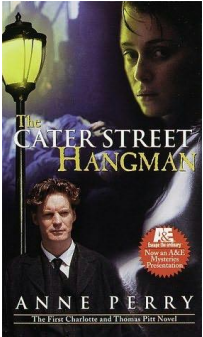


The Thomas and Charlotte Pitt series

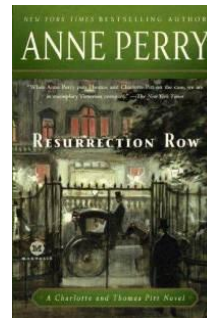
By Anne Perry



The Cater Street Hangman [1989]

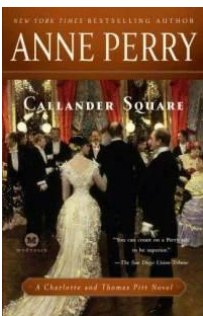
While the Ellisons were out paying calls and drinking tea like proper Victorian ladies, a maid in their household was one of a number of young women garroted to death. Inspector Thomas Pitt investigates the scene and finds that no one is above suspicion. As his intense questioning causes many a composed facade to crumble, Pitt finds himself drawn to the independently minded Charlotte Ellison. Yet a romance between a society girl and so unsuitable a suitor was impossible in the midst of a murder investigation...

behind the respectable face of Victorian society, something that could lead to more scandal, and more murder...



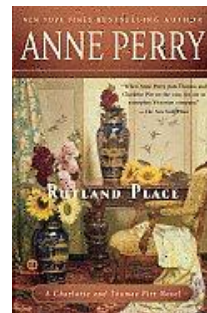
Resurrection Row [1981]

It is bad enough that the recently deceased Lord Fitzroy-Hammond has been removed from his grave, but when it happens a second time and then other buried corpses start popping up, Pitt is puzzled indeed. Is the perpetrator trying to hide a murder or call attention to one? The answer lies in a convoluted but logical merging of art, blackmail, politics, pornography and prostitution...



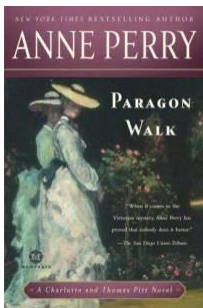
Callander Square [1980]

The bodies of two newborns are discovered buried in a garden in the posh Callander Square region of London. Thomas Pitt and his young wife, Charlotte, begin solving the crime from two different perspectives. While Pitt pursues his investigations, Charlotte, behind the scenes, is rattling the closets of the very rich, listening to gossip and unearthing truths that could push even the most proper aristocrat to murder...



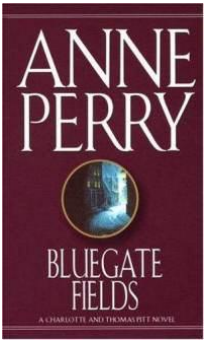
Rutland Place [1983]

"A curious and most disturbing thing has happened..." When Charlotte Pitt learned of her mother's distress at losing a locket with a compromising picture, she could not know that it was the beginning of a chain of bizarre events that would end in sudden death. For hidden behind the sumptuous elegance of Rutland Place were terrible secrets. Secrets so horrifying that only murder could conceal them. But the dangerous persistence of Charlotte and the quiet patience of Inspector Thomas Pitt made it possible to unwind this most macabre and chilling mystery...



Paragon Walk [1981]

The residents of Paragon Walk tighten their lips when Inspector Pitt begins his investigation after young Fannie Nash is murdered. Pitt's wife, Charlotte, with the assistance of her sister Emily, discover the ugly secrets that lurk

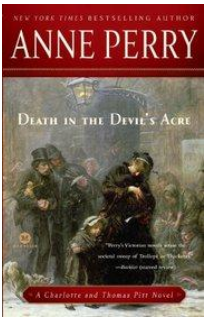


Bluegate Fields [1984]

Inspector Thomas Pitt is shocked. The body of a boy, clearly from the upper classes, has been found in the filthy sewers of Bluegate Fields, one of London's most dangerous slums. What's more, the unfortunate boy had

been violated before he was murdered. So vile a case is hardly a topic for drawing-room conversation.

