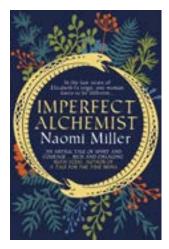


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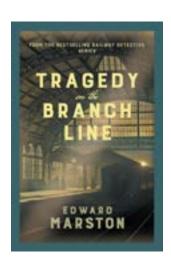
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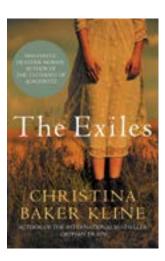
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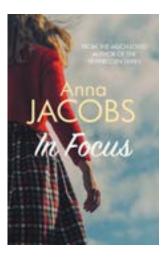
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Romance



IN FOCUS

ANNA JACOBS

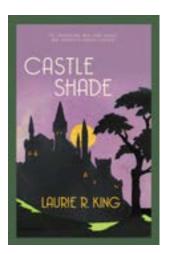
'Great stuff!' Daily Mail

When a new feature on Pete Newbury's popular television programme shows his adult image digitally transformed to that of a young child, Beth is shocked to realise that he's her brother, who disappeared without a trace thirty-eight years ago. He vanished at the age of three and her family has grieved for him ever since, believing him to be dead. But the path to reunion and happiness is fraught with complications and bridges take time to build. After so many years of heartache, can Beth manage to keep hold of everything she holds dear?

ANNA JACOBS is the author of over ninety novels and is addicted to storytelling. She grew up in Lancashire, emigrated to Australia in the 1970s and writes stories set in both countries.

annajacobs.com

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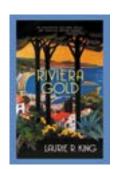
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Crime Fiction



CASTLE SHADE

MARY RUSSELL & SHERLOCK HOLMES 17

LAURIE R. KING

'A master storyteller' Michael Connolly

Queen Marie of Roumania, granddaughter to both Victoria, Empress of the British Empire, and Alexander II, Tsar of Russia, is in need of Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes's services. The queen, a famous beauty who has single-handedly transformed Roumania from a backwater into a force to be reckoned with, invites the pair to Bran castle. The ancient fortress sits on the border with the newly-regained territory of Transylvania, and was a gift to Queen Marie from her people.

The threat the queen fears is somewhat dubious: shadowy figures, vague whispers, dangers that may only be accidents. But a young girl is involved. So, putting aside their doubts, Russell and Holmes set out to investigate the mystery in a land of long memory and hidden corners — a land that had known Vlad the Impaler...

A land from whose churchyards the shades creep.

LAURIE R. KING has won many awards for her work including the prestigious John Creasey Dagger, the Edgar, the Nero and Macavity Awards. She lives in North California.

laurierking.com
@LaurieRKing and @mary russell



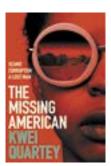
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Crime Fiction



SLEEP WELL MY LADY

GHANA MYSTERIES 2

KWEI QUARTEY

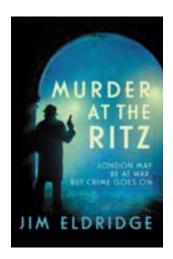
'An engrossing journey'
Financial Times

Almost a year ago Lady Araba, the head of a self-made fashion empire, was found murdered at her home in Trasacco Valley, the Beverly Hills of Accra. Her driver was arrested and continues to be held in custody, but the woman's favourite aunt, Dele, has always thought Araba's boyfriend was the real killer.

Now Dele approaches Emma Djan, a young PI with a fast-growing reputation for getting results, to help find the truth. From alleged suppressed evidence by the Ghana Police to unpleasant accusations involving Araba's parents, Djan's investigation will navigate a long list of suspects and she will discover that not only are they willing to lie for each other, but that one is still willing to kill.

KWEI QUARTEY was born in Ghana but moved to the USA to complete his medical training. He practised as a physician for more than twenty-five years while simultaneously writing, before deciding to become a full-time novelist. His previous work has been published to great critical acclaim and has appeared on the Los Angeles Times bestseller list.

kweiquartey.com @Kwei_Quartey **JULY JULY**



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Crime Fiction

MURDER AT THE RITZ

HOTEL MYSTERIES 1

JIM ELDRIDGE

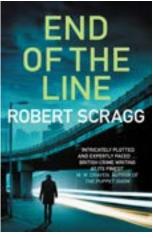
'Entertaining and well-plotted' **Historical Novel Society**

August 1940. On the streets of London, locals watch with growing concern as German fighter planes plaque the city's skyline. But inside the famous Ritz Hotel, the cream of society continues to enjoy all the glamour and comfort that money can buy - until an anonymous man is found dead.

