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Resurrection Row Details

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From Reader Review Resurrection Row for online ebook

C. says

Despite gruesome aspects, I enjoyed "Resurrection Row" thoroughly. Charlotte and Thomas's daughter, Jemima, is two and Emily, with a newborn son, does not appear. Aunt Vespasia is en forme and it was touching that Sarah is mentioned. Her widower, Dominic, is fond of a young widow. They land under brief suspicion in the most bizarre case Thomas has ever encountered: bodies in and out of graves. Minor quibbles leave ample room for a high grade. I do hope that with time, **Anne Perry** overcame these things. I'm late to the party with her early novels and have the benefit of catching up any time I like.

First: she long ago overstepped the quota for uttering the word "quite"! References to rain, wetness, and cold were excessive too. We got the point without needing her to note that Thomas had wet socks every time he walked in or out of doors. Lastly, after investing oneself in the superb plotting of her many-layered mystery-solving efforts; **Anne** shuts her novels down too abruptly. It's like snatching the off-button on a song when the concluding note has scarcely played. Being deprived of the fading tones is to lose the most satisfying part about finishing a novel; a chapter or at least a few pages past the denouement.

What we cannot accuse this mystery-weaver of is lack of emotion and colour. Somehow, despite galloping from one investigative tactic to another, she utterly masters inner-thoughts. Perhaps because she is exhibiting an era steeped in the art of that which is not said aloud; the writing trait I admire the most in her is the way all characters read each others' emotional cues. I also loved the side to Aunt Vespasia and other socialites, that revokes snobbery by fighting for a bill to end sweatshops and workhouses.

Kristensilvermoore says

This book really deserves more like 3 1/2 stars, because it's a really well-written mystery, but it didn't really grab me emotionally. I more enjoyed it for the puzzle of it, and I have to say, it was nice having Detective Pitt as more of a focus than his wife Charlotte. Oddly, there was a lot less verbal class warfare and sniping than the last book in the series, which was a relief, but ironic, since the primary focus of many characters was passing a reform law to help deeply impoverished people in workhouses.

I will say that Perry can be a bit heavy-handed in her moralizing. This is not the kind of historical fiction where the main protagonists are deeply flawed and subject to the prevailing beliefs of their time. Rather, Mr. and Mrs. Pitt are more visionaries, as if seeing their times from some future place (like from Anne Perry's brain!) In a way, it's nice because, frankly, when reading "Golden Era" mysteries, I sometimes get frustrated by the backwards, classist, racist notions tossed off as if they are common beliefs that make total sense. At the same time, I see the artifice in Perry's novels, and it can rub me the wrong way. I just read another historical mystery by a different author, which was written in the 1st person and where the narrator dares to have some rather backwards Imperialistic views, and I did find it refreshing in its reflection of the reality of the times. So in other words, I feel torn!

Anyway, as for this particular mystery, my only other complaint is that there was no way any reader could have figured out this entire mystery, because some key information was held back until the end. Even so, I enjoyed the read!

Eadie says

In Resurrection Row, the book starts out with a corpse found in the driver's seat of a cab. Soon other bodies which have been dug up are also being found. An act of blackmail also leads to murder and Thomas Pitt is beside himself trying to find out what is going on. Aunt Vespasian makes a 2nd appearance and tries to help Charlotte and Thomas with this baffling mystery. We get another look at Victorian social life and the child labor and workhouse reform bill in called into the political realm. Another great read from Anne Perry makes me look forward to book 5 in the series.

Pam Baddeley says

A murder mystery set in the Victorian period in London and, I discovered, part of a series about police inspector Thomas Pitt and his wife Charlotte. Resurrected bodies start turning up, the first propped on the box of a hansom cab, and confusion follows with mis-identification adding to the Inspector's problems.

A strong thread in the story is the appalling conditions in the homes of the urban poor and the workhouses where they are forced to go if they reach bottom - with women prepared to turn part-time prostitute to avoid taking their children to such places. The Victorian setting is well evoked, not only the squalor and destitution but also the struggle of the respectable working classes such as the Inspector's family; the cold and wet and the difficulty of heating a home, and the balancing of household budgets so that bacon for breakfast means having to take the omnibus or walk rather than take a cab. Charlotte is from a prosperous family and has married beneath her, this apparently being the subject of an earlier book in the series, so she has to teach herself household skills. Unlike most married couples of the period, she and Thomas enjoy a fairly equal partnership, with Thomas having to bite his lip when his so-called betters express misogynistic views. For this is an era when deference to the upper classes holds sway and even the police must avoid upsetting them or risk losing their jobs.

