



Los secretos de Connaught Square

Anne Perry

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La noche anterior, un joven y prometedor diplomático fue asesinado en el jardín de una mansión londinense: la residencia de la misteriosa amante egipcia de un importante ministro del gabinete. Y pese a sus protestas de inocencia, acaba de ser detenida por homicidio. ¿Por qué un caso que solo debería interesar a la policía, y en principio ya resuelto, requiere una investigación extraoficial llevada con la máxima discreción?

En busca de una verdad que podría comprometer a las más altas esferas, Pitt deberá viajar a Alejandría, una ciudad vibrante y turbulenta, donde la semilla de la rebelión contra los británicos está siempre latente.

Con su inimitable estilo, y los brillantes personajes del superintendente Thomas Pitt y su esposa Charlotte, Anne Perry nos sumerge en una extraordinaria historia de intriga política, pasión y conflicto internacional en el corazón de la Inglaterra victoriana.

Los secretos de Connaught Square Details

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From Reader Review *Los secretos de Connaught Square* for online ebook

Barbara Mitchell says

I was delighted to find several books by Anne Perry in a bag of books given to me by a friend a few months ago. This is a 2003 mystery in the Charlotte and Thomas Pitt series, a favorite series of mine. They are set in 19th century London, and as a bonus, this one also has Thomas Pitt being sent to Alexandria, Egypt so the reader gets a good idea of what Egypt was like at that time as well. Perry portrays these settings so well, I'm amazed at her ability to set the scene without sounding like a travelogue.

Her characters are rightfully beloved ones among Anne Perry fans. Charlotte and Thomas especially with their loving marriage and comfortable, if not plush, home. Their maid Gracie is very funny, but a strong woman who surprises herself with her strength. Great-Aunt Vespasia is a character I love. She reminds me of a good-natured version of the dowager countess in *Downton Abbey*.

The mystery is difficult to figure out, for me anyway. An Egyptian woman living in London is found in her garden at 3 a.m. trying to dispose of the body of a man and the gun that killed him, which happens to be her gun. Her current lover is also at the scene; he is a cabinet minister, Member of Parliament for Manchester. It's all a huge scandal and Pitt's job is to solve the mystery but keep the cabinet minister out of it if he possibly can. An impossible task but he is now with Special Branch and must do as he is ordered.

I recommend this novel, and for that matter the entire series.

Joyce says

Seven Dials is another of the many Anne Perry books I've read when I feel the need to escape with a good mystery that doesn't leave me brain dead. This is one from the Charlotte & Thomas Pitt series she sets near the end of the 19th century. Perry knows her Victorian British history & culture, and she puts together a plot that interests on the level of the characters' lives and on the level of historical and cultural history of the time.

She's not so much for humor; on the other hand, she's not the sappy "too cozy" mystery writer that I see as thinly disguised murder/romance.

Read if you like well-written, intelligent, but escapist mysteries that keep your brain working while giving you time off from, say, "*Moby Dick*" or "*Shadow Land*" or Henry James, etc.

Deborah Johnson says

Starts off slow but by the end you cannot wait to see what happens.

Paul Weiss says

A Victorian thriller taken from today's headlines!!

Victor Narraway, director of Her Majesty's Special Services Branch, under direction from the very top, briefs Pitt on a murder at luxurious Eden Lodge - the dead man, Edwin Lovat, is a junior diplomat, of no particular distinction, and, under normal circumstances of no particular importance to Special Services. The stink of potential political scandal blew all the way into Prime Minister Gladstone's office because Lovat was shot in the garden of Ayesha Zakhari, the sultry and exotic, beautiful Egyptian mistress of Saville Ryerson, a senior cabinet minister. Ryerson is currently conducting a sensitive negotiation on the price of Egyptian cotton that has enormous implications for fragile trade relationships between England and Egypt, not to mention a delicate labour situation in Manchester district that could explode into widespread strikes with disastrous economic fall-out. The difficulties are rather compounded by Ryerson's admission that he was helping Zakhari dispose of the body but neither of them is able or willing to provide any reasonable explanations beyond insisting they are innocent of the actual shooting.

