

A Child Lost (Henrietta and Inspector Howard #5) by Michelle Cox

This is the first of the Henrietta and Inspector Howard books that I have ever read, and I admit I felt really lost sometimes when characters would refer back to previous adventures. So while I did enjoy this book, I feel like I need to go back and read the others before I can truly appreciate the story.

The part of the plot with the psychic was a bit odd and felt out of place. Since it was noted first in the book's description, I had thought that it would be the primary mystery that the sleuths would solve. It ended up being a secondary mystery, that didn't really tie in with the actual primary mystery. But perhaps it was used as a way to introduce the psychic character if the author plans to have her show up in any further books in the series.

The mystery surrounding the little girl's missing mother was really well thought out, and the characters involved were realistically complex. Michelle Cox does a fantastic job immersing the reader in Chicago of the 1930s. It's very apparent that she did her research about the real asylum and orphanage that were fictionalized here. I look forward to going back and reading this series from the beginning to have a better understanding of the motivations and relationships between the different characters.

GK