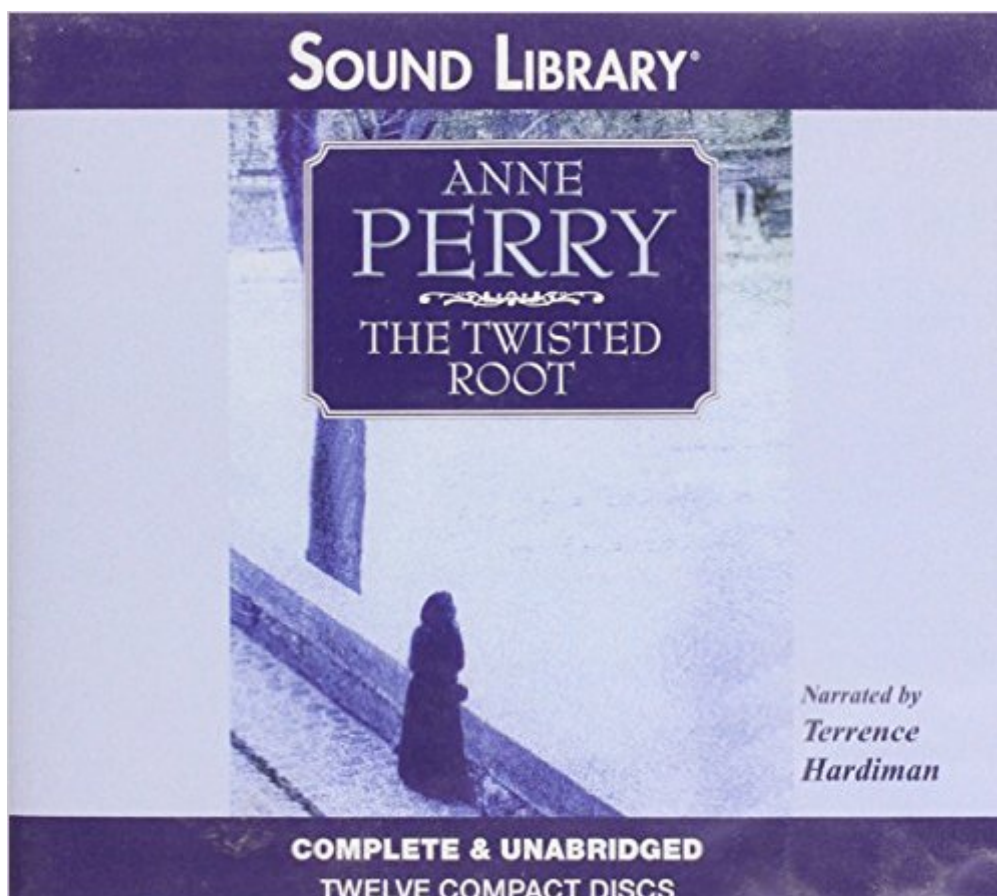


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The Twisted Root (William Monk Novels)



Synopsis

For Miriam Gardner, attending a party at the London home of her fiancé, Lucius Stourbridge, to celebrate their forthcoming marriage, it should have been one of the happiest days of her life. But, after making a sudden exit from the party, Miriam disappears without a trace. Reluctant to cause a scandal, Lucius seeks out William Monk, a detective with a reputation for excellence."

Book Information

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Authors, A-Z > (P) > Perry, Anne #8751 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers #9262

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Customer Reviews

I have been a fan of Anne Perry's detectives [and formerly one wife -- now two wives] for many years. The plot of this novel is intriguing and complex as is customary in Perry's works, and, in addition, we get to see the jockeying for position in their newly-combined home between the amnesiac investigator William Monk and the opinionated nurse Hester Latterly Monk. These scenes are fascinating and show that Perry not only knows her Victorians but is also knowledgeable about the human heart, regardless of time. All in all, this was an excellent read. From the moment a young woman mysteriously disappears from a croquet game at one of Britain's grand country estates in the company of one of the family's male servants, there is seldom a dull moment. I thoroughly enjoyed the book. May the author provide us with many more.

