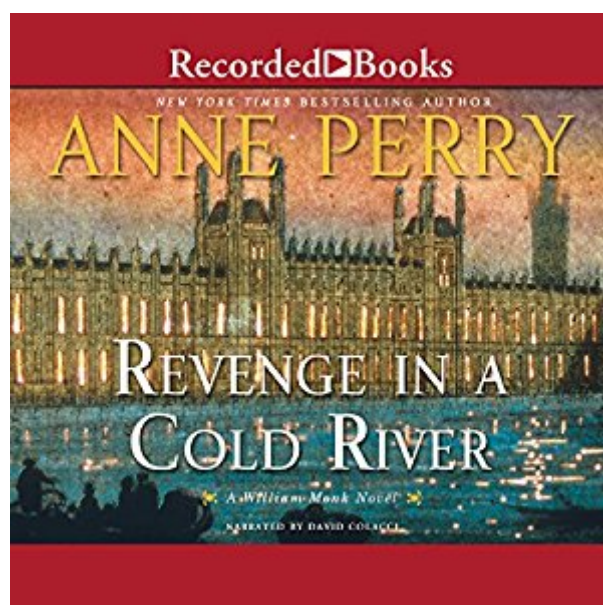


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Revenge In A Cold River



Synopsis

From the "grand duchess" of British mysteries, the 22nd installment of the New York Times best-selling William Monk series. Commander William Monk has learned to live with the fact that he cannot remember the events of his life prior to a horrific carriage accident years ago. But when a ghost from his past, a man he has no recollection of, attempts to frame him for a series of murders, he must rely on the help of his wife, Hester, and his close friend, Oliver Rathbone, in order to free himself - from both the charges and the demons that have haunted him since the accident.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 12 hours and 57 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: September 6, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01K23FSZG

Best Sellers Rank: #8 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > British Detectives
#53 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Historical Fiction #60 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > British Detectives

Customer Reviews

I received an ARC of this book via Netgalley in return for an honest review. This is the first William Monk book I have read. It is a book I thoroughly enjoyed and although it was number 22 in a series it by no means spoiled my enjoyment of reading this book as I felt that it could be read as a stand alone novel. It did however whet my appetite to read the other books in the series. Perry's writing is very evocative of the time and I felt myself transported back to the 1800's, hearing the sounds of the horses hooves against the cobbles of the streets, the shouts of the hawkers plying their trade, and smelling the stink of the highly polluted tames as the boats plied their way along. It is a gripping story revealing long held secrets, revenge and murder. A book that kept me sat on my chair, turning the pages determined to find out what happened next. I am so glad I was approved by Netgalley to read this book.

In Anne Perry's twenty-second William Monk novel, "Revenge in a Cold River," the author addresses long-standing questions concerning Monk's amnesia. As fans of this popular series know, in 1856, our hero was injured in a coach accident, and "his entire life up until then $\tilde{\text{A}}\hat{\text{A}}\hat{\text{A}}$ vanished." In the nearly thirteen years since, Monk has reconstructed bits and pieces of his history, but huge gaps remain. Fortunately, Monk's memory loss did not prevent him from becoming Commander of the Thames River Police, marrying the woman he loves, and adopting a son. "Revenge in a Cold River" is an engrossing tale with many layers. The complex plot involves escaped prisoners; a possible conspiracy to commit a major heist on the waterfront; troubled relationships; and the curious fact that a number of people who knew Monk during the Gold Rush days in San Francisco are living nearby two decades later. The author focuses on Monk's efforts to find out if he once behaved so cruelly that a bitter enemy is trying to destroy him. This generally entertaining and fast-paced mystery is marred by excessive repetition of key information and a hokey trial that allows Oliver Rathbone, barrister extraordinaire and the Monks' close friend, to show off his expertise in ferreting out the truth. Still, Anne Perry expertly captures the spirit of London in the late 1860s; does a credible job of describing what it is like to investigate crimes on or near a river; and provides some insight into Monk's character when he was a much younger man. Perry shows that the desire for vengeance may poison one's soul; that hypocrites often hide their evil intentions behind a smiling face; and that it is wise to maintain close friendships with those who have proven themselves to be loyal, kind-hearted, and compassionate.

Perry always takes considerable time setting up for the climatic ending (maybe too much time?) But if you can make it to the final couple of chapters, it's usually riveting. If you've read most of the previous Monk novels, you know that he lost his memory in an accident some years ago. Sometimes I wonder if he'll ever resolve his discomfort at not knowing what happened and what he was like before the accident. That has been the set up for all the books, including this one. Maybe she resolved his angst in this book when he realized he had a good life even without his memory? If so, wonder how/where she'll go from here? If you like a good mystery with just a hint of romance and with characters you come to know and care about, Monk is for you.

The latest in a long line of books featuring William & Hester Monk. If you've read the others in the series don't hesitate to read this one too. If you're new to Ms Perry's writing I suggest you start at the beginning - you won't regret it.

A drowned man is washed up along the Thames. Why has Custom Officer McNab called in Commander Monk of the Thames River Police to investigate? A man who is an escaped prisoner is under McNab's jurisdiction. The dislike of McNab for Monk is palpable, as is the supercilious attention McNab gives to Monk. Already my hackles are raised. This is the man who instigated action in which Orme was killed. Of course the Thames River cohorts are suspicious. As an escaped prisoner, Monk's past rises to haunt his coming days along with the advent of some American vessel owners who recall him from San Francisco. McNab looms like a malevolent spectre, it seems he knows things about Monk's past and is using Monk's ignorance to advantage. MacNab's feeling for Monk is 'more than professional rivalry, more than personal dislike. It was hate, deep and poisonous hate.' The link between the river pirates and McNab is gaining weight, but why is McNab so set on going after Monk? McNab is driving Monk to the point of ruin. Monk is being tried for the murder of one of MacNab's men in connection with another escaped prisoner. Beata York, friend of Oliver Rathbone, and widow of the High Court Judge who so pursued Monk, joins Hester in her search for something that will point to Monk's innocence. An American woman, Miriam, hides a past that has bearing on Monk. The twists ramp up the intrigue and I couldn't read fast enough to see what the resolution would be. Wow, such a satisfying ending! A NetGalley ARC

If this is your first book about Monk and Hester, I advise you to go to the first one and read them all. I have. It helps to know these wonder characters and how they evolved. They become almost like family. This one is a continuation of the on-going story fans like myself wait for with each new book. It was well worth the wait, again. Ending in a swash buckling fight like an old Errol Flynn movie! Great mystery. Great, exciting ending. What more could you ask for except the next book down the line.

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