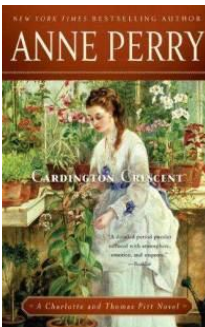
But when the Waybournes, the boy's family, refuse to answer the police's questions, Inspector Pitt begins to wonder what secrets they are trying to hide. Pitt's wife and helpmeet, Charlotte, is determined to find out—even if it means tearing down the façades of an oh-so-proper family.



Death in the Devil's Acre [1985]

When a doctor is found brutally murdered in the lurid section of London aptly named "Devil's Acre," even its most hardened residents are stunned. But shock soon turns to horror when Inspector Thomas Pitt

discovers three more bodies with the same gruesome "calling card": a stab wound in the back and a rather inexpertly executed mutilation. As Pitt and his wife, Charlotte, race against time to find the killer, a treacherous mystery unfolds. And no one, not the lowest brand of ruffian or the most established aristocrat, will escape unscathed.



Cardington Crescent [1987]

When George March, a womanizing aristocrat, is found dead over his morning coffee, his wife Emily is accused of murder. But Emily's sister is none other than the indomitable Charlotte Pitt. Together, she and her

husband, Inspector Thomas Pitt, take on the seemingly irreproachable March clan—and uncover an insidious web of corruption and depravity that leads them from the

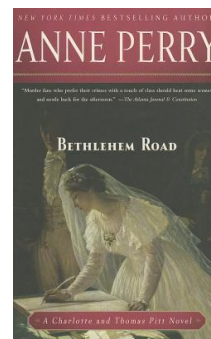
elegant Crescent town house to the hideous London slums, from genteel society to murder-again.



Silence in Hanover Close [1988]

When Inspector Thomas Pitt is asked to reopen a three-year-old murder case that had taken place in London's luxurious Hanover Close, he is all too aware that his superiors want him to simply smooth things over. But

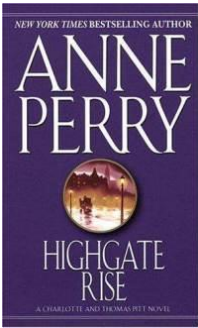
penetrating the reserve of high society households will take more finesse than Pitt can muster. Enter Charlotte Pitt, his wellborn wife, and her sister, Emily. As the social equals of the inhabitants of the Close, the women are privy to conversations that would never reach the ears of a mere policeman. What they find is a secret so shocking it will lead to more deaths—including, quite possibly, Pitt's own.



Bethlehem Road [1990]

The gentleman tied to the lamppost on Westminster Bridge is most elegantly attired—fresh boutonniere, silk hat, white evening scarf—and he is quite, quite dead, as a result of his thoroughly cut throat. Why should

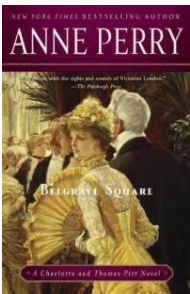
anyone kill Sir Lockwood Hamilton, the kindest of family men and most conscientious member of Parliament? Before Inspector Thomas Pitt can even speculate on the reasons, a colleague of Sir Lockwood's meets the same fate in the same spot. Public indignation is boundless, and clever Charlotte Pitt, Thomas's wellborn wife, can't resist helping her hard-pressed husband, scouting society's drawing rooms for clues to these appalling crimes. Meanwhile, the Westminster Bridge Cutthroat stalks another victim.



