's pattern only in exchange for information about Clarice, analyzing her with horrible accuracy from the barest details. When Bill strikes again, the agent begins to realize that Lecter may know much more, and races against time and two twisted minds. Harris understands the crafting of literary terror as very few writers do; readers who put themselves in his good, coldblooded hands will lose sleep, and demand a sequel. 200,000 first printing; \$200,000 ad/promo; BOMC main selection. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I read a lot of thrillers and I'm generally disappointed. Many of them, most probably, I don't bother to review. This one set the standard for the modern serial killer thriller novel and it's a great book. Granted, *Silence of the Lambs* is a better book, but this one is great. All that said, Hannibal was so horrid I cannot bring myself to think about it. I never even read the last installment because I was so sad over the loss of good story telling that was foisted upon me with the third installment of the Hannibal series. Oddly, Harris didn't write Hannibal Lecter as a character he meant to repeat, he states in the foreword of this edition of *Red Dragon* that he didn't even know Dr. Lecter would show up in *Silence* until he'd started writing it. Amazing, seeing as how popular the character ended up becoming. While part of that can be attributed to the great performance of Anthony Hopkins in the film adaption, it's hardly the only reason. He is a fantastically written character in the first two books. If you haven't read *Silence of the Lambs* yet, I'd suggest reading this one first, although it's not necessary to follow and understand the story.

After watching the movie *Silence of The Lambs* i found myself under the spell of this series, fascinated more by clarice then by hannibal however. I wanted to read the novel but thought it best to prep by reading this. Thinking it would be a great introduction to Hannibal. It was, but what i found



was not as good as i hoped. Lecter was creepy, but more like the high school nerd who knows creepy things about you. I found hannibal to not be the sinister and wicked villain he will be, but the pathetic killer caught and confined. The rest of the novel follows the same parts of the genre that perhaps this novel contributed to the formation of. An eccentric investigator that cant seem to piece together the significant clues that is obvious to the audiences god like vision. This knowledge is given to us through the narration by slowing down the pace and telling the story from the killers point of view, giving back story and humanizing him to make the final conclusion tense. Ultimately, the disparate strands come together in a conclusion that leavea our protag physically damaged. The prose was easy to read, but the substance made it a slog. Besides frustration, i only experienced excitement or 'thrills' in maybe the last 20 pages where something genuinely unexpected happens. A last minute stab at plot twist that was, i concede, effective. To say i was dissapointed is an understatement. Im not sure what i was expecting, but it actually swayed me away from reading Silence and just being content with the film.

I will talk first about the conditions of the book when it reached my hands, then about the book's contents. I must say I'm extremely satisfied with the book in all possible ways. Based on how tight it felt it was obvious it had never even been read before, which is a rare sort of luxury that's hard to get even in bookstores. It came in perfect conditions, not even a single stain of any kind, no traceable damage, nothing wrong. The Silence of the Lambs was a major page-turner and a succulent read, and that's the very least I can say. The pacing is magnificent, the prose is very simple while maintaining a sophisticated vocabulary and being profound like few others have managed. Truly an engrossing story from beginning to end. It is different to some degree to the movie, for example, Dr. Lecter behaves more sophisticated in the novel than in the book and the dialogue is simply exquisite to read over and over again. There was not a single moment I could go without reading it without thinking about it. Thomas Harris really surpassed himself by a lot compared to Red Dragon, though I must say that I liked the killer in Red Dragon a lot more than the one we see in The Silence of the Lambs. However, we get more Dr. Lecter than we do in Red Dragon, which surpasses both killers by plenty. I very strongly recommend this book from this seller. I am so satisfied I would dare buy it again because truly, this is one rare luxury.

Sure, most of us have seen the movie version. I don't know why it took me so long to actually pick up the book and read it. I'd read Red Dragon years ago and just got lazy...and maybe just a little busy with all the other books I decided I just had to read...so I just never got around to The Silence



of the Lambs. I'm glad I finally decided to sit down and give it a go. It's hard to get the image of Sir Anthony Hopkins out of your head when reading, but it didn't distract or detract me from the story. It plays out much the same as the movie but it is tighter and paced well. The characters are all well drawn and unlike a lot of thrillers in this genre, you actually find yourself rooting for Dr. Lecter...or at least I did! Granted I still wouldn't like to be invited to one of his dinner parties! If you've never seen the movie, definitely start with the books. If you've already seen the movies, what are you waiting for?

My original copy cover did not have the Blake illustration on it. I remember going to a nearby city library and having the reference librarian help me find a book with a copy of the illustration. He asked why I was looking for it, and I merely said that it was referenced in a book that I was reading, and that I was curious about it. He said he had asked because I was the second person that had come to the library, looking for the same information. This was, of course, before home computers and the internet. It made that much of an impression. Hannibal Lecter was a horrible, but secondary character. I actually prefer this book to "Silence of the Lambs". Read both of them, and make up your own mind.

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