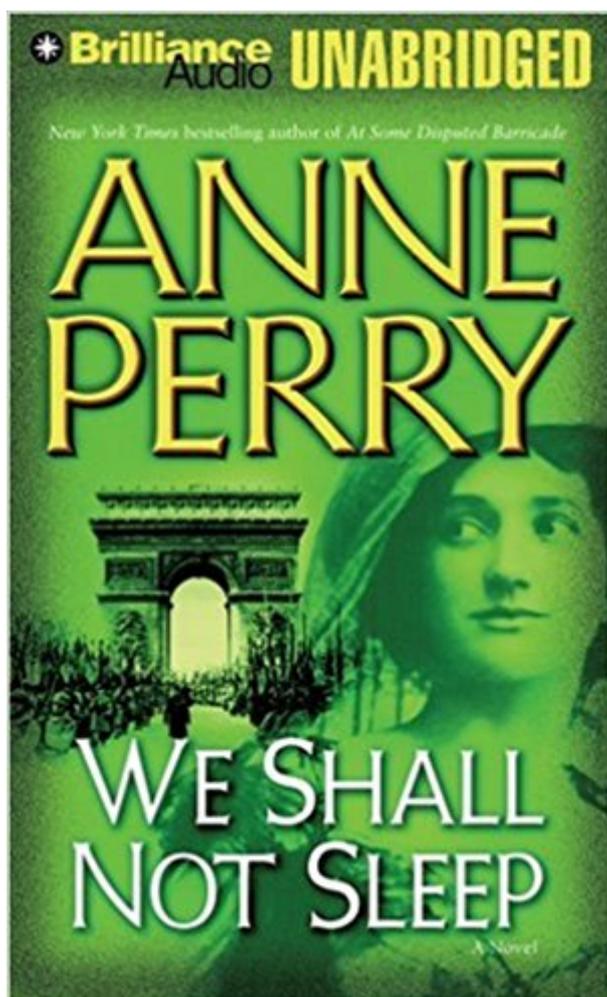


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We Shall Not Sleep (World War One Series)



Synopsis

After four long years, peace is finally in sight. But chaplain Joseph Reavley and his sister, Judith, an ambulance driver on the Western Front, are more hard pressed than ever. Behind the lines, violence is increasing: Soldiers are abusing German prisoners, a nurse has been raped and murdered, and the sinister ideologue called the Peacemaker now threatens to undermine the peace just as he did the war. Matthew, the third Reavley sibling and an intelligence expert, suddenly arrives at the front with startling news: The Peacemaker's German counterpart has offered to go to England and expose his co-conspirator as a traitor. But with war still raging and prejudices inflamed, such a journey would be fraught with hazards, especially since the Peacemaker has secret informers everywhere, even on the battlefield. For richness of plot, character, and feeling, *We Shall Not Sleep* is unmatched. Anne Perry's brilliantly orchestrated finale is a heartstopping tour de force, mesmerizing and totally satisfying.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. The depth and passion of Perry's fifth and final volume in her acclaimed WWI series won't disappoint readers who have followed this engrossing and moving tale from its inception with *No Graves as Yet*. In the last days of the war, the Reavley family—Joseph, an army chaplain; his brother, Matthew, an officer in the Secret Intelligence Service; and their sister, Judith, an ambulance driver—find themselves together in the mud, blood and trenches of

