



Listen for the Whisperer

Phyllis A. Whitney

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A reclusive actress is brought back into the spotlight—by murder—in this novel by a *New York Times*–bestselling and Edgar award–winning author.

Leigh Hollins had no choice but to honor her father's dying wish: that she find her estranged mother, now living in seclusion in Norway, and reconcile with her. Leigh's mother, Laura Worth, was once one of the most dynamic movie stars in the world, her films eclipsed only by her real life, which was filled with intrigue, scandal, and romantic melodrama. Then, after the mysterious death of the director on her final film, Laura slipped away from the Hollywood limelight. All she wanted was to be alone—but her daughter is about to shatter her solitude.

When Leigh arrives at her mother's isolated hillside home in Bergen, she's met with both guarded joy and trepidation. Gunnar, a family friend, is a welcoming figure who sparks an unexpected attraction. But when Leigh reunites with the mother she once longed to know, she discovers a weakened recluse, a woman living in fear. As Leigh opens old wounds, draws out long-buried secrets, and unwittingly invites the dreadful past back into both of their lives, she learns that not everyone is a fan of Laura Worth. Someone wants her dead—and Leigh herself has also been targeted for a killer fade-out.

From the Edgar Award–winning author Barbara Michaels hailed as “the Grand Master of her craft,” *Listen for the Whisperer* is a novel of illusions and deadly family secrets.

This ebook features an illustrated biography of Phyllis A. Whitney including rare images from the author's estate.

Listen for the Whisperer Details

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Becky says

My mother loved her books and would buy them the second they came out...a new one each year. She would read them, then my sister Sue would read them, then I would read them. They were always a good read, suspenseful and always an interesting setting...like taking a trip to a new place.

I got a little frustrated with her heroines who always seemed unable to sleep and decided to venture into dangerous places no one would go in the daytime alone, let alone at night...and because they never could discern between two men...one of whom they loved and the other who was trying to kill them and got them mixed up several times in the course of the story....but this was the pattern of books in those days, and you take it with a grain of salt and enjoy the story. I have read all her books and now my sister is re-reading them all...maybe I will too.

Rita says

Re-read it after 35 years. Not sure why I loved it so as a teen. Must have been a much less sophisticated reader.

Arismere says

A protagonista deste livro teve como pai um famoso escritor, cujos livros foram adaptados para o cinema e uma famosa mãe, estrela de muitos filmes na época de ouro de Hollywood. Leigh cresceu sem conhecer pessoalmente a mãe, vendo-a através dos filmes que havia feito antes de se retirar do cinema no auge da carreira. A ausência desta mãe e o fato de saber que havia sido entregue ao pai logo após o nascimento fez com que a jovem se tornasse adulta com a amargura e o ressentimento cada vez mais fortes em seu coração. Não lhe faltou o amor de uma mãe, pois seu pai havia casado e ele fora muito feliz em companhia dele e da madrasta, mas jamais conseguiu colocar de lado o fato da mãe natural tê-la entregue e nunca mais ter se interessado por ela.

Após a morte do pai Leigh se vê numa situação que a deixa confusa. Havia prometido a ele que iria a procura de sua mãe e que entregaria a ela um peso de papel feito de âmbar que, aparentemente representara algo para o casal. Após a hesitação inicial ela parte para Bergen, na Noruega, ao encontro de um amigo de seu pai que se dispusera a conseguir uma entrevista entre ela e Laura Worth sob o pretexto de que ela era uma jornalista fazendo uma matéria sobre antigas estrelas de Hollywood.

Na realidade Leigh tinha intenção de provocar a mãe e atormentá-la, usando como munição a retirada dela do mundo do cinema após a morte, no set de filmagem, do diretor da adaptação do livro mais famoso de seu pai, Sussurros. Este crime jamais havia sido solucionado e aos poucos se torna uma obsessão para a jovem. Sob o falso pretexto de estar escrevendo a tal história sobre as divas do cinema Leigh se hospeda na casa de Laura e de seu marido, onde também moram a cunhada de Laura e sua governanta. É nesta casa que a moça passa a presenciar coisas que a assustam e encham de curiosidade.

Laura mantém um quarto com seus vestidos, acessórios e demais lembranças do cinema e dá liberdade a moça para ver tudo a fim de escrever seu artigo. Neste quarto se encontra, trancado a sete chaves em um baú, o vestido que ela usara na cena principal de Sussurros, assim como castiçais usados na cena. Eu confesso que se estivesse no lugar de Leigh daria pulos de alegria! Imaginem estar em um quarto com roupas usadas em

filmes da década de 40? Muito legalllll!!!!

Bom, tanto Laura quanto Leigh começam a escutar sussurros pela casa que dizem "Escute... Escute", exatamente como acontecia na sequencia final do filme. Além disso acidentes acontecem e Leigh escapa da morte por pouco mais de uma vez.

Não demora muito para que Laura descubra que Leigh é sua filha. Não esperem por uma cena cheia de lágrimas. Uma é a mulher que abandonou a filha e nunca se arrependeu disso e a outra é a filha mais parecida com a mãe do que gostaria e que se ressentiu do passado. É interessante ver como as duas convivem e como são forçadas a se unir para descobrir o que está acontecendo com elas e o que aconteceu cerca de vinte anos atrás.

