ALLISON & BUSBY
NEW TITLES
JANUARY-JUNE 2016
Spring, 1937. Four years after she set sail from England, leaving everything she most loved behind, Maisie Dobbs at last returns, only to find herself in a dangerous place. Maisie is seeking peace in the hills of Darjeeling but her sojourn is cut short when her stepmother summons her home. But on a ship bound for England, Maisie realises she isn't ready to return. Against the wishes of the captain she disembarks in Gibraltar – the British garrison town is teeming with refugees fleeing a brutal civil war across the border in Spain.

Days after Maisie's arrival, a photographer is murdered, and Maisie becomes entangled in the case, drawing the attention of the British Secret Service and she is pulled deeper into political intrigue on ‘the Rock’ . . .

Jacqueline Winspear has won numerous awards for her Maisie Dobbs books, including the Agatha, Alex and Macavity awards. Originally from Britain, Jacqueline now lives in the United States. jacquelinewinspear.com @maisie_dobbs
TREACHERY IN TIBET
SIMON FONTHILL 11

JOHN WILCOX

‘Strap yourselves in for some rollercoaster excitement’ Bookbag

1903. The British Empire has reached its apogee: much of the world map is coloured red and the sun never sets on its boundaries. But Lord Curzon, the ambitious Viceroy of India, has different views.

Tibet, the mountainous region on the Raj’s borders, eludes him. He decides to invade, recruiting Simon Fonthill, veteran of so many of Queen Victoria’s ‘Little Wars,’ to lead 2000 men over the ice-bound Himalayan passes to Lhasa. It is machine guns against muskets as the cruel and brave monks, fighting on their own terrain among the clouds, oppose the invasion.

When Fonthill’s beloved wife Alice is captured, treachery is revealed, and Fonthill and ‘352’ Jenkins must gallop to her aid in their most thrilling adventure yet.

JOHN WILCOX left an award-winning career as a journalist to write novels. His Simon Fonthill novels have been published to high acclaim. He lives near Salisbury, Wiltshire.

johnwilcoxauteur.co.uk

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Fiction

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LADY IN BLACK

JUNE THOMSON

‘There aren’t many writers who can capture the Doyle–Watson style almost to perfection. One of the few is June Thomson . . . Wholeheartedly recommended’ The Sherlock Holmes Society of London

By the summer of 1908, Sherlock Holmes has left the Baker Street days of crime and detection behind to retire in a small Sussex cottage where he can focus on his new hobbies: beekeeping and photography.

Holmes extends an invitation to his old flatmate Dr Watson to join him for a week’s holiday. Watson accepts and arrives anticipating long coastal walks and pub lunches in the local village. But Watson’s sojourn takes a darker turn when they spot a shadowy figure below the cliffs one night; Holmes cannot resist the temptation to solve one more mystery.

Against the backdrop of the stormy Sussex coast, suspicious men, tragic family history and a crafty theft weave an engaging and complex case that only Holmes and Watson can crack.

JUNE THOMSON, a former teacher, has published over twenty crime novels including her much admired homages of Holmes’ short stories. She lives in Rugby, Warwickshire.
AKIN TO MURDER
INSPECTOR FARO 18

ALANNA KNIGHT

‘Crime writer extraordinaire’ The Scotsman

1864. Detective Inspector Faro is about to become a father and his home life is as happy as ever, until the escape of convicted murderer, John McLaw, disturbs everything.

With countless dead-end sightings of the killer and another murder, Faro is run off his feet in search of McLaw – meanwhile his peaceful family life is falling apart as he discovers how little he knows about his wife’s past. As Faro realises that the McLaw case may have been more complicated than the clear-cut domestic murder it first appeared, his determination to unearth the truth becomes personal.

When Tibbie, a local maid, disappears, Faro begins to wonder if there could be a link between her and John McLaw. In a race against time Faro takes matters into his own hands.

ALANNA KNIGHT lives in Edinburgh. She is a founding member of the Scottish Association of Writers and Convener of the Scottish Chapter of the Crime Writers’ Association. In 2014 she received an MBE for her services to literature.

alannaknight.com

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THE HERRING IN THE LIBRARY
ETHELRED AND ELSIE MYSTERY 3

L. C. TYLER

‘A joy to read’ The Times

Literary agent Elsie Thirkettle is accompanying crime-writer Ethelred Tressider to dinner at Muntham Court. When, during the course of the evening, her host is found strangled in his locked study, the police are forced to conclude that Sir Robert Muntham has killed himself. A distraught Lady Muntham, however, asks Ethelred to conduct his own investigation . . .

