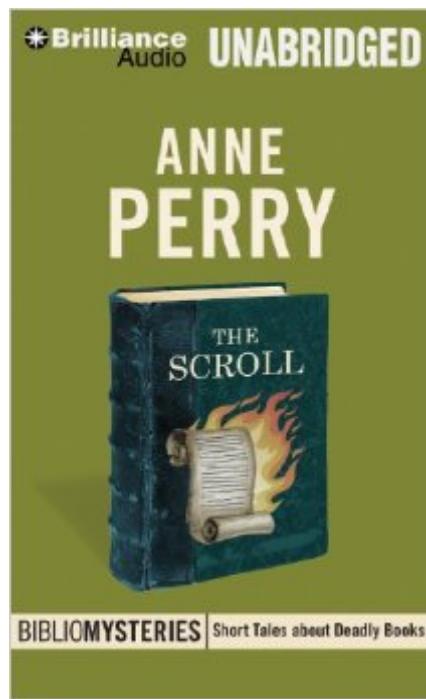


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The Scroll (Bibliomysteries)



Synopsis

Short tales about deadly books, by top mystery authors An ancient scroll draws a bookseller into a chilling mystery. Monty Danforth finds the tin buried beneath a shipment of leather-bound classics. Inside is a millennia-old vellum manuscript written in an unfamiliar but unmistakably ancient language. Danforth tries to photocopy and photograph it, but he ends up with blank images, as though the ink were made of something impervious to modern technology. As the scroll's mystery enchants him, this hapless bookseller falls into a cutthroat conspiracy that he may never escape. Soon a dead-eyed old man and his granddaughter come calling for the scroll. Danforth refuses to sell them the manuscript, but they will not be the last to demand it. Powerful forces crave the secrets locked within this ancient document, and Danforth will survive only if he can master its power.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Scroll is an eBook short mystery that's full of intrigue, big questions and quite a bit of personal drama. It all begins when Monty Danforth, a man who works in an antiquarian shop in Cambridge, starts unpacking and cataloguing the books delivered to him in crates by the Greville estate. Among the things that he uncovers is a mysterious scroll that seems to be written in Hebrew. At first he doesn't seem to know what to make of it since he can't understand a word of the language it is written in but apparently someone else does, since before too long an old man, who claims to be a collector, arrives accompanied by a young girl. The man offers to buy the scroll straight away but

Mr. Danforth refuses to grant him his wish, since he wants to have it evaluated first. The visitors depart, promising to come back at a later time, but not before warning him that the scroll could prove to be quite dangerous because of its contents. What did they mean by that?"Ha had always had a weird imagination, a sensitivity to the presence of evil. He told the most excellent ghost stories to the great entertainment of his friends. He was known for it, even loved. People liked to be given a frisson of fear, just enough to get the adrenalin going."Well, now he feels that kind of fear taking abode in his very soul, and he doesn't know how to appease it. He knows that he needs to solve the mystery surrounding the scroll but would that prove enough?In the end he has no choice so he decides to ask for the help of his good friend, Hank Savage, a pragmatic scientist, thus someone who doesn't share his beliefs of the supernatural. Hank will offer him a helping hand but just by pointing out that the text on the scroll is written in Aramaic and not in Hebrew.

Those who are familiar with Anne Perry's impressive volume of work will be surprised by her contribution to the MysteriousPress.com bibliomystery project. A "bibliomystery," as that term is used here, refers to a shorter mystery or suspense work that to a great degree revolves around books. As one might glean from its title, THE SCROLL concerns one of the earliest versions of a published written work (the grandfather, if you will) of the eBook --- and examines it in an entirely different way, one that you won't soon forget. It is Monty Danforth --- is that a great name, or what? --- who discovers the scroll during the course of his duties at a bookshop. A large lot of books has been received from an estate, and Monty is tasked with unpacking the crates and cataloguing the books within. It is a rather mundane task, until he finds a tin at the very bottom of the last crate. It contains a very interesting scroll, one that screams age and antiquity and is written in a language wholly unknown to Monty. He tries to photocopy it or take a picture of it with his phone, so that he can have it translated without sacrificing the original, but the document defies such modern treatment. Bad and unusual things then begin to happen. Odd people with no reason to know of the scroll begin turning up at the shop, asking --- demanding --- to purchase the document and warning of dire consequences if it should be sold to someone else. Then the absentee owner of the bookshop is found murdered. When Monty is able to have a few words of the scroll translated, the reason for the sudden interest in the document begins to become clear, but it presents Monty with a new problem: he is caught between forces that each have their own reasons for possessing the scroll, and perhaps neither should have it.

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