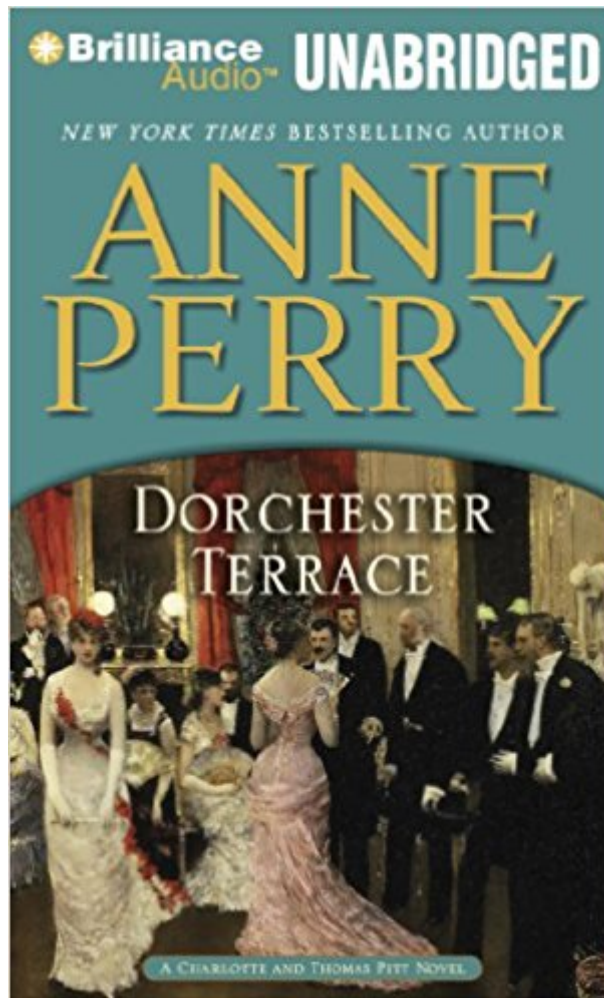




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Dorchester Terrace (Charlotte And Thomas Pitt)



Synopsis

Anne Perry's acclaimed Charlotte and Thomas Pitt novels have made London's exclusive world of wealth and power an addictive literary destination for listeners everywhere. This masterpiece, a haunting story of love and treason, invites us not only into the secret places of Britain's power but also into the innermost sanctums of the fin de siècle Austro-Hungarian Empire. Thomas Pitt, once a lowly policeman, is now the powerful head of Britain's Special Branch, and some people fear that he may have been promoted beyond his abilities. He, too, feels painful moments of self-doubt, especially as rumors reach him of a plot to blow up connections on the Dover-London rail line • on which Austrian duke Alois Habsburg is soon to travel to visit his royal English kin. Why would anyone destroy an entire train to kill one obscure Austrian royal, or are the rumors designed to distract Pitt from an even more devastating plot? He must resolve this riddle at once, before the damage is done. Meanwhile, in a London sickroom, an old Italian woman • at the end of a romantic career as a revolutionary spy • is terrified that as she sinks into dementia, she may divulge secrets that can kill. And a beautiful young Croatian woman, married to a British power broker, hoards her own mysteries. Apparently all roads lead to the Continent, and Pitt suspects that between them these two fascinating women could tell him things he desperately needs to know. But as the hours tick by, it seems that the only woman Pitt can count on is his clever wife, Charlotte. No one sustains mesmerizing suspense better than Anne Perry. In Pitt's trial by fire, his wrenching moral dilemma, and his electrifying moment of decision, the beloved bestselling author gives us a climax never to be forgotten.

Book Information

Series: Charlotte and Thomas Pitt (Book 27)

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Unabridged edition (April 17, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1423372425

ISBN-13: 978-1423372424

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 157 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,326,751 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Books > Books on CD

> Authors, A-Z > (P) > Perry, Anne #6139 in [Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers](#)
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Customer Reviews

The Charlotte and Thomas Pitt series continues to roll smoothly along. It's now 1896, and Thomas, in charge temporarily of Special Branch, has the unpleasant job of turning his investigative eye on his own people, looking for a mole in the organization. Meanwhile, Charlotte helps Thomas explore whether the death of a former spy has the potential to plunge Britain into full-scale war. As usual, the plotting is rock solid, with a terrorism-themed mystery that will resonate with contemporary readers, but it's the characters and their environment that make the book such a pleasure to read. Perry's Victorian England is well drawn, a broad-stroke portrait that gives readers the spirit of the time and place without getting mired down in too much detail, and Charlotte and Thomas remain two of the most vividly conceived protagonists in the historical-mystery genre. Another fine entry in an always entertaining series. --David Pitt --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Praise for Anne Perry's most recent Charlotte and Thomas Pitt novels [Treason at Lisson Grove](#) ["Perry has always done her historical homework on the darker elements of the British ruling class, and she has outdone herself this time."](#) [The Washington Times](#) [Buckingham Palace Gardens](#) ["An intricate plot about a murder at the palace \[with\] an irresistibly appealing Upstairs, Downstairs perspective . . . a fine introduction to Perry's alluring world of Victorian crime and intrigue."](#) [The New York Times Book Review](#) ["Another winner . . . a wonderful cast of characters with many twisting plots."](#) [Vero Beach Press Journal](#) [Long Spoon Lane](#) ["Anne Perry has once again delivered the tasty concoction her readers have come to expect \[and\] presents us with moral and political puzzles that are all too close to our own."](#) [Los Angeles Times Book Review](#) ["An altogether intriguing and enjoyable mystery . . . Fans of this series, with its amazingly well-drawn historical details, know the delight of time traveling back to Victorian England."](#) [Bookreporter.com](#) [Seven Dials](#) ["Terrific, vivid stuff . . . The alarmingly prolific Anne Perry \[is\] a master of the genre."](#) [The Seattle Times](#) ["Perry's as good as it gets. . . . The final courtroom scene produces more victims and left me breathless."](#) [The Providence Journal](#)From the Hardcover edition. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

