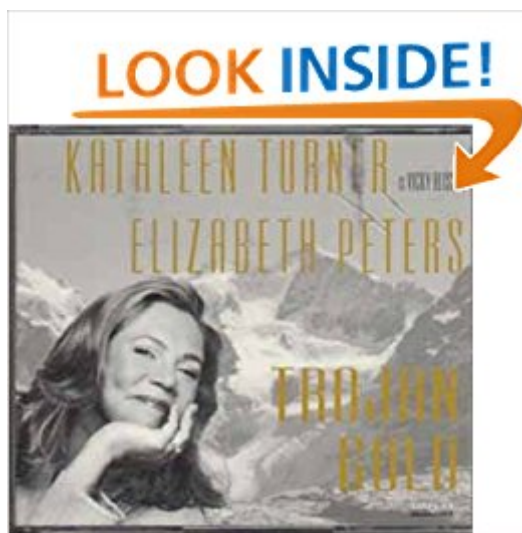


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# Trojan Gold



## Synopsis

Adventure and romance enter Vicky Bliss' life in the form of a black-and-white photograph of a woman covered from head to toe in gold jewels. This "Trojan Gold" has an intriguing history, but it is the envelope that piques Vicky's curiosity. It is a grimy brown, with no return address, and it appears to have been soaked in blood.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Airplay (2000)

ISBN-10: 1885608454

ISBN-13: 978-1885608451

Package Dimensions: 5.4 x 4.9 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 52 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,313,056 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \( P \) > Peters, Elizabeth](#) #21753 in [Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Spies & Politics](#) #57583 in [Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Suspense](#)

## Customer Reviews

Adventure and romance enter Vicky Bliss' life in the form of a black-and-white photograph of a woman covered from head to toe in gold jewels. This "Trojan Gold" has an intriguing history, but it is the envelope that piques Vicky's curiosity. It is a grimy brown, with no return address, and it appears to have been soaked in blood.

This descended into the silly: the behavior of Vicky's boss, Schmidt, was often so dumb & unbelievable that it ruined this book. You could have cut out his role completely, and all of his dialog, and it would have been a decent mystery book. I did like that the erotic relationship between Vicky & John was a little better developed. I normally love the Elizabeth Peters books (especially the Amelia Peabody series), but this one just had too much padding overall and most of that was the dumb & silly stuff.

I can't give this book, and the series as a whole, enough stars. Another riveting mystery to solve for our beloved Vicky Bliss and her (not as shady as he used to be) "friend" John Smythe. Although

Vicky has obviously fallen hard for John, she's still not quite sure how far she can trust him when it comes to the art treasures she's looking for. One of the best scenes in the book, in my opinion, comes at the end when she opens a gift John left for and finds not only a lovely antique necklace, but also the receipt (so she'll know he actually paid for it!).

This is the 4th 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 the first (*Borrower of the Night*), and a few 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). This one is entertaining, but in my opinion, the least likeable of the series - but still well worth 4 stars. There's just something about this particular story, as opposed to the others in the series, that doesn't 'grab' me. But, I repeat, that's just a personal opinion, and it's still a highly enjoyable read with a lovely setting and full of Peters' trademark humor, wit, and sarcasm.

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

The third book in the Vicky Bliss series, this book unites Vicky and John with her old flame, Tony, and her boss, Schmidt, in the search for the lost gold of Troy. This novel is excellent- it brings back the character of Tony from the first Vicky novel, and adds to the mix other historians. The suspense is great, and the relationship between Vicky and John reaches a new level. This is an awesome book!

I am hooked on Vicky Bliss and her fellow characters in this series of books. There is friendship and humor and that is a rare treat. The bonus is to find books that offer a well described look at Munich and Bavaria and a mystery that involves a search for artifacts created in ancient Greece, then hidden in Berlin. Ms. Peters has such a gift for creating great dialogue that she couples with such interesting historical research. What a great gift to have such a background in art and to be able to weave these wonderful adventures.

This novel is one of a series, and makes the presumption that you have read the earlier novels in the series, with references to previous action. It is written in a narrative style. The main character is not fully identified by name until page 74 (part of the assumption that you have read the previous novels). Tony Whats-his-name from book one in the series reappears, along with other characters from previous books. There are numerous digressions, and a tendency to use foreign language terms. The plot is a whodunit as various characters search for the lost Trojan gold that disappeared from Germany during the final days of World War II. In the chaos at the end of the war, many valuable items disappeared, apparently looted. Now a story has emerged that the Trojan gold (artifacts that had been in a German museum) was carried to safety and hidden. Many people have an interest, either for museums or for their own profit. With two people murdered, and an assortment of people just happening to be on the scene, there are questions about some people's motives (other than the fact that several men are trying to seduce Vicky). Vicky finds her life in danger, as various people follow clues in attempts to track down the gold. There are indications that it had been hidden in a schrank (a type of wooden cabinet). The good guys prevail over the bad guys, but the story leaves things unfinished and the schrank disassembled.

I've read all the Vicky Bliss novels, and I can only say I wish Elizabeth Peters would write more. She has such a humorous touch with these novels that the characters are not only believable, they're a downright likeable bunch. I like the way Peters uses humor to propel the story along, and the exchanges between Vicky and her sometimes lover, John Smythe, are hilarious. But don't leave out her boss, Herr Doktor Schmidt, who is a remarkably innocent man for one of his advanced years, and a wonderful co-conspirator (even if he does have a tendency to view desperate situations as some sort of wonderful adventure). For fans of this series, I heartily recommend this book, since it's about time that Vicki and John come clean about their feelings for one another. The avalanche scene is a real nailbiter, and in keeping with the adventure! Don't miss this one!

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