Detective Chief Inspector Coburg is called in to investigate, ably assisted by his trusty colleague, Sergeant Lampson. But as the crime was committed in a suite used by an exiled king, there are those who fear the diplomatic repercussions. With mounting pressure from various intelligence agencies and gang warfare brewing either side of the Thames, Coburg and Lampson must untangle a web of deception if they are to solve the case.

JIM ELDRIDGE was born in central London towards the end of World War II, and survived attacks by V2 rockets on the area where he lived. In 1971 he sold his first sitcom, starring Arthur Lowe, to the BBC and had his first book commissioned. Since then he has had more than one hundred books published. with sales of over three million copies. He lives in Kent with his wife.

jimeldridge.com



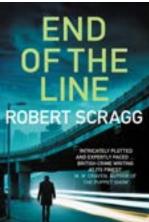
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Crime Fiction



END OF THE LINE

PORTER & STYLES 4

ROBERT SCRAGG

'A compelling plot'

The Sun

Detective Jake Porter's world was shattered when his wife was killed by a hit-and-run driver. Since then, he has been building a new life, but this is rocked when evidence comes to light that might finally lead him to her killer.

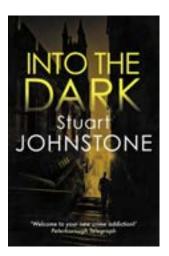
At the same time, he and his partner DS Nick Styles have a volatile case to juggle. Ross Henderson was an influential vlogger rallying against the growing tide of the far-right. As his audience tuned in to his latest live broadcast, they watched in horror as he was brutally murdered. While struggling to prevent full-blown riots in the wake of the atrocity and following the trail to his wife's killer, Porter will have to act like a criminal in order to take down the person responsible.

ROBERT SCRAGG had a random mix of jobs before taking the dive into crime writing; he has been a bookseller, pizza deliverer, Karate instructor and football coach. He lives in Tyne & Wear and is a founding member of the the Northern Crime Syndicate crime writers group.

robertscragg.com @robert_scragg



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Crime Fiction



INTO THE DARK

SERGEANT DON COLYEAR 2

STUART JOHNSTONE

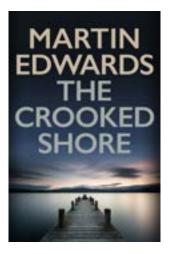
'Atmospheric with a dash of the chilling' The Sun

The brutal murder of ten-year-old Callum Bradley sent shockwaves across Scotland but, as the weeks have stretched on with no solid leads, the investigation has been scaled back. Sergeant Don Colyear is tasked with tying up a loose end: a 999 call which may have hinted at the boy's mutilation and murder. However, the call was made three full weeks before the crime took place.

The caller turns out to be a resident at an Edinburgh care home, drifting in and out of lucidity due to dementia. Enough to write off the potential lead as a dead end. But when a fresh murder disturbs the city, the clock is ticking and Don is drawn far away from his usual beat onto a dark path to catch a violent killer.

STUART JOHNSTONE is a former police officer who, since turning his hand to writing, has been selected as an emerging writer by the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust and published in an anthology curated by Stephen King. Johnstone lives in Edinburgh.

storystuart.com @story_stuart



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Crime Fiction

THE CROOKED SHORE

LAKE DISTRICT COLD-CASE MYSTERY 8

MARTIN EDWARDS

'Maintains a cracking pace'
Mail on Sunday

Hannah Scarlett is investigating the disappearance of a young woman from Bowness more than twenty years ago. Scarlett's former boss, Ben Kind, thought he knew what happened to Ramona Smith and the prime suspect was charged, but found not guilty. Now the case comes back into the public eye as the result of a shocking tragedy on the Crooked Shore, on the south coast of the county.

Tensions mount in the summer heat as a ruthless killer who has already got away with one murder plans further appalling crimes. Scarlett finds herself racing against the clock as she strives to solve the case.

MARTIN EDWARDS was born in Cheshire and studied law at Oxford University. He is a member of the Murder Squad, a collective of crime writers, and former Chair of the Crime Writers' Association. Edwards is Archivist of the CWA and the Detection Club and, in 2020, was awarded the CWA Diamond Dagger Award.

martinedwardsbooks.com @medwardsbooks **JULY JULY**



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Crime Fiction



ECHOES IN THE COTSWOLDS

COTSWOLDS MYSTERIES 19

REBECCA TOPE

'An excellent thriller'
Good Book Guide

As spring returns to the Cotswolds, so too does Thea Slocombe to house-sitting. She has agreed to look after Lucy Sinclair's new home in Northleach while Lucy is away. Thea soon meets several of the locals and the neighbours who seem to irritate Lucy so much, and comes to the conclusion that Lucy is far from popular herself.