Highgate Rise [1991]

Clemency Shaw, the wife of a prominent doctor, has died in a tragic fire in the peaceful suburb of Highgate. But the blaze was set by an arsonist, and it is unclear whether she or Dr. Shaw was the intended victim—or did

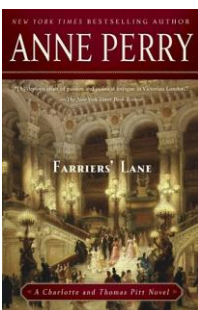
the doctor himself set the blaze in order to inherit his wife's large fortune? Baffled by the scarcity of clues in this terrible crime, Inspector Thomas Pitt turns to the people who had been closest to the couple—Clemency's stuffy but distinguished relatives. Meanwhile, Pitt's wellborn wife, Charlotte, retraces the dangerous path that Clemency walked in the last months of her life, finding herself enmeshed in a sinister web that stretches from the lowest slums to the loftiest centers of power.



Belgrave Square [1992]

When an obscure moneylender named William Weems is murdered in the humble Clerkenwell district, there are no mourners—and there is more than a little discreet rejoicing among those

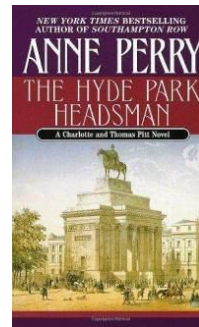
whose meager earnings he so mercilessly devoured. Yet when Inspector Pitt finds in the murdered man's office a list containing the names of some of London's most distinguished gentlemen, he begins to realize the magnitude of his duty. William Weems, it transpires, was no common usurer but a vicious blackmailer. Fortunately, Pitt's clever, well-born wife, Charlotte, has entrée to London's best society. Her insights prove to be invaluable to Pitt's investigation as she observes, at glittering balls and over gossiping tea tables, a world of passion, power, and greed that the police are seldom permitted to see.



Farriers' Lane [1993]

When a distinguished judge dies of opium poisoning, the crucifixion five years before of Kingsley Blaine is brought back into the public eye, and it is screaming for revenge. The police had arrested a Jewish actor, who was

soon condemned to hang. Police Inspector Thomas Pitt, investigating the judge's death, is drawn into the sensational murder, because it appears the judge was about to reopen the earlier case. He receives curiously little help from his colleagues on the force, but his wife, Charlotte, gleans from her social engagements startling insights into the women in both cases. And slowly both Thomas and Charlotte begin to reach the same sinister and deeply dangerous truth...

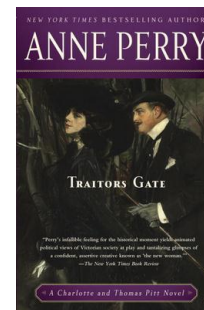


The Hyde Park Headsman [1994]

Not since the bloody deeds of Jack the Ripper have Londoners felt such terror as that aroused by the gruesome beheadings in Hyde Park. And if newly promoted Police Superintendent

Thomas Pitt does not quickly

apprehend the perpetrator, he is likely to lose his own head, professionally speaking. Yet even with the help of Charlotte Pitt's subtle investigation, the sinister violence continues unchecked. And in a shocking turn of events that nearly convinces the pair of sleuths that they have met their match, the case proves to be Pitt's toughest ever!



Traitors' Gate [1995]

Someone in the Colonial Office is passing secrets to Germany about England's strategy on Africa. While Police Superintendent Thomas Pitt investigates this matter of treason, he is quietly looking into the tragic death

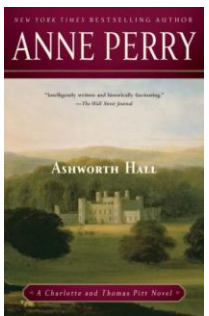
of his childhood mentor, Sir Arthur Desmond. Pitt believes that Sir Arthur was murdered, and that the crime is connected with the treachery in the government. And when the strangled body of an aristocratic society beauty is found floating near lonely Traitors Gate, Pitt and his clever wife, Charlotte, begin to see clearly the pattern of tragedy and frightening evil that Pitt must deal with, at the risk of his career—and his life.



Pentecost Alley [1996]

The ritual murder of a prostitute named Ada McKinley in a bedroom on decrepit Pentecost Alley would ordinarily occasion no stir in Victoria's great metropolis. But, under the

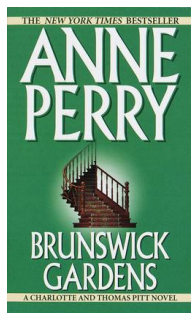
victim's body, the police find a Hellfire Club badge inscribed with the name Finlay Fitzjames--a name that instantly draws Superintendent Thomas Pitt into the case.