A parte romântica é deixada bem de lado. O amigo do pai de Leigh é seu interesse romântico, mas a coisa mal é citada, os encontros são poucos, etc. Não atrapalha a história, uma vez que o foco está no mistério e no relacionamento entre mãe e filha.

Um bom livro de Phyllis Whitney que eu recomendo.

shery says

This was my favorite and first book I read. I remembered way back in my elementary days when I searched in library and found out this book so interesting. I became a huge fan of Phyllis Ayame Whitney and still missing to read her whodunit or mystery type of story. The story was about a daughter looking for her mom after her dad died and even her mom was very mysterious and didn't really knew her mom well, she still stood up by her mom side.

Frenchie says

This book had just the right amount of mystery, suspense & romance. I thoroughly enjoyed it

Yacharms says

one of my top 3 fave phyllis a. whitney books.

Megan says

[July/August?] 1996

[December/January] 1997/1998

December 24, 2003

Julie says

Very good book! Lots of twists and turns to keep the pages turning!

Gail Morris says

for Christmas I received a box set of 4 books by Phyllis, as well as several other books, and this book was the first one in the set that I cracked open and began to read: as always you suspect everyone of the murder by the time you realize who actually was the killer. She had me hating people, then falling for them; I wasn't sure who could be trusted except the main character since she is too young to have been the one to have gone to Hollywood and lifted a heavy object and dropped it onto a full grown man while she herself was less than 5 years old.

Mystery, Murder, and romance all rolled into one. Good stuff!

Dayna Smith says

Leigh Hollins has always harbored resentment against her classic film star mother, Laura Worth, who never wanted her. Her father's dying wish is for Leigh to go to Norway and meet her mother. She goes, but with plans of her own, and then discovers herself in the middle of a decades old murder mystery. Can she save her mother or is Laura the murderess? Another great novel for lovers of Whitney's magnificent blend of mystery and romance. No one does detailed settings better than Whitney.

Moonlight Reader says

Read for Halloween bingo. Not one of Whitney's best efforts, IMO.

Mare says

Classic Phyllis A. Whitney. Leigh Hollins wants to meet the mother who gave her up as a baby, Hollywood actress Laura Worth. Leigh travels to Norway where Laura has retired to after a scandal stops her career dead decades earlier. Once there, Leigh discovers assorted that among the various characters there are further mysteries and dangers awaiting them both. Great atmosphere.

Megan says

This was the first Phyllis A Whitney book that I read. After this book, I became a huge fan of Whitney's writing style... of course, I was 18 at the time.

Kristina says

I've read this book a number of times, but I read it again over the weekend after finishing *A Dance with Dragons*. I wanted something fluffy and light so I pulled this from my shelves. I've deducted two stars from my rating and I'm re-writing the review because I have more substantial comments to make.

Phyllis Whitney, Mary Stewart, Dorothy Eden and Victoria Holt—these are the writers that my mother indulged in when I was a child. Of the bunch, Mary Stewart is the best. Her characters are more fully-formed, the writing is superior, and the stories are just all-around better. However, if you want a good gothic romance, Phyllis Stewart and Dorothy Eden are great.

Listen for the Whisperer is not a bad read as long you don't think too much about it. The characters are interesting enough, the mystery is not bad, and the setting (Bergen, Norway) sounds great (I want to visit!). But it does leave much to be desired (see, I thought about it too much).

Leigh Hollins is the daughter of a well-known writer and famous Hollywood movie star. When her father dies, he wants her to reconcile with her mother, Laura Worth. Laura gave up her daughter when she was a baby to concentrate on her career. Twenty or so years later, Leigh goes to Norway to confront her mother. However, Laura has secrets and is being stalked by whisperer from a scandal in her past. When Leigh joins her at her home in Bergen, the stalker turns on her as well.

Um, okay. It's probably been about ten years since I read this book cover to cover. In that time, my opinion of Leigh has changed. I used to have sympathy for her, a woman who grew up with the knowledge that her mother rejected her. Now I agree with Laura when she rolls her eyes and declares Leigh (who is 23) to be very young and immature. She is. She's a whiny brat who blames everything bad in her life on the fact that her mother left her to be raised by her father—and his wife and they were a happy, secure family. It's like, really? Get over yourself. She eventually does get over herself...with the help of a handsome Norwegian, Gunnar. He was a friend of her father's and is now a close friend of Laura's. He's 15 years older than Leigh and rather paternalistic, but that doesn't stop him from being the romantic lead. That's okay, I guess. If Leigh (who clearly has daddy and mommy issues) is okay with this man scolding her and chiding her for being an angry daughter, then it's okay with me. So the romance is eh. I like Gunnar well enough, I just think he's too much of a father-figure for young Leigh.

The mystery. (view spoiler)

Everything in this book is very tidy and neat and clean. Any violence happens off-screen and the hero and heroines barely raise a sweat in this book. It's not Whitney's best book, but it's okay. If anything, it's a great advertisement for Bergen, Norway.

Jane Starwood says

Phyllis Whitney is one of my all-time favorite romantic suspense writers, and this is one of her best. I read it quite a while ago, but I still recall how it kept my heart-rate rising until the end.