Throughout the story Pitt has to deal with the upper classes with all the difficulties this entails, although he enjoys a more relaxed relationship with 'Aunt Vespassia', an elderly intelligent woman who is related to Charlotte through the marriage of her sister Emily. The story deals with the scandals that some of the privileged are involved in and the lengths to which they will go to prevent disclosure.

Where it fell down for me is in the denouement. Given the prejudices and the difficulties Pitt has already had in pursuing the case, with his superiors anxious not to give offence to the rich and powerful, I found it incredible that he is able to arrest the guilty party. (view spoiler). With all that, it would surely have been much more credible to have it as one of those cases where the police know who did it, but can't bring it to court?

That lack of believability seriously undercut my enjoyment by the end, given that I also didn't find it very credible when we find out who was responsible for the 'resurrections'. Why did the person concerned go to so much trouble; (view spoiler)

All in all, good evocation of setting and the main protagonist and his wife are likeable characters, but the lack of a strong convincing plot means this can only rate 3 stars, and does not encourage me to try the series again.

Good Books Good Friends says

Ces enquêtes sont toujours aussi agréables à lire. Ce tome m'a semblé un peu plus centré sur Thomas, Charlotte était moins présente, mais ça ne gâche en rien le roman.

Jaline says

This 4th novel in the Charlotte and Thomas Pitt series illustrated for me the importance of reading a series sequentially.

A corpse turns up in an unlikely place, and even more mystifying, the corpse is three weeks old and was obviously dug up from its burial site. An empty grave is discovered and the identity traces to a Lord who was in his early 60's when he died. His second wife, Alicia, is much younger – and she is also attracted to the handsome and charming Dominic Corde.

Dominic Corde is a widower, and his first wife was Charlotte's sister. This part of the story relates back to the first book in this series. There is also a magnificently turned out Lady (Aunt Vespasia) who returns from another novel. She is the aunt of Charlotte's other brother-in-law, and is not only an elegant older woman but also shrewd and intelligent with no time for fools. Lady Vespasia is, however, fond of both Thomas and Charlotte Pitt, and she is in a quandary. Thomas Pitt senses that she knows more than she is letting on, even though she does help him – to a degree – in her own way.

When another corpse turns up, and yet another, things really start to get confusing – especially when one of them turns up in the grave of a previous corpse. Thomas Pitt has each corpse autopsied, and there is one whose death is not 'natural'.

Once again, Anne Perry's writing skills and deft handling of a mystery had me glued to the pages. I didn't figure out who the main culprit was until moments before Thomas Pitt had the evidence he needed. I also didn't see the final twists coming – and because of another, larger issue stewing along in the background (that of getting a bill passed through parliament to rescue children from the workhouses and poverty and provide them with educations so they could sustain themselves) – I was pleased and satisfied with the ending.

I am definitely looking forward to #5 in this series – another one that I missed on my first pass through this exciting Victorian-era series.

Jenny says

Resurrection Row is book four of the Charlotte & Thomas Pitt series by Anne Perry. One night coming home with his wife Charlotte Inspector Thomas Pitt came across a body that three days before was buried at the local cemetery. At first Inspector Thomas Pitt did not know if it was a joke or something more sinister. The readers of Resurrection Row will continue to follow Inspector Thomas Pitt investigation to find out what happens.

I love reading the Charlotte and Thomas Pitt's books, and Resurrection Row did continue my love affair with

this series. I like that Anne Perry made her made characters husband and wife instead of colleagues. I love Anne Perry's portrays of her characters especially Charlotte and Thomas Pitt. Resurrection Row is a well-written book by Anne Perry, and I do enjoy her writing style. Anne Perry does ensure my engagement with her books and Resurrection Row was no different. I like the way, Anne Perry, describes her settings and plots.

The readers of Resurrection Row will learn about law enforcement procedures during the Victorian era. Also, the readers of Resurrection Row will see how wealthy community in the Victorian era hinders law enforcement investigations.

I recommend this book

Sarah says

I enjoyed the mystery in this book more than the previous 3. It DID deal with some seedier sides of society which hadn't really made an appearance in the other books. However, the actual mystery was much more interesting and really had me thinking even though a murder isn't discovered until close to the end of the book. Normally this would drive me batty but here there is still a mystery, I just began to assume that it wouldn't involve a murder.

