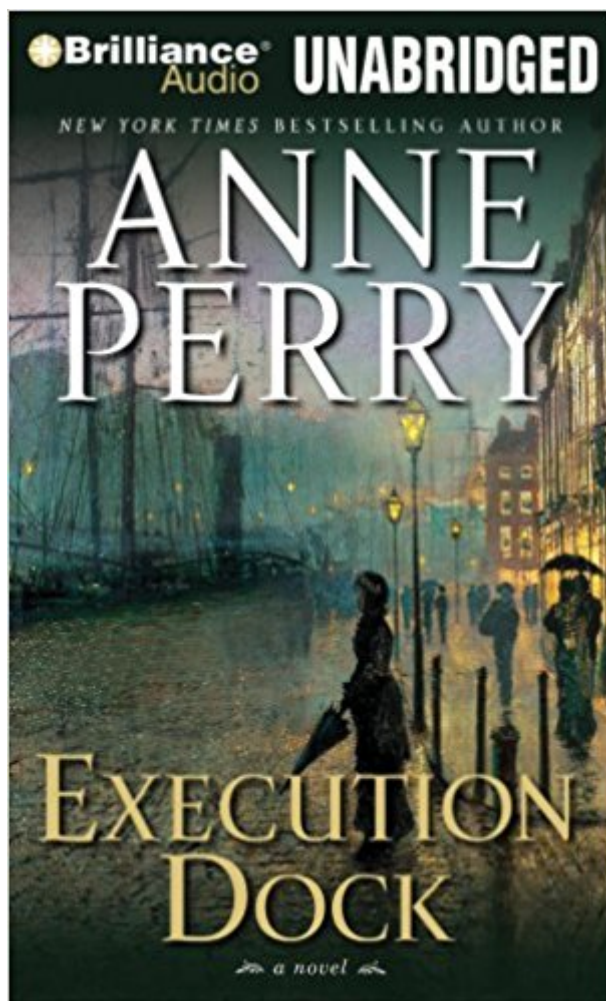


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Execution Dock (William Monk Series)



Synopsis

Listeners of Anne Perry's bestselling William Monk novels feel as if they've experienced the many shades of Victorian London, from Belgravia to Limehouse, from drawing room to brothel. In *Execution Dock*, Perry's first Monk novel in three years, we find ourselves on the bustling docks along the River Thames. Here the empire's great merchant ships unload the treasures of the world. And here, in dank and sinister alleys, sex merchants ply their lucrative trade. The dreaded kingpin of this dark realm is Jericho Phillips. On his floating brothel, sex slaves are forced to endure unspeakable acts. Now one such soul, thirteen-year-old Fig, is found with his throat cut, his tortured body tossed into the river. Commander William Monk of the River Police swears that Phillips will hang for this abomination. But the miscreant is as wily as he is monstrous, and his wealthy clients seem far beyond the reach of the law. Monk's attempt to bring about justice becomes the first electrifying episode in a nightmare that will test his courage and integrity. However, reinforcements are on the way. Monk's wife, Hester, who runs a free clinic for abused women, draws a highly unusual guerrilla force to her husband's cause—a canny ratcatcher, a retired brothel keeper, a fearless street urchin, and a rebellious society lady. To one as criminally minded as Phillips, these folks are mere mosquitoes, to be sure. But as he will soon discover, some mosquitoes can have a deadly sting. This gripping, terrifying story hurtles toward a denouement that will leave the reader breathless but cheering. *Execution Dock* is Anne Perry at her incomparable, magnificent best.

Book Information

Series: William Monk Series (Book 16)

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Set in 1864, bestseller Perry's outstanding 16th novel to feature William Monk (after *Dark Assassin*) finds Monk suffering from a series of hard knocks, including memory loss. Now superintendent of the Thames River Police Force, Monk is on the verge of closing the books on Jericho Phillips, a particularly nasty villain who specializes in child pornography. Monk and his team catch Phillips, but what appears to be an airtight murder case springs leaks and ends with the accused's acquittal. Many in authority view the judgment as a rebuke to the river police, whose existence as a separate force is threatened. Convinced that he got the right man, despite the jury's verdict, Monk devotes himself to setting the record straight. Monk's wife, Hester, who works with London's downtrodden, provides support. Rich in plot development, believable characters and period detail, this entry will only add to the already sizable ranks of Perry's admirers. (Mar.)

