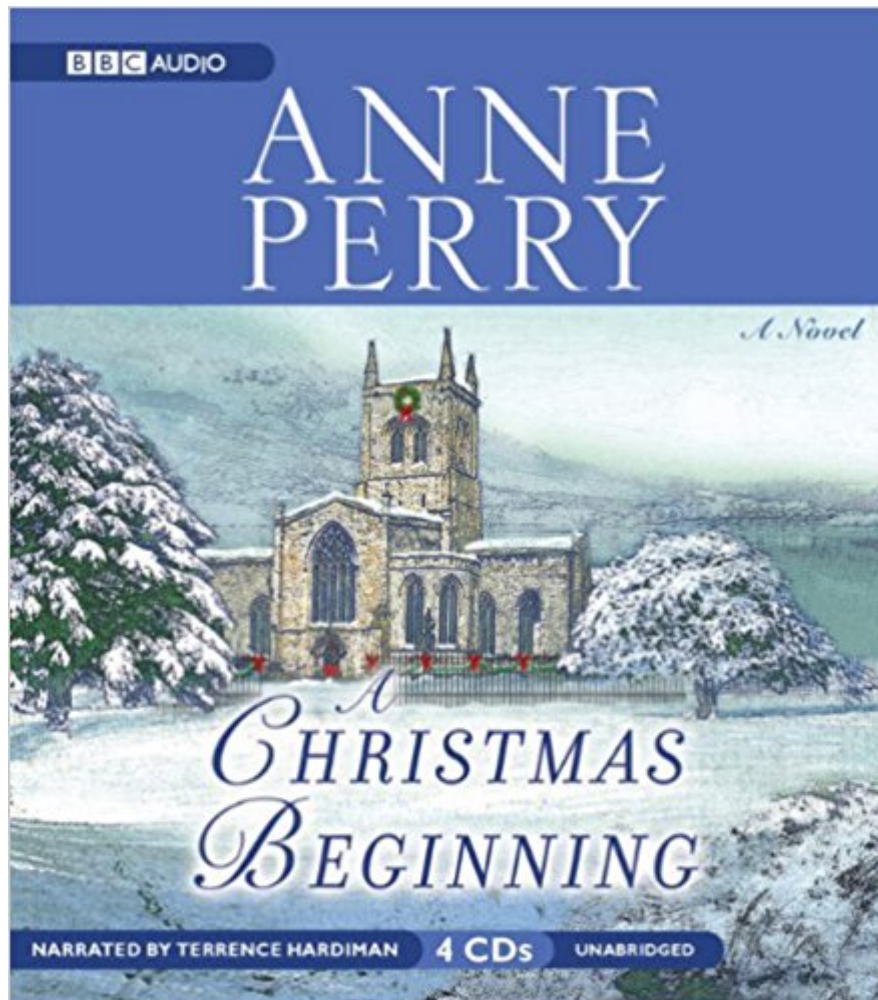




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A Christmas Beginning (Christmas Stories, The)



Synopsis

Superintendent Runcorn who Anne Perry fans will remember as William Monks ex-boss is feeling rather lonely during his holiday on the remote, snowy island of Anglesey, off the north coast of Wales. However, he is suddenly called into action when the sister of the local vicar is discovered murdered and draped over a gravestone in her brother's churchyard. Investigating this tragic crime with the assistance of the beautiful Melisande gives him just the opportunity he needs to spend time with an upper class woman who normally wouldn't give him the time of day. Interweaving the original Christmas story with her own holiday tale, Perry also explores the meaning of Joseph's secondary role compared to that of Mary and Jesus.

Book Information

Series: Christmas Stories, The

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Customer Reviews

Mystery author Perry returns to holiday fare (after last year's *A Christmas Secret*) and sends rumpled London policeman Runcorn to a lonely Welsh island for Christmas, where he gets pulled into the case of the murder of Olivia Costain, the town vicar's lively single sister. Runcorn employs his bare-knuckle investigative skills in interviewing Olivia's family and her various suitors, to the chagrin of the local constable, Sir Alan Faraday, whose pursuit Olivia rejected. Runcorn's modest, unflashy ways carry this moody, understated mystery. (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

"One of the best books to brighten the joyous season."

Each year Anne Perry gives us a small offering centering around Christmastime, and features members of her Thomas Pitt series and Monk series. This year, she features Runcorn, the policeman who used to clash with Monk - We always seen the rough side of Runcorn. He and Monk would clash terribly, but get the job done...They had investigated a murder in London and one brave woman stepped up and helped them - it was some time ago, but Runcorn still remembers her beauty, bearing, and sweetness. He didn't dare think she saw him as more than a policeman. Runcorn leaves London to celebrate Christmas in Wales - He goes to the local Church and meets the Vicar and his wife, and the vicar's sister. Olivia is a free spirit - for Victorian standards - Runcorn sees the beautiful lady that helped the detectives in London - Melisande Ewart -and he realizes he loves her - but he isn't in the gentry. Olivia is found murdered and Runcorn joins in the investigation. During that time, Melisande meets Runcorn every opportunity she can to encourage him to continue his work. He unravels the mystery of who on a small island in Wales murdered a young lady. He also unravels the mystery of his heart. It is a good read that turns an unlikeable Runcorn into a three-dimensional man who feels and strives to be the finest he can be -

I loved the story; the time period it took place in, the area of Great Britain it is set in, the twists of information that you discover right along side with the detective and the voice of the narrator is soothing and pleasant. I would highly recommend it.

always enjoy Anne Perry's books - Christmas series have also been taken and put 2 stories into one book and misleading and causing the purchase of books already bought

My favorite Christmas story by Anne Perry so far! I have never read a Monk book, but I enjoyed meeting Runcorn. Impossible to put down after the midpoint.

I have read Anne Perry's mysteries for years and bought this one based on a favorable squib in the NY Times Book Review. I was very disappointed. The plot is exceedingly creaky, and the book shows signs of being cobbled together in haste, presumably to meet Christmas demand. It also needs a good copy editor. This was a great pity, as humanizing the Runcorn character was such a promising idea!!

Anne Perry has produced a short mystery at Christmas for several years. Each features a lesser known character from one of her Monk or Pitt books. The stories are light reads and always provide interesting descriptions of Christmases from another era. If you like Perry's other books, you will like these short novels. There is nothing complicated in them and there is always a satisfying end.

I have never read an Anne Perry book that I didn't really love!

Great

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