It also delved into the horrific conditions of the poor during this time period. I've enjoyed reading how the upper and middle classes coexisted during this time period in England and this adds a new and interesting element. I was so happy to see the return of Aunt Vespasia. I love her! I think sharp-minded outspoken old ladies are probably my favorite characters in novels. 7/10

Melissa says

Yes, the series is growing on me so I will continue on. Somewhat similar to Victoria Thompson's Gaslight series (which I love). Definitely some irony in how this mystery turned out.

"What an odd sight! The dead body of a peer of the realm sitting upright in an empty hansom cab. He had been decently buried once before, Inspector Pitt knew. There was something terrible amiss. Despite doctor's claims of death by natural causes, Pitt insisted on serious digging to unearth the truth--even if it killed him."

Carolyn F. says

I had read this back when it originally came out (1981! I can't believe it was that long ago). But it had been so long that as I listened to the audiobook I kept thinking it sounded familiar. Then about 3/4 of the way through I remembered the ending.

This is after Thomas Pitt and Charlotte are married and have a little girl. He's still insecure about her losing her position in society by marrying him and being okay with it. She's happy with her life as it is, chores and all. Pitt is called to investigate a case where a corpse (and then several) keep popping up. I remember being appalled at the workhouse conditions and the woman who worked in a match factory that fumes? somehow affected the condition of her jaw to where it was misshapen. Even knowing the end of the book, it was still

intriguing about who-done-it. And of course, Davina Porter does a wonderful job with both the male and female voices. Would recommend this book/audiobook.

Tânia Tanocas says

Opinião em breve... ;)

Ira says

I really like this one!

Corpses keep popping out all over the place, they've been dead and buried for weeks.

Now someone digging them out and leave them without stealing any part of their bodies, something just not right!)

I think I like Ms. Perry's writing style.

No heart pounding actions or Thomas chasing the villains everywhere in this series.

He just a smart guy who was trying to solve the mystery with asking the right questions again and again until all the layers that we use to covered all the ugliness open up one by one. And Charlotte always there help him as much as she can in her own way.

Honestly?

You either enjoy this type of story or bored to death ?

I enjoyed them and love the dry humour which often comes up without warning.

Very English I supposed, lol:)

Amy says

I've read a bit of Anne Perry and like her books but this one was a letdown. The ending had many loose ends and unresolved story lines. A bunch of the characters were nothing but place holders. The mystery was too convoluted and silly.

I might be giving up on this series and just sticking to the Monk series.

Kathy Davie says

Fourth in the Charlotte & Thomas Pitt historical mystery series set in Victorian England and revolving around an unlikely couple.

My Take

Twisty. Perry sure went to a lot of work on this one.

It's foot-slogging having to go back over and over again. Dealing with the same people as Pitt continues to drag the bits and pieces out of them. Slowly assembling the puzzle. It's an excellent example of why the police need to ask so many seemingly unrelated questions. You never know when one bit of information, one sly hint will be the catalyst to release the reason for an entire case. Or even a bit of gossip.

Perry is amazing in her depiction of the times from the mores, the culture, the dress, the interior decoration, and the language. I felt as though I was there with the heat from the fireplace, the chill of the grimy streets, the horror of the workhouses, and the purposelessness of society with their silly insistence upon such strict manners.

YES!!! I LOVE it!! Alicia finally hits back at that nasty old lady...I just wish Perry had given us a bit more closure on this nasty little bully! Lady Vespasia has some things to say about the old lady, makes you wonder if she indulges in such biting, vicious behavior because she so lacks in self-esteem. Hmmm, maybe book 5...Rutland Place.

Poor Domenic. He's beset on all sides in this. First the suspicions revolving around Lord Augustus, then the eye-opening experience thrust upon him by Mr. Carlisle, and Charlotte's dimming enthusiasm. Carlisle certainly does show Domenic how it's done! A master at work. In the end, it's a kindness to Domenic and Alicia, really.

An interesting discussion of art. I do have to wonder if Pitt will recommend Froggy to paint Miss Verity's portrait... Then that overheard conversation in the park by Lady Alicia...naughty Perry...very naughty...and very well done!

