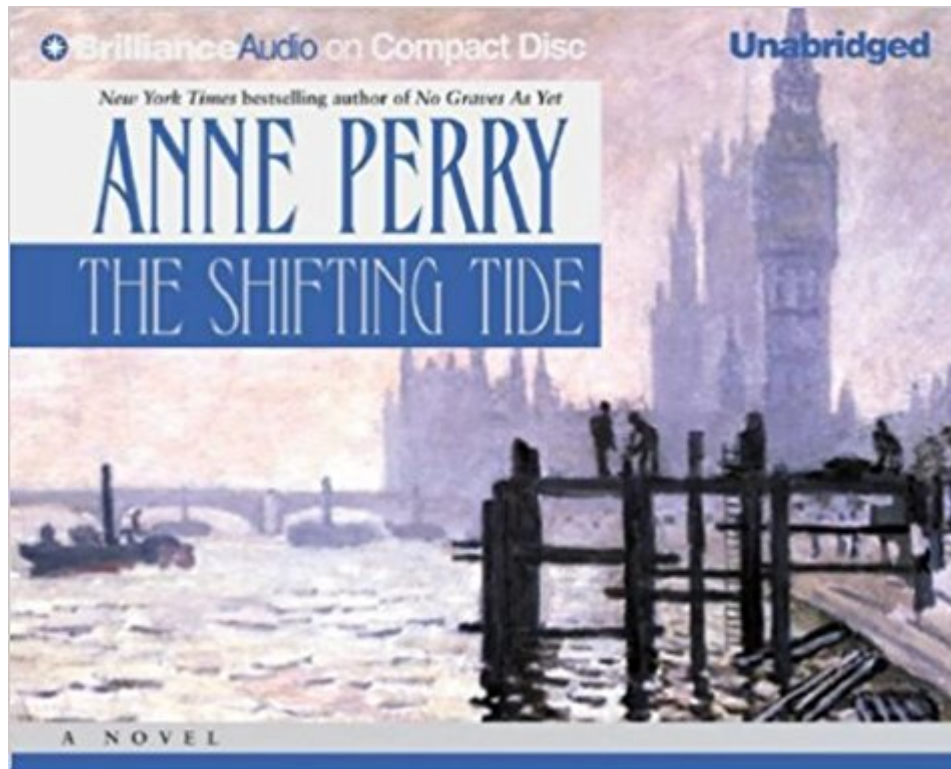




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The Shifting Tide (William Monk Series)



Synopsis

William Monk knows London's streets like the back of his hand; after all, they are where he earns his living. But the river Thames and its teeming docks—where towering schooners and clipper ships unload their fabulous cargoes and wharf rats and night plunderers ply their trades—is unknown territory. Only dire need persuades him to accept an assignment from shipping magnate Clement Louvain to investigate the theft of a cargo of African ivory from Louvain's recently docked schooner, the Maude Idris. Monk is desperate for work, not only to feed himself and his wife, Hester, but to keep open the doors of her clinic, a last resort for sick and starving street women. But he wonders: Why didn't Louvain report the ivory theft directly to the River Police? Why did he warn Monk not to investigate the murder of one of the Maude Idris crew? Even more mysterious, why has Louvain brought to Hester's clinic a desperately ill woman who, he claims, is the discarded mistress of an old friend? Neither Hester nor Monk anticipates the nightmare answers to these questions...nor the trap that soon so fatefully ensnares them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Commissioned to find the precious cargo of ivory stolen by river thieves from the hold of Clement Louvain's ocean-going schooner, private enquiry agent William Monk is intrigued by his new surroundings. The waterfront of the River Thames is a world unto itself, but without the help of the famed River Police, Monk hardly stands a chance of retrieving the ivory or tracking down the murderous men who killed an innocent crew member while robbing Louvain's ship. Not so

coincidentally, Monk's wife Hester, who operates a shelter for sick and injured women of the streets, discovers that a woman with a mysterious connection to Louvain may hold the key to the missing ivory as well as many more deaths aboard his ship than the one Monk knows about. Perry's trademarked plotting, characterization, and verisimilitude in recreating Victorian London gleam brilliantly in this well-crafted historical mystery. --Jane Adams --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The strain of publishing two major novels a year continues to show in bestseller Perry's 14th historical to feature private inquiry agent William Monk and his wife, Hester, despite the fresh start for Monk, who has recovered from the amnesia that afflicted him in *Death of a Stranger* (2002). In the autumn of 1873, because he needs the money, Monk agrees to recover valuable cargo stolen from a ship waiting to be unloaded at an East End London dock for the ship's owner, Clement Louvain, with the proviso that Louvain will also prosecute the thieves for murdering the ship's watchman. Monk enlists the aid of a young Cockney orphan, Scuff, who doubts Monk's ability to investigate a Docklands crime: "Yer in't got the wits fer it, nor the stomach neither. Yer stick to wot yer can do-wotever that is." Meanwhile, Hester, who receives no pay for the clinic she runs for streetwalkers, must deal with an unexpected death that she suspects may be murder.

