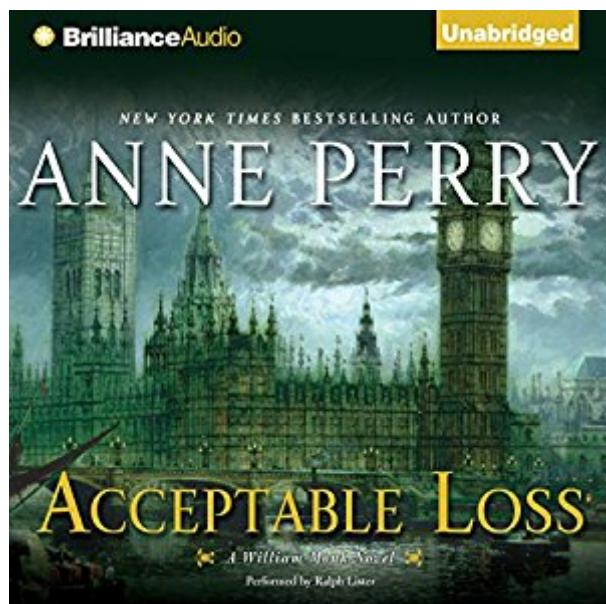


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# Acceptable Loss: A William Monk Novel #17



## Synopsis

When the body of a small-time crook named Mickey Parfitt washes up on the tide, no one grieves; far from it. But William Monk, commander of the River Police, is puzzled by the expensive silk cravat used to strangle Parfitt. How did this elegant scarf - whose original owner was obviously a man of substance - end up imbedded in the neck of a wharf rat who richly deserved his sordid end? Dockside informers lead Monk to what may be a partial answer - a floating palace of corruption on the Thames managed by Parfitt, where a captive band of half-starved boys is forced to perform vile acts for men willing to pay a high price for midnight pleasures. Although Monk and his fearless wife, Hester, would prefer to pin a medal on Parfitt's killer, duty leads them in another direction - to an unresolved crime from the past, to blackmail and more murder, and to a deadly confrontation with some of the empire's most respected men. To a superlative degree, *Acceptable Loss* provides colorful characters, a memorable portrait of waterfront life, and a story that achieves its most thrilling moments in a transfixed London courtroom, where Monk faces his old friend Oliver Rathbone in a trial of nearly unbearable tension - in sum, every delectable drop of the rich pleasure that readers expect from an Anne Perry novel.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've read all the books in the William Monk series except the latest. I can't put these down! Anne Perry is a fascinating writer. There may be a plot here and there that seems similar to one other, but then she comes up with one so unique that I stand in awe of her creativity. This particular plot

follows the one in Execution Dock. Of all the possible culprits, I guessed the guilty correctly, but I was never quite sure until the end. There are so many sides to the characters, one is never quite sure of their reactions (here, Rathbone's resolve is tested), which adds to the complexity of the weave of suspense and keeps the pages turning. Don't miss it!

With the way things ended in the previous book, 'Execution Dock', I was chomping at the bit to read this one. It picked up that horrid dangling thread and finally gave it closure. Yeah baby, did it give closure. I'm still reeling a bit from all the emotional responses I had at various times to this story. Like many of the previous William Monk stories, the mystery wasn't necessarily the difficulty though there are definitely some twists. No, the trouble was how good would prevail. Even our intrepid heroes and heroine had some crises of conscience with which to deal. The story begins with the murder of a sleazy manager of a brothel on a boat that exploits young boys and in the process was able to blackmail those who came to use the services. The trail leads Monk quickly to a suspect, but nobody can quite bring themselves to feel bad about the murder. Monk and Hester are more disturbed by the fact that the set up is the same as the last case he was just on and they aren't satisfied just to go after the small fry. They want to bring down the mastermind behind all these sordid enterprises. Unfortunately, they can't get a dying man's accusations out of their head and the facts leave room for this man, Arthur Ballinger who is Oliver Rathbone's father in law to be guilty. The case leads once again to a point where decisions of life and death, love and loyalty, duty and honor are called into question. It also forces Monk, Hester and Oliver along with their trusty helpers to bring it home to the finish. As par for the course, I was impressed by the gritty honesty of life in London's underbelly, the sparkling characters, the intense plot and the masterful pacing and tone of the story. I really only had one niggle. One of the recurring characters, Margaret Rathbone, seemed to just morph into something totally different in this one. I would have bought a certain amount of change to her because it is her father who is called into question, her husband who has to defend, and her friends who have to prosecute, but it just went way beyond that twisted her into something ugly because of blind loyalty and denying love for a parent. The Margaret of the previous books just wasn't that callous and hateful. I don't know; maybe it was just me, but I was appalled and in shock over the changes. That being said, I was impressed once again with a more than satisfying read by the author and look forward to the next installment in the series.

I have read many books by Anne Perry, due to the price of her books, I stopped reading her books for a long-time. So, I was surprised and impressed with the story line and give Kudo's to Ms Perry

for bringing attention to child abuse in that era. The story itself is heart-wrenching, at least to me. I will admit I didn't care for the ending. The individual got off easy and took the coward's way out and his accomplices weren't charged with helping him and to protect him. I found that annoying and confusing since Monk is so righteous. Perhaps there is another part to this story that I'm not aware of but IMHO everyone should have been charged with accessory to at least one murder.

An excellent read! Certainly held my attention from the beginning to the conclusion. I have read other of Perry's characters, but this was the first of the Monk series and I would certainly like to read the previous books in the series.

I have finally reached the end of the published William Monk series. And like the title of this newly published novel, I am feeling acceptable loss. I know that in a year or so, another William Monk will appear. I thoroughly enjoy this series with the vivid description of Victorian England. The characters are individuals with flaws. Oliver Rathbone struggles with his feelings for his wife, Margaret Ballinger Rathbone. Many of the characters reflect on the loyalty to family members, friends, and spouses. In this novel, a seller, Mickey Parfitt, of sexual pleasures is found murdered, and many would rather not look for the killer. But Monk must find the killer in order to stop the terrible crime against young, poor boys. Then Monk arrests Margaret's father, Arthur Ballinger for the murder of Mickey Parfitt. Monk's career stands in jeopardy for arresting such an influential and wealthy man on circumstantial evidence. As usual, Perry takes the reader through the emotions of the many characters on both sides of the case.

Anne Perry has done it again. She has brought Victorian London to life with all its warts! The plot of the book deals with child enslavement and pornography in a story that could have been ripped from the headlines of today's news. Monk, Hester and the rest of her characters are as rich and complex as ever! All in all this is a book that is worth the time and effort to read!

Sympathetic characters. Fairly gruesome plot. A good bit of repetitious descriptions of people's thoughts and feelings, lots of paragraphs about their various dilemmas. Well-written, and probably would be enjoyed best by those who enjoy reading about the time period (1880's), particularly London at that time, or fans of earlier books in this series, Anne Perry or both. Not my particular cup of tea, but given the author's popularity, now I know why.

This one is so engrossing because if you know Anne Perry's Monk characters you will find surprises and sorrows touch them all. This Victorian novel is a grand example of Anne Perry's expertise with the historical fiction and police procedural. She captures you immediately with a murder of a most despicable character and leads you through the life of the poor on the river Thames and their connections in high society. Wonderfully done.

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