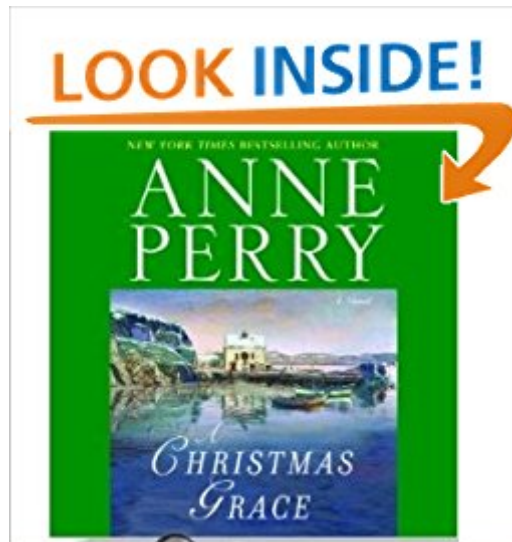




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# A Christmas Grace (Christmas Novellas)



## Synopsis

With Christmas just around the corner, Thomas Pitt's sister-in-law, Emily Radley, is suddenly called from London to be with her dying aunt. Leaving her husband and two children behind, she makes the long journey to her aunt's home in Connemara, an all-but-forgotten town on the coast of Western Ireland. Emily soon discovers that a tragic legacy is haunting the once close-knit community. Violent storms ravage the coast and keep alive painful memories of an unsolved murder--and unsettling fears that a culprit may still be among them. Determined to lighten her aunt's spirits and help the troubled community, Emily sets out to unmask the killer. And when a lone shipwreck survivor washes up on the shore, he brings with him not only the key to solving the terrible crime, but the opportunity for the townspeople to make peace with the past--and with each other.

## Book Information

Series: Christmas Novellas (Book 6)

Audio CD

Publisher: Blackstone Audiobooks (November 11, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 079275655X

ISBN-13: 978-0792756552

Package Dimensions: 6.3 x 6.1 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,035,202 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in [Books > Books on CD](#) > Authors, A-Z > ( P ) > Perry, Anne #5486 in [Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers](#) #7737 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged](#)

## Customer Reviews

Bestseller Perry's sixth Christmas novel (after 2007's *A Christmas Beginning*), one of the stronger entries in the series, explores further mysteries of the soul. A few weeks before Christmas, 1895, Emily Radley, the sister of Charlotte Pitt (last seen with husband, Thomas Pitt, in Buckingham Palace Gardens), answers a summons from Father Tyndale, spiritual leader of a small Western Ireland community. The Catholic priest is concerned about Emily's dying aunt, Susannah Ross, who's been estranged from her family since marrying outside their Protestant faith. Once in Ireland, Emily finds her aunt's entire village in the grip of fear, haunted by a secret. A shipwreck during a

ferocious storm, the rescue of a young man from the sea's clutches and another young man's mysterious murder complicate Emily's mission. Perry effortlessly evokes the region's insularity and isolation while imbuing religious themes into a whodunit without being preachy. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A Christmas Beginning "Intriguing . . . Perry's use of period detail is, as always, strong and evocative." The Seattle Times A Christmas Secret "A delightful little book . . . Perry's gift is that she can evoke a sense of place and time while still producing the thrills and chills expected of a modern-day mystery writer." The Orlando Sentinel A Christmas Guest "[A] satisfying tale." The Wall Street Journal --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I very much enjoyed this little book. I have probably read close to a hundred of Anne Perry's works: all the Thomas Pitt series, all but one of the William Monk series, the WWI series, and so far six of the Christmas novellas. But I have decided to stop the Christmas series right here. These books are very short. I can read two a day, and they cost \$9.99 apiece. That is excessive and I resent it. I rate the book a 4 because she's a fine writer, and it's not her fault that the publisher or book seller overcharged. But I will buy no more novellas.

I really enjoyed delving deeper into Emily. I thought this book was a real treat, but if you are not a fan of the Thomas and Charlotte Pitt series, it may not be your cup of tea. I based this on other reviewers who got bogged down in the descriptive passages--which are beautiful, by the way.

great condition. it was as advertised.

For a few years now, Anne Perry has been writing small books featuring the beloved characters from her Victorian series in a poignant adventure around the Christmas Season. When I first saw the title *A Christmas Grace*, I thought initially the story may feature little Grace, the maid and friend of Thomas and Charlotte Pitt, but this offering features Charlotte's sister Emily Radley. Perry always shows us the customs of the time, where who you married, knew, or was family too was the defining point of your life. Charlotte married Thomas Pitt, a policeman, for love. Emily married a man in the gentry, above her social rank. The two women's lives were drastically different and Emily knew that

Charlotte's life, though hard, was the happier, as she loved Thomas more than anything. When Emily's husband dies, she eventually remarries a man who becomes a member of Parliament, and they are still well off. A letter comes to the Radley home a few days before Christmas from Thomas Pitt. He explains Charlotte's and Emily's aunt in Ireland is dying, and she asks initially for Charlotte to come to her, but Charlotte is ill and cannot make the arduous journey. Thomas asks Emily to go instead. The girls have not seen their aunt Susannah since they were young. Susannah married an outsider, and a Catholic to boot, and her family, Emily and Charlotte's parents and grandparents practically disowned her. Imagine a time when society dictated everything, manners, conduct, love, politics, etc. Emily's husband talks her into making the great journey to the west coast of Ireland. She meets her Aunt Susannah as an adult and sees she at the age of 50 is indeed dying. Emily starts making friends with her aunt, and the village priest and villagers. One night there is a horrific storm, and there is a shipwreck. A lone survivor is rescued, and the whole town seems to react strangely. There was a similar situation years ago, and the survivor died mysteriously. Susannah, hearing of Charlotte helping Thomas Pitt from time to time, wants to unburden the mystery of the village before she dies and meets her husband on the Other Side. Emily steps up to the plate and shows she is not the more shallow of the sisters. She does chores - well, she has to be shown how - but she works to help her aunt physically and help her spiritually. It is a second chance for a village of people, and a peace for a lady who lost so much by marrying for love and having to leave her family and making her husband's village her family. Learning about the Victorian culture has always been Perry's forte, and these small Christmas books zero in on a character and we see with clearer eyes a time of not so distant history. Perry is an amazing writer with excellent series, and her latest Christmas offering to her readers is a grace.

Another page turner!

Once again Christmas wishes come true after one discovers the truth in the season. Enjoy the journey and the rewards.

Anne Perry is always a favorite. I have read all of her books novels, and think her Christmas novels are especially nice.

always enjoy these books

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