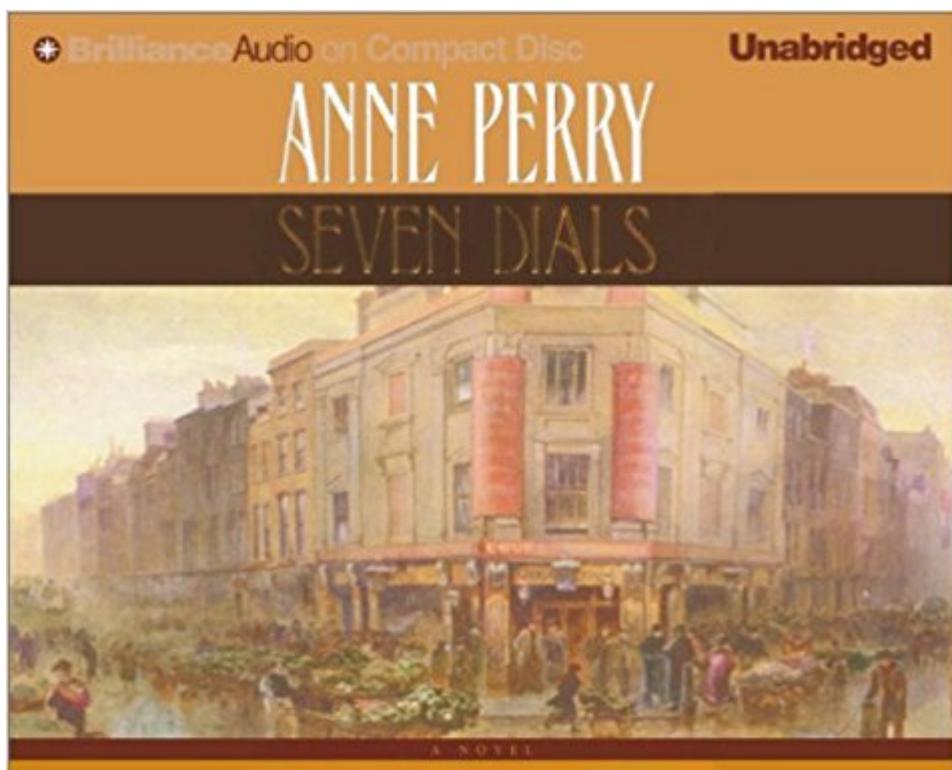


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Seven Dials (Charlotte And Thomas Pitt)



Synopsis

In the first gray of a mid-September morning, Thomas Pitt, mainstay of Her Majesty's Special Branch, is summoned to Connaught Square mansion where the body of a junior diplomat lies huddled in a wheelbarrow. Nearby stands the tenant of the house, the beautiful and notorious Egyptian woman Ayesha Zakhari, who falls under the shadow of suspicion. Pitt's orders, emanating from Prime Minister Gladstone himself, are to protect-at all costs-the good name of the third person in the garden: senior cabinet minister Saville Ryerson. This distinguished public servant, whispered to be Ayesha's lover, insists that she is as innocent as he is himself. Could it be true? In the dead man's less-than-stellar reputation, Pitt finds hope. But in ancient Alexandria, where the victim was once an army officer, hope grows dim. For there, Pitt receives intimations of deadly entanglements stretching from Egyptian cotton fields to Manchester cotton mills, from the noxious London slum known as Seven Dials to the madhouse called Bedlam. Meanwhile, in a packed courtroom at the Old Bailey, time is ticking away for Ayesha and Saville. With Pitt and his clients racing against the hangman, the trial reaches its pulse-pumping climax.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

London detective Thomas Pitt is investigating the murder of a junior diplomat by a notorious Egyptian woman and her lover, a senior Cabinet minister involved in negotiating the conflict between Egypt's cotton growers and England's textile industry. Lovat, the diplomat, once served in Egypt, and to unravel the mystery of his death, Pitt travels to Alexandria, where he finds that the