When Narraway sends Pitt hustling off to Alexandria to investigate Lovat's and Zakhari's pasts in more detail, Charlotte and their servant, Gracie, with the elegant assistance of Aunt Vespasia Cumming-Gould, look into a family matter on their own - the rather puzzling abrupt disappearance of a friend's brother. Perry's masterful and surprising resolution of these two separate investigations into a single case culminates in an explosive courtroom drama - the outcome of which may well determine the economic fate of much of the British Commonwealth.

As usual, Perry's delicious plotlines and superb story-telling are accompanied by a voluptuous description of Victorian life that would have made Dickens or Conan Doyle look to their laurels to see who was catching up - clothing, weather, ambience, smells, sights, manners, class attitudes and distinctions, accents - it's all there in an extraordinary wealth of minute detail! The real *pièce de résistance* for me came when I realized that the story is ripped right out of today's headlines and world situation. That it could just as easily have taken place in a modern New York or London courtroom made this novel just that much more exciting!

If you're a mystery lover, this is one you won't want to miss out on.

Paul Weiss

LJ says

London detective Thomas Pitt is investigating the murder of a junior diplomat by a notorious Egyptian woman and her lover, a senior Cabinet minister involved in negotiating the conflict between Egypt's cotton growers and England's textile industry. Lovat, the diplomat, once served in Egypt, and to unravel the mystery of his death, Pitt travels to Alexandria, where he finds that the beautiful Ayesha Zakhari is not who she appears to be--and that Lovat's murder may be tied to an old crime which, if exposed, could set the Middle

East aflame. While Pitt is in Egypt, his wife, Charlotte, occupies herself with a more mundane matter--the disappearance of a valet whose sister is a friend of the Pitt's housemaid.

I liked that this book took Pitt out of England and the way the two cases tied together. Perry is a wonderful writer.

Marla says

Not sure why this was called Seven Dials, it could have easier been titled any number of other places in the book. Pitt goes to Egypt! I was surprised that he was sent there to investigate and that the trip seemed to take hardly any time at all really.

This one had a lot of twists and turns, a few chapters from the end and I wasn't sure how it was going to be resolved, but it all came together right at the end. Was it a little contrived? Yes, but still a satisfactory ending.

Ira says

4.5 stars.

I never recommend this series before, but if you are a fan of Victorian's History time, you really need to read this series. Ms Perry write accurately all things were in that time.

No dancing ball, court the lady, gambling game, horse riding, simpering miss or alpha male!

Nothing of that's stuff that we usually found in HR books.

You will mostly see the ugliness of London in that era. Yeah, not a picture perfect of London but the realistic picture 90% of how the middle and lower class lived.

Our heroine came from upper middle class where our hero is the son of a cook and a game keeper. He got lucky, the lord of the manor was very kind and wanted him to be a friend of his son and give him the same education with his son. Ms. Perry won't let us forget how Charlotte married down all the time! Lol.

When Charlotte and Thomas together, her parents unhappy about it but they didn't complained too much because Charlotte's little sister Emily married a Duke, yeah! Lol.

So in this series we will see how Charlotte's and Thomas's character grows, it has been more than ten years since the first time they met. They are changing too, Thomas's career ups and downs and they not poor anymore.

Of course the mystery are awesome too. But honestly? I follow this series because of C&T:)

Btw, did you know there is a movie about Ms. Perry?

Apparently she went to jail when she was only 15 years old for 5 years! Yes she still a minor, because her

best friend killed her mother and she helped her.
No, I'm not making up the story, you can google it!:)

On to the next story ?.

Laura says

Really, really liked this one! I think part of my enjoyment of this AP book in the Pitt Series stems from my interest in history. Basically, an Egyptian born woman is arrested for the murder of a minor diplomat in the British government. The murder takes place in her garden in the wee small hours of the morning and the woman is the mistress of an important minister in the British government hierarchy. He is on the scene when she is arrested. Thomas Pitt, who is now an agent in Special Branch, which appears to be something similar to our CIA, is called in to try and keep the minister out of any connection with the murder. That soon becomes impossible to do, however, because the minister is known to have been assisting the woman to remove the body from her premises. Before all is said and done in this story Pitt finds himself in Alexandria, Egypt trying to track down the whys and wherefores of the victim and his supposed killer. Pitt and his boss work hard to prove the innocence of the accused murderer and her politically important lover and at the same time, keep the economy of the British Empire intact.