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HERRING ON THE NILE
ETHELRED AND ELSIE MYSTERY 4

L. C. TYLER

In an effort to rejuvenate his flagging career, Ethelred Tressider decides to set his new book in Egypt and embarks on a ‘research trip’ with his agent, Elsie Thirkettle, in tow. No sooner has their cruise on the Nile begun than an attempt is made on Ethelred’s life. When the boat’s engine explodes and a passenger is found murdered, suspicion falls on everyone aboard – including Ethelred.

L. C. TYLER is an award-winning writer, Chair of the Crime Writers’ Association and a CWA short story Dagger judge. He lives in Islington, North London.
lctyler.com
@lentcylter
STRIKING MURDER
A. J. WRIGHT

‘There’s a real pace to the story and toward the end I couldn’t turn the pages fast enough’
Bookbag

1893. Wigan is in the grip of a devastating national miners’ strike and a harsh winter.
Arthur Morris, a wealthy colliery owner whose intransigence on miners’ pay is the main cause of the strike, is found brutally murdered in Scholes, a rough working-class district where he is universally hated and blamed for the grinding hardship the strike is causing.

Detective Sergeant Brennan is given the task of finding who killed Morris, but there are more questions than answers about what happened on the night of the murder. When a mysterious stranger is found bludgeoned to death on a canal boat, Brennan starts to unravel a twisted thread of interwoven clues that finally lead him to the murderer – and a surprising and striking motive.

A. J. WRIGHT won the 2010 Dundee International Fiction Prize for Act of Murder. His writing is inspired by his two major interests: all things Victorian and classic works from the Golden Age of crime fiction. He lives near Wigan, Greater Manchester.

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STEP TO THE GALLOWS
THE BOW STREET RIVALS 2
EDWARD MARSTON

‘A master storyteller’ Daily Mail

London, 1816. A scurrilous newspaper has built up a large following by publishing details of political and sexual scandals. It is remarkably well-informed and has therefore created a whole host of enemies. When the editor is killed and the printing press smashed to bits, the Bow Street Runners are hired by the man who financed the production of the paper. He wants the killer brought to justice and the scandal sheet revived.

Peter and Paul Skillen find themselves in great danger as they unearth an enormous amount of scandal and corruption before the villains are brought to book.

SHADOW OF THE HANGMAN
THE BOW STREET RIVALS 1
EDWARD MARSTON

London, 1815. Home Secretary Viscount Sidmouth faces a crisis. During a massacre of American POWs at Dartmoor, two escape and are seeking retribution. The twin detectives Peter and Paul Skillen compete with the Bow Street Runners to find the Americans and prevent an assassination but trouble ensues when a woman from the Home Office vanishes and a mysterious lady turns up at the archery shooting gallery . . .

EDWARD MARSTON was born in Wales. A full-time writer for over forty years, he has worked in radio, film, television and the theatre. He lives with his wife, crime writer Judith Cutler, outside Cirencester, Gloucestershire.
edwardmarston.com
CAT AMONG THE HERRINGS
ETHELRED AND ELsie MYSERY 6

L. C. TYLER

‘A joy to read’ The Times

Robin Pagham is dead – drowned in a sailing accident.
On hearing this tragic news, the general consensus is that Robin must have been drunk. After all, that was what he did best. Surprisingly, newspaper reports of the inquest state that no alcohol was found in Robin’s blood. It was accidental death, with no clear cause. At the funeral, Robin’s fiancée announces that somebody in the congregation has murdered Robin.

Although estranged, Elsie and Ethelred begin simultaneous investigations into Robin’s death – as ever with some comical results.

L. C. TYLER is an award-winning writer, Chair of the Crime Writers’ Association and a CWA short story Dagger judge. He lives in Islington, North London.
lctyler.com
@lenclyler

THE WITCHES OF CAMBRIDGE

MENNA VAN PRAAG

‘A brightly coloured fabulist confection . . . sure to delight those looking for a little fairy dust in their romance’ Kirkus Reviews

For 900 years, the Cambridge University witches have been meeting, mainly to discuss books, on the roofs of the colleges and drink hot chocolate while up there.

