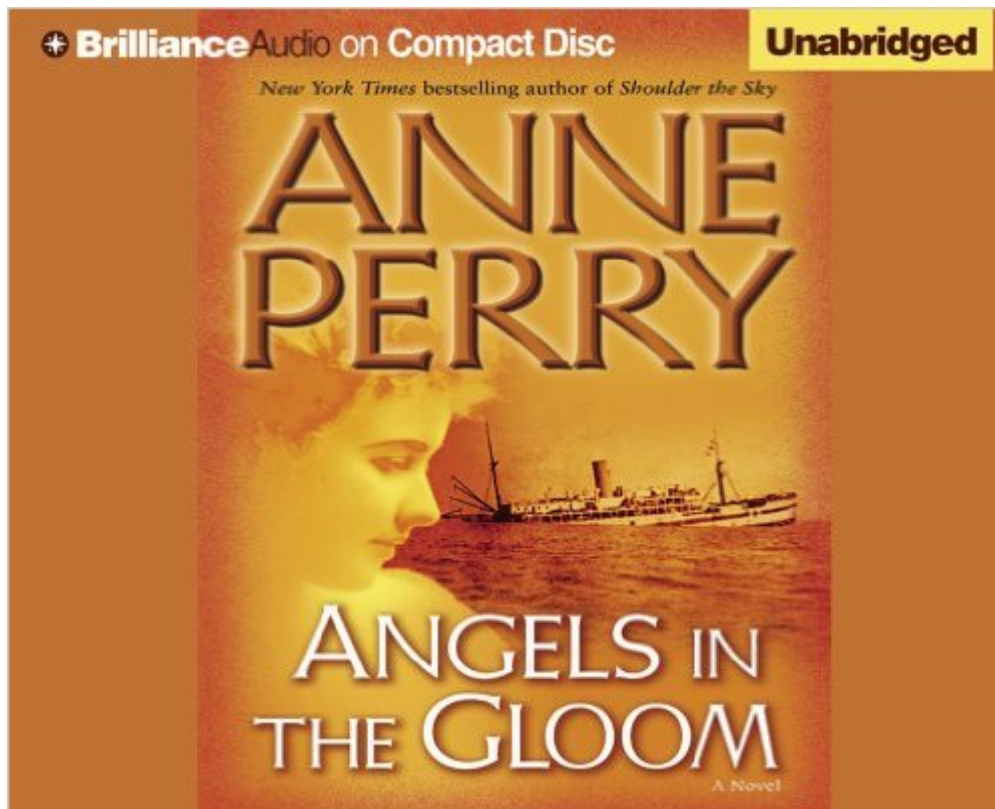


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Angels In The Gloom (World War One Series)



Synopsis

Angels in the Gloom is an intense saga of love, hate, obsession, and murder that features an honorable English family—brothers Joseph and Matthew Reavley, and their sisters, Judith and Hannah. In March 1916, Joseph, a chaplain at the front, and Judith, an ambulance driver, are fighting not only the Germans but the bitter cold and the appalling casualties of the Battle of Somme. Scarcely less at risk, Matthew, an officer in England's Secret Intelligence Service, fights the war covertly from London. Only Hannah, living with her young children in the old family home in tranquil Cambridgeshire, seems safe. Appearances, however, are deceiving. By the time Joseph returns home, rumors of spies and traitors are rampant in Cambridgeshire. And when the body of a savagely murdered weapons scientist is discovered in a village byway, the fear that haunts the battlefields settles over the town—along with the shadow of the obsessed ideologue who murdered the four siblings' parents on the eve of the war. Once again, this icy, anonymous powerbroker, the Peacemaker, is plotting to kill. Perry's kaleidoscopic new novel illuminates an entire world, from the hell of the trenches to a London nightclub where a beautiful Irish spy plies her trade; from the sequestered laboratory where a weapon that can end the war is being perfected to the matchless glory of the English countryside in spring. Angels in the Gloom is a masterpiece, steeped in history and radiant with truth. It warms the heart even as it chills the blood.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anne Perry continues even at this late date to mystify for all the right reasons. Not content to rest on

the laurels of her two historical mystery series --- one featuring William Monk, the other concerning Charlotte and Thomas Pitt --- she introduced a third that has become known as the World War I novels. ANGELS IN THE GLOOM, the third of this fine series after NO GRAVES AS YET and SHOULDER THE SKY, continues the saga of the Reavley family, or specifically the Reavley siblings --- Joseph, Matthew, Judith and Hannah --- all of whom are involved in primary or secondary roles in the British military effort during the early days of World War I. While these tales are primarily mysteries, Perry delves into war and romance as well. Indeed, Perry's powers of description are fully revealed in ANGELS IN THE GLOOM, as her descriptions of war on land and sea are so realistic and riveting that they almost overshadow the plotlines they support. The primary mystery in this series continues to revolve around a powerful, shadowy figure known as The Peacemaker, who is determined that the hostilities will end quickly, even if it means the ultimate subjugation of Great Britain to Germany. His machinations have already caused the death of the Reavleys' parents, giving them dual reasons --- revenge and patriotism --- for bringing his actions to an end. In the meantime Joseph, on leave to home after sustaining grievous wounds on the front lines while pursuing his duties as a chaplain, finds himself embroiled in a murder mystery when Theo Blaine is found brutally murdered in his own backyard.

I thought I had written a review about this book, but found out I hadn't. I've been reading so much about WWI both nonfictional and fictional, that I am getting behind. I am really enjoying these particular novels of Anne Perry. I've read some of her other mysteries, and though they are often good and interesting, she has not been one of my favorite authors for books that I read for enjoyment. Perry is weaving a series about a family whose lives are altered not only by the war, but also the death of the parents of the family. The parents were murdered, and the now grown-up children of the family are not only dealing with their own families and their service to their country in the war, but they are trying to determine who killed their parents, who were apparently on to someone in British government who was trying to bring peace to the world in such a way as to force democratic countries like England and the U.S. to give up the freedoms we take so much for granted. This particular book is about three or four books into the series and should not be read until the first ones are read. The reader will be confused if they don't know the background to the whole story. One of the main characters is a brother who chose to go into the ministry and then served overseas during the war. I cannot begin to imagine the horrors that chaplains had to deal with then, how to comfort those young men who were dying far away from home and from their families, trying to give courage to those who needed it when the war seemed so senseless and knowing the

generals behind the lines were making stupid decisions. The chaplain ends up wounded and goes home on leave.

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