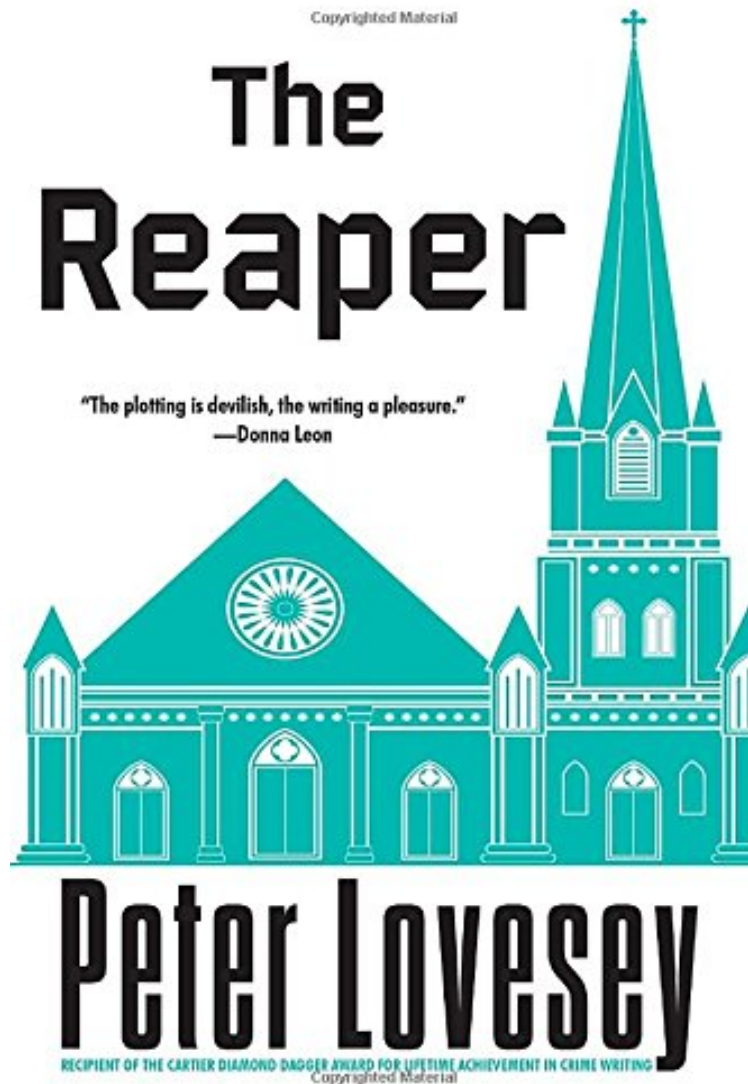


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The Reaper

Peter Lovesey

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#529228 in Books Soho Crime 2002-11-30 2003-07-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.50 x .66 x 5.00l,
.65 #File Name: 1569473080320 pages | File size: 31.Mb

Peter Lovesey : The Reaper before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Reaper:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great story that uses a lot of character development (perhaps ...By PBJGreat story that uses a lot of character development (perhaps a bit too much for the task at hand). I seriously doubt that this book will find itself the subject of any church book club, and I will definitely look at young priests a bit differently for a while after reading it. This is one of Lovesey's earlier books (something you need to keep in mind as

pertains to the time it was written) and I look forward to reading more of his work. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It was recommended to me with the comment "wait until you get ...By Elizabeth SykesIt was definitely a "different" read. It was interesting and kept my attention but wasn't necessarily a page turner. It was recommended to me with the comment "wait until you get to the very end." I was reasonable surprised but not blown away surprised so it was a little bit of a let down. I most always read only Christian authors' novels so this had some words in it that are not what I like in my reading. However, I would still recommend it to those who like to read suspenseful fiction. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy J. R. HoppeDeliciously Lovesey!