The members are limited and only those invited can join. This includes Kat (a great spell-caster and maths professor), her mother Amandine (retired French Literature professor and psychic), George (a Classics professor) and Noa (student of history – who sees people’s secrets and can’t help but say them).

Cosima, Kat’s sister, is also a witch and when she begins casting spells to attract a mate everything starts to go wrong – she sets off a chain of events that turns each of the witches’ worlds upside down . . .

MENNA VAN PRAAG was born in Cambridge and studied Modern History at Oxford University. She lives in Cambridge and sets her novels among the colleges, cafes and bookshops of the city.
mennavanpraag.com
@MennavanPraag
THE PRIMROSE PURSUIT

SUZETTE A. HILL

‘Wittily written, tightly plotted and fun to read . . . A sparkling gallery of characters’ Simon Brett

Following the tragic, though honourable, death of her brother, Francis, Primrose Oughterard has taken responsibility for her late brother’s discerning cat and dog, Maurice and Bouncer. Hubert Topping, a new master at the local school is a man of seemingly impeccable conduct. Primrose, however, takes an instant dislike to him and is convinced that there is more to him than meets the eye. The arrival of the suave Nicholas Ingaza fuels her suspicions.

When a body is found on top of the downs, Primrose becomes caught up in a series of calamities and when the truth unravels it isn’t long before things come to a head . . .

A SOUTHWOLD MYSTERY

SUZETTE A. HILL

Rosy Gilchrist has been asked to accompany Lady Fawcett to visit Delia Dovedale, an old school friend in Southwold whom she hasn’t seen for years. Rather reluctantly Rosy agrees to be her companion on this reunion jaunt. But on arrival at the hostess’s house the two guests discover that things are far from normal, and find themselves plunged into a series of bizarre and sinister events.

SUZETTE A. HILL is a graduate of Nottingham and Newcastle-upon-Tyne Universities, and for many years she taught English. She lives in Ledbury, Herefordshire. suzetteahill.co.uk

THE FARMER’S DAUGHTER

MARY NICHOLS

‘Nichols weaves wonderful stories and gives excellent period detail, which makes reading her books a rich experience’ Anna Jacobs

June, 1944. Since her father’s stroke, Jean has been trying to run her parents’ small farm in Norfolk almost single-handedly and is in desperate need of help. Karl, a German prisoner of war who was captured when the Allies invaded France, turns out to be just what she needs. He is polite, hard-working and homesick, but is he more than that?

Fraternisation between the prisoners and the local population is forbidden, but as the weeks and months pass, Jean and Karl become closer – much to the dismay of Jean’s family and Karl’s compatriots.

Can their love have a future when it seems every hand is against them?

MARY NICHOLS was born in Singapore and has spent most of her life in East Anglia. She has written short stories and articles for numerous magazines and newspapers, but has since turned to writing novels. She lives in Ely, Cambridgeshire. marynichols.co.uk
MARCH

MIDNIGHT BITES: TALES OF MORGANVILLE

RACHEL CAINE

A collection of short stories from the number one bestselling author of the Morganville Vampires series.

Bringing together everything Rachel Caine has written in short form about Morganville, carefully organised into a timeline so you can read from the earliest adventures (some of which belong to vampires) all the way through to post-Daylighters, the final novel in the series.

Midnight Bites includes more than 50,000 words of brand-new content, alongside stories collected from the author's website and anthologies. From tales featuring everyone's favourite bunny-slipper-wearing mad scientist to a mystery solved by police chief Hannah Moses, this diverse group of stories will shine a little more light in the murkietest corners of Morganville.

RACHEL CAINE is the author of over thirty novels, including the bestselling Morganville Vampires series. She lives in Texas with her husband, but frequently visits the UK for book tours.

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YA/Fantasy

HOUSE OF THIEVES

CHARLES BELFOURE

"An up and coming Ken Follett" Booklist

1886, New York. A respectable architect shouldn't have any connection to the notorious gang that rules the underbelly of the city. But when John Cross's son racks up an unfathomable gambling debt to Kent's Gents, Cross is forced to pay it back himself. He must use his inside knowledge of high society mansions and museums to craft a robbery even the smartest detectives won't solve. With a talent for sniffing out vulnerable and lucrative targets, Cross becomes invaluable to the gang.

