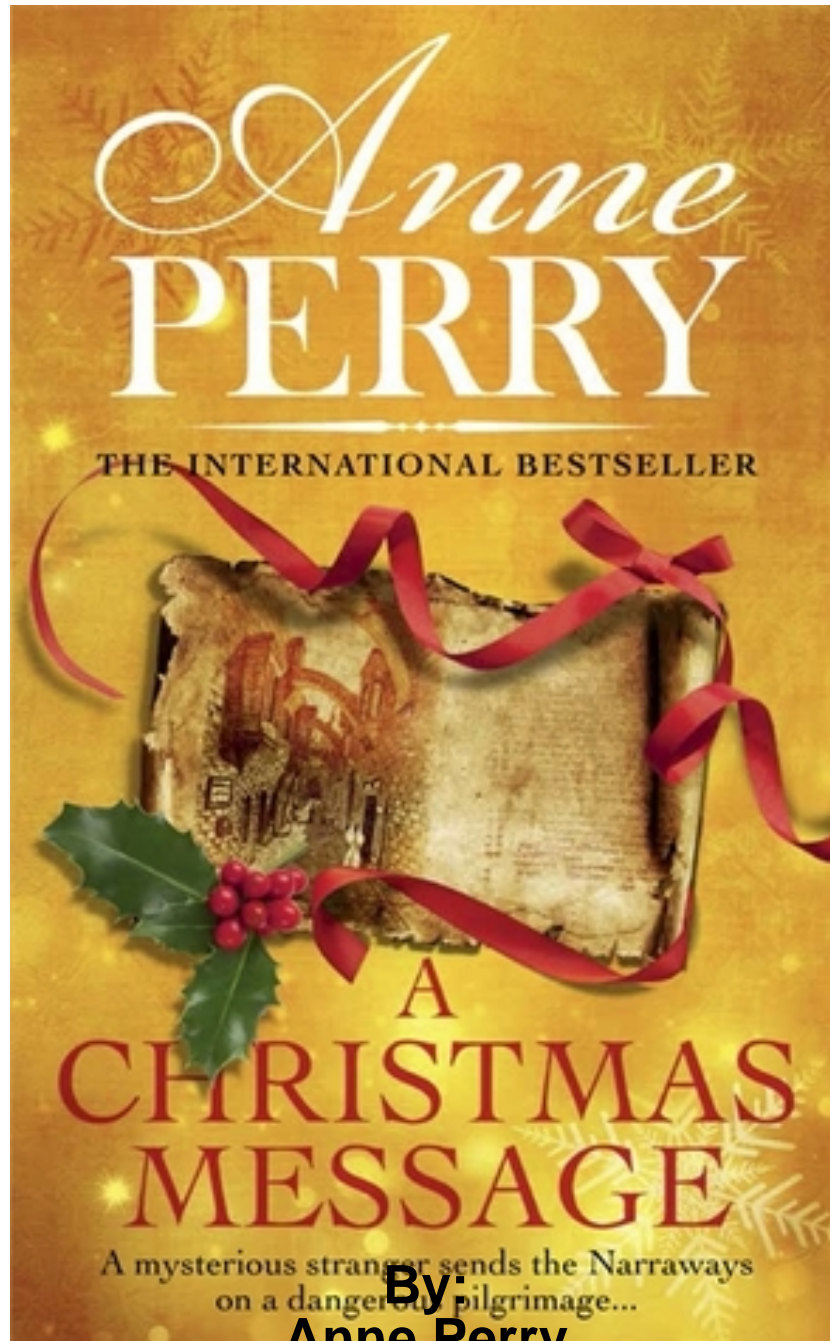


A Christmas Message Book PDF Download



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What people Say:

Sue

My first Anne Perry is one of her Christmas releases, more of a novella really, with a very seasonal theme treated seriously, for adults to ponder large questions while watching her characters do the same, while also trying to elude evil. And all happens during a couple's planned Christmas visit to Jerusalem at the turn of the 20th century.

I did find this a thought-provoking read, albeit not expecting quite what I found. I do enjoy books that evoke philosophical and spiritual thinking. Others wh

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I did find this a thought-provoking read, albeit not expecting quite what I found. I do enjoy books that evoke philosophical and spiritual thinking. Others who have read Perry's earlier Christmas releases may be more familiar with this format. If you approach this simply as a mystery, I believe you will be disappointed. If you are looking for something a bit deeper, this may well be for you.

probably 3.5*

A copy of this book was provided by the publisher through NetGalley in return for an honest review.

