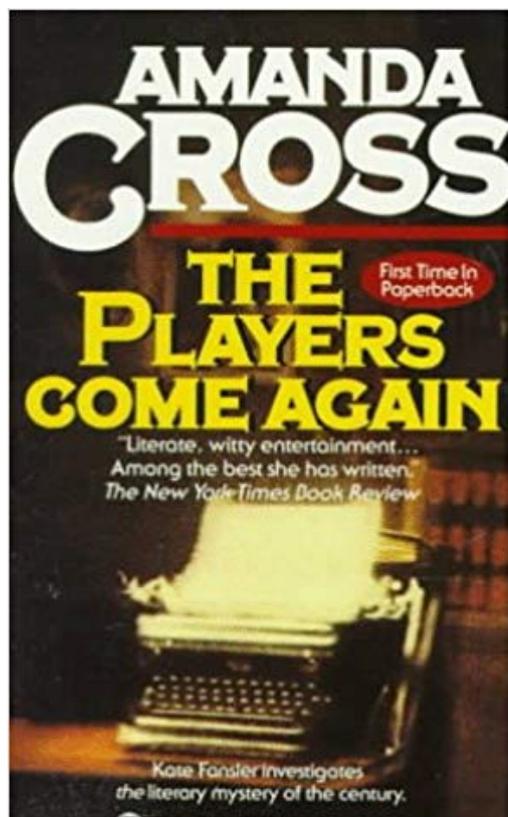


The Players Come Again (Kate Fansler Novels) *by* Amanda Cross



ISBN: 034536998X

ISBN13: 978-0345369987

Author: Amanda Cross

Book title: The Players Come Again (Kate Fansler Novels)

Publisher: Fawcett (October 13, 1991)

Language: English

Category: Mystery

Size PDF version: 1792 kb

Size ePUB version: 1939 kb

Size FB2 version: 1866 kb

Other formats: rtf lrf mbr azw

"Those who relish intricate mind games, complex characters, scalpel-sharp wit and literary allusions by the peck will clasp [this] to their hearts."THE SAN DIEGO UNIONWhen Kate Fansler is offered the exciting prospect of writing a biography of Gabrielle Foxx, the obscure and enigmatic wife of a great modernist author, she accepts. But what she discovers when she meets three charming women connected with the Foxx family since childhood is a veil of secrecy that hides a fantastic pattern of events, a shocking secret that fifty years have done nothing to defuse, and a strange truth that she can never reveal....



Reviews of the [The Players Come Again \(Kate Fansler Novels\)](#) *by* Amanda Cross

Nkeiy

Kate Fansler accepts a contract from a publishing house to write a biography of Gabrielle Foxx, the wife of a celebrated novelist. Finding out who Gabrielle is turns Kate into a detective. Through interviews with the people who knew her, Kate uncovers family skeletons including an unpublished manuscript and a murder.

I was reminded of Agatha Christie's *Murder In Retrospect* where Poirot had to solve a murder committed decades ago. The problem with this short mystery is that the stakes aren't as high. I just didn't find Kate's mission that compelling. Cross tries to make up for this at the very end by tacking on a murder confession, but it doesn't work.

What also doesn't work is why Kate's presence is necessary. The manuscript, locked away for a few decades, could've been examined by Anne at any time. Why did she need to contact Kate? If it was that important, it would've been published anyway. If not, there would've been no loss.

Despite its problems, I enjoyed much of the novel's intelligent conversation spiced with literary allusions. Above all, I liked Kate's observations about people and life.

Modifyn

This is a likeable and literate mystery story. The main character's, Kate Fansler's, book on Henry James and Thomas Hardy has been published. Kate is asked to write a biography of the wife of a prominent novelist, Emmanuel Foxx.

By way of background it is learned by the reader that Dorinda Goddard and her family accepted Anne Gringold. Anne's mother had worked for Dorinda's mother. Books were the source of the girls' fantasies.

Later Anne was asked to drop in on Gabrielle Foxx, Emmanuel's widow, when she was in London. Anne knew Nellie, Emmanuel's granddaughter. Hilda, Nellie's mother, was Sig Goddard's, Dorinda's father's, sister. When the Goddards brought Nellie to America, the girls became a threesome.

Gabrielle was sixty-six in 1955, the time of the London visit. Her son and her husband were dead. She had met Emmanuel when she was sixteen.

In London Anne helped her boss, a publisher, set up his office. Gabrielle told Anne that scholars had started coming again, but Anne was the only person she agreed to see. Anne was to be a messenger. Gabrielle gave Anne papers that she, Gabrielle, had written over the years.

In order to write the biography of Gabrielle Foxx Kate took a leave without pay from her university position. Kate was married to Reed, a professor at the law school. Gabrielle had been a proper English girl when she eloped with a writer. Foxx's masterpiece was entitled *ARIADNE*. It seems that Emmanuel Foxx was also English.

The rest of the plot concerns Kate's attempt to see the surviving friends and family members and to tease out their stories. In her analysis she discovers the mystery and clarifies many matters of relevance in an interesting fashion.

Sagda

Amanda Cross writes 'literary' mysteries. There are no shoot-em-ups or violence. The mysteries are not too mysterious, either, that is to be admitted. Nevertheless if you like the character of Kate Fansler and her husband Reed, (and I do) you'll like the books, and the background of this one is intriguing. A man has written a famous book on the female experience, called *Ariadne* (after the Greek character) - turns out his wife has 'rewritten' the book from a woman's point of view... This book is best enjoyed if you are familiar with the series. Everyone should start at the beginning and read on from there!

wanderpool

Writing a biography, manuscripts, journals, literary detecting, and Virginia Woolf: "Wander no more, I say; this is the end. The oblong has been set upon square; the spiral is on top. We have been hauled over the shingle, down to the sea. The players come again." An Imperfect Spy (1995) The challenge of white male power in a Law School. Citations from John LeCarre. And A. N. Wilson's words: "Where mediocrity is the norm, it is not long before mediocrity becomes the ideal." And John Le Carre: "I invested my life in institutions - he thought without rancor - and all I am left with is myself." Amanda Cross: The Collected Stories (1997) What a remarkable collection of Kate Fansler short stories

Beazezius

There has always been a rumor that the books of Emmanuel Foxx were more than inspired by his wife Gabrielle. A publisher offers Kate Fansler a large advance to write her biography. With the help of her granddaughter and her two friends Gabrielle's papers offer much more than she bargained for. This is a much less bloody mystery than the average Fansler. It is just as interesting however. I found myself really getting into the characters and their stories. Very good mystery.

Garne

The overt mystery in "The Players Come Again" is trying to understand Gabrielle Foxx's life. The story is more complicated than that but this book is an examination of people's lives rather than of crime. It is a wonderful book that not only had me caring about the characters but thinking about what their lives had to say to me. As well as being interested in what Amanda Cross has to say, I really enjoy the way she puts her words together

Timberahue

This book should not be included in the mystery genre. There simply is no mystery. It is more like a romance or gothic. And there is absolutely no action. The characters sit in various living rooms telling each other their histories. Even the author seems bored with them by the final pages

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