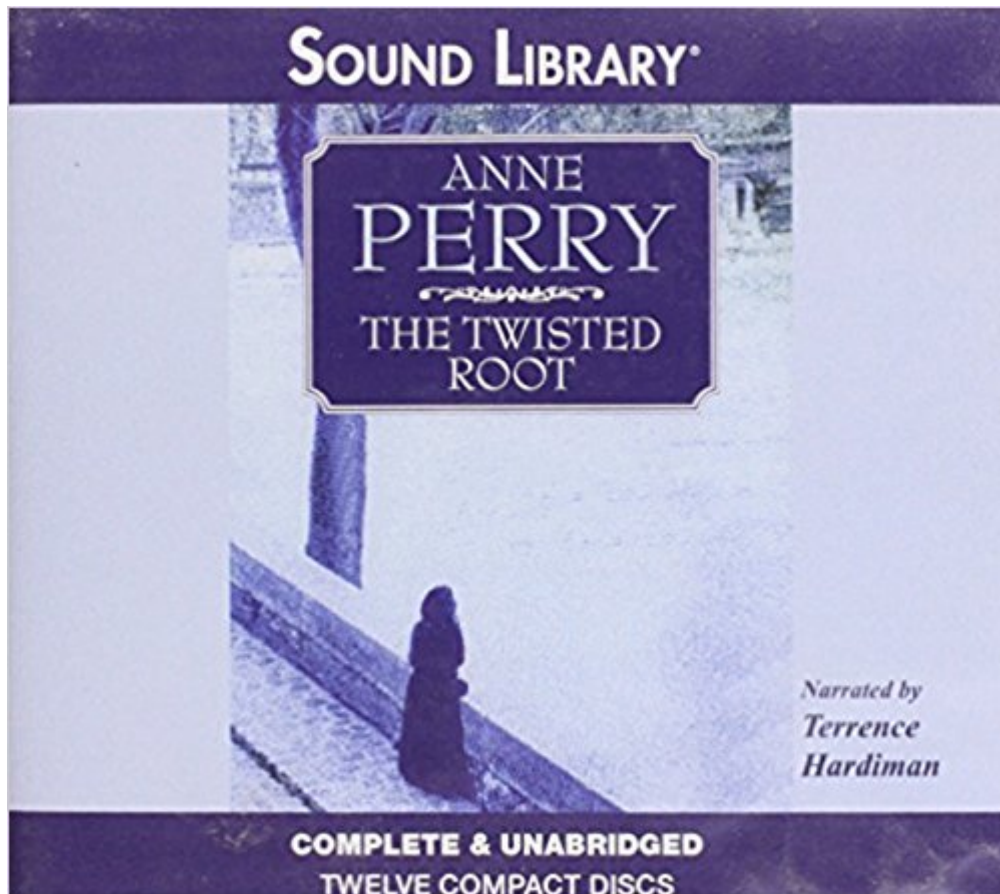




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# The Twisted Root (William Monk Novels)



## 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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## Customer Reviews

William Monk, the unquestionably handsome, somewhat vain, but genuinely tenderhearted "agent of enquiry" is back on the streets of Victorian London, investigating his 10th case, a missing woman. Miriam Gardiner was due to be betrothed to a much younger man, a well-to-do gentleman named Lucius Stourbridge. But during a family croquet party, the bride-to-be vanished, apparently fleeing in a coach driven by a family servant named Treadwell. Monk would normally be reluctant to get involved in a simple case of pre-wedding jitters, but his own recent marriage to the headstrong nurse Hester Latterly gives him a newfound empathy for the heartbroken Lucius. Of course, as always in Perry's historical mysteries, all is not quite as it seems. Treadwell is found murdered, and the missing Miriam becomes the number-one suspect. Monk is convinced that she "could and would do no intentional evil," even as Hester connects her to another illicit crime. Eventually unearthed by London's finest, Miriam is arrested and charged with murder, and it's up to barrister Oliver Rathbone to absolve her in court (with a little help from his good friends William and Hester Monk). With a plot twist around every corner, Anne Perry knows just how to keep us in suspense, right up to the