Sophia

The Christmas Stories series has long been a holiday staple for me. Each year I wait with anticipation which minor character from the author's other Victorian mystery series will get their turn

to do a spot of detection over the Christmas holidays. Knowing that A Christmas Message was to be a jaunt with Lady Vespasia and her new husband Victor Narraway made this story hold some extra charm for me.

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The story begins with Vespasia and Victor stopped over in Joppa on their journey to Jerusalem with the holiday trip being Victor's gift to Vespasia. They are a winter romance and only married for two years now, but along this journey, they are learning each other in ways that they hadn't know before. With their destination as Jerusalem for Christmas, Vespasia can't help but wonder about Victor's religious beliefs and also analyzes her own thoughts.

Another guest of their lodgings is murdered, but before his death, he managed to slip a final written request and a mysterious message written in a foreign language to Victor. They are requested to deliver the message to the House of Bread on the Via Dolorosa on Christmas Eve. The danger inherent in delivering a murdered man's message does not prevent them both from determining that they wish to fulfill the request. Their journey up to Jerusalem is fraught with mishap and threat, but also with the growing realization that their journey is spiritual and not just physical.

Alright, I am of two minds about this book. While I was glad to have this time with Vespasia and Victor and witness their tender love, mutual respect, and closeness, I was also bewildered about what I got in this story. I don't mind stories that are infused with religious thought and theory, but I do mind when it's not in a book or series known for being inspirational fiction. It felt like a bait and switch somewhat.

I also found that ending abrupt, confusing, and dissatisfying. It just stops after the big scene and doesn't offer a denouement that will close out the story properly. I mean the danger is over and they got some answers, but there is no wrap-up.

So, this was more a philosophical and religious story with a side of suspense and character development. If you can adjust to that, then you'll do alright since it was a decent story with a pair of favorite characters from the Thomas and Charlotte Pitt series.

I received this book from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.

eyes.2c

An illuminating Christmas mystery!

On the surface of this Christmas mystery, Victor Narraway and his wife Lady Vespasia (two of my favourite Perry characters) travel to Jerusalem for Christmas. En route, at their hotel in Jaffa, they run across an interesting older gentleman who hands them a parchment to deliver in Jerusalem just before he is killed by a mysterious figure "The Watcher". The story morphs into a Dali like journey of deserts and death, faith defined and refined, and deepening spirit

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Following the theme of the wise men seeking truth and wonderment as they track the star that lead them to Bethlehem, Narraway and Vespasia embark on a similar journey, followed by the dark watcher. Along the way they are joined by another.

Three pieces of parchment, and the truth for all mankind, are part of this journey.

Narraway and Vespasia are confronted by their own beliefs and the gradual refining of them.

A simple story of intrigue that cloaks hidden inner meanings of the mystical and faith surrounding the Christmas message and all that followed.

A very different story from what I expected, challenging and thought provoking, reflecting much of Perry's own faith base.

The title sums up the depth and breadth of what this story contains. I found it a fascinating treatise on the Christian message.

Debbie

"A Christmas Message" is a suspense novel set in 1900 in Palestine. A man is murdered in Jaffa, where our hero and heroine are staying briefly before taking a train to Jerusalem. They discover that

he slipped them an ancient document in a foreign language and asked them to deliver it to a shop on the Via Dolorosa on Christmas Eve. They set out for the train, and the killer is after them.

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Then the story gets really surreal. I kept expecting the heroine to wake up and discover it was all a dream. The descriptions of the people and the landscape seemed based more on symbolism than reality. The 39 mile trip from Jaffa to Jerusalem came across as a long, dark journey across a flat desert (even though they started out in daylight, Jerusalem is in the hill country, etc.). Almost everyone they met were inhuman beings (or at least not normal human beings) who spoke cryptically or philosophically. Not what I was expecting.

So the story turns out to be a spiritual journey. They concluded that we need to follow our inner guiding vision (the true "star of Bethlehem") and you should love God whatever way you wish, shouldn't condemn people who follow another religion as everyone will get the eternity promised by his religion, and all you need to do to gain God's forgiveness is forgive others.

There were no sex scenes. There was a very minor amount of bad language.

I received an ebook review copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley.

Beth

Aw, Jeeze, this was just awful, and the plot was as tenuous as the point, which has escaped me. Something about the true meaning of Christmas, I'm guessing. But there were endless mental musings again as opposed to real dialogue, a dreadful mishmash of philosophical, religious, spiritual, mystical speculating and pondering, villains whose identities and motivations are unclear or never explained, and the same can be said for the "good guys" in this one. And then near the end,

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