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The first Charlotte and Thomas Pitt novel since *Long Spoon Lane* from beloved *New York Times* bestselling author, Anne Perry.

Anne Perry's Charlotte and Thomas Pitt mysteries are perhaps the best loved of all her Victorian bestsellers, luring us into the multilayered richness of London, from the great mansions and secluded drawing rooms to the city's festering slums. Now, in her most mesmerizing novel yet, she invites us to a house-party at Buckingham Palace.

The Prince of Wales has asked four wealthy entrepreneurs and their wives to the palace to discuss a fantastic idea: the construction of a six-thousand-mile railroad that would stretch the full length of Africa. But, alas, the prince's gathering proves disastrous when the mutilated body of a prostitute hired for a late-night frolic (after the wives have retired to bed) turns up among the queen's monogrammed sheets in a palace linen closet.

With a cast of wonderful characters, among them the gentle Princess of Wales, and a twisting plot that takes us into the hidden world of the royal family, Anne Perry probes deeply the hearts of men and women ensnared by their own emotions. Never has this distinguished novelist told a story with more truth and passion.

Praise for Anne Perry and her Charlotte and Thomas Pitt novels

"Anne Perry has once again delivered the tasty concoction her readers have come to expect . . . and presents us with moral and political puzzles that are all too close to our own."

—*Los Angeles Times Book Review*

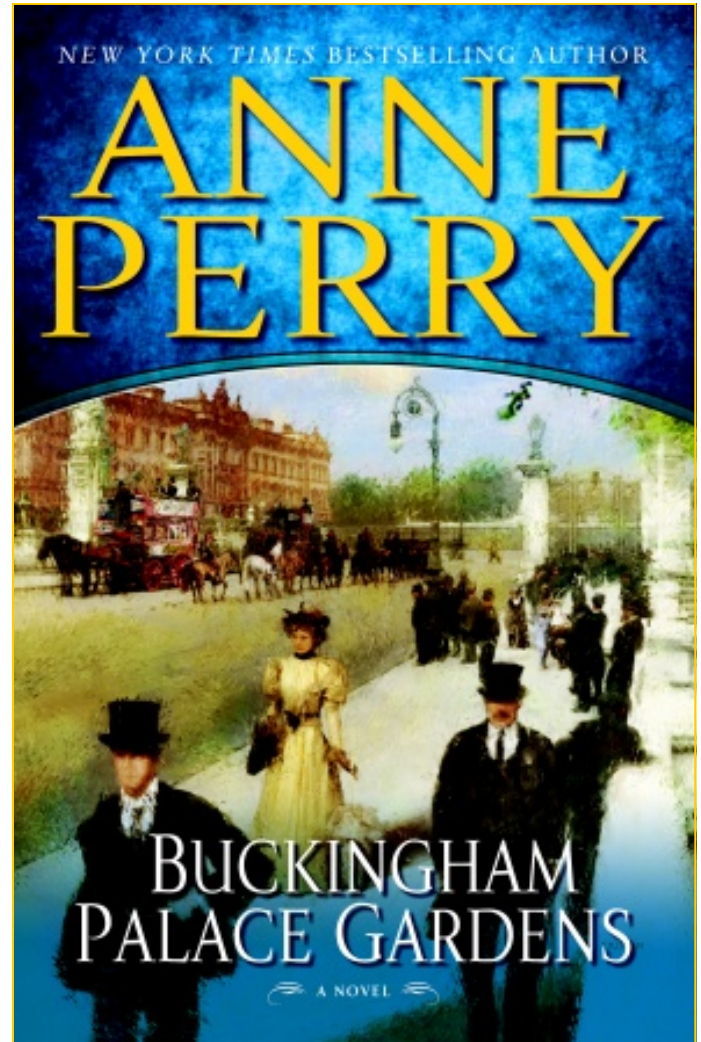
"The clear parallels [Perry] draws to current political issues are persuasive—and chilling."

—*The New York Times Book Review*

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Anne Perry's website at: www.AnnePerry.net



Anne Perry is the bestselling author of two acclaimed series set in Victorian England: the Charlotte and Thomas Pitt novels, including *Seven Dials* and *Long Spoon Lane*, and the William Monk novels, most recently *The Shifting Tide* and *Dark Assassin*. She is also the author of the World War I novels *No Graves As Yet*, *Shoulder the Sky*, *Angels in the Gloom*, *At Some Disputed Barricade*, and *We Shall Not Sleep*, as well as the holiday novels *A Christmas Journey*, *A Christmas Visitor*, *A Christmas Guest*, *A Christmas Secret*, and *A Christmas Beginning*. Anne Perry lives in Scotland.



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