A woman vanishes in the fog up on the Hill, an area locally known for its tranquility and peace. The police are not alarmed; people usually disappear for their own reasons. But when a young girl, an old man, and even a dog disappear, no one can deny that something untoward is happening in this quiet cathedral town. Young policewoman Freya Graffham is assigned to the case; she's new to the job, compassionate, inquisitive, dedicated, and needs to know - perhaps, too much. She and the enigmatic detective Chief Inspector Simon Serrailler have the task of unraveling the mystery behind this gruesome sequence of events. From the passages revealing the killers mind to the final heart-stopping twist, The Various Haunts of Men is an astounding and masterly crime debut, the first in what promises to be a magnificent series featuring Simon Serrailler.

My Personal Review:
Susan Hill is a well regarded British author and several of her books including the ghost story THE WOMAN IN BLACK have become modern classics. Hill's ability to create memorable characters and atmospheric settings are highly evident in her mystery THE VARIOUS HAUNTS OF MEN. The story is set in the small cathedral city of Lafferton and the surrounding villages. Police detective Freya Graffham is new to this city after choosing to leave London following a divorce and we see many of the characters through her observations. The mystery centers on several people who have suddenly disappeared in the community and the victims as well as their friends and other witnesses are all well developed characters. Freya becomes involved in the case and also develops an immediate crush on the intriguing Chief Inspector Simon Serrailler and his triplet sister (the other of this sibling trio is offstage in Australia) and parents play supporting parts in the story. The sensitive Serrailler (not the typical policeman as he loves sketching and has some resemblance to P. D. James poetic detective Adam Dalgliesh) remains a bit of a mystery. However THE VARIOUS HAUNTS OF MEN is subtitled A Simon Serrailler
mystery and two other books featuring him have been published in Great Britain and will be published in the US so readers can learn more about this attractive policeman soon.

At 438 pages this is not a quick read but a literate and worthy one. The characters personalities and struggles as well as the portrayal of average British life are of more interest than the actual mystery itself since most will spot the villain long before the books climax. In fact in short chapters throughout the book we actually hear from the kidnapper/murderer as he addresses someone (apparently his hated mother) via tape recorder and explains his motives and the background that led to the criminal activity. Alternative healers, traditional religion and spiritualists all have a place in this novels plot and Susan Hill has done her research to convey these elements in such a realistic manner. This is an all around well rendered book and I look forward to reading the rest of the series as the books becomes available.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
The Various Haunts of Men (Simon Serrailler Crime Novels) by Susan Hill - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!