When a man's body is found in Northleach, Thea needs all her wits about her. The man's death is not as straightforward as it seems, and at the heart of the mystery are secrets betrayed and revenge exacted. Thea is once again caught up in underhand dealings played out in the idyllic countryside.

REBECCA TOPE is the author of three bestselling crime series, set in the Cotswolds, Lake District and West Country. She lives on a smallholding in rural Herefordshire, where she enjoys the silence and plants a lot of trees.

rebeccatope.com @RebeccaTope



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Crime Fiction



SHADOW OVER SOUTHWOLD

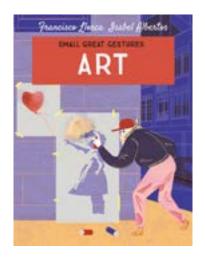
SUZETTE A. HILL

'Wittily written, tightly plotted and fun to read' Simon Brett

London florist Felix Smythe and friend Professor Cedric Dillworthy are Suffolk-bound once more. But hopes of a trouble-free visit are sorely dashed by the gruesome murder of a highly respectable resident – an event which seems to be sinisterly linked with the bizarre killing in Cambridge of a cleric with murky proclivities. The task of sifting truth from falsehood is complicated by a bevy of local eccentrics and the shadow over Southwold looms far, menacing visitor and resident alike and leads to alarming results.

SUZETTE A. HILL was born in East Sussex. She worked as a teacher before retiring and now lives in Ledbury, Herefordshire. At the age of sixty-four and on a whim, she took up a pen and began writing, and has since published over ten novels.

suzetteahill.co.uk



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Children's Reference

ART

SMALL GREAT GESTURES

FRANCISCO LLORCA; ILLUSTRATOR – ISABEL ALBERTOS

Following the success of the internationally bestselling *Little People Big Dreams* series, the new *Small Great Gestures* series looks at people throughout history who made their mark in one key area of life. These delightfully illustrated and beautifully produced books are fun and informative, and give children the perfect introduction to Art and Science.

Art examines the lives and work of eleven artists and what their contribution to our cultural life has been. From Giotto in fourteenth-century Florence to Banksy in the present day, the book paints a vivid picture of key and diverse creative figures. While drawing on household names including Pablo Picasso and Frida Kahlo, it also features previously overlooked figures such as Guerrilla Girls and Clara Peeters.





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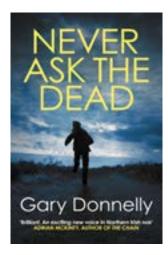
SMALL GREAT GESTURES

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Science looks at the inspiring lives and outstanding achievements of twelve scientists from the seventeenth century to the present day. Peppered with fascinating stories about key discoveries by Alexander Fleming (penicillin) and Rosalind Franklin (DNA), and groundbreaking figures like Ada Lovelace and Stephen Hawking, this is a wonderful way to learn about scientific developments that changed the world.

FRANCISCO LLORCA is an historian, bookseller and storyteller. He lives in Barcelona where he continues to try and infect everybody around him with his enthusiasm for books.





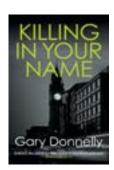
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Crime Fiction



NEVER ASK THE DEAD

THE BELFAST FILES 3

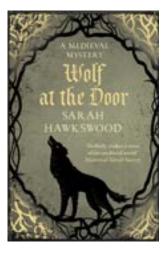
GARY DONNELLY

'Gripping and fast-paced' Irish News

DI Owen Sheen and DC Aoife McCusker are working for the Serious Historic Offences Team in Belfast, although the hands-on approach of the chief constable and the political agendas at play are a struggle to manage. A cryptic message from a retired, and now missing, cop begins to prey on Sheen's mind. Tucker Rodgers claims his friend has been killed and now someone is coming for him. Sheen and McCusker's search for Tucker and the truth places them in the path of the most notorious IRA double agent of the Troubles, as well as someone else with an old score to settle.

GARY DONNELLY is a writer and teacher who was born and raised in west Belfast. He read History at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge and has lived and worked in London since the late 1990s.

donnellywriter.com @DonnellyWriter



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WOLF AT THE DOOR

BRADECOTE AND CATCHPOLL 9

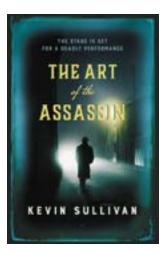
SARAH HAWKSWOOD

'Hawkswood clearly knows her stuff, both as a historian and a crafter of mysteries' Historical Novel Society

1144. The body of Durand Wuduweard, the unpopular keeper of the King's Forest of Feckenham, is discovered beside his hearth, his corpse savaged by something with sharp teeth. Hushed whispers of a wolf spread swiftly and Sheriff William de Beauchamp's men, Bradecote and Catchpoll, have to find out who killed Durand and why, amidst superstitious villagers, raids upon manors and further grim deaths. Who commands the wolf, and where will its fangs strike next?

