The Cater Street Hangman (Charlotte & Thomas Pitt Novels) by Anne Perry

The Book That Revived The Historical Mystery.

An ingenious mystery and an excellent example of manners and caste systems of the Victorian era.

THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES

While the Ellison girls were out paying calls and drinking tea like proper Victorian ladies, a maid in their household was strangled to death. The quiet and young Inspector Pitt investigates the scene and finds no one above suspicion. As his intense questioning causes many a composed facade to crumble, Pitt finds himself curiously drawn to pretty Charlotte Ellison. Yet, a romance between a society girl and so unsuitable a suitor was impossible in the midst of a murder....

From the Paperback edition.

My Personal Review:
This is the first Anne Perry mystery I have read and I wanted to begin with the first Charlotte and Thomas Pitt novel so that I could read them in order if I chose to continue with the series. I just loved it! It was a book that was almost impossible for me to put down. That phrase is used so often in reviews that I hesitate to use it but nothing else comes close to describing how truly absorbed I became in this story.

Other reviewers have covered the plot so I will only say that I found everything I am looking for in a period mystery in this novel. I had no idea who the killer was up until the reveal and then could only marvel at how ingenious this author is in her thinking. I had suspected someone else of
the crimes but was wholly satisfied with Perrys results. That says a lot coming from a longtime mystery reader.

If there was a tiny niggle, it would be that Charlotte did not get quite enough time to realize that her feelings for Pitt were changing. But in the end, who cares? Alls well that ends up with them becoming a team. I cant wait to dig into Callander Square, I just have to find a good clear space of time to be totally uninterrupted.

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