But Cross's entire life has become a balancing act, and it will only take one mistake for it all to come crashing down.

CHARLES BELFOURE is an author and architect. His debut novel, The Paris Architect, is a New York Times bestseller. He lives in the USA.
charlesbelfoure.com

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Midnight Bites: tales of Morganville
Rachel Caine

Midnight Bites

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RACHEL CAINE is the author of over thirty novels, including the bestselling Morganville Vampires series. She lives in Texas with her husband, but frequently visits the UK for book tours.

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House of Thieves

Charles Belfoure

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But Cross’s entire life has become a balancing act, and it will only take one mistake for it all to come crashing down.

CHARLES BELFOURE is an author and architect. His debut novel, The Paris Architect, is a New York Times bestseller. He lives in the USA.
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"An up and coming Ken Follett" Booklist

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CHARLES BELFOURE is an author and architect. His debut novel, The Paris Architect, is a New York Times bestseller. He lives in the USA.
charlesbelfoure.com

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Fiction
'A compulsive series of rural adventures ... Well-paced mystery with plenty of quirks and plot twists' *Good Book Guide*

Thea Osborne's latest house-sitting assignment is a little different to the rest.

Along with her spaniel, Hepzie, Thea finds herself in the charming village of Chedworth, tasked with creating an inventory of Rita Wilshire's possessions, requested by her son, Richard, after moving her into a care home. All goes to plan until Richard is found dead in a barn. Was his death suicide? Or something more sinister?

**REVENGES IN THE COTSWOLDS**

**COTSWOLD MYSTERIES 13**

**REBECCA TOPE**

Thea Osborne, Cotswold house-sitter with an infamous reputation for getting mixed up in crime, is determined to avoid trouble this time. Her latest commission in the village of Daglingworth seems straightforward, with most of her time spent looking after an old corgi and a hibernating tortoise. Thea is ready for a relaxing two weeks, with phone calls to new boyfriend Drew Slocombe the highlight of her days. Until, that is, a dead body is discovered in a nearby quarry ... 

**REBECCA TOPE** is the author of three bestselling crime series, set in the stunning Cotswolds, Lake District and West Country. She currently lives on a smallholding in rural Herefordshire rearing sheep and pigs and producing her own meat and wool. 

rebeccatope.com  
@RebeccaTope

The skeleton of Edward Stevenson, an established artist, is found with a shotgun and a suicide note in the basement of a family home in Vermont. Stevenson had told his family he had a terminal illness and was going to Nepal to seek an alternative way of life. When it emerges that this was a lie, suspicions turn to the owner of the art gallery who represented him, Patrick Merriam. The police are called in and Sam finds her loyalties tested – this time between her friend, Patrick, and her boyfriend who is leading the investigation.

**A BED OF SCORPIONS**

**SAM CLAIR 2**

What's an editor to do with so many demands? Do you deal with the pile of manuscripts first? Or your assistant who steals the chocolate digestives? Or do you concentrate on your ex, whose business partner has just been found dead, slumped over his desk with a gun in his hand? Sam takes on the art world and Cid, armed with nothing more than her reliable weapons of cynicism and a stock of irrelevant information culled from novels.

**JUDITH FLANDERS** was born in London, but spent her childhood in Canada. She worked as an editor for various publishing houses before turning to writing acclaimed social history. Judith lives in Hampstead, North London. 

judithflanders.co.uk  
@JudithFlanders
MURDER AT THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM MYSTERIES 1

MAX HUNTER

'A polished and talented thriller writer' Shots

1950, Oxford. Robert Spens, gentleman Classics scholar and decorated World War Two soldier, prepares to interview Henrietta Cave as his assistant. Little do either of them know that within the hour they will be summoned to Oxford to help Spens' former supervisor, Professor Gilbert Lang, to decipher some fascinating writing on Ancient Greek clay tablets he has recently obtained but something eludes him and he calls on his former pupil Robert for assistance. Lang is also concerned that someone else might be interested in the tablets and fears he is being followed.

Tragedy ensues and Spens must use his university connections, his knowledge of the ancient world and his wartime experience to track down a ruthless killer.