beautiful Ayesha Zakhari is not who she appears to be--and that Lovat's murder may be tied to an old crime which, if exposed, could set the Middle East aflame. While Pitt is in Egypt, his wife, Charlotte, occupies herself with a more mundane matter--the disappearance of a valet whose sister is a friend of the Pitt's housemaid. It's not long before the reader realizes the connection between the two crimes; meanwhile, Perry layers this smoothly plotted mystery with a fascinating history of Egypt in the days of the British Empire and the religious and economic tensions whose repercussions still resonate more than a century later. Perry, the author of two Victorian-era series (the other stars investigator William Monk), does her usual fine job of bringing the colorful time period alive, helped along by the details of domestic life provided by her protagonists' wives, interesting and accomplished women who have lately played all but equal roles in solving their husbands' cases. --Jane Adams --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In her 23rd Victorian mystery featuring Thomas and Charlotte Pitt (after 2002's *Southampton Row*), Perry uses a pending economic crisis to good effect. Now firmly ensconced in his job with Special Branch, Thomas looks into the murder of a junior diplomat, whose corpse turns up in a wheelbarrow in a garden belonging to a mysterious and beautiful Egyptian woman, Ayesha Zakhari. Pitt travels to Egypt for answers, but the more he learns about Miss Zakhari the more he suspects that she's the pawn in some ugly political game. The Pitts' maid, Gracie, involves Charlotte in the search for a missing valet. Gracie also enlists the aid of Thomas's former subordinate, Sergeant Tellman, and in one of the charming subplots of the book, their romance develops further. The trail leads Charlotte into the dark and dangerous alleys of London's Seven Dials district, and eventually she and Thomas discover that the two cases intersect in a horrifying way. Perry once again delivers a complex and satisfying tale that fans of the series will devour. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Just when you think it can't get any better, along comes Anne Perry's *Seven Dials*. The unfolding story and plot(s) kept me from putting this book down. It is masterfully intertwined with Victorian England and Alexandria, Egypt and a who dunnit murder and mystery, with a thickening plot that could undermine British and Egyptian peace and stability. A must read for all Ann Perry fans!

I became interested in reading Anne Perry's fiction after I read "Anne Perry and the Murder of the Century." In 1954, Ms. Perry, then Juliet Hulme, and her best friend, Pauline Parker, bludgeoned Pauline's mother to death. It seems to me that a person doesn't commit a gruesome, hands-on

murder and be unaffected by it, regardless of the killer's youth at the time of the crime. In "Seven Dials," Ms. Perry closely examines post-traumatic stress syndrome against the backdrop of Alexandria, Egypt (1882) and the ongoing suffering of British military veterans a decade later. As a writer myself, I know that our own experiences color and inform what is written, and I am sure this author draws on that long-ago violence. I have begun reading "A Breach of Promise" and find PTSD again an important theme, this time affecting characters thrown into the worst of wartime butchery in the Indian Rebellion of 1857 and in the Crimean War (1853 to 1856). In both books, Ms. Perry draws very effectively on her own experiences to warn others of the heavy burden carried by participants, whether for a "good cause" steeped in patriotism or plain murder.

This book kept me glued to it. Lots of tension and so much wonderful information. I really like the relationship between Charlotte and Pitt. Also the wonderful way Charlotte needs to solve her own mysteries with her maid. Oh my how I love Lady Vespati, forgive my spelling. Going to Egypt, how she describes that country, so hot and yet so beautiful.. Another great book Anne, thank you. Anne

The ending was a complete surprise. Another gripping story from Anne Perry. On to the next one! I hope Pitt can go back to the police.

Another excellent Charlotte and William Pitt Victorian mystery. Pitt has joined Special Branch and is sent to Egypt to uncover facts that may help exonerate a junior cabinet minister of murder. Perry's style is rich and evocative. You can smell Seven Dials and hear the gentle lapping of the Nile. If you're a fan of Perry or her Pitt novels, this one won't disappoint. If you've never read her, start at the beginning of the series and enjoy.

It took a while to get into this story and most readers will figure out things before the main characters. Nevertheless, there are some surprising twists at the end.

The book was different than past Charlotte and Thomas Pitt because Thomas Pitt had to leave England and travel to Egypt. There was some interesting details about his travel to Egypt. As always the suspense held until the end when the murderer was revealed.

Uniquely written intrigue that carries the reader intimately alongside the major characters. I'm captured by daily life in late 1800's England and the influence of Empire and society upon the

characters, each having their own private memories and motivation. Excellently written mystery that brings pleasure to the reader.

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