Ashworth Hall [1997]

When a group of powerful Irish Protestants and Catholics gather at a country house to discuss Irish home rule, contention is to be expected. But when the meeting's moderator, government bigwig Ainsley Greville, is

found murdered in his bath, negotiations seem doomed. To make matters worse, it appears the late Greville may have led a less than savory personal life. Unless Thomas Pitt and his wife, Charlotte, can root out the truth, simmering hatreds and passions may again explode in murder, the home rule movement may collapse, and civil war may destroy all of Ireland...

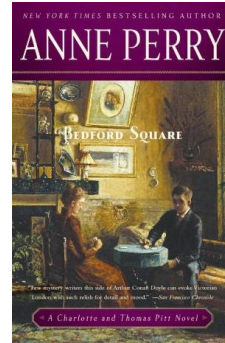


Brunswick Gardens [1998]

A century ago, Charles Darwin's revolutionary theory of evolution rocked the civilized world, and the outraged Anglican Church went on the warpath against it. In a mansion in London's affluent Brunswick Gardens,

the battle is intense, as that most respected clergyman, the Reverend Ramsay Parmenter, is boldly challenged by his beautiful assistant, Unity Bellwood - a "new woman" whose feminism and aggressive Darwinism he finds appalling. When Unity, three months pregnant, tumbles down the Parmenter's staircase to her death, Thomas Pitt, commander of the Bow Street police station, is virtually certain that one of the three deeply devout men in the house committed murder. Could it have been the

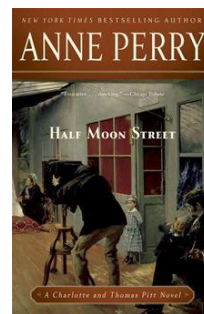
Reverend Parmenter, his handsome curate, or his Roman Catholic son? Pitt and his clever wife, Charlotte, refuse to settle for less than the truth – and justice...



Bedford Square [1998]

The freshly dead body sprawled on the Bedford Square doorstep of General Brandon Balantyne is an affront to every respectable sensibility. The general denies all knowledge of the shabbily dressed victim who has so rudely come to

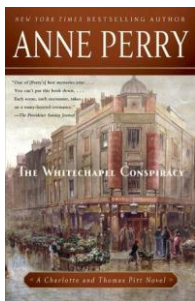
death outside his home, but Superintendent Thomas Pitt cannot believe him—for in the dead man's pocket, Pitt finds a rare snuffbox that recently graced the general's study. The superintendent must tread lightly, however, lest his investigation trigger a tragedy of immense proportions, ensnaring honorable men like flies in a web. Pitt's clever wife, Charlotte, becomes his full partner in probing this masterpiece of evil, spawned by an amorality greater than they can imagine.



Half Moon Street [1998]

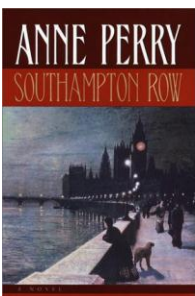
For Superintendent Thomas Pitt, the sight of the dead man riding the morning tide of the Thames is unforgettable. He lies in a battered punt drifting through the morning mist, his arms and legs chained to the boat's

sides. He is clad in a torn green gown and flowers bestrew his battered body. Pitt's determined search for answers to the victim's identity leads him deep into London's bohemia to the theatre where beautiful Cecily Antrim is outraging society with her bold portrayal of a modern woman--and into studios where masters of light and shadow are experimenting with the fascinating new art of photography. But only Pitt's most relentless pursuit enables him to identify the wildfire passions raging through this tragedy of good and evil, to hunt down the guilty and protect the innocent.