SARAH HAWKSWOOD describes herself as a wordsmith who is only really happy when writing. She read Modern History at Oxford and writes the Bradecote and Catchpoll medieval mysteries set in Worcestershire, as well as Regency Romances.

bradecoteandcatchpoll.com @bradecote



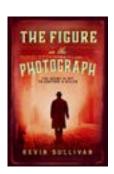
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THE ART OF THE ASSASSIN

GLASGOW MYSTERIES 2

KEVIN SULLIVAN

'Clever and original'

Crimesquad

1899, Glasgow. A man is stabbed to death in a tenement courtyard, and Juan Camarón, photographer-cum-sleuth, is enlisted to assist the police investigation. Yet Juan has problems of his own. His late father's legacy, a monumental photographic record of the architecture of colonial Cuba, is threatened by a charge of plagiarism from a mysterious señora. Meanwhile, Juan's hoped-for happiness with his fiancée, Jane, might be over before it's begun.

When a visiting professor is murdered and Jane is witnessed fleeing the scene, Juan is torn between finding the killer and finding Jane. But could they be one and the same?

KEVIN SULLIVAN was born in Glasgow. His career in journalism has placed him on the frontline of defining historical moments, from documenting events at Tiananmen Square to driving over a landmine while reporting in Sarajevo. Sullivan currently lives in Bosnia.

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THE AFFAIR OF THE BLOODSTAINED EGG COSY

JAMES ANDERSON

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The theft of the diamond necklace and the antique pistols might all be explained, but the body in the lake – that really is a puzzle. At a gathering that includes English aristocracy, foreign agents in disguise, a ravishing baroness, a daring jewel thief, a Texan millionaire and, of course, the imperturbable butler, Merryweather, it will take Inspector Wilkins some intricate sleuthing to uncover who killed whom and why.

THE AFFAIR OF THE MUTILATED MINK

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The Earl of Burford can't believe his luck; his favourite film star and a hot-shot producer want to film their next feature at Alderley, the family's country estate. Somewhat less enthusiastic are the Countess and poor Merryweather, the family's butler, who suddenly find themselves hosting the incoming Hollywood crowd. And that's before there's a murder in the dead of night...

THE AFFAIR OF THE THIRTY-NINE CUFFLINKS

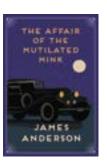
JAMES ANDERSON

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Understandably, Lord Burford has some misgivings about hosting another house party at Alderley. But with family members travelling down for the funeral of an elderly relative, the Earl really has no choice but to offer accommodation. It doesn't take long for things to start to go wrong and a body is found...

JAMES ANDERSON was born in Swindon but lived in Wales most of his life. He worked as a salesman, copywriter and freelance journalist before writing his first novel. He went on to have fourteen novels and one play published before his death in 2007.









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Fiction



THE FIRE PORTRAIT

BARBARA MUTCH

'An author with great skill in crafting a gripping and soul-searching story'

Leah Fleming, author of The Last Pearl

When Englishwoman Frances McDonald sets up home in a remote hamlet in South Africa in the 1930s, she is regarded with suspicion by the community. Confined by a marriage of convenience, she seeks an outlet by learning the local language, teaching art, and exhibiting her paintings of the stunning veld landscape. Soon the spectre of war threatens to divide not only the country but the town itself and scupper Frances' hard-won acceptance.

While her husband leaves to fight for the Allies, Frances chances to meet a former love. The bright joy of that unexpected reunion is clouded by a day that will change her life. Out of the smoke and ash of a shocking fire, she is propelled on a journey that will take her to the bright lights of London and beyond.

BARBARA MUTCH was born and brought up in South Africa. Before embarking on a writing career, she launched and managed a number of businesses both in South Africa and the UK. For most of the year the family lives in Surrey but spends time whenever possible at their home in Cape Town.

barbaramutch.com



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History/Biography

THE IMPROBABLE ADVENTURES OF MISS EMILY SOLDENE ACTRESS, WRITER AND REBEL VICTORIAN

HELEN BATTEN

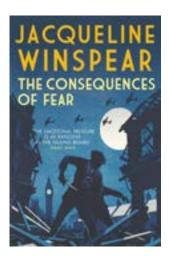
Emily Soldene's life spanned the entire Victorian era. As both leading lady and a formidable impresario with her own opera company, she was a darling of London's music halls and theatreland, later reinventing herself as a journalist and writer.