I'm a long-time fan of Anne Perry and I especially like the Monk series, but I think it's time Ms. Perry puts away her computer and takes a bit of a vacation. Her writing has become tedious and formulaic. I knew who did it halfway through the book and the ending was predictable, mainly

because any regular reader has seen it all before. She was once an excellent writer but I kept feeling that she's become lazy and doesn't care much about her art. The same adjectives appear on just about every page - She uses the words "tragedy," "courage," and "intelligence," so often they lose all meaning. Every heroine "fights against injustice" or some other over-used description. Every character is described in the same repetitive manner and the vocabulary not only doesn't vary among her novels, it doesn't vary among her characters. I barely recognized this version of Oliver Rathbone. The Rathbone of previous works would never give up on a client, must less resign himself to their guilt. The evidence that Robb used to make an arrest was laughable at best. And Perry's repeated descriptions of a chronically foot-sore Monk were annoying. I've always loved Anne Perry's work. I just wonder where one of my favorite authors has gone.

After the surprising twist to the end of *A Breach of Promise*, I thought Anne Perry had used up all her shock value. I was very mistaken! Bravo Ms. Perry you are an excellent writer and never cease to amaze me with your plots! I can't wait to be surprised by *Half Moon Street*! Excellent!

I have read every book that Anne Perry has written and I enjoy every one, but I particularly like The William Monk series. I find this series is darker than the Pitt ones and every book has fine examples of Victorian British courtroom drama. I marvel at the way that Ms. Perry can portray the Victorian mindset - the prejudices and the close-mindedness. Improbable as it seems to us in our modern day world, being quick to censure and to judge others against some impossible ideal was very prevalent in late 1800 England. There are a lot of plot twists and turns in this book, and it has its usual surprise ending. In some ways the ending seems less probable than other books in the series, but it doesn't impair the fun of the read.

This book was gripping until the end - though without the usual tension between Hester and Monk to add that extra bite we've been used to in this series of books.

I have been reading Anne Perry's books since college. I especially like her series with William Monk, Hester Latterly and Oliver Rathbone. I must say, however, that *The Twisted Root* needed to be more tightly edited. The ending of the book seemed very loosely pulled together; it probably needed at least two to three more pages of explication to round out the last of the twists and turns presented at the very end of the book. Ms. Perry developed characters who seemed strangely isolated from the context of their work or lives. More questions than answers were raised for me.

Didn't Sgt. Robb have any superiors to answer to on his first murder case, which just happened to involve a wealthy family? Why didn't we see Dr. Beck again after his assistance to Hester? Weren't any of the other nurses at the hospital worthy of Hester's attentions? I also thought some of her descriptions were redundant - of John Robb, Hester's concerns about old, abandoned soldiers. Strangely, even for a Victorian couple, the warmth between the now-married-to-each-other Monk and Hester seemed more that of good friends than a couple in love. I do look forward to the next Monk/Latterly story, but with caution.

Regrettably - because I really liked the main characters from previous 4 or 5 books, and twists of the plot. Yet I am going to scream if I read once more about the Crimea war, Light Brigade, Hester's disgraced father, Monk's lost memory, fight against social injustice or Oliver's nearly-proposal. And not only it is dragged from one book to the next, it is repeated in the same book. Plus - not only it is painfully slow, it is unnecessary slow. Detailed description of conditions of the hospitals or chauvinism of Victorian society adds very little to the mystery, except for the number of words. Besides, in this particular book there are too many loose ends. What happened to the Cook - aunt of the coachman - and why no one asked her about life of her nephew? Why no one reads the diary of client's mother till the last pages though it is clearly related to the murder? And, yeah, Hester and sergeant found in a couple of hours what a bunch of people could not find for 22 years even (initially) looking on purpose.

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