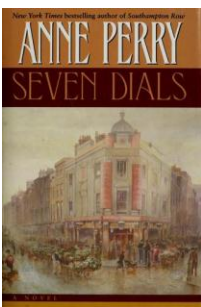
The Whitechapel Conspiracy [2001]

In 1892, the grisly murders of Whitechapel prostitutes four years earlier by a killer dubbed Jack the Ripper remain a terrifying enigma. And in a packed Old Bailey courtroom, Superintendent Thomas Pitt's testimony causes distinguished soldier John Adinett to be sentenced to hang for the inexplicable murder of a friend. Instead of being praised for his key testimony, Pitt is removed from his station command and transferred to Whitechapel, one of the East End's most dangerous slums. There he must work undercover investigating alleged anarchist plots. Among his few allies are his clever wife, Charlotte, and intrepid Gracie, the maid who can travel unremarked in Whitechapel. But none of them anticipate the horrors to be revealed.



Southampton Row [2002]

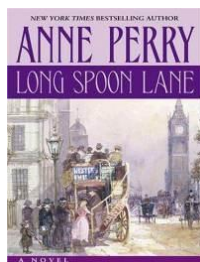
In Victorian England, a divisive election is fast approaching. Passions are so enflamed that Thomas Pitt, shrewd mainstay of the London police, has been ordered not to solve a crime but to prevent a national disaster. The aristocratic Tory candidate—and Pitt's archenemy—is Charles Voisey. The Liberal candidate is Aubrey Serracold, whose wife's dalliance with spiritualism threatens his chances. Indeed, she is one of the participants in a late-night séance that becomes the swan song of a stylish clairvoyant who is found brutally murdered the next morning in her house on Southampton Row. Meanwhile, Pitt's wife, Charlotte, and their children are enjoying a country vacation—unaware that they, too, are deeply endangered by the same fanatical forces hovering over the steadfast Pitt.



Seven Dials [2003]

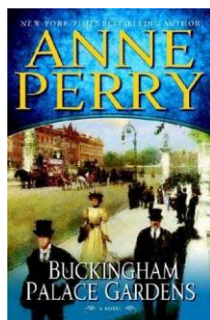
Thomas Pitt, mainstay of Her Majesty's Special Branch, is summoned to Connaught Square mansion, where the body of a junior diplomat lies huddled in a wheelbarrow. Nearby stands the

tenant of the house, the beautiful, notorious Egyptian woman Ayesha Zakhari, who falls under the shadow of suspicion. Pitt's orders are to protect—at all costs—the good name of the third person in the garden: senior cabinet minister Saville Ryerson. The distinguished public servant, whispered to be Ayesha's lover, insists that she is as innocent as Pitt himself. Pitt's journey to uncover the truth takes him from Egyptian cotton fields to the insidious London slum called Seven Dials—and ultimately to a packed London courtroom in which shocking secrets will at last be revealed.



Long Spoon Lane [2005]

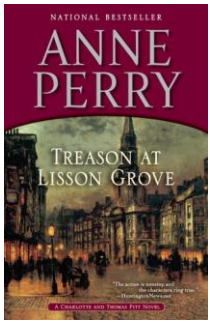
You need a very long spoon indeed to dine with the devil. Early one summer morning while the pavements are still empty, two bombs explode in an East London street, shattering most of the houses. Forewarned of an attack by anarchists, Thomas Pitt of the Special Branch arrives in time to chase the bombers to a run-down tenement in Long Spoon Lane. There, two men are arrested and one shot dead - but who and where and is the killer? As Pitt starts to investigate the crime, he uncovers truths more disturbing than the acts of a few misguided idealists. There's a web of corruption within the police force, and all the clues point to Inspector Wetron of Bow Street as its mastermind. Worse, as head of the sinister, invisible Inner Circle, Wetron has powerful allies in every sphere, and it's almost impossible to pin his guilt to him. Fears aroused by the attack are being whipped up by the press, and a bill to arm the London police is about to be rushed through Parliament. Then Pitt's most deadly enemy, Sir Charles Voisey, approaches him with the proposal that they join forces, to prevent Wetron becoming the most powerful man in England. Pitt feels he has no option. In spite of the danger to himself, his family and his colleagues, he must agree.