From humble working-class beginnings a star was born. Emily's fiery ambition would see her counting the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and Charles Dickens as friends, whilst also mingling with the Rothschilds and Oscar Wilde. She even alleged that she had a close encounter with Jack the Ripper.

Charting her international triumphs and calamitous disasters, taking Broadway by storm and touring the Australian outback, Batten vividly recreates the era and a riotous life that has faded from the limelight. Putting Emily Soldene firmly back at centre stage, this is the portrait of an irrepressible character who trod the boards, travelled the globe and tore up the rule book, often scandalising London in the process.

HELEN BATTEN is a best-selling writer who lives in London and works as a psychotherapist. After reading history at Cambridge, Helen studied journalism and worked in television, producing and directing documentaries for the BBC. Helen has had three non-fiction books published.

SEPTEMBER SEPTEMBER



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Crime Fiction



THE CONSEQUENCES OF **FEAR**

MAISIE DOBBS 16

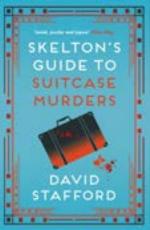
JACQUELINE WINSPEAR

'An outstanding historical series' **New York Times**

London 1941. Freddie Hackett, a message runner, witnesses an argument that ends in murder. He leaves when the coast is clear, but when Freddie arrives at his next delivery address he's shocked to come face-toface with the killer. Dismissed by the police, Freddie turns to private investigator Maisie Dobbs. Although Maisie believes the boy, she must exercise caution, given her work with a secret government department. When she spots the killer in a place she least expects, she realises she has been pulled into the orbit of a man who has his own reasons to kill reasons that go back to the last war.

JACQUELINE WINSPEAR is the author of the New York Times bestselling Maisie Dobbs novels. Her standalone novel, The Care and Management of Lies, was also a New York Times bestseller and a finalist for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. Originally from the United Kingdom, Winspear now lives in the **United States.**

jacquelinewinspear.com @maisie_dobbs



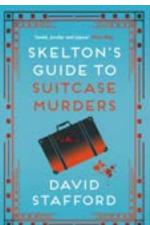
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SKELTON'S GUIDE TO SUITCASE MURDERS

SKELTON'S CASEBOOK 2

DAVID STAFFORD

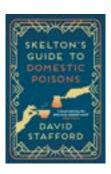
'Infectiously jovial' Shots Mag

England 1929. A woman's dismembered corpse is discovered in a suitcase and police quickly identify her husband, Doctor Ibrahim Aziz, as their chief suspect. Incriminating evidence is discovered at his home, and his wife was rumoured to be having an affair, giving him clear motive.

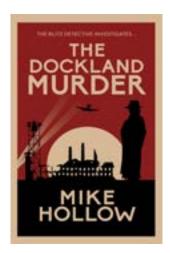
With his reputation for winning hopeless cases, barrister Arthur Skelton is asked to represent the accused. Though Aziz's guilt does not seem to be in doubt, Skelton begins to suspect there may be more to the victim's death. But can he uncover the truth before an innocent man is condemned to the gallows?

DAVID STAFFORD began his career in theatre. He has written countless dramas, comedies and documentaries including television films with Alexei Sayle, Dread Poets Society with Benjamin Zephaniah, and, with his wife, Caroline, a string of radio plays and comedies, as well as five biographies of musicians and showbusiness personalities.

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Crime Fiction



THE DOCKLAND MURDER

BLITZ DETECTIVE 5

MIKE HOLLOW

'I was enthralled – Mike Hollow and DI Jago have a new fan'

Peter Lovesey

November 1940. Darkness descends and another anxious night begins for those tasked with guarding the industrial heartland of London from enemy attack. As a policeman patrols the Royal Albert Dock, something catches his eye – a man sprawled across a barge with a dagger lodged in his back. DI John Jago of West Ham CID finds the victim was a dock worker by day and a Home Guard volunteer by night. But as the investigation unfolds, Jago uncovers a widening circle of secrets ranging across family tensions, the last war and a far-flung corner of the British Empire.

MIKE HOLLOW was born in West Ham, on the eastern edge of London, and grew up in Essex. He studied Russian and French at the University of Cambridge and then worked for the BBC and later Tearfund. In 2002 he went freelance as a copywriter, journalist, editor and translator, but now gives all his time to writing the Blitz Detective books.

blitzdetective.com @MikeHollowBlitz



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Romance

CHESTNUT LANE

ANNA JACOBS

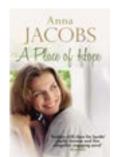
'A pacy page-turner with a ripping plot and characters you care about'

Daily Mail

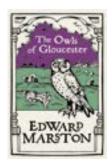
When novelist Sophie Carr's path crosses that of ageing pop star Jez Winter, she is aware that he has had a tough time with accident and injury. Life has not been easy for Sophie either, losing her husband just as she was taking off as a novelist and having difficulties with her son William and her daughter Andi, who has lost her way in life since her father's death. And Sophie also has a secret to hide. One that makes her very wary of getting involved with Jez.