MAX HUNTER is the pseudonym of Paul Johnston, an award-winning crime writer. He divides his time between Scotland and Greece. paul-johnston.co.uk

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MARCH

TRIUMPH
THE LAST ROMAN TRILOGY 3

JACK LUDLOW

'A rip-roaring page-turner with considerable depth. A vivid, authentic flavour of those turbulent times, laced as it is with carefully-worked-in historical detail that's informative without being intrusive' Historical Novels Review

Who can Flavius Belisarius call an enemy? The Goths he must fight to take Italy back for the Byzantine Empire? Or Empress Theodora, who fears his ambitions? There is his own wife, betraying him in more than one way and Justinian, the unreliable Emperor he helped to the throne.

Count Belisarius, the Empire's most successful military leader, must navigate a world infested with too many enemies, few friends and fight and win battles on the way.

JACK LUDLOW is the pen-name of David Donachie. He draws on his abiding interest in history in many of his novels. He lives in Deal, Kent.

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Fiction

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A FLIGHT OF GOLDEN WINGS

BERYL MATTHEWS

'reFor those who enjoy a heart-warming, brimming-with-happiness story, this rags-to-riches tale is perfect . . . Charming, captivating, fulfilling, and lively' Booklist

1944. Ruth Aspinall loves flying and soon becomes an accomplished pilot. When war breaks out and the Air Transport Auxiliary is formed, she is anxious to join them. Whilst working for the ATA, Ruth meets Jack Nelson, an experienced American pilot. With danger all around them, Jack won’t commit himself to a serious relationship. By D-Day, Jack has a Spitfire to deliver to France, but his plane never arrives – Ruth is heartbroken, but cannot accept that she will never see Jack again.

THE UNCERTAIN YEARS

BERYL MATTHEWS

1939. As war breaks out, four friends consider the changes that it will mean. Becky plans to join the ATS, her neighbours Bob and Jim the navy and army respectively. Only Becky’s brother Will is left out of the excitement; because of a slight physical disability, he is forced to stay behind. As the friends are separated, their youthful enthusiasm is tempered by the grim newspaper headlines and their own experiences, and they will feel both joy and pain before the war is over.

BERYL MATTHEWS was born in London and grew up during the Second World War. Following her retirement, she joined a Writer’s Circle to see if she could fulfil her dream of being a published author. Her first novel was published when she was seventy years old. Beryl lives near Petersfield, Hampshire.

THE MURDER OF MARY RUSSELL

MARY RUSSELL AND SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES 14

LAURIE R. KING

'Any time spent with the Russell–Holmes duo is a delight . . . The Mary Russell series is a mystery-fan favourite' Booklist

Laurie R. King’s Sherlock Holmes and Mary Russell novels – the New York Times bestselling series that Lee Child calls ‘the most sustained feat of imagination in mystery fiction today’ – will never be the same after this bombshell: The Murder of Mary Russell.

LAURIE R. KING has been writing crime fiction since 1987. She has won many awards for her work in fiction including the prestigious John Creasey Dagger, the Edgar, the Nero and Macavity Awards. She lives in Northern California.
THE DUNGEON HOUSE
THE LAKE DISTRICT
COLD CASE MYSTERIES 7
MARTIN EDWARDS

‘With evocative descriptions, expert plotting, an engaging protagonist and strongly delineated characters, this is old-fashioned, well-made crime fiction at its best, and the dénouement will have you choking on your Kendal mint cake’ Laura Wilson, The Guardian

Twenty years ago, Malcolm Whiteley discovers his attractive wife Lysette is having an affair. The Whiteleys are wealthy, and live with their sixteen-year-old daughter Amber in the magnificent Dungeon House, overlooking Cumbria’s remote western coast. When Lysette tells Malcolm their marriage is over, he snaps . . .

Back to the present day, and Hannah Scarlett’s cold case team are looking into the disappearances of two young girls. As Hannah’s team dig down into the past, doubts arise about what exactly happened at the Dungeon House twenty years ago.

MARTIN EDWARDS is the author of the acclaimed Harry Devlin series as well as the Lake District mysteries. He lives in Lymm, Cheshire.
doyouwriteunderyourownname.blogspot.com martinedwardsbooks.com @medwardsbooks

WALLACE AT BAY
WALLACE OF THE SECRET SERVICE 7
ALEXANDER WILSON

Following an affray on the outskirts of London, Sir Leonard Wallace, the famous Chief of the Secret Service, finds evidence of an anarchist organisation. Carter, Wallace’s astute colleague, joins the anarchists to discover where they will strike next. Success seems assured, but suddenly the tables are turned.

