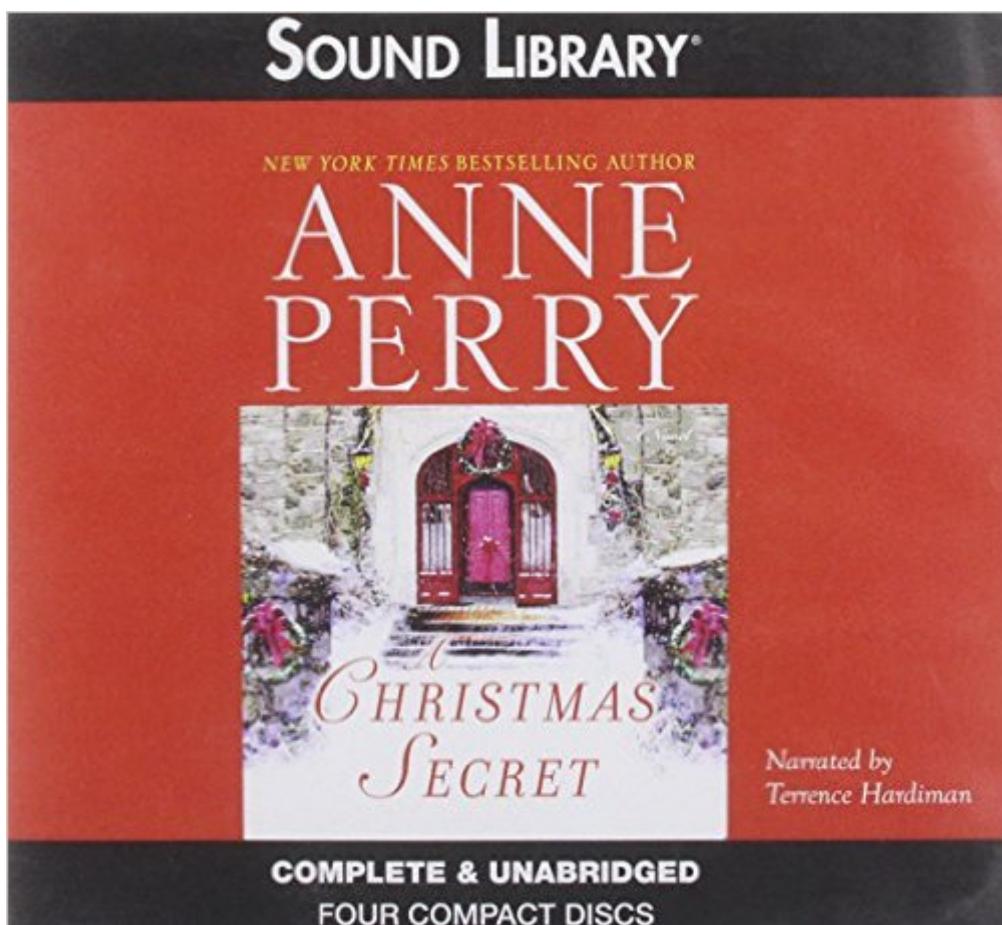


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# A Christmas Secret (The Christmas Stories)



## **Synopsis**

Dominic and Clarice Corde, who met and fell in love in Brunswick Gardens, journey to a quaint hamlet to replace the local vicar who is away on holiday. The holiday takes a nasty turn when the vicar is discovered not to be away at all, but brutally murdered and stashed in the cellar. So instead of fulfilling the vicar's duties, the Cordes are charged with solving his murder. All the while, the picturesque village is becoming increasingly and dangerously snowbound, its residents trapped as a killer remains at large. The crime's surprising solution reveals not only the killer, but the true meaning of the Christmas message.

## **Book Information**

Series: The Christmas Stories

Audio CD

Publisher: BBC Audiobooks; Unabridged edition (November 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0792744772

ISBN-13: 978-0792744771

Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 1.6 x 6.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 starsÂ  [See all reviewsÂ](#) (33 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,890,286 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 inÂ  Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( P ) > Perry, Anne #3889 inÂ  Books > Books on CD > Romance #7595 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

I've become quite fond of Anne Perry's Christmas novellas in spite of the fact that they're not always as compelling or as thought provoking as her Pitt or her Monk series. True, they are extremely well written (or at least I find them to be so), and possess many of the quality traits that you'd find in her other novels -- good period detail, thoughtful storylines and good character developments. And indeed I thought that her previous Christmas novella, "A Christmas Guest" was really quite stella and the best of the lot so far. So that while I still think that "A Christmas Guest" is the best Christmas novella Anne Perry has written to date, I did think that "A Christmas Secret" was a very engaging and satisfying read. It may not be the most suspenseful or most intriguing read of the month, but I

enjoyed it nevertheless and can definitely recommend as a good read."A Christmas Secret" features Daniel Corde, Charlotte Pitt's brother-in-law, who has turned his back on his life of wealth and privilege, and who has taken orders, and his new wife, Clarice, as chief protagonists. Anne Perry fans may remember Daniel as the self-indulgent husband of Charlotte's eldest sister, who was brutally murdered in the first Thomas and Charlotte Pitt mystery, "The Cater Street Hangman." In "A Christmas Secret" Daniel is given the opportunity to escape the petty and critical gaze of his superior and to stand in for the vicar of the village of Cottisham, the Reverend Wynter, over the Christmas season. Knowing that his has enormous shoes to fill (Wynter is much beloved and revered by his parishioners), Daniel is, nevertheless, determined to do his best and to make as good an impression as possible.

Anne Perry, well known and loved as a mystery writer, has given readers a wonderful holiday tonic with **A CHRISTMAS SECRET**. In her new book, she brings back two secondary characters from her Thomas and Charlotte Pitt novels, and gives them their own story. The Reverend Dominic Corde and his wife Clarice appeared earlier in **THE CATER STREET HANGMAN** and **BRUNSWICK GARDENS**. Even if you have never met them before, you will still love them --- and their story. Dominic and Clarice, who have been married for little more than a year, are traveling to Oxfordshire. Dominic has been asked by the bishop to take over for the elderly vicar, Reverend Wynter, who has gone on a holiday. He and his wife leave the industrial landscape of London and Dominic's current job as curate for a three-week reprieve. The train travels through gentle rolling country sides and past hilltops dusted with snow and delivers them at the station, where a pony trap waits to take them to the hamlet of Cottisham. The village is picturesque with thatched dwellings and a wide green with a duck pond. The church is Saxon with a slate roof and a square tower that rises against the winter sky. Readers feel as if they are in a late 19th century setting trimmed with snow. The stone vicarage has a feeling of warmth even though Mrs. Wellbeloved, who has looked after the vicar for years, greets them with a dubious look. She shows them the house and informs Dominic and Clarice about the dog and cat to tend as well. Soon after the couple makes themselves at home, they receive their first caller. Sir Peter Connaught is the local squire; he welcomes them and is relieved to learn that the couple had not met the Rev. Wynter. When Mrs. Wellbeloved comes to help later, she tells Clarice that Sir Peter and the vicar quarreled.

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