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"Set in 1864, bestseller Perry's outstanding 16th novel to feature William Monk (after *Dark Assassin*) finds Monk suffering from a series of hard knocks, including memory loss. Now superintendent of the Thames River Police Force, Monk is on the verge of closing the books on Jericho Phillips, a particularly nasty villain who specializes in child pornography. Monk and his team catch Phillips, but what appears to be an airtight murder case springs leaks and ends with the accused's acquittal. Many in authority view the judgment as a rebuke to the river police, whose existence as a separate force is threatened. Convinced that he got the right man, despite the jury's verdict, Monk devotes himself to setting the record straight. Monk's wife, Hester, who works with London's downtrodden, provides support. Rich in plot development, believable characters and period detail, this entry will only add to the already sizable ranks of Perry's admirers."

• Publishers Weekly Praise for Anne Perry and her William Monk novels *Dark Assassin*

"Brilliant . . . a page-turning thriller . . . blending compelling plotting with superbly realized human emotion and exquisite period detail."

• Jeffery Deaver, author of *The Broken Window* *The Shifting Tide*

"An engrossing story that leaves the reader waiting for Monk's next adventure . . . The mysterious and dangerous waterfront world of London's longest street, the Thames, comes to life."

• South Florida Sun-Sentinel Death of a Stranger

"[A] tantalizing puzzle . . . At last, in *Death of a Stranger*, the secrets of Monk's past are dramatically revealed."

• New York Times Book Review Funeral in Blue

"No one writes more elegantly than Perry, nor better conjures up the

rich and colorful tapestry of London in the Victorian era. But for all its arcane setting and stylistic eloquence, *Funeral in Blue* is an old-style private eye novel – and an extremely good one. – *Cleveland Plain Dealer* *Slaves of Obsession* – “Luxuriant . . . It . . . E. M. Forster spliced with Thomas Harris. . . . Perry is a master. – *Baltimore Sun* – This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Perry demonstrates the most extraordinary compassion and insight in all her books. And yet she does not resile from placing her characters in situations where there are no good outcomes. Simply tragedy. The books are compelling and I understand why she is a best seller. Sh does not churn out her well written books. In each one, relationships shift, people’s characters develop and reveal unexpected courage or evil.

This story was especially spellbinding because it involved the lives of street children around the docks of the Thames. Early police procedures in England are intriguing.

Anne Perry is brilliant. This is her most exciting Monk book so far. Just when I’m certain she can’t get any better, she does. She is a master at setting up an impossible situation and then resolving it. She is a far better writer than Agatha Christie!

In this installment of the Hester and William Monk mystery series, the theme of sexual child abuse becomes central. As usual, Perry presents the dark side of Victorian culture with this rich and terrifying plot. I was moved by the horror of brothels specializing in boys as young as five. The action is thrilling, with Monk as commander of the River Police beginning to build a working relationship with his men while trying to exceed the boundaries of his jurisdiction.

Great to step out of our everyday surroundings and experience life through the eyes of a distant generation. The mores and social attitudes presented are enlightening, especially concerning the young and defenseless. A reminder that no generation had or has it easy..

Nobody does turn-of-the-century writing, scene setting and description of life itself better!! She twists and turns mysteries with the best of them!!

Anne Perry is an elegant writer - even when she is exposing (pardon the expression) the prevalent

pornography exploitation in Victorian England. This book takes place just after Prince Albert's death, and Queen Victoria has started her mourning - which will last decades - Monk and his river police try to put away Phillips, a man who owns a river boat where patrons can come and use children for their sexual needs, or buy pornographic photographs, or watch the action as it happens. It is a disgusting thing that truly was the 'rage' in this era, and unfortunately pornography has no era constraint. Phillips is tried (his counsel is the Monk's longtime friend Sir Oliver Rathbone) and found not-guilty for the murder of a boy who had started puberty and no longer useful to his porno industry. Monk, and his wife Hester start an investigation to catch Phillips in something that will bring him to justice. Including the characters that have endeared themselves to us in this series, Sullivan, the rat catcher, and his wonderful dog, Scuff, the homeless boy that Hester and Monk have semi-taken in, and a cast of others. They pursue Phillips, and face dangers. This book delves into the relationships of the Monks and the Rathbones and the dynamic changes. It is excellently written and is Anne Perry at her best. Mrs. Perry is now writing one book a year and is alternating between the Monk series and the Pitt series (Victorian England at its latter stages), as well as the Christmas books she writes about a character from her series and their experiences around Christmas. She is a lovely lady - I emailed her and to my surprise received a lovely handwritten card from her and I have kept it in the 1st Christmas book. Execution Dock is vintage Perry - you will not be disappointed - great read.

Kind of comes to a screeching halt quickly to be taken up by the next novel in the series.

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