Unfortunately, the author too often tells rather than shows. The reader waits impatiently for the "ruthless" Monk to say or do something that suggests that quality. Still, with its focus on the lower classes and the Thames, the plot will resonate with fans of Dickens's riparian novel, *Our Mutual Friend*. And, as always, Perry uses her characters and story to comment on ethical issues that remain as relevant today as they were in Victorian times. Expect another bestseller. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Wow, Anne Perry hit a homerun with this book. While I'm glad Callandra has found happiness with Kristian Beck, I'll miss her character immensely. And I'm so happy for Rathbone and Margaret. This book was powerful, packed an emotional wallop and raced along. A couple of small complaints. Why aren't Hester or Monk more suspicious when Louvain turns up at the clinic with Ruth? I know I would be. Also, a noticeable gaffe early on in Monk's dealings at the riverfront. He's dressed like a gentleman fallen on hard times and is supposedly questioning others like himself. Two paragraphs later, however, when the conversation starts, these same men are not talking like gentlemen, but with the dialect of the working class. Just a quick glance upward on the page should have alerted

Perry to her error. A careless oversight by both her and her editor. Neither is serious enough to bring the rating down or ruin an excellent story.

As with all of Anne Perry's books, *The Shifting Tide*, has such a beautifully told story that I lost track of time as I read it. The historically accurate details that she includes make the characters come alive and for a moment, I was taken back into 19th century London. I have enjoyed reading all of her books, but I think this book is one of the best. The story drew me in and held on until the last page. It can be enjoyed without reading the whole series, but once you're done, I bet you'll want to read more of William Monk, Hester, and the rest of the characters.

I came late to the William Monk novels, but have really enjoyed them, much more than the Thomas & Charlotte Pitt books. Coming so late to the series, I purchased all the previous WM novels up to this one and read them all in a month's time. Perry does a wonderful job of writing good historical mysteries with interesting, somewhat flawed characters. Monk is one of the best detective characters invented in the last twenty years. These are keepers!

I've now read all of Anne Perry's books. Both Charlotte and the Monk series. Really interesting characters, Victorian informational tips, sustainable plots. My 5 stars for all.

This is the first Anne Perry book I have read in a long time. Reading it on my Kindle made all the difference. I love a mystery and I love novels with British settings. The river played a big part in the book but the title, *The Shifting Tide*, also gives meaning to many of the "river rat" characters and their shifty methods. William Monk is a patient and thorough detective with skills of deduction. He can figure out what the clues are with very little evidence. He has a gentle side as well when he gets help from a young child who frequents the river. And, he is moral when he worries about implicating an innocent man for murder. His wife Hester, also plays a part in the book as a selfless heroine, as usual. I'm sure I will continue to read more of Anne Perry's novels now that I am hooked on her mysteries.

This was an excellent book in the series. I love the way Anne Perry develops characters. With a lot of series, I find that the author sometimes seems to forget what was previously written, and writes something that clashes with what had already been established. But not this series, or, the Charlotte and Thomas Pitt series, also by Anne Perry.

The title refers not only to the mystery Monk is working to solve on the Thames River, but also changes in the familiar characters we've come to know in the series. Ms. Perry gives us a much better look at what is in their hearts and minds. Where, in the past, Monk and Hester's relationship seemed almost platonic, there is now warmth and we have no doubt as to their love for each other. Monk comes across as much more human and loses the chip on his shoulder he's carried throughout the series. Personally, I found him much more likeable. The real evidence of Ms. Perry's growth is the insight she gives regarding Margaret Ballinger and, in particular, Sir Oliver. For example, in the past we were simply told what Rathbone felt; in *Shifting Tides*, his thoughts, fears, and hopes are laid bare for us to struggle through with him. An enjoyable portion of the book is given to the couple and their dialogue involving fundraising attempts at various society functions shows a sense of humor not often seen in Ms. Perry's writing. Ms. Perry also gives us several entertaining secondary characters such as the shamelessly manipulative Mama Ballinger. You can almost hear Rathbone's sigh of relief when he escapes the sitting room. He has met his match in Mama B...and she knows it. All in all, it is an excellent, satisfying read- get comfortable and enjoy.

Good book, Not a favorite, though. I have read all of Anne Perry's book to date. The concept of someone knowingly killing multiple people this way is appalling.

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