Flanders. Throughout the series, the three have been locked in a deadly struggle with someone they call the Peacemaker, who they believe is a high government official who had their parents murdered in his quest to involve England in an odious peace effort with Germany. A breakthrough arrives with a German officer who's willing to go to England and reveal to the authorities the identity and mission of the Peacemaker, though the family must first solve the mystery of a murdered nurse before unmasking the Peacemaker. At the finish, Perry neatly and satisfactorily ties up all the loose ends from the preceding novels. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In the fifth and final entry in Perry's World War I series, the war is drawing to a close. British intelligence officer Matthew Reavley has received word that a high-ranking German defector is willing to identify the Peacemaker, the man who has been undermining Britain's war effort and is responsible for the death of Reavley's parents. As Matthew travels to Ypres, his brother, Joseph, a chaplain, and his sister, Judith, an ambulance driver, prepare to help him bring a swift resolution to the family tragedy that has haunted them for years. But when a young nurse is viciously murdered and Matthew is charged with the crime, Joseph and Judith must find the real killer so that Matthew can complete his mission. In contrast to the previous entries in the series, there is little action here and much talk--about what the war has cost the soldiers in terms of their humanity, the changing roles of women, and the elusive search for love and peace of mind. Still, the many fans of the series will be anxious to know how it ends. Joanne Wilkinson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It's starts just before WWI with a mystery that continues through the 5 books in the series but with in each book is a separate mystery that needs solving. It follows a family of two brothers and two sisters through the war. It almost gets to grisly but when is war easy to look at? Loved this series so much. Loved following this family and wanting them all to come through the war with a happy ending. Is that even possible? I binge read these 5 books and now I wish there were more. Surely this isn't the last of the Reavely's? Ms Perry if you read this, please know that I need more!!!!!!

Since last November, I've been reading Anne Perry's series of novels about the Reavley family and their involvement in World War One. Each novel of the five volume series is set in succeeding years of the conflict that really marked the end of the nineteenth century and the start of the twentieth. For

the Reavleys, the war has been more than just a conflict. Their parents, John and Alys, were murdered on the day when Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo, and the great European powers were drawn into a massive war that took a terrible toll in human lives and toppled empires. In John's possession was a document that would have brought a lasting peace, but the price would have been a terrible one. Now his children -- Joseph, Matthew and Judith -- are struggling to find the identity of the person behind their parents' murder, known only as The Peacemaker. Joseph has spent the last five years as a chaplain on the front lines in Belgium, trying to save what lives he can by bringing back the wounded from the front, and giving what comfort he can to the dying. In addition to what he has seen in the midst of battle, he has some deeply rooted scars from his past that still simmer. Working alongside him as an ambulance driver is his youngest sister, Judith, who has proven herself again and again, facing the same shortages as everyone else, and the same dangers. Matthew is working in London as an intelligence officer, desperately trying to find the truth about the Peacemaker. Now it is November 1918. The Germans are still fighting, but thousands of them are putting down their weapons and surrendering. The war could be over in a matter of months or even days. But there are still plenty of dangers for all of them -- the British soldiers are roughing up the Germans, and tempers are getting frayed and ugly. In London, Matthew receives a surprising offer -- the Peacemaker's counterpart in Germany is willing to come and reveal the identity of the Peacemaker, without any conditions. For it seems the Peacemaker has come up with an even more appalling plan -- he wants to continue the war, creating a never ending war, and reviving the German empire from the ashes. To complicate matters, one of the nurses, Gwen Price, has been found brutally murdered, her naked body flung on a rubbish heap. Joseph is called upon to find who did it, but before he can unravel the mystery, the German officer with the information appears, and is charged with the murder. To complicate matters, his brother Matthew, who has arrived to escort the officer and the valuable information back to London is also arrested for the crime. There are quite a few red herrings and subplots that are being wrapped up in this book. Lizzie Blaine, from a previous novel, reappears, forcing Joseph to contemplate a life beyond the endless warfare, and so has Richard Mason, the war correspondent that Judith has become close to. Along the way there are vivid descriptions of life and especially death on the Western front, with all of the attendant misery, mud, filth and lost lives. While the ending is a bit too pat, all of the loose ends are tidied up, and there's even a promise of happiness in the future, short lived as we living in the here and now will know it will be. Perry manages to pack an awful lot of action into the space of a few days, all of it moving at a near breakneck speed. In between all of that, she has her characters endlessly thinking about the past, what is happening now, and what they can do to stop

