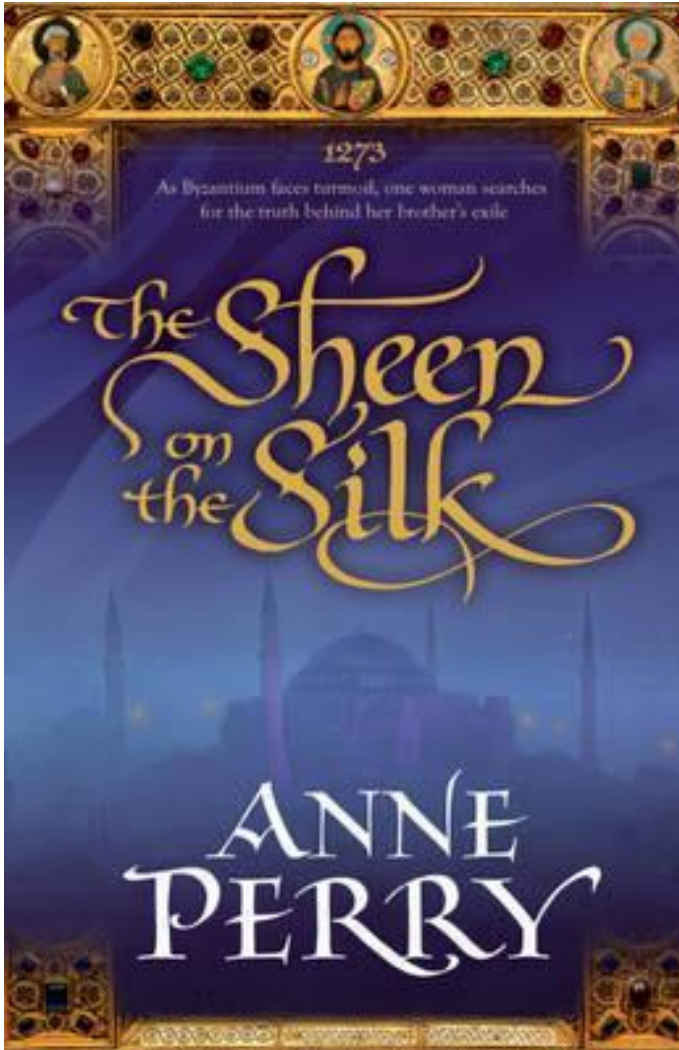


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**Anne Perry**

**The Sheen on the Silk**



Title: The Sheen on the Silk

Author: Anne Perry

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 608

Publisher: Headline, 1283378400

ISBN: 0755358325

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 6.5 MB

Download: allowed

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## Description

A brilliant standalone novel from Anne Perry, the undisputed master of the Victorian mystery.

1273 - the gorgeous, cosmopolitan and enlightened city of Byzantium is in acute danger. Only an alliance with the Church of Rome will stop the crusading fervour of the Italian and French troops on its borders, determined to strike through Byzantium to reach Jerusalem. Faced with the prospect of surrendering its gentile Orthodox theology to Roman Catholicism, the city is in turmoil as opposing factions seek to assert their authority.

For Anna, the brutal conflict only echoes her own life. Recently arrived in Byzantium to find out why her brother has been exiled for a murder she believes he did not commit, Anna is forced to pose as a eunuch so that she can move freely in all levels of society. As she does so she finds herself in the middle of intrigues that may not only free, or condemn, her brother, but will also determine the fate of Byzantium itself.

## Insightful reviews

Jack Murphy: I was torn between giving Ann's book a 3 or 4 stars. I listened to this audio book by Ann Perry during my trips to work. Ann Perry has certainly done her homework, researching the history of Constantinople. The historical part of this book is fantastic. I felt really immersed in Byzantium as I read it. The story itself is slow but interesting. The main character, Anna, is a foreigner masquerading as a eunuch doctor in order to investigate the cause of her brother's exile and imprisonment. However, her investigation takes a number of years (slow story, as I said). The most interesting character is Zoe Crysaphes, a 70-plus year old matron of wealth and power who is driven by vengeance. She presents first as an antagonist and villain, then gradually grows into her grudging respect and admiration for Anna. I think she is one of the most interesting characters in the book. The main conflict is the status of Byzantium itself -- barely recovering from being sacked by Crusaders 70 years before and still struggling to maintain its independence from the Roman Catholic Church. Will it survive another Crusade? I'm a romantic at heart and loved the underlying love story between Anna and Julio Dundaldo, the nephew of the Doge of the Venetian City state.

Eric Wright: Perry's *Sheen on the Silk* showcases a rich cast of characters living during a turbulent period in history, circa 1273. The main setting of the book is Constantinople but Venice, Rome, Palestine and Sicily also form part of the rich tapestry of this historical novel.

Anna Zarides arrives in the Byzantine capital in 1273 to prove the innocence of her twin brother. In order to move freely in society and discover the plot that resulted in her brother's banishment to a monastery in the Sinai, Anna disguises herself as a eunuch. Coming from a family of

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doctores she slowly distinguishes herself among the city's elite.

She crosses paths with Zoe Chrysaphes, a scheming noblewoman, Giuliano Dandolo, sent to spy on the city, and a wide range of important characters. Sometimes it is hard to identify some of them.

Intrigue fills the pages during a period 70 years after the sack of Constantinople by a crusading army when another crusade is being organized. The city fears annihilation at the hands of an alliance of French, Venicians, and Romans. Popes come and go but the lust for the riches of Byzantium trumps all--even the desire to conquer the holy land.

While she ushered me into a period and place concerning which I had little knowledge, and for that I am thankful, I found the story line to be thin. We were as often in the head of Zoe, or the emperor, or Giuliano, as Anna, the main character.