exceedingly dramatic finale. The Twisted Root is a luminous whodunit from the queen of Victorian mystery. --Naomi Gesinger --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In this 10th entry in the popular series featuring prickly English investigator William Monk and his equally prickly bride, nurse Hester Latterly (A Breach of Promise, etc.), Perry mulls over the moral justification of criminal acts. Just back from his honeymoon in the summer of 1860, Monk tries to locate Mrs. Miriam Gardiner, a comely widow who inexplicably fled in a coach from her wealthy young fiancé's home. Monk's search takes him to Hampstead Heath, where the coachman's body is found. Amurdered, he deduces, by a single blow to the head. Could Miriam have struck that deadly blow as she fled, and if so, why? Cornered at last, Miriam refuses to explain her behavior or implicate the coachman's murderer, even though Monk suspects she's the victim of some atrocity. Meanwhile, Hester gears up to defend Cleo Anderson, a saintly nurse who admits to filching hospital supplies to treat impoverished war veterans. Plot mechanics grind away as Perry strains to connect the two crimes, resolving matters with an ending that reads like Henry Fielding without the laughs. Fans of earlier Monk and Latterly mysteries may enjoy Perry's sometimes overwrought depiction of the two-career couple negotiating who cooks supper, but the many other anachronisms just don't wash (says Hester's colleague: "you want to have nurses visit the poor in their homes? You are fifty years before your time"). Despite the characters' tendency to sermonize self-righteously, Perry's theme is the hazy nature of guilt. A topic sure to intrigue those who've followed her career. For thrills, however, readers should turn to other books in the series. Mystery Guild selection; Random House audio. (Oct.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I got severely hooked on the William Monk series and have recently started this 10th in the series on my Kindle. While I anticipate an excellent story, I'm somewhat flummoxed and maybe I missed something. Having spent so much time with Monk and Hester, I would certainly have liked to be at their wedding. This book opens and they are married. I did read Book #9, A Breach of Promise, with a side visit to #14, The Shifting Tide, but how did I miss a proposal, acceptance and wedding? And how did Callandra get back into the picture? I must have done something wrong. But, don't mind me. The William Monk series are excellent!!!

If you love a good mystery - if you love Victorian England - if you love a unique love story - then buy this book (and all her William Monk serie) for this book (and the series) contain all three (and more).

Her writing is superb - evocative of another time and place - never sentimental yet certain scenes bring tears to your eyes - never flowery or gushy, but filled with detail. William Monk, the chief character in this series is not the most likable of men but under Perry's flawless writing he comes to be a man you respect and cheer on. He has a history which comes to light slowly and it is one I do not believe I've ever seen before in a lead character. I will not divulge what it is so as not to spoil the read. Hester, the lead female in Perry's Monk Series is unlike any character I've ever read about before - at least in Victorian times. She is strong and outspoken and having been a nurse in the Crimean is a force to be reckoned with. And Rathbone, a lawyer friend to both of them, set the tone for the era but as the books slide by, becomes less conservative and more loving in his ways. As a trio they are hard to beat. Much has been said about Perry's own personal history which I will not divulge here for it's of no concern to me, but I do feel that it is that very history which has made her not only able to see both sides of a crime - but it's also given her the ability to show compassion, ferocity, and the effects of crime on both the criminal and the victim. Top notch writing coupled with interesting unusual characters makes this book (and the series) a first-rate read! BUY THEM!

Anne Perry continues her saga of Monk, Hester, and Rathbone. The formula is the same: a hopeless case, an impoverished defendant, a close-held secret. Hester and Monk are a team now, but Oliver is their friend and, even though he feels left out, he respects their judgment and works for their cause. Again nurses are treated badly, and Hester seeks proper treatment. The case involves a nurse, her young ward, and a wealthy family. On the stand the great secret is revealed to the horror of the audience. Another great story./

I love all these books! I love that Anne Perry gives me such insight into the characters that I figure out who I suspect, but not so much that the unraveling of the tale is spoiled!

I love this series and have read it many times over the years. Great stories and wonderful characters. She is a great writer

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.

ANNE PERRY'S BOOKS ARE ABOUT THE VICTORIAN AGE-HOW THE PEOPLE LIVED, THE SOCIETY AND THE WORKERS. I CAN IMAGINE MYSELF SELF BEING THERE BY HER DESCRIPTIONS AND GET TO KNOW ALL OF THE CHARACTERS AND WHY THEY ARE GOOD OR EVIL. THINGS HAVE CHANGED SOMEWHAT IN MY LIFETIME AND I AM VERY THANKFUL THAT I DO NOT HAVE TO LIVE LIKE WILLIAM, HESTER AND OLIVER. ALL OF THE WILLIAM MONK AND THOMAS AND CHARLOTTE PITTS BOOKS ARE EXCEPTIONAL. MS. PERRY'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS STORIES ARE VERY ENLIGHTENING. I RECOMMEND THAT IF YOU LIKE HISTORICAL, FICTIONAL MYSTERIES, TO READ HER BOOKS.

While similar to the other stories in the genre, this one also ended up with Rathbone defending in courtroom drama, but also explored the beginning of the Monk/Latterly marriage. Another "could not put it down" read.

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