After reading some of the other reviews (3 stars & Below), I was leary about reading this book. But I did and I am glad I read it. I found the story to be very interesting...even to the point of actually stopping and looking up the history and reading more about it. I think it was proper to bring in the argument with Charlotte & Emily. Honestly, I don't think Emily had ever considered Thomas to be ever promoted to Commander, therefore *almost* being in the same circle as Emily. I did read on reviewer state they felt Emily was being "shallow", yes, I would agree with that. But think about it, all of a sudden Charlotte & Thomas are pretty much in the same status circle as Emily & Jack. I personally think Emily was not prepared for that, she was always the one in the higher circle and helping Charlotte out. I have to repeat, I'm very glad I did read this book. I am looking forward to more Charlotte & Thomas Pitt novels.

I like most of Anne Perry's books for the depiction of life in England during the Victorian Era. The books deal with many different social issues. This one deals with political unrest in Europe and in England prior to World War I. One sees the end of the British Empire coming about and one realizes that history repeats itself over and over because humankind does not learn much about the past. This particular novel shows the lengths politicians will go to achieve their ends. Perry's novels are illuminating and also depressing because they show a lot of human suffering on the part of women of all classes, but mostly on the part of the lowest social classes. The characters are well drawn and very believable.

Anne Perry writes diverting little tales about Victorian England in this series which features the "playful Pitts". As I have stated in my previous opinion/reviews, I find these tales are much lighter than the series featuring the "morbid Monks," notwithstanding that both are supposed to be set in different parts of the Victorian Era. Do not ever expect the likes of Roger Ackroyd...sadly, you will figure out the ending quicker than you can say "Boo Radley". But, for a fun afternoon or other light, short "read," these novels have sufficient power to engage.

I love this series of detective novels set in Victorian England. The attention to period detail is so well done that I always feel I'm reading by the fire with rain pounding the windows. I don't know why the BBC hasn't done a TV series.

Since, I have read most if not all of these stories I found it consistent and well within the parameters

of Perry's storyline. The history, the plot, and the characters are well described and interesting. The author makes the characters and the time frame believable and it makes the reader pay attention to Thomas and Charlotte. Good read, highly recommended.

I am a fan of Anne Perry's writing and characterization of Victorian England. Now she writes one book a year and a lovely Christmas book highlights a character from her series featuring the Pitts, Charlotte and Thomas, and her Monk series, William and Hester. This outing, Mrs. Perry continues Thomas Pitt's rise from humble policeman to head of Special Branch, much like our CIA, I imagine. They seek out danger and try to avoid plots against England. This position elevates Thomas into the level of society he was not born to, but married a great lady who was part of the gentry, Charlotte. In the beginning, Charlotte, her sister Emily, and Charlotte's maid Gracie, could go undercover and help Pitt solve mysteries. Now, he is in a position where the only help he gets aside from his own brilliant mind, his staff, particularly, Stoker, a very smart right hand man for Pitt. Stoker has heard rumors persons are asking about train schedules, etc., which sends up a flag. An Australian royal, though not high nobility, is coming to visit. Does this mean anything? Any doubt has to be followed and potential threats be stopped. In the meantime, an old Italian lady in the throws of dementia, fears she will give away secrets found out decades ago, that would still hurt people today. She is a friend of Lady Vespasia Cumming-Gould, a lady of high rank in society, who knows the queen, and was once the most beautiful ladies of her time. What I like that Perry has done is she has gently made Lady Vespasia younger, just enough to be a viable character, rather than a relic of the era. She is a shining character in the Pitt series. She is tied to Pitt by marriage of Pitt's sister-in-law, and is as a grace to the series. Back to the series... Pitt must get his feet wet as commander, and finds political corruption rampant. He must find who he needs to trust in this higher level, and that's walking a tightrope. As usual, Mrs. Perry does not fail to write a great mystery, but we see the progression of the era--telephones!!!! Pitt is a strong character, as are all in this long running series. And he uses his gut police training to get the bad guy. I love this series. It tells so much of the era, and the society of the time. This outing is definitely worth reading. Looking forward to the next 'gift' Mrs. Perry will give us! Ellen George, author of children's book *Flutterby*, and upcoming exciting novel hopefully finished soon!!!

After so many books in this series, Ann Perry is still able to combine historical novel and mystery into a compelling read. Her descriptions of social mores, prejudices and environment still compliment and strengthen the mystery plot. Her characters are self-consistent without being overly

predictable. In this novel, the environment is a significant contributor to the plot. Yes, the assassination that started World War I was probably the inspiration for this story, but that did not impede my enjoyment in discovering all of the details along the way.

I like this series of Ann Perry books, finding them reliably entertaining and always peeking my interest in British historical events, with my studying them further. The mystery/detective aspects of her books are competently written, the descriptions of Victorian England, especially London, are charming (as well as dress and manners of that period) and her development of personal relationships among the characters is very well done.

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