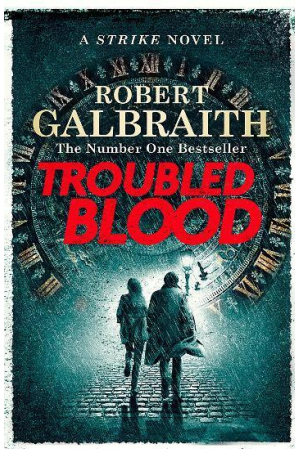


Troubled blood by Robert Galbraith

Reviewed by Pat



Private Detective Cormoran Strike is visiting his family in Cornwall when he is approached by a woman asking for help finding her mother, Margot Bamborough — who went missing in mysterious circumstances in 1974.

Strike has never tackled a cold case before, let alone one forty years old. But despite the slim chance of success, he is intrigued and takes it on; adding to the long list of cases that he and his partner in the agency, Robin Ellacott, are currently working on. And Robin herself is also juggling a messy divorce and unwanted male attention, as well as battling her own feelings about Strike.

As Strike and Robin investigate Margot's disappearance, they come up against a fiendishly complex case with leads that include tarot cards, a psychopathic serial killer and witnesses who cannot all be trusted. And they learn that even cases decades old can prove to be deadly.

The plot is intriguing but at just over 900 pages long takes an age to unravel. I can't help but feel that the story could have unfolded in less time without losing any of its impact. Lengthy descriptions of characters (even minor ones) and inconsequential meandering into unrelated relationships and the drawn out "courtship" between Strike and Robin left me slightly frustrated. That said I was drawn into the mystery and invested in the outcome.

This is an ideal holiday read, if you have plenty of time.

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