



## A Christmas Grace

*Anne Perry*

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## **A Christmas Grace** Anne Perry

With Christmas just around the corner, Thomas Pitt's sister-in-law, Emily Radley, is suddenly called from London to be with her dying aunt. Leaving her husband and two children behind, Emily makes the long journey to an all-but-forgotten town in the county of Connemara, on the western coast of Ireland. She soon discovers that a tragic legacy haunts the once closeknit community.

Violent storms ravage the coast and keep alive painful memories of an unsolved murder and unsettling fears that a killer may still live among the residents of the lonely Irish town. Determined to lighten her aunt's heart and help the troubled community, Emily sets out to unmask the culprit. When a lone shipwreck survivor washes up onshore, he brings with him not only the key to solving the terrible crime but the opportunity for the townspeople to make peace with the past—and with one another.

## **A Christmas Grace Details**

Date : Published October 16th 2008 by Ballantine Books (first published 2006)

ISBN : 9780345502032

Author : Anne Perry

Format : Hardcover 210 pages

Genre : Mystery, Holiday, Christmas, Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Cultural, Ireland

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## From Reader Review A Christmas Grace for online ebook

### Nancy Ellis says

Another enjoyable Christmas novel from Anne Perry! Emily Radley has to travel to Connemara to visit a dying aunt over Christmas. Needless to say, there's a mystery involved with lessons learned by Emily along the way. Always a pleasure to read these Christmas specials from this wonderful author!

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### Cortney says

This story had great potential, but the pacing was off. Investigation into the mystery did not start until halfway in to the book. The first one-hundred pages consisted mostly of the village's fears and tension that Emily Radley could sense, but could not quite put her finger on. It was frustrating. So many characters were introduced that at times it was confusing- is this a person to care about or not? Also, as Emily was trying to solve the mystery, she would work through her assumptions and possible scenarios in her head- that became frustrating too.

Not a horrible book, but not great either.

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### Susan says

A Christmas Grace by Anne Perry is book 6 of the Christmas mystery novel series, set in Victorian England. While the majority of the series is set in London, in this book Charlotte Pitt's sister Emily Radley travels to the rugged west Ireland coastal town of Connemara. Charlotte and Emily's Aunt Susannah has asked for a family member to be with her in her last days, and Charlotte is too ill to travel. Emily is very reluctant to leave her comfortable home and family at Christmastime. Her aunt has been estranged from the family since she decided to marry an Irishman and move to Connemara, and Charlotte and Emily have not kept in contact with Susannah.

Emily's husband Jack convinces her it's the right thing to do, so she goes. Soon after Emily arrives, a terrible storm hits the coast. Only one sailor is rescued from a shipwreck. He remembers his name is Daniel, nothing more. Emily notices the townsfolk are extremely frightened, both of the storm and of the survivor. Through questioning townsfolk and Susannah, Emily learns that 7 years ago there was another storm, with a single survivor who had a devastating effect on the town. What Susannah really wants is for an old murder mystery to be solved, for closure before she dies.

While I enjoyed the wild and beautiful coastal setting, I found the mystery less interesting than others in the Christmas novel series, the motive for murder thin, and the story far too drenched in melodrama.

The next book in the series is A Christmas Promise.

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### Rayni says

I have tried not to read any of the Thomas & Charlotte Pitt novels because I'm afraid in my obsessiveness, I'll have to read them all at once. I've been there, done that.

However, that being said, I really enjoyed this "between the numbers" book from the Pitt novels. I've enjoyed Perry's other Christmas novels too. I like the fact that she takes someone who is not a main character & weaves a story around them. I also enjoy the descriptions of the scenery & the inner musings of her characters.

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### **Correen says**

A simple little tale for the holiday with Emily, sister-in-law of Pitt, as the detective. The murder occurred in the past and no human violence happens during the story. It has a feel-good ending.

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### **Cathie says**

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### **Marie Connor says**

Shorter Perry book, one of the Christmas series. Good short little story.

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### **Maryann says**

One of the better but oks in this series. Christmas as a time of second chances

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### **Linda Amos says**

A quick read at 150 pages. but there's quite a lot packed in. Emily has to go to her Aunt in Ireland. The locals are very welcoming but there are secrets which begin to surface as the storm comes in.  
Will history repeat itself. Very atmospheric.

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### **Chris says**

I always enjoy Anne Perry's Christmas stories. They always have a wonderful sense of atmosphere and a nice, short little mystery featuring one of the supporting cast members in her regular mystery series. This story has all the right elements but unfortunately never comes together.  
The book features Emily Radley, the sister of Charlotte Pitt (of the Thomas and Charlotte Pitt mystery

stories). It's just a few weeks before Christmas when Emily receives word that her estranged aunt is close to death at her home in Connemara, on the western coast of Ireland. No one has spoken to the aunt since she disobeyed her father and married a Roman Catholic Irishman.