WALLACE INTERVENES
WALLACE OF THE SECRET SERVICE 8
ALEXANDER WILSON

Foster, a British agent sent to Germany to obtain vital information, falls passionately in love with the beautiful confidante of the infamous Marshal von Strom. The Marshal, insane with jealousy and fearing betrayal, seizes Foster and condemns Baroness von Reudath to death. Wallace, the famous Chief of Secret Service, makes plans to free them.

CHRONICLES OF THE SECRET SERVICE
WALLACE OF THE SECRET SERVICE 9
ALEXANDER WILSON

These further enthralling exploits of Sir Leonard Wallace, the famous Chief of Secret Service and his no less famous lieutenants, Shannon and Cousins – cool, resolute, daring men, ready in an instant for the most perilous enterprise or desperate affray – are perfect companion stories to the full length novels in the Wallace of the Secret Service series.

ALEXANDER WILSON was a writer, spy and Secret Service officer. He served in both the First and Second World Wars and later enjoyed great success for his writing. He died in 1963.
CHEATING THE HANGMAN
TOBIAS CAMPION 3
JUDITH CUTLER

‘Cutler is a firm favourite of mine – her command of the period is exemplary and her characters are a joy to discover’ Books Monthly

A fork of lightening and a crash of thunder herald the completion of a heinous crime. In woodland belonging to the eccentric Lord Wychbold, a body has been crucified on a tree. On Easter Day, Reverend Tobias Campion discovers the corpse, already beginning to putrefy. A crown of thorns frames his face, bludgeoned beyond recognition, and a loincloth preserved what was left of his modesty. The victim will not rise again; though well-concealed secrets of the village will have to, if the perpetrators are to be found. After a post-mortem examination fails to identify the victim, Dr Hansard and Tobias pledge to uncover the truth.

JUDITH CUTLER began writing at an early age and worked as a teacher for many years. She is the author of seven series of crime fiction including the Tobias Campion historical series. She lives with her husband, bestselling author Edward Marston, outside Cirencester, Gloucestershire.
judithcutler.com

THE HAWKSHEAD HOSTAGE
LAKE DISTRICT MYSTERY 5
REBECCA TOPE

“This is my favourite type of mystery – a really good “whodunnit” . . . Highly recommended” Eurocrime

The latest adventure featuring Persimmon ‘Simmy’ Brown, set in the gorgeous surroundings of the Lake District.

THE TROUTBECK TESTIMONY
LAKE DISTRICT MYSTERY 4
REBECCA TOPE

A huge funeral for Windermere’s most popular resident, Barbara Dodge, is taking place and florist Persimmon ‘Simmy’ Brown and her new assistant, Bonnie Lawson, are busy compiling wreaths in preparation.

There’s word of a series of sinister dognappings occurring in nearby Troutbeck and whilst taking a walk up Wansfell Pike, Simmy and her father, Russell, stumble upon a dead dog. When a body is found on a farmyard, Simmy reluctantly finds herself caught up in a murder investigation. And when Russell receives an anonymous death threat, Simmy has no choice but to do all she can to find the killer . . .

REBECCA TOPE is the author of three bestselling crime series, set in the stunning Cotswolds, Lake District and West Country. She currently lives on a smallholding in rural Herefordshire rearing sheep and pigs and producing her own meat and wool.
rebeccatope.com
@RebeccaTope
WATERLOO
THE BRAVEST MAN

ANDREW SWANSTON

‘A writer who manages to describe a person, an area and an event to such a degree that you are there yourself, you become involved with what is occurring’ Amazon.co.uk

June, 1815. The Coldstream Guards and the Third Guards are waiting impatiently for orders to move into battle against Napoleon and his French army. Every day seems endless as the troops wait for Wellington’s orders. When the group eventually encounters the French in battle, a special command comes from Wellington himself to Colonel James Macdonell of the Coldstream Guards: hold the château at Hougoumont and do not let the French pass.

What happens next is history.

ANDREW SWANSTON read a little law and a lot of sport at Cambridge University, and held various positions in the book trade, before turning to writing. He is the author of the acclaimed historical crime series featuring Thomas Hill. He lives in Woking, Surrey.