the onrushing disaster that will happen if they can't stop the Peacemaker. In fact, it's that rumination and raking over the past that caused me the greatest amount of annoyance with the story. Over and over, Ms Perry tells us once again the how and why and who the Peacemaker has murdered -- just as she had done in the previous four novels. It gets tiresome, and assumes that the reader has the attention span of a rabid gerbil. It does very little to push the story along, and instead slows it down very much. Now that I've completed reading the series, some thoughts overtook me. Perry has managed to do something very different than her ongoing series set in the Victorian World. For one, these five books have a definite beginning and end, and she lets her main characters mature, instead remaining the static observers of the mysteries. Everyone in this one makes mistakes, rash decisions, and moves forward in their thinking and maturity. I do hope that Ms. Perry will continue along with sort of writing, and expanding beyond the 'whodunit' novel. Another valid point is that Ms. Perry is very much a pacifist, and she draws comparisons to the warfare of the 1910's with our own modern times, and while it does take a strong stomach to read some of her descriptions of death and humans caught up in misery, she does it without getting too preachy about it. Overall, the series gets about a four star rating. It's better than most novels set in World War One, and she works very hard to capture the feel and nature of warfare that is brutal even by modern standards. One caveat is that the series really does need to be read in order, as so much of the narrative relies on what has gone on before. If you want something different than the usual rah-rah valiant hero in the middle of chaos of war, then this series should satisfy. While I doubt that I will ever reread these in the future, they are an excellent series of books, and worth the effort to get through. Four stars. Recommended.

I had to read this book twice before I got hooked on this series, but the series came so highly recommended by fellow book club members that I re-read it after slogging through it with confusion the first time. The second time, it all fell into place (and maybe I was in a different place) and I became enchanted with the characters and the overall mystery. I like reading stories set in England (probably due to Agatha Christie's Miss Marple and other characters as a staple of my teen years and ever after). I recommend this book and this series.

"WE SHALL NOT SLEEP" is the final novel in Anne Perry's ambitious 5 part WWI historical mystery series. This is a truly exceptional quintet. All the books contain thrilling murder mysteries, well researched historical fiction, chilling espionage, and an extraordinary cast of characters, featuring the members of the Reavley family. I have read all five novels, back-to-back, (couldn't put them

down!), and after spending several weeks with Joseph, Matthew, and Judith Reavley, I feel like I am related to them. They are wonderful, complex people, with real depth of character, and the author deserves kudos for creating them. Set just before and during the Great War, the series has one major storyline, which propels the action and keeps one riveted, but it is not resolved until the denouement, here, in "We Shall Not Sleep." This ongoing plot concerns the "Peacemaker," a mysterious figure who represents those who sought to make a treaty between Kaiser Wilhelm II and King George V, which would have united warring Germany and Britain into a common front. The Peacemaker proposed to "create an Anglo-German empire to dominate the world, and to achieve peace by betraying France and the Low Countries to Germany, with Britain taking back the old empire, including the Americas." Now that the war is almost over, this traitor, in his high government position, will have a great effect on Britain's demands at the peace negotiations if he is not identified and arrested. His interests remain the same - "to create an Anglo-German Empire out of the ashes of war,"... "then there will be another war, because Europe will never let that happen." It is October 1918, and although fierce fighting continues on the Ypres Salient, everyone knows that peace is at hand. "Half of Europe is ruined. America has lost more than three hundred thousand men, killed, wounded, or missing." The English have lost over "three million, Germany lost twice as many, and Austria-Hungary even more. The estimates are, altogether, beyond thirty-five million casualties." The trenches are dark and cold, flooded and rat infested. Men have to stand for days on end up to their waists, or even their armpits, in freezing water and mud filled with decay. The balance of power has been altered and the old rule swept away. The Kaiser has been toppled, the Austro-Hungarian Empire is crumbling. In Russia, the Bolshevik revolutionary forces replace the tsarist regime. And America has emerged as a new world power. In early 1914, John Reavley, Joseph's, Matthew's, Hannah's and Judith's father, a former member of Parliament, discovered a document - a treaty signed by Kaiser Wilhelm II. The Peacemaker was going to use his power and position to influence England's King George V to sign this pact between England and Germany. John and his wife, Alyce, were murdered while trying to deliver the papers to Joseph. But he found them and hid them away until he could prove that the terrifying and proposterous scheme was, in fact, a reality. Now, four years later, Manfred von Schenckendorff, the man who obtained the German monarch's signature, and who was, until recently, the Peacemaker's counterpart, wants to travel, incognito, through the lines, to London and speak to Prime Minister Lloyd George to expose the plot. Schenckendorff, an idealist, believed that the plan was for peace in Europe, so that England and Germany would rule without war "for all the years to come." Now he knows the dream was never a possibility. Captain Joseph Reavley, chaplain and former Cambridge professor, continues to minister