SEPTEMBER OCTOBER



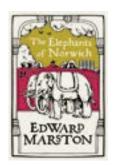
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THE OWLS OF GLOUCESTER

DOMESDAY 10

EDWARD MARSTON

The ordered calm of Gloucester Abbey is shattered by the murder of one of the monks. The Abbey becomes paralyzed with fear and the Abbot is ill-equipped to deal with such a heinous crime, especially as suspicion inevitably falls on the brothers themselves

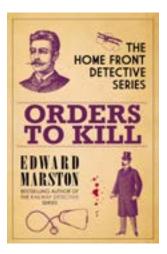
Ralph Delchard, a former soldier in the era-defining Battle of Hastings, and Gervase Bret, an accomplished lawyer, are investigating a local land dispute when news of the vicious murder reaches them. Before long, Delchard and Bret realise that the killing is just a symptom of a more sinister presence that threatens the whole community and must be stopped at any cost.

THE ELEPHANTS OF NORWICH

DOMESDAY 11

EDWARD MARSTON

It is the juiciest piece of gossip the citizens of Norwich have heard for a long time; the ruthless Richard de Fontenel is himself the victim of robbery. In addition to two priceless golden elephants that he was using to lure the beautiful Adelaide into marriage, his steward Hermer is also missing. Onto the scene arrive soldier Ralph Delchard and lawyer Gervase Bret, who are meant to adjudicate on a land dispute, but they also become involved in the hunt for the thief. Is Hermer the steward really missing or has something altogether more sinister happened?



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ORDERS TO KILL

HOME FRONT DETECTIVE 9

EDWARD MARSTON

'Marston has tapped into a rich vein of inspiration. This series promises a long run' Daily Mail

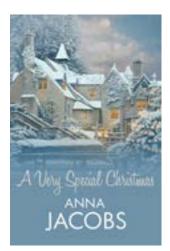
December, 1917. Ada Hobbs has cleaned for Dr Tindall for many years and begins this frosty morning like any other day. But as she enters his house, she finds she is not alone. The blood-covered George Tindall is sprawled across the floor. Detective Inspector Harvey Marmion and Sergeant Joe Keedy arrive to a horrific scene. Someone enjoyed killing him, without a doubt.

Their investigation takes them out of London, and on the trail of three different women as it emerges that Dr Tindall was not the respectable local GP after all, but a bigamist whose third wife had some very interesting connections in the crime fraternity.

EDWARD MARSTON has written well over a hundred books. He is best known for his hugely successful Railway Detective series and he also writes the Bow Street Rivals series featuring twin detectives set during the Regency period, as well as the Home Front Detective series.

edwardmarston.com

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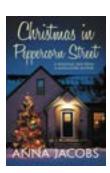
Romance

A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS

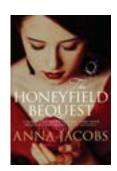
ANNA JACOBS

'Vivid, memorable characters' Booklist

Abigail Beadle has given two decades of her life to caring for her late father and looking after the centuries-old family home, Ashgrove House. She has never married because Lucas Chadwick, the man she loved when she was young, left the village suddenly with his family. When her loathed stepmother dies, Abigail is glad to be released from the woman's nagging and bullying, but the will she left casts doubt on Abigail's inheritance. It is not until Lucas returns to the village and helps to get to the bottom of the complicated situation, that Abigail begins to believe her life might be able to start at last.









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ANNA JACOBS

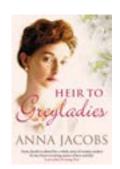
'A story you will really want to get to grips with' Books Monthly

Childless Maeve Corrigan, though rich and successful, is dying of cancer. She wants to leave her business empire to one of the offspring of her two estranged brothers, Des and Leo. But which young relative should she choose? Des has four children and he is overstretched financially. Leo is the unambitious owner of a hardware store in a remote Australian town and has two children.

As the younger generation begin to gather around Maeve, old secrets are revealed, new allegiances made, and there are surprises for every member of the family. It soon becomes clear that the Corrigan legacy isn't what it first appears.







