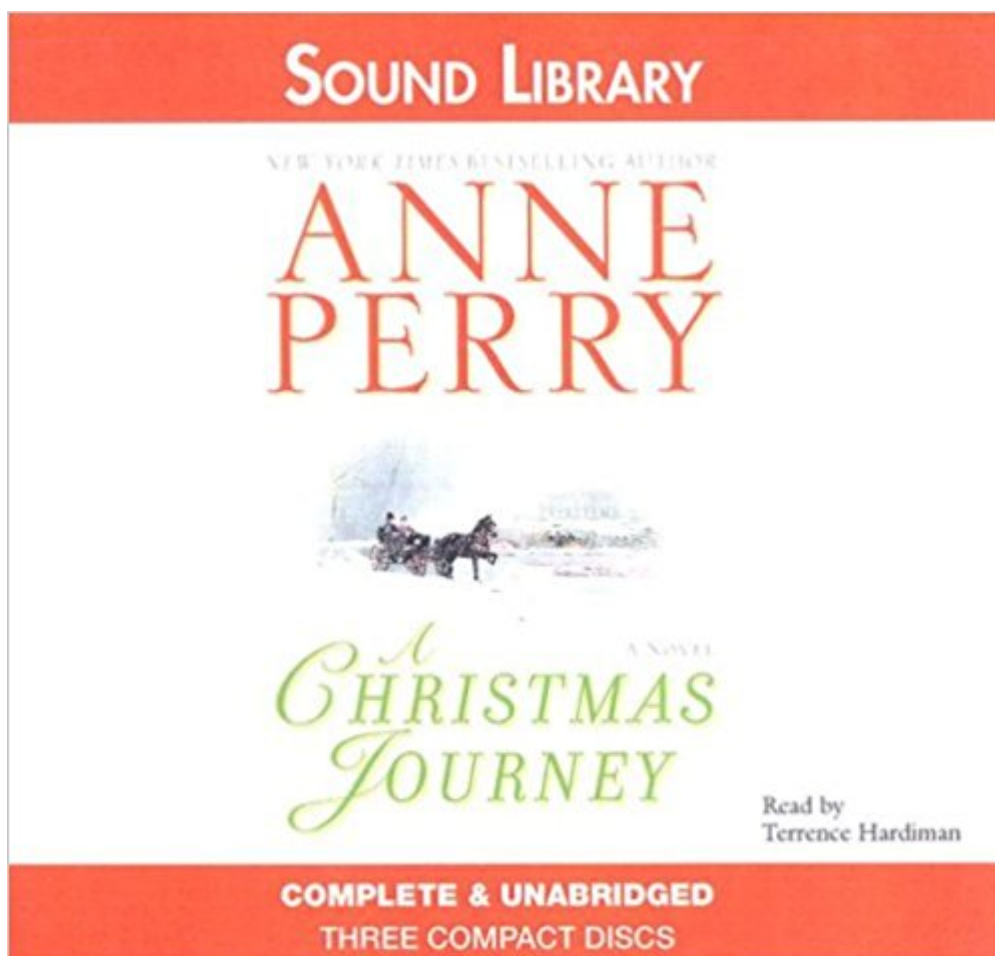


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A Christmas Journey (Christmas Novellas)



Synopsis

Readers of Anne Perry's bestselling suspense novels revel in a world that is all their own, sharing the privileged existence of Britain's wealthy and powerful elite in West End mansions and great country houses. It is also a world in which danger bides in unsuspected places and the line between good and evil can be razor thin. This new novel features Lady Vespasia Cumming-Gould--one of the most memorable characters from the Thomas Pitt series--who appears here as a lively young woman, the ultimate aristocrat who can trace her blood to half the royal houses of Europe.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Anne Perry continues at the top of her form as a pre-eminent writer of Victorian mysteries."

Readers of Anne Perry's bestselling suspense novels revel in a world that is all their own, sharing the privileged existence of Britain's wealthy and powerful elite in West End mansions and great country houses. It is also a world in which danger bides in unsuspected places and the line between good and evil can be razor thin. This new novel features Lady Vespasia Cumming-Gould--one of the most memorable characters from the Thomas Pitt series--who appears here as a lively young woman, the ultimate aristocrat who can trace her blood to half the royal houses of Europe. It's Christmas and the Berkshire countryside lies wrapped in winter chill. But the well-born guests who have gathered at Applecross for a delicious weekend of innocent intrigue and passionate romance are warmed by roaring fires and candlelight, holly and mistletoe, good wine and gorgeously

wrapped gifts. It's scarcely the setting for misfortune, and no one—not even that clever young aristocrat and budding sleuth Vespasia Cumming-Gould—anticipates the tragedy that is to darken this light-hearted holiday house party. But soon one young woman lies dead, a suicide, and another is ostracized, held partly responsible for the shocking turn of events. To expiate her guilt, Gwendolen Kilmuir sets out for the Scottish Highlands, hoping to explain to the dead girl's mother the circumstances surrounding the sorrowful act—and to bring her back to England for the funeral. Gwendolen's sole companion on this nightmarish journey is Vespasia. As Vespasia learns more about the victim and the ugly forces that shaped her desperate deed, she understands the heartbreaking truth of the tragedy. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is the first Anne Perry Book that I have read, however, it will not be the last. I loved the imagery, the victorian era, the story line and the fact that it was a short read! Lady Vespasia (what a name!) is attending a dinner with many other wealthy folks and one lady insults another lady in front of everyone. The insulted lady is then found drowned, an apparent suicide. It is assumed it is because of the insult. Lady Vespasia and the insulter are sent on a trip of atonement to see the dead girl's mother by the Host of the party. The journey is long and hard and they meet with several tribulations along the way. The setting is in the freezing cold and it is nearing Christmas. So, the snow and ice are sure to set you to thinking about Christmas! "If Isobel is indeed guilty of anything, or if Bertie is, then all of us agreeing upon a form of expiation would absolve them of guilt, after which we would make a solemn covenant that the matter would be considered closed." A Christmas Journey by Anne Perry

This is an opportunity to see Charlotte Pitt's "Aunt" Vespasia when she was in the full bloom of her youth. She had an admirable depth of character even then and we explore it here. It is a real treat to read and it is a Christmas story in the sense that we are given the true message of Christmas. If you are looking for fluffy, romantic holiday froth, this is not it! However once again, after Miss Perry has laid the groundwork in the first half, it becomes nearly impossible to put down.

I bought this hoping to read a mystery with a Christmas touch. This book is not a mystery! It is basically set as a journey to tell the mother of a young suicide victim of her daughter's death, and to get the woman, whom house guests blamed because of her callous remarks, a chance at remaining a part of their group. I can not recommend this book.

I expected more of Anne Perry. Vespasia is a character I have liked and Anne Perry left so much in the air and unexplained. It's a mystery and we'd like a proper dénouement. Not at all satisfying.

This book was for my book club. Hard to keep up with the characters

Another suspense filled Anne Perry classic!

Not a book that is my taste. Really had a hard time finishing it.

Interesting character look at Vespasia. Not quite up to Perry standard on plot and mystery, but a good read nonetheless for a novella.

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