A dark, delicious tale of a popular village cleric who has no conscienceAfter years spent saving souls, Otis Joy, the rector of St. Bartholomew's Church in Foxford, Wiltshire, has found a new calling: ending lives. His young French wife? Anaphylactic shock, what a shame. The bishop? Fell into a quarry. Tragic. It's not Joy's fault, really—not that he's concerned about repentance or absolution these days. He just doesn't want his other little secret—embezzling church funds to finance a fancy yacht—to be discovered. But when the husband of the new church secretary, Rachel Jansen, turns up dead, it isn't long before the village starts to gossip and the local constable gets involved. As it turns out, God isn't the only one who's always watching.

From Publishers WeeklyWielding the Diamond Dagger for Lifetime Achievement he recently won from the British Crime Writers, Lovesey slashes his way through the overgrown shrubbery of the rural British cozy. The result is an extremely clever, exquisitely written story of a murderous rector who manages to earn a great deal of our sympathy while dramatically whittling down his flock in the Wiltshire village of Foxford. "If you knew Marcus Glastonbury, you would not expect him to appreciate anything out of the ordinary," Lovesey tells us right away about the local bishop, who comes to chastise the handsome young rector for cooking the books at his last parish. And indeed Bishop Glastonbury is no match for the Reverend Otis Joy a wickedly intelligent serial killer (the bishop becomes his second victim, framed to look like a suicide and a sex pervert) who also happens to be a crackerjack priest. That's why the good folk of Foxford especially the women find it hard to swallow the gossip about Reverend Joy that gradually builds up like a winter ground fog. One local housewife, Rachel Jansen, who surprises the rector naked under an apron while he cleans up after killing the bishop, becomes such a strong supporter that she risks losing not only her life but also her immortal soul. Lovesey deftly plants deceptive clues and raises false hopes about Reverend Joy's fate, all the while painting a picture of a town and a church congregation so real that they leap off the page. (Apr. 1)Forecast: Soho is reprinting another one of Lovesey's best novels 1978's *Rough Cider* in paperback to help celebrate his Diamond Dagger, and he will be the guest of honor at this year's Bouchercon in Washington, D.C. Last year's well-received *The Vault* is also still available, helping to give this deserving author a lot of visibility. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From BooklistOtis Joy, rector of Foxford, is a gifted preacher, an able parish politician, and a deft fund-raiser. So deft is he that he manages, with the help of carefully picked, somewhat dense parish treasurers, to embezzle funds from every post he holds. When the bishop confronts him with the evidence, Rector Joy dispatches him with a blow to the head from a St. Paul's Cathedral snow globe. The reader watches in horrified, sometimes admiring fascination, as the rector continues to wow them in the pews, soothe suspicions, seduce his next pick for treasurer, while pursuing, on days off and at odd moments when parishioners thwart his plans, his avocation as serial killer. Greatly acclaimed suspense master Lovesey (his latest accolade is the Diamond Dagger for Lifetime Achievement) is brilliant at constructing a knife's-edge suspense plot and at involving us, against our will and better judgment, with the charming, evil rector. Connie FletcherCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved Praise for *The Reaper* "Lovesey is such a master of black humor and macabre plot twists . . . By taking care to show us what a pious and compassionate priest the vicar is, Lovesey challenges us to keep our values screwed on tight. In this author's unorthodox church, there must be a pew for Patricia Highsmith." —Marilyn Stasio, *The New York Times Book* "If you've never read any of [Lovesey's] 20-plus books, this wickedly clever, beautifully written story of a murderous clergyman who earns our sympathy while dramatically whittling down his flock should make you an instant convert."—*Chicago Tribune* "The flavor here is part Patricia Highsmith in her Ripley series and part Ealing comedy . . . It's a hard act to pull off—tone is everything—and Lovesey is a master practitioner." —*Washington Post Book World* "Otis is a wonderful creation: self-effacing, pious, attractive, dedicated to his parishioners, devoted to the church. He suffers from vocation run wild: he needs adulation and respect the way a junkie needs a fix. And, like a junkie, he will commit any crime to ensure he receives it . . . The plotting is devilish, the writing a pleasure." —Donna Leon, *The Sunday Times* "[Lovesey] proves his mettle here with a deliciously wicked village mystery . . . gleefully demonic."—Kirkus s