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MURDER AT THE SAVOY

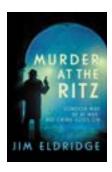
HOTEL MYSTERIES 2

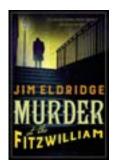
JIM ELDRIDGE

'Eldridge depicts his lead characters with complexity and compassion'

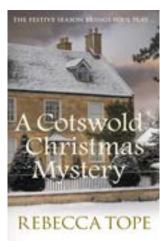
Kirkus

September 1940. The height of the Blitz. When The Savoy advertises its series of underground shelters, a crowd of people from East London arrive at the hotel and demand entry. There they find a shelter worthy of the hotel's prestigious clientele. The next morning, after the air raid and when the East End protestors have left, it is discovered that one of the hotel's guests is dead, stabbed through the heart. Detective Chief Inspector Coburg and Sergeant Lampson are called in, and the finger of suspicion falls firmly upon the East Londoners, but not everything is as it seems in these sumptuous surroundings.









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COTSWOLDS MYSTERIES 18

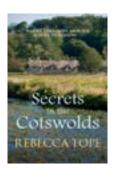
REBECCA TOPE

'The classic English village mystery is alive and well'

Sherlock Magazine

Christmas is coming to the picturesque Cotswold countryside, and the days are merry and bright for Thea Slocombe and the rest of her family. But things soon take a turn for the worse. A local family, the Frowses, find themselves increasingly harassed by an aggressive landlord, and when Beverley Frowse suddenly goes missing without a trace, Thea cannot help but investigate.

Christmas Day arrives with all the traditional trimmings and general goodwill, despite Thea's barely suppressed hankering to be involved in events at the Frowses' house, where a dead man has just been discovered nearby.







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FAREWELL MY HERRING

HERRING MYSTERIES 9

L. C. TYLER

'A joy to read'

The Times

Ethelred Tressider and his agent Elsie Thirkettle have been invited to lecture on a creative writing course at Fell Hall in the heart of ragged countryside that even sheep are keen to shun. Heavy snow falls overnight, trapping the early arrivals inside, and tensions are quick to emerge between the assembled group. When one of their number goes missing, Ethelred leads a search party and makes a gruesome discovery. With no phone signal and no hope of summoning the police before the thaw, can Ethelred and Elsie identify the killer before one of them is next?

L. C. TYLER's day jobs have included being a systems analyst, a cultural attaché and working for Bomb Disposal. He has won awards for his writing, including the Last Laugh Award for the best comic crime novel of the year and is a former chair of the Crime Writers' Association. He lives in London and Sussex.

lctyler.com @lenctyler



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THE PIMLICO MURDER

BLITZ DETECTIVE 6

MIKE HOLLOW

'Wonderfully evokes the events and atmosphere of wartime London'

Peter Stansky,

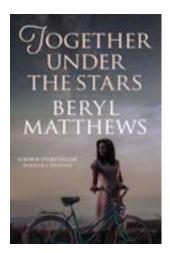
Armistice Day 1940. The Blitz Detective John Jago finds himself despatched to Pimlico to investigate a suspicious death. A young man, Terry Watson, has been found in an Anderson shelter, battered about the head and with two white poppies in his pocket. As the investigation delves into Watson's background, Jago and his assistant DC Craddock find themselves knee-deep in Pimlico's shady underworld, and connections with Mosley's BUF party. It will take all their skills to uncover the truth behind the young pacifist's brutal death.







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Romance



TOGETHER UNDER THE STARS

BERYL MATTHEWS

'Storytelling skills and appeal of the late Catherine Cookson'

The Bookseller

October 1943. While working at a RAF base in Lincolnshire, Nancy Dalton has been holding a vigil for the Lancaster bomber pilots, whose missions seem endless and whose chances of survival are slim. But her watchfulness has not prevented her own pilot brother from failing to return safely. In the midst of mourning him, Nancy meets charismatic Canadian Steve Allard.

The months ahead will be long and hard, and although both Steve and Nancy never intend to complicate wartime life with romance, their attraction becomes impossible to ignore. But can lasting love be found in a time of such loss and devastation?

BERYL MATTHEWS was born in London but now lives in a small village in Hampshire. As a young girl her ambition was to become a professional singer, but the need to earn a wage drove her into an office, where she worked her way up from tea girl to credit controller. After retiring she joined a Writers' Circle in hopes of fulfilling her dream of becoming a published author. With her first book published at the age of seventy-one, she has since written over twenty novels.



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Romance

KINGSCASTLE

SOPHIA HOLLOWAY

An enchanting romance that fans of Bridgerton will take to their hearts

Captain William Hawksmoor of the Royal Navy never expected to inherit a marquessate, and is none too pleased when he does so. He is especially displeased when he finds that in order to retain it, he is required to marry within a year, lest he be forever dealing with trustees.

As the new Marquis of Athelney, he takes command of Kingscastle, the family seat, and discovers much to be done to set it in order. There is also his aunt, Lady Willoughby Hawksmoor, determined that her timid daughter should be the next marchioness. When she discovers he is far more interested in Eleanor Burgess, her underpaid and much put-upon companion, Lady Willoughby shows she will stop at nothing to keep them apart.

