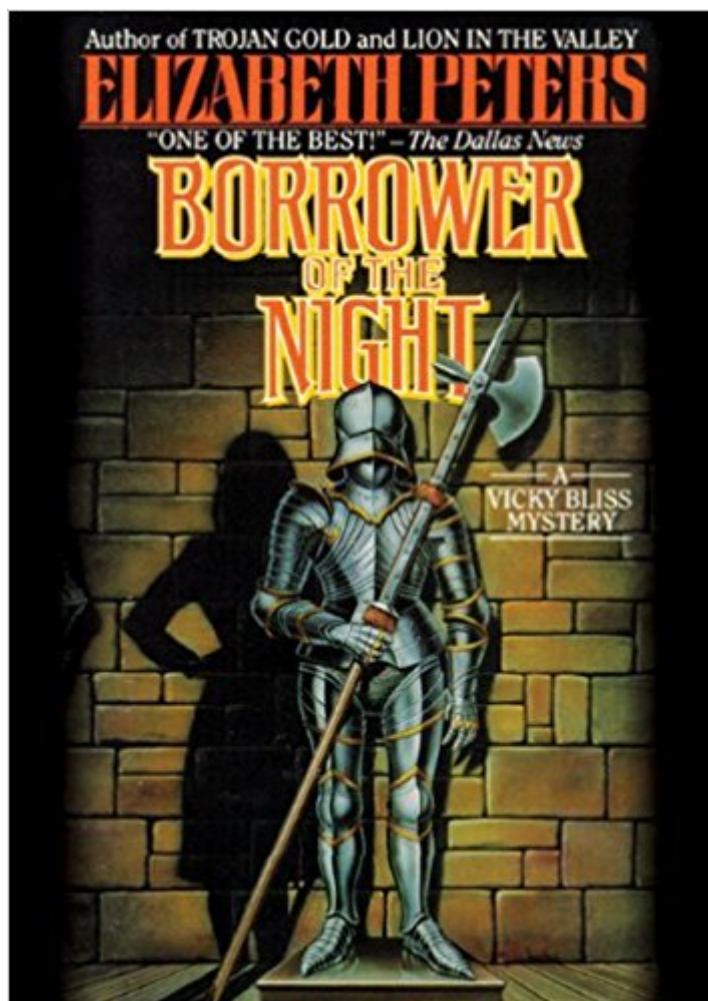


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# Borrower Of The Night (The First Vicky Bliss Mystery)



## Synopsis

It began as a game, a treasure hunt in an old German castle. For the beautiful and brilliant Vicky Bliss, it was also a challenge, a chance to bring an arrogant young man down a notch or two. And all things considered, it would have been no contest. The prize was a centuries-old shrine carved by Tilman Riemenschneider, probably Germany's greatest master of the late Gothic period. The place was the forbidding Schloss Drachenstein, where the stones were stained with ancient blood and the air reeked of evil. The problem was that someone was targeted, and the game was soon being played in deadly earnest.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Very highly recommended for any mystery buff. A superbly written 'Vicky Bliss' tale and splendidly performed in this unabridged audiobook edition by the narrative talents of Susan O'Malley.

--Reviewer's Bookwatch  
A writer so popular the public library needs to keep her books under lock and key. --The Washington Post  
An ancient European castle...secret passages...a mystery several hundred years old...and danger make this Elizabeth Peters's best book! --San Francisco Examiner

ELIZABETH PETERS, whose New York Times best-selling novels are often set against historical backdrops, earned a Ph.D. in Egyptology at the University of Chicago. She also writes best-selling books under the pseudonym Barbara Michaels. She lives in Frederick, Maryland.

