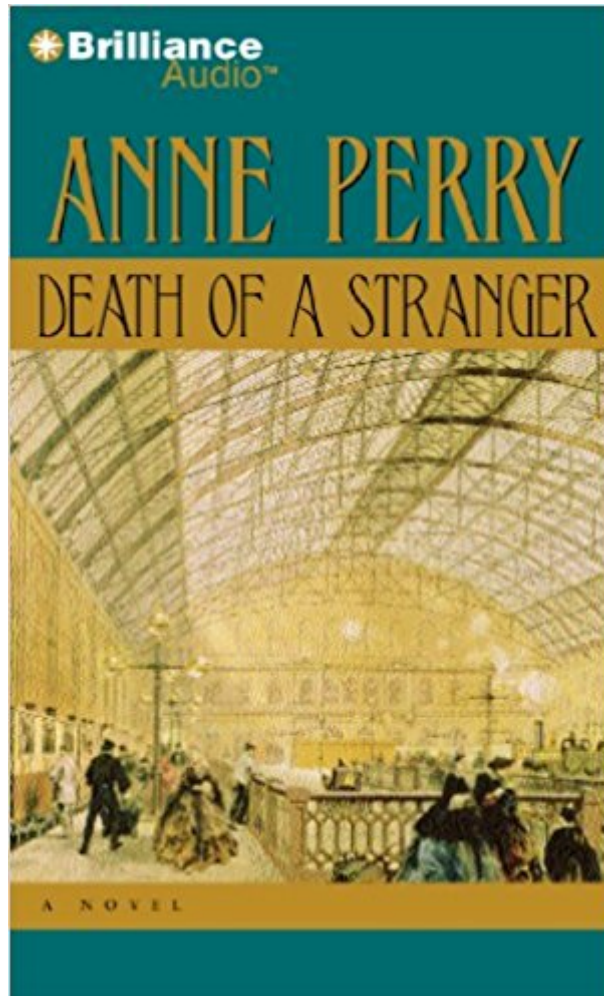




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# Death Of A Stranger (William Monk Series)



## Synopsis

For the prostitutes of Leather Lane, nurse Hester Monk's clinic is a lifeline, providing medicine, food, and a modicum of peace - especially since lately their ailments have escalated from bruises and fevers to broken bones and knife wounds. At the moment, however, the mysterious death of railway magnate Nolan Baltimore in a sleazy neighborhood brothel overshadows all else. Whether he fell or was pushed, the shocking question in everyone's mind is: What was such a pillar of respectability doing in a seedy place of sin? Meanwhile, brilliant private investigator William Monk acquires a new client, a mysterious beauty who asks him to ascertain beyond a shadow of a doubt whether or not her fiancé, an executive in Nolan Baltimore's thriving railway firm, has become enmeshed in fraudulent practices that could ruin him. As Hester ventures into violent streets to learn who is responsible for the brutal abuse of her patients, Monk embarks upon a journey into the English countryside, where the last rails are being laid for a new line. But the sight of the tracks stretching into the distance revives memories once stripped from his consciousness by amnesia - as a past almost impossible to bear returns, eerily paralleling a fresh tragedy that has already begun its inexorable unfolding.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Private enquiry agent William Monk is hired to investigate a potential case of fraud in the construction of a new railway line. His client is the fiancée of a man she fears is embroiled in the scheme, and Monk's investigation causes a strange sense of déjà vu--a former policeman

afflicted with a case of amnesia concerning his prior life, Monk finds both the case and its milieu unsettlingly familiar. His case is somehow connected to the death of a railway magnate in a sleazy area of London where Monk's wife Hester, a nurse, operates a shelter for abused prostitutes. The women have been doubly victimized by an extortion scheme in which the dead man, who turns out to have been Monk's employer during his "lost" years, may have been involved. More than an ingenious way to fill in Monk's backstory, Anne Perry's newest mystery featuring the enigmatic investigator deepens the reader's understanding of an unusual and compelling protagonist and brings Victorian-era England vividly to life. --Jane Adams --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Bestseller Perry's latest novel (after 2001's *Funeral in Blue*) to feature mid-Victorians William Monk and his wife, Hester, offers an ingenious and baffling plot, compelling characters, both major and minor, plus plenty of courtroom drama, but is something of a diamond in the rough. In London's East End, Hester, a former nurse with Florence Nightingale, has established a shelter for prostitutes where the ill and injured can be treated. One night, a well-known railway magnate is found dead in a nearby brothel, and the police presence in the area grinds the illicit business of the pimps and prostitutes to a halt. William, meanwhile, has undertaken a private investigation into possible fraud. His client, the fiancée of a young executive for the same railway as the murder victim, fears her betrothed may be implicated in the fraud scheme. As William recognizes parallels with the past, memories that he lost in an accident seven years earlier start to haunt him. Unfortunately, the book suffers from hasty execution, as reflected in repetitious phrasing, pronouns with unclear antecedents and confusing narrative transitions between Hester and William and between William in the present and William before his amnesia. The result is a challenging read, though established fans will likely forgive the author her lapses because she tells such a wonderful story. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Some of the best character development around from this author.

Another good one. Someone once said no book is ever done and that's how I felt at the end of this one. The conclusion is satisfactory but I felt like more epilogue was needed. Perhaps there will be f/u mentioned in a future book as sometimes occurs.

## Very Enjoyable

It had been a long time since I'd read a Monk book, and this one didn't disappoint. Love the character development, but always plenty of action to keep the story moving. Looking forward to the next one to get me through sleepless nights!

Much better pacing and tension. Other books seemed forced since the first three, but this was effortless. Excellent ending. Now looking forward to the next instead of dreading it. This breathed new life into the series.

This novel had many plots and subplots involving Monk, Hester, and Monk's past. Each book brings Monk closer to the truth of his life before his accident. Hester, as usual, is fighting the morals battles of women and the poor. She reasons that prostitution is bad, but that women have few avenues open for earning wages. Monk investigates fraud in land deals and the operations of the railroad. Anne Perry writes in the detailed style of Elizabeth George, but provides less psychological analysis than George. I enjoy reading both authors, and may venture into Perry's Thomas Pitt series.

Anything Anne Perry writes is the best! I have never read another author that can put you right in the middle of victorian england in the 1800 and your mind can tingle with the sights and sounds and you feel as if you are in the middle of it all as you sit in the safety of your own easy chair. There is nothing she leaves out as far as places and experiences. She is an all time favorite of mine. I read everything she writes as fast as she writes it.

this series is getting very very tired. my gf and i have begun to wonder if there is a ghost writer writing some of the very laborious preditable and uninteresting scenses. i have read them all up till now. i will try one more, then that's it.

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