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Fiction

FOR KINGDOM AND COUNTRY
KINGDOM LOCK 2

I. D. ROBERTS

‘Well-researched, fast-paced and gutsy . . . reminiscent of Cornwell’s early Sharpe novels’ Ben Kane

May, 1915. Kingdom Lock and his faithful sidekick, Siddhartha Singh, are gunned down on the streets of Basra and suspicion falls on German spy, Wilhelm Wassmuss. Major Ross believes Wassmuss is not only still alive but that he is behind the assassination of a senior Turkish officer, the death of whom has been blamed on Lock . . .

I. D. ROBERTS was born in Australia and moved to England as a child. He is the film writer for a national listings magazine and currently lives in rural Somerset.

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HAWKWOOD

JACK LUDLOW

‘High-speed epic from an ace storyteller’ Dartford Messenger

The Hundred Years War is over and newly-knighted Sir John Hawkwood is headed for France to make his fortune as a freebooter. Violence and extortion are rife, and the freebooters will stop at nothing to capture the Papal City of Avignon. This is only the beginning: Italy beckons, and with it yet more battles against rival mercenaries, powerful cities and the Papal State.

JACK LUDLOW is the pseudonym of David Donachie, who was born in Edinburgh in 1944. The author of a number of bestselling books, he now lives in Deal, Kent.
Two children dash through the gravestones of a churchyard playing hide-and-seek; the young girl spots a freshly dug grave and decides it’s an ideal hiding place. She jumps in only to find it already occupied; her scream of terror is heard half a mile away. It is the body of Vivian Quayle, director of the Midland Railway.

Local police are baffled by the mysterious death and call upon Scotland Yard for help – Inspector Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming are assigned to the case. As the duo arrive in Derbyshire and piece together the victim’s final movements, a rather unpleasant picture of Quayle emerges. A rift with a colleague and a vacancy for the chairmanship of Midland Railway are cause for suspicion.

As the suspects and motives multiply, this is a case only the Railway Detective can solve.

EDWARD MARSTON was born in Wales. A full-time writer for over forty years, he has worked in radio, film, television and the theatre. He lives with his wife, crime writer Judith Cutler, outside Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

edwardmarston.com

JUNE

DEATH WEARS A MASK

AMORY AMES MYSTERY 2

ASHLEY WEAVER

‘It’s a real polished gem of a period piece and I think the chemistry between the main married couple is deliciously entertaining and her plotting skills are second to none, the puzzle element gloriously mystifying and worthy of a Christie successor’ Ewan Wilson, Waterstones Glasgow

1930s London. Amory Ames is looking forward to a tranquil period of reconnecting with reformed playboy husband Milo and hopes a quiet stay at their London flat will help mend their tricky relationship. However, she soon finds herself drawn into another investigation when Serena Barrington asks her to look into the disappearance of valuable jewellery snatched at a dinner party.

Unable to say no to an old family friend, Amory agrees to help lay a trap to catch the culprit at a lavish masked ball hosted by the notorious Viscount Dunmore. But when one of the illustrious party guests is murdered, Amory is pulled back into the world of detection, enlisted by old ally Detective Inspector Jones. Once again, Amory and Milo must work together to solve a mystery where nothing is as it seems . . .

ASHLEY WEAVER is a librarian and the author of a previous novel featuring Amory Ames, Murder at the Brightwell, which was nominated for an Edgar Award. Ashley lives in the USA.

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THE DAY WILL COME

BERYL MATTHEWS

‘For those who enjoy a heart-warming, brimming-with-happiness story, this rags-to-riches tale is perfect . . . Charming, captivating, fulfilling, and lively’ Booklist

1940, London. The Second World War is raging across Europe and twenty-three-year-old Grace Lincoln is devastated by the loss of her husband, Brian, at Dunkirk. Her secretary job keeps her mind from dwelling on her sorrow but when her boss enlists in the air force Grace is left without work. Alongside her best friend, Helen, the two young women join the War Office.

As Grace throws herself into the war effort, she must find the courage and strength to start her life over and find love again.

BERYL MATTHEWS was born in London and grew up during the Second World War. Following her retirement, she joined a Writer’s Circle to see if she could fulfil her dream of being a published author. Her first novel was published when she was seventy years old. Beryl lives near Petersfield, Hampshire.

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