Buckingham Palace Gardens [2008]

The Prince of Wales has invited four wealthy entrepreneurs and their wives to the palace to discuss an ambitious and lucrative project, the construction of a six-thousand mile railroad that

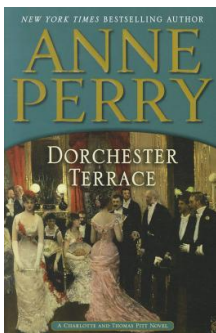
would stretch the length of Africa. The Prince's gathering proves disastrous when the mutilated body of a prostitute, hired for a late night frolic, turns up amongst the Queen's monogrammed bed linen in a cupboard! Pitt is hastily summoned to resolve this crisis. Gracie is recruited as a Palace servant, to pick up the gossip behind the scenes. Together they must solve this murder, to save Pitt's career and to prevent a scandal that could severely damage the Royal family...



Treason at Lisson Grove [2010]

1895 and an increasingly violent tide of political unrest is rising fast all over Europe. Special Branch's Inspector Thomas Pitt knows that they must find those responsible before England is overrun by reformists intent on

overthrowing the government. When he finds himself in pursuit of a suspected terrorist, Pitt has no hesitation in following the chase all the way to France. But events take a sinister turn when Narraway, Pitt's superior, is accused of involvement in the death of an Irish informant and abruptly removed from office. Aware that her husband's own career is also in jeopardy if he is not reinstated, Pitt's wife Charlotte determines to help Narraway clear his name. As Charlotte and Narraway depart for Ireland and Pitt is drawn deeper into the investigation in France, it becomes clear that outside forces have conspired to separate them at a crucial time in the country's history. With no one else to trust can they make it back to England and stop the revolt before it's too late?.



Dorchester Terrace [2011]

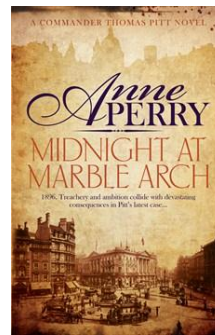
1896. Newly promoted to Head of Special Branch, Thomas Pitt is forced to face the danger his new position brings when he uncovers the work of a traitor in his department. Not knowing who to trust, he must

unmask the conspirator, whilst simultaneously protecting a suspected target, Austrian state visitor Duke Alois. Meanwhile, Victor Narraway is investigating the mysterious death of Serafina Monserrat. Once the holder of many sensitive, political secrets, Serafina had suffered

from dementia in her later years and Narraway is unsure whether what he has uncovered in his search for answers is the confused ramblings of an old woman, or a catastrophic plot which could trigger a war the likes of which the world has never seen before. As the two investigations come ever closer it is clear that bluff and double-bluff are at play. When Pitt finally comes face to face with the suspected traitor will he, knowing the fate of the world is at stake, find the strength to stop the man by any means necessary?

Bryanston News [forthcoming in 2012]

[unknown plot – listed among her forthcoming titles as of late 2011].



Midnight at Marble Arch

[forthcoming in 2013]

It is 1896, and Thomas Pitt is in charge of Special Branch. He is beginning to understand the power he now commands, but is still ill at ease at the glittering events he and

his wife Charlotte must attend. During a lavish party at the Spanish Embassy, a policeman breaks into Pitt's conversation with investor Rawdon Quixwood to break the terrible news that Quixwood's wife, Catherine, has been viciously assaulted at their home, and left for dead. Worse still, it appears that the assailant was someone she had trusted as she opened the door to the attacker herself. At the same party, Charlotte sees Angeles Castelbranco, an ambassador's daughter, flinch in fear at the teasing of some young men. A few days later, she flees from the same group and, in her terror, falls from a window - what could have caused her to take that fatal step? Pitt and his friend Victor Narraway vow to uncover the unspoken truth behind these two women's deaths. But as they investigate, deception and violence get ever nearer and danger is only ever one step away...

**Handout prepared for the
Just Desserts mystery fiction discussion group
Lincoln City Libraries / Lincoln, Nebraska
July 2012 / sdc**