Emily does not want to go, but once there she becomes enthralled by the storm swept coast and the people of this small village, which turns out to be the almost stereotypical "village with a secret" where everyone is always casting furtive glances at one another and speaking in phrases dripping with foreboding. You can almost hear the low organ notes.

Seven years before, a storm wrecked a ship off the coast, but a lone survivor made it to shore. This young man, Connor, had a profound effect on the people of the village -- until he was murdered. His death has been hanging over the town ever since, poisoning everything. It would be true to say that Emily becomes determined to find the murderer, but it would be even truer to say that this appears to be why her dying aunt summoned her in the first place. She didn't want to die without ending the fear and distrust in the village she had come to love and call home.

And that's where the story begins to fall apart. "Hi, I know no one in the family has had anything to do with me for many years, but I'm dying and could you come solve my murder mystery for me before I go?"

These books are short, easily read in a day, but this story would have been so much better with just a few more details. We never find out how anyone knew Connor was really murdered. (He drowned, so it could have happened any number of ways.) The interplay between some of the characters and how they factor into the mystery is very hard to follow. A second storm and the arrival of another lone survivor who acts exactly like the last one all seems just a bit foolish. And the final reveal still leaves a lot of unanswered questions and one very frustrated reader.

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### **Janis says**

I liked much of this book. It has a lot of characters to meet one right after the other, so I had trouble keeping them straight for most of the book. Definitely not an uplifting Christmas story. It does evolve into a mystery, but I never was emotionally involved in the solving of it. But, I didn't feel like all the loose ends were tied up either. Overall, I don't think I would recommend this book but I also didn't dislike it enough to suggest you skip it. I haven't been reading these Anne Perry Christmas books in order & I've only read 2 of them. I'm willing to try one more before I give up on this series.

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### **Mimi says**

This story is a low 3 stars for me. Anne Perry's description did make me feel like I was in the location of the story but something was off with the rhythm. I don't know if this book is part of a series but I felt that I read the story out of sync. I was interested in the mystery the story presented and the author's exploration of how one event can have impact for years.

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### **Lorraine says**

I would not call this a true Christmas story, but rather a murder mystery that takes place at Christmas time. I loved the setting in Ireland and Anne Perry's descriptions of the landscape etc were excellent. It had a somewhat dark theme but the light at the end definitely gave it "A Christmas Grace".

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### **Tracey says**

Not her best. :( Plot moved so slowly. Way too much introspection on Emily's part.

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### **Kate Beger says**

I know there are a lot of Anne Perry fans out there, I'm just not one of them. I wasn't really impressed with the first one I read but decided to give her another chance since I love Christmas stories. I might give it another shot next December but for now, I'm moving on.

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### **Brent Soderstrum says**

This is Perry's 6th book from her Christmas Stories collection.

This book moved very slow. Like a vicious storm coming into Scotland. And like that storm once it came in it left a mess with not much reason for its destruction.

In this book Emily goes to Scotland to care for her Aunt Susannah who is dying. Susannah has fallen out of the good graces with many of her relatives since she married a Catholic and moved from England. In 1895 this was certainly a bigger deal than it is today. Susannah's husband Hugo is dead and she wants to spend what is likely to be her last Christmas with family. Emily draws the short straw.

Once Emily arrives she experiences a vicious storm which results in a shipwreck just off the coast. One survivor washes up on shore, Daniel. Emily learns that seven years ago a similar storm took place and Connor washed up on shore. However, he was murdered by someone in the village and as a result the village has suffered in silence all this time. Susannah wants Emily to find out what happened seven years ago. The hope is that solving the mystery will prevent the same thing from happening with Daniel.

It is a very disjointed story with what happened to Connor really having nothing to do with Daniel although the characters in the story act like it clearly does.

Short read thankfully.

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### **Patricia says**

I loved the setting of this mystery and the rich development of the characters. This was a pleasurable read.

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### **Manju says**

I loved the description which created a strong sense of place. I also loved the emotional questioning and growth of Emily. The mystery wasn't compelling. and the story somehow felt unresolved on the last page. But still I liked the book - the descriptions are very vivid and it is interesting to see how the incidents and the place both compel Emily to question herself.

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### **Randy Tramp says**

Emily Radley, reluctantly goes to a relative who is dying. Emily would much rather stay home, but does the right thing.

Soon Emily discovers why her Aunt Suzanna wanted her to come. To solve a seven-year-old murder mystery.

Anne does capture the scene, time and season. It's 1890's, and I feel there.

Years ago my ship docked in a small Caribbean Island. I walked around the beach. Reading A Christmas Grace brought me back to that day so long ago, when Emily took her daily walks on the beach. I loved the descriptions.

I look forward to the next book in this series.

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### **Eileen says**

I just picked up this very small book at the library to read something Christmas related for my book club. It's so different from anything I've been reading lately. It was wonderfully written and full of great description. It's set in the late 1800's(haven't read anything set in that time very often) and about a married English woman that goes to stay with her sick aunt, as she is the only family left, at 'the end of the world.' it's full of interesting characters, has some mystery to it, and full of good drama.

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