Mickey Boggs: I've read most, if not all, of Anne Perry's previous works and especially enjoy the two series featuring Thomas Pitt and William Monk. When I read the flyleaf description of this book I wasn't sure it was something up my alley. But I found myself totally captivated by this book. Having been to Istanbul, Venice and Messina (albeit 700+ years later) and having seen the Hagia Sophia, the canals and harbors her vivid imagery just made the whole book "pop" for me. The description of daily life in the late 13th century, especially the practice of medicine and the "three" genders, was fascinating. Even the struggles between the Roman & Orthodox churches came alive for me. Fascinating characters all the way around and I love how she's mixed fact & fiction with real-life emperors, popes, doges and kings alongside characters of her own creation.

I highly recommend this book and if you still have doubts, check out the video on her website where she gives a wonderful 10-minute overview with relatively few spoilers!

Joanne Dowd: I struggled to complete this book. The final premise is interesting, the historic aspect is fascinating, however the tale is thin. It could possibly have, and sure must have been edited down by means of a pair hundred pages. I'm an important Anne Perry fan and was once excited to work out fresh characters from her. Anna is a physician who involves Constantinople disguised as a eunuch to find what occurred to her brother. She turns into concerned with a number of characters who she attempts to (awkwardly) query on approximately her brother. She by no means turns out to get very a long way with the wondering and the solutions appear seen to the reader (but by no means her). There's a huge variety of characters and it quickly grew to become confusing. The characters didn't appear extraordinarily good built or likable. The undesirable men have been thoroughly undesirable and never in any respect nuanced that is in contrast to Perry's earlier antagonists. I'm a quick reader and that I chanced on that very important info used to be simply in brief pointed out - so now and then I needed to return and look for issues (ie what occurred to Anna's marriage and child) and at different instances I could not ever locate the data (ie the rumours approximately Maria). Different info used to be repeated time and again in slightly tedious detail. Overall, for those who take pleasure in Perry's skill to wind a path and twisting mystery, you will probably now not get pleasure from this.

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Alma: I would've given this ebook five stars have been it now not for the finishing - it used to be a lot too quick! i think like this ebook would've benefited vastly from having an epilogue. there have been a number of different faults - a little contrived language on occasion, in particular whilst describing scenery; being a piece too drawn out; the a lot too short revelation of 1 of the character's nice secrets and techniques - yet these have been simply missed as a result of awesome characters. THAT used to be amazingly done! them all are so human, flawed, with goals, pains, honor - the full 9 yards. Their sins in addition to their virtues lead them to suppose so...alive and genuine yet charismatic and engaging of their personal approach that keep for a few, you cannot relatively hate them or love them. those characters go away the reader simply packed with torn emotions. completely fantastic!But the finishing - too abrupt. That was once part of the e-book that are supposed to were drawn out more. but when that used to be to not be had, then an after inspiration must have been additional - kind of an confirmation that issues progressed. Seriously. the writer may still move and upload an epilogue to the reprint. it should take this from an extremely stable to an outstanding book.

Tocotin: For this sort of attention-grabbing subject material - a lady disguised as a eunuch health practitioner attempts to avoid wasting her exiled brother within the thirteenth century Byzantium - it is a tragically dull, flat, slow book. it really is type of an accomplishment to make Byzantium, court docket intrigue, and gender confusion dull. I learn it to the top to work out if it remained dull, and it did stay dull, and it used to be gradually getting even duller as I learn on.The major challenge was, I think, within the absolute loss of any suspense or mystery, simply because every little thing was once transparent from the beginning: the motivations of the characters, their likes and dislikes, their loyalties. sturdy men have been gradually good, undesirable men have been unflinchingly bad, no surprises, plus everybody was once stupid. The "villainess" Zoe - what a two-legged plot machine she was! Doing no matter what she wanted, poisoning humans via the dozen, leaving her enemies useless at any time when their servants became their backs, and never even as soon as she was once suspected of anything, no, each person (including the heroine) enjoyed her and cried after her while she died. Also, for a few cause every body wanted her, even supposing she was once approximately 80. i am not asserting individual cannot be attractive at that age, it truly is simply the way in which she was once written, as though she have been part her age. Even the negative eunuchs sought after her. She was once additionally working round and slashing people's throats as though she could not manage to pay for a formal assassin. She could, simply because she used to be an aristocrat and an past love of the emperor's, and he or she was once no longer stingy. It used to be very confusing.The major personality Anna, uh, cannot particularly say a lot approximately her. for roughly 2 first chapters she used to be anxious approximately her disguise, then she quick forgot approximately it. She was once very preachy, specially in the direction of the end, yet in fact approximately all different characters enjoyed her, other than a couple of undesirable men who have been within the historical past anyway, so whilst it turned transparent she was once a girl, not anything happened, regardless of the former speaking approximately a few "punishment". I had excessive hopes for her love curiosity to be all conflicted and stuff approximately falling for a eunuch, yet within the subsequent bankruptcy she used to be already a woman and there has been - o.k. now not a lot - some, quite faint, rejoicing, and in addition a marriage I guess. Or something.The secondary characters have been all of the same, men, women, eunuchs, the emperor, monks, Venetians, Sicilians, Greeks. The Orthodox and Roman Catholic church buildings have been additionally beautiful similar, other than the Catholic church

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was once undesirable and the Catholic men have been bad, and in the event that they have been good, they sorta beloved the Orthodox (the different person who is) religion better. since it was once extra tolerant or a few such. Also, Byzantium and its a variety of historical stuffs, typically mosaics and murals, have been manner beautiful. i believe they have been exquisite. This word, "exquisite", used to be used approximately on each page. O God i believe i'm done. i will get a few sleep. i am simply sour and unhappy simply because i wished to love this booklet and it used to be horrible.

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