This is the first story in the Vicky Bliss mystery series and although, it's not absolutely necessary to

read the stories in chronological order, it really does help to understand the background of the main characters and frankly, it makes reading the books even more enjoyable. In *BORROWER OF THE NIGHT*, Vicky Bliss, art historian and college professor finds a reference in a book that might lead to the discovery of a missing masterpiece by Tilman Riemenschneider, a very famous German sculptor. Tony, Vicky's boyfriend and colleague, challenges her to see which of them can locate the missing treasure first. Their information leads them to visit Rothenberg, Germany, and an ancient castle. Several other people are also on the trail of the missing treasure, including Herr Dr. Schmidt and a wealthy American named George. Gorgeous Vicky is in her glory when she collects many admirers among the group, but the beautiful young countess who lives in the castle seems to have captured the interest of Tony. What can be more sinister than an old castle with secret passages and a history of evil inhabitants? I listened to the audiotapes of this book read by Barbara Rosenblat. It was helpful to hear the pronunciations of the German words and her narration was wonderful. If you're intrigued enough to want to read this series in order, here they are: *BORROWER OF THE NIGHT*, *STREET OF THE FIVE MOONS*, *SILHOUETTE IN SCARLET*, *TROJAN GOLD* and *NIGHT TRAIN TO MEMPHIS*. These are all excellent stories and I only wish that Elizabeth Peters would write more of them.

I love all of the Vicki Bliss books and am starting to reread them I had forgotten how good the first one was until I did reread it. Thankfully, it had been so long since I read it for the first time (decades), it was like reading it for the first time and none of the important plot points were recalled. If you read it, you will want the others, so just be forewarned.

This is the introductory book of the Vicky Bliss series. Dr Bliss is an art historian teaching in a small midwestern college. She has decided never to marry since she has discovered that the only thing that intimidates most men more than a tall woman is a smart tall woman and Vicky is both. Another member of the faculty, Tony, is also tall and smart and quite taken with Vicky. The two stumble across a reference to a long missing art work and are soon off to Germany to track it down, in competition with each other. They find that they are not the only ones seeking this piece. The trail leads to a castle turned hotel complete with a ghost, secret passages and damsel in distress. This book was written in 1973 and does show its age a bit. If you are looking for the mysterious John Smythe of the later books he does not appear here but we do get the first appearance of Schmidt. While she is not as captivating a Amelia Peabody, Vicky is charming in her own way. The series makes for an enjoyable, light hearted read.

Audio Version Story - Excellent, good flow, nice characters, good setting since I've never been to the part of Germany in the book or read about it I had no preconceptions. I like the reader, she did an excellent job of reading the book, not playing the actress that over does it. She doesn't try to do a man voice, since the way the book was written it wasn't necessary. The only problem I had was the main character going on and on about being tall and well developed and never wanting to get married. She seemed to enjoy saying it over and over. But other than that it was enjoyable.

Love E. Peters "Amelia Peabody" books so thought I'd try the Vicky Bliss mysteries after reading many reviews. Oops, my bad. To try to compare the two female sleuths would be impossible. Sorry I bought the first two VB books, one was more than enough.

I may have read this before but won't know until I do read it again. I always enjoyed Vicky Bliss books.

This is the first entry in the Vicky Bliss Mysteries written c1968. Vicky, art historian at a US university, travels to Rothenburg Germany and competes with her boyfriend, Tony, to find a lost treasure from the middle ages. Things of course get more complicated. Women's rights (ERA) and hippies give a little historical color to a slight storyline. Elizabeth Peters (Barbara Mertz) excels at strong women characterizations with a bit humor and romance thrown in. Besides introducing tall, blonde and smart Vicky, Peters also introduces Anton Schmidt. It is an enjoyable read as is the whole series.

This is the first book in the Vicky Bliss series, and even though it's been around for a while, there's not much in it to 'date' it, so it's just as enjoyable now as it was when first published. Elizabeth Peters wrote this, and a couple of sequels, then let the Vicky Bliss novels rest for many years, until returning to them again fairly recently. There's no trace of the gap. All are filled with humor and wit. The characters are well-rounded and (mostly!) believable. The mystery is always tied to the art/antiquities world, and the snapshots of the foreign cities and countries in which the action occurs are always vivid. Elizabeth Peters is a 'must-read' author for those who like a light, fun, take on mystery and romance (with just a dash of education thrown in).

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