to the wounded and dying at the Ypres Salient. He has received the Military Cross and Distinguished Medal for his service of almost 5 years. Reavley's work has increased significantly in the last months, as German soldiers surrender in droves, some of them with serious injuries, others near death. Many are being treated at the field station where Reavley is stationed.

Lt. Colonel Matthew Reavley, Joseph's younger brother, and a member of England's Secret Intelligence Service, (SIS), has been fighting the war covertly from London, desperately trying to discover the identities of the "Peacemaker," and his treacherous minions. He crossed the English Channel on October 13, 1918, to join his brother Joseph, and sister Judith, a volunteer ambulance driver. His mission - to bring von Schenckendorff back to London where he will testify, verify his role in the plot, and identify the Peacemaker. Joseph, who knows the whereabouts of the document, will accompany them. Von Schenckendorff, successfully crosses the lines and meets with Joseph. Matthew joins them, and also hooks up with Judith. When one of the nurses is found brutally murdered, von Schenckendorff, is accused and arrested. The murderer must be found before the war ends so the high ranking German official can be taken to London to expose the Peacemaker. And the crime must be solved before the Peacemaker can catch up with the small group, and put a stop to their plans.

Ms. Perry has included various subplots, which make for an even more entertaining read. There are also romantic involvements. Both Joseph and Judith have been moving towards permanent relationships over the period of the war - Joseph with a nurse, Judith with a war correspondent. These come to fruition in "WE SHALL NOT SLEEP," bringing a promise of hope for the future, at least for a lucky few. Although there are some flaws throughout the novels, (nothing is perfect!), including a few in this one, I definitely rate this book and the other four with 5 Big Stars, overall, and in retrospect! The writing and character development are consistently excellent. The pace is fast, and the storyline and subplots are packed with action and believable dialogue. The author accomplished an amazing feat of research in order to construct this very valid work of historical fiction. I learned so much and was totally absorbed as I was transported back in time. I do recommend that you read the series in order, to avoid confusion and to enjoy the natural flow of the narrative. Very highly recommended!!

Jana Perski
In Flanders Fields
By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)
Canadian Army
In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses
row on row,
That mark our place;
and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid
the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved,
and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing
hands we throw
The torch;
be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep,
though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

No Graves As Yet: A Novel (World War I)
At Some

Disputed Barricade: A Novel (World War I) Shoulder the Sky: A Novel (World War I) Angels in the Gloom: A Novel (World War I)

Very good picture of life at the end of the Second World War. Very realistic. Superimposed on the life in the trenches is a subplot involving (as usual in Perry novels) a murder needing to be solved. There is just a bit too much moralizing over the legitimacy of war and the question of whether a good God can allow such violence and destruction. It got a bit repetitive. Still, there is enough to hold your interest and definitely a feeling that you are really there living the life of the average soldier, nurse, or chaplain.

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