The Story

It all starts with a dead man driving a hackney cab one night outside the theatre. His true state discovered when Sir Desmond attempts to hail him. Fortunately, Inspector Pitt and his lady were attending the same performance of *The Mikado*. It's only when Lord Augustus keeps popping up out of his grave and is seemingly joined by friends that Pitt begins to wonder if there's a reason why someone is trying to catch police attention.

An autopsy is the only way to still people's tongues and eliminate the questions. A point with which Pitt pummels Lady Alicia and Domenic quite hard. Poor Domenic is all too aware of how gossip and suspicion can destroy a family. And those questions are beginning to prey upon both Lady Alicia and Domenic.

Domenic is also pulled into Carlisle's promotion of the workhouse bill that St. Jermyn is sponsoring in Parliament. It's an eye-opening tour for him with all the grime, despair, and hopelessness of the workhouses through which Carlisle drags him.

It's the identity of one of the bodies that finally begins to narrow down the focus as a search of his home raises yet more questions that dig more deeply into the backgrounds of those involved.

The Characters

Inspector Thomas Pitt has the diction and manners of a gentleman, but is of the lower classes---his father was a gamekeeper. This combined with his profession makes him *persona non grata* in the more genteel households. Not that Thomas lets that bother him. He pursues the truth no matter where it leads.

Able supported by his wife **Charlotte**. The woman who fell in love with him and lowered herself to marry the man she wanted. They now have a daughter, **Jemima**. And Charlotte is slowly learning how to cook,

clean house, and keep a budget. Part of the attraction is Thomas' acceptance of her intelligence, that he treats her more equally than most men of the day...and is coming to accept that she has a way of seeing things that help him solve his cases. Her sister **Emily** has had a son and they've named him **George**. **Mrs. Smith** is the very accommodating neighbor across the road who watches over Jemima when Charlotte needs to go out.

The neighbors in Gadstone Park include:

Sir Desmond and Lady Cantlay (Gwendoline) found the first mobile corpse. The newly widowed Alicia, **Lady Fitzroy-Hammond**, gets on well with her stepdaughter, **The Honorable Miss Verity Fitzroy-Hammond**, and both of them would probably love to murder the old lady, **Lady Fitzroy-Hammond**, and her maid **Nisbett**. --*I know I would! Although Alicia does do a much better job...and so legal* Lady Fitzroy-Hammond has one little problem---besides the mobile deceased---**Domenic Corde**, Charlotte's widowed brother-in-law, is a somewhat ardent admirer. **Lord and Lady St. Jermyn** (Edward and Hester); he's a member of the House of Lords upon whom Lady Vespasia and **Mr. Somerset Carlisle** (another neighbor) are pinning their hopes for their workhouse bill. **Lady Vespasia Cumming-Gould** is Lord Ashworth's great-aunt, remotely connected to Pitt by marriage. *And she is a treat and a half!* **Major Hubert Rodney** is a widower and lives with his two maiden sisters, **Miss Priscilla** and **Miss Mary Ann**. **Virgil Smith** is a rich, vulgar American...in love with **Lady Alicia** whom Lady Vespasia likes very much. **Goldolphin Jones** is a society portrait artist who commands huge sums for his rather mediocre work, but he's been traveling in France these past few weeks.

Lord Augustus Fitzroy-Hammond died of a heart attack, or so says his very aloof and tetchy **Dr. McDuff**. It makes quite a contrast to the helpfulness of **Dr. Childs**. Then the very-deceased **Mr. William Wilberforce Porteous** appears followed by **Horrie Snipe**, a pimp and the true start of this particular race, **Albert Wilson**, Mr. Dunn's butler. **Mrs. Philp**, a high-end madame.

The Cover

The cover is a deep red with a tiny inset, circular window filled with an old Elizabethan house, the ivy crawling over its walls.

The title is a bit odd, at least, because I was expecting the subject to be resurrection men, instead *Resurrection Row* turns out to be...convenient.

Judy says

Some years ago I discovered Anne Perry and read several of her books. I still remember her series with Charlotte and Thomas Pitt. I just couldn't remember exactly how many of this series I had read. So I decide to start reading/listening to this fourth book. Perry does such a good job of portraying the time period, and creates real characters. In this book she presents an interesting mystery, but also relates the misery and hopelessness of the workhouses and lower classes in England. In addition, you feel the cold, wet climate of England as those people eek out a wretched living. I'm glad to read more of Perrys books.
