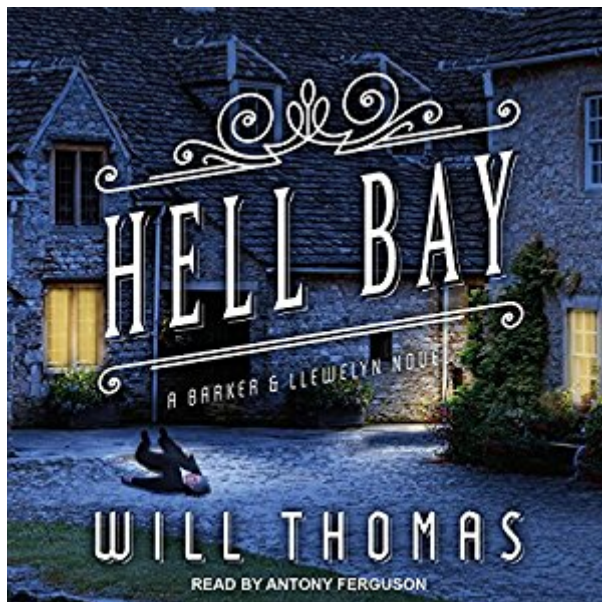


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# Hell Bay: Barker & Llewelyn, Book 8



## Synopsis

At the request of Her Majesty's government, private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker agrees to take on his least favorite kind of assignment - he's to provide security for a secret conference with the French government. The conference is to take place on the private estate of Lord Hargrave on a remote island off the coast of Cornwall. The goal of the conference is the negotiation of a new treaty with France. The cover story for the gathering is a house party - an attempt to introduce Lord Hargrave's two unmarried sons to potential mates. But shortly after the parties land at the island, Lord Hargrave is killed by a sniper shot, and the French ambassador's head of security is found stabbed to death. The only means of egress from the island - a boat - has been sent away, and the means of signaling for help has been destroyed. Trapped in a manor house with no way of escape, Cyrus Barker and his assistant, Thomas Llewelyn, must uncover which among them is the killer before the next victim falls.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The format of this book is different than the other books in the series. Once you figure that out, just strap in for the ride. I loved this book! It's very Agatha Christie-esque with everyone being trapped on a basically deserted island and a mysterious sniper picking people off one by one. Barker and Llewelyn are hired as security for a house party that turns deadly and violent! My only observation -- although I love the cover of this book, to me it doesn't have much to do with the plot. I had no idea before I started the book that almost all of the action takes place in a secluded island mansion. Not that it would have affected anything since I have read and enjoyed all the books in this series, just

an observation. If you enjoy this book, I recommend the other books in the series as well.

A super secret government diplomatic office asks for Barker to serve as bodyguard for the French ambassador at a clandestine meeting disguised as a house party. Barker wants to say no but the man asking is the husband of Mrs Ashleigh's good friend aka its a plot for the friend to meet him as well as a job. He can't really say no. The party is held on a tiny secluded island out in Hell Bay of Land's End. Bedlam ensues and the guests are trapped on the island with a killer. Is it politics or personal? Is it a single madman or an organized inside job? Lots of drama and ingenuity is shown while trapped on the island. I did have most of it figured out in pieces, but not really the big picture of what was going on all fit together. So just the right amount for me, doesn't come out of nowhere but also not obvious in final solution.

I am a big fan of mystery writer Will Thomas's Barker & Llewelyn series and have read the previous 7 installments in this engaging series. I was looking forward to the eighth book. Alas, the pickings are getting a bit slim and this book was a big disappointment. I give it 2.75 out of 5.00 stars. The plot was intriguing - a group of people kept penned in a mansion by a sniper who was intent on picking off all the members of an influential British family - and there were some tense moments but overall, it was too long and had long patches of false leads and an ennui that just killed any real tension or suspense. I fear that Thomas may have run out of gas on this fun series.

Another outstanding read from Mr. Thomas. I recommend that this story line of books be read in order although the author does include enough information to bring a reader up to speed in each novel. Barker and Llewelyn find themselves in what appears to be an impossible case. Fascinating to watch Barker unravel the clues. I won't give a glimpse of the story as I will let the readers enjoy the tale. Mr. Thomas is a gifted writer as you witness the development of his characters with each novel. I look forward to the next book. I hope our author has plans to keep these characters alive and well in many books to come.

Will Thomas has written another great book about Barker and Llewelyn. If you have been reading these novels since "Some Danger Involved", you know how adicting they are. Once again we fans have been treated to another brilliant story. This one is quite different from the predesessors so there are many surprises. It is a wonderful read from page one to the exciting conclusion.

I hope to read many more Barker & Llewellyn mysteries before I go. All the characters are complex and it is very interesting to see them develop even more as their interrelationships do as well. Even the bad people are interesting and complex.

I have enjoyed all of Will Thomas's Barker and Llewellyn novels (although "Anatomy of Evil" was a bit too grisly for me) but I felt like Mr. Thomas was just phoning it in with "Hell Bay". The writing and setting were not worthy of the colorful and distinctive characters he's created in this very enjoyable line of books.

The only negative thing that I have to say is that it was so good it took me less than a day to finish it. That being said it was remarkably well written. The plot and setting for Hell Bay was uniquely different from all the other Barker & Llewellyn novels which of course add to the frequency of the pages being turned. I hope that there will be many more to come.

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