

A Christmas Vanishing by Anne Perry

As Anne Perry passed away this year, I assume there won't be an annual Victorian mystery next Christmas, and I'm sorry to have one of my favorite holiday reading experiences come to an end. Perry's small Christmas books always read fast for me, and keep me intrigued by the social strictures of the time, set against a need to move quickly to solve the mystery before something even worse happens. Charlotte Pitt's grandmother accepts a Christmas invitation to spend the holiday in a village where she once lived. But she finds her friend has disappeared mysteriously and she is quickly drawn into the puzzle of what could have happened. Her inquiries uncover a deepening swirl of blackmail and a very different aspect of her friendship. The book made me ponder the effect my past mistakes may have had on others, while enjoying a glimpse into village life and holiday traditions.