Nancy says

Good story -- disappointing ending. Wrapped it up a little too quickly (last 2 pages....).

In the first gray of a mid-September morning, Thomas Pitt, mainstay of Her Majesty's Special Branch, is summoned to Connaught Square mansion where the body of a junior diplomat lies huddled in a wheelbarrow. Nearby stands the tenant of the house, the beautiful and notorious Egyptian woman Ayesha Zakhari, who falls under the shadow of suspicion. Pitt's orders, emanating from the Prime Minister Gladstone himself, are to protect - at all costs - the good name of the third person in the garden: senior cabinet minister Saville Ryerson. This distinguished public servant, whispered to be Ayesha's lover, insists that she is as innocent as he is himself. Could it be true?

In the dead man's less-than-stellar reputation, Pitt finds hope. But in ancient Alexandria, where the victim was once an army officer, hope grows dim. For there, Pitt receives intimations of deadly entanglements stretching from Egyptian cotton fields to Manchester cotton mills, from the noxious London slum known as Seven Dials to the madhouse called Bedlam.

Meanwhile, in a packed courtroom at the Old Bailey, time is ticking away for Ayesha and Saville. With Pitt and his clients racing against the hangman, the trial reaches its pulse-pumping climax.

Sonya says

This story was about 150 pages too long. It was pretty tedious throughout the middle of the story - a man is missing and one is dead. Who did it and why? Pitt goes and talks to people. Charlotte goes and talks to people. Their servant goes and talks to people. Great-aunt Vespasia goes and talks to people. Then they all

go and ask people again. The end finally has a bit of action which is why it gets two stars.

Tracy says

This one was quite a shocker compared to most of Anne's lightweight mysteries. England was occupying Egypt at the time, though not officially. In England an Egyptian woman is accused of killing a minor government official in the middle of the night in her own garden. When the police arrive due to an anonymous informant, her lover, and senior member of Parliament who represents the area in England where raw Egyptian cotton is processed into fabric, has arrived. She claims to have found him dead rather than killed the man. The Parliament member admits to planning to help her hide the body though he does not believe she murdered him. The whole time Pitt is investigating this his wife is trying to find information on a missing servant who is the brother of her own cook. Eventually the two cases tie together in a way you would never have expected and the reason for the killing and the involvement of the Parliament official is a total surprise. The final scene is really out of character for Anne Perry's writing and is an excellent ending.

Barbara P says

As usual Anne Perry wrote with suspense and surprise. This was a book I could put down until the next reading space on my calendar. BUT.....I was eager to pick it up and follow her rather intricate mystery. Perry's ability to describe 2, 3, even 4 stories with the same characters simultaneously and finish with the stories intricately connected. I think this is what keeps me going back to read more of Perry's novels. I always feel drawn to crime fiction that takes place in London in the 1800's. The description of dress, the courtroom, homes, food, different class of people. Perry continues to have a way to make me feel as though the characters are friends/enemies of me.

Pat says

Of Perry's two Victorian detective couples, I prefer Charlotte and Thomas over Monk and Hester Thomas seems very flesh and blood with interesting contradictions, plus he seems to be more clever than Monk. Charlotte's fall from being a rich girl's to a policeman's wife gives her an appealing humanity. The hopeless case of the enigmatic Zakhari is interesting because of her exoticism. I liked the descriptions of late-19th century Alexandria and Pitt's reaction to seeing an entirely different culture. As always class is a major player in this Perry mystery. Officials bend over backward to protect rich bastards as people like Gracie and Tilda are ignored. The crime of the four Brit soldiers smacks of the My Lai massacre of Nam. The repercussions of it take more lives and sanity; talk about PTSD!

Brett Waytuck says

I'm not sure how one is able to publish 250 pages of unengaging protagonists, barely present accused, incidental victims and a subplot that incredulously absorbs people from four different classes in Victorian England. Then, suddenly, the suspense appears out of nowhere and we spend the next 100 pages leading up to one of the most ludicrous denouements ever. I was expecting far more.

Charlene C says

I could have given this one 5 stars for all it's unexpected twists!
Just had a few slow spots...still very good read:)