SOPHIA HOLLOWAY describes herself as a wordsmith who is only really happy when writing. She read Modern History at Oxford and also writes the Bradecote and Catchpoll medieval mysteries as Sarah Hawkswood.

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OLD SINS

DCI STRANG 4

ALINE TEMPLETON

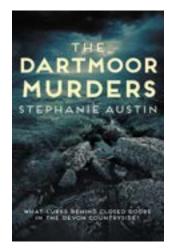
'The crime czar of the Scottish small town' Val McDermid

On a clear, moonlit night, DCI Kelso Strang stepped outside the bothy on Suilven and heard, faint but unmistakable, the howl of a wolf. An unsettling sound, but not the only unsettling thing about the remote township of Inverbeg, where he is taking a break with an old army friend.

Sean Reynolds is obsessive about rewilding his Auchinglass estate and there are rumours that he has taken illicit steps to hurry that on, much to the anger of the local farmers. There are other tensions too. An elderly lady had died some months before, officially in a tragic stumble off a cliff path, but she was a woman burdened with many secrets and her closest friend believes her death was not an accident, but revenge.

ALINE TEMPLETON lives in Edinburgh with her husband and their Dalmatian dog. She has been Chair of the Society of Authors in Scotland and has been made the first Crime Writer's Association's Bookseller's Champion.

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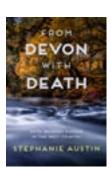
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Crime Fiction



THE DARTMOOR MURDERS

DEVON MYSTERIES 4

STEPHANIE AUSTIN

When Juno Browne purchases a wardrobe to stock in her antiques shop, she doesn't expect to find a dead body inside. And when the man she bought it from, rascally farmer Fred Crick, is found battered to death, the hunt for a double killer is on. Despite the police struggling to connect the two deaths, this time Juno tries to ignore her impulse to investigate. Until, that is, a stranger arrives who bears an uncanny resemblance to the dead man in the wardrobe. Determined to discover how his identical twin died and impressed by Juno's reputation as Ashburton's amateur sleuth, Henry Gillow tries to drag her into his quest, with disastrous results.

STEPHANIE AUSTIN has enjoyed a varied career, working as an artist and an antiques trader, but also for the Devon Schools Library Service. When not writing she is actively involved in amateur theatre as a director and actor, and attempts to be a competent gardener and cook. She lives in Devon.

stephanieaustin.co.uk

DECEMBER



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Fiction



LOVE AND FURY

SAMANTHA SILVA

'Intensely moving' Bee Rowlatt

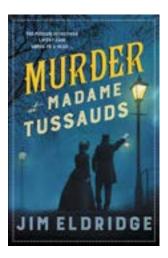
London 1797. Mary Wollstonecraft awaits the arrival of the midwife who will help bring her child into the world, and support her through the testing eleven days that follow. After the birth, both mother and daughter fight for survival. Even as Mary's strength wanes, she urgently weaves the tale of her life to bind her frail Little Bird close.

Wollstonecraft's journey to vindicate the rights of women spanned Europe and broke the conventions of the time. Amid the triumph and loss, she blazed a trail and passed that legacy on to her child, the future Mary Shelley.

Love and Fury reclaims the all too brief moment when the stories of mother and daughter overlapped. It is a lyrical and moving tribute to an influential thinker and a remarkable woman.

SAMANTHA SILVA is an author and screenwriter. Over her career, she has sold projects to Paramount, Universal, and New Line Cinema. She has lived in London, briefly in Rome, is an avid Italophile, and a forever Dickens devotee. Silva is currently adapting her debut novel, *Mr Dickens and His Carol*, for the stage.

www.samanthasilvawriter.com @samantharella



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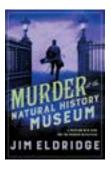
JIM ELDRIDGE

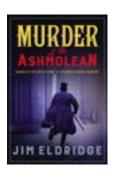
'The story races along ... I look forward to more thrilling adventures'

Historical Novel Society

London, 1896. Madame Tussauds opens to find one of its nightwatchmen decapitated and his colleague nowhere to be found. To the police, the case seems simple: one killed the other and fled, but workers at the museum aren't convinced and Scotland Yard enlists 'The Museum Detectives' Daniel Wilson and Abigail Fenton to aid the investigation.

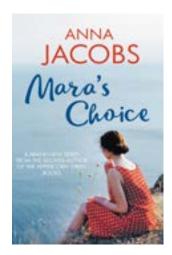
When the body of the missing nightwatchman is discovered encased within a wax figure, the case suddenly becomes more complex. With questions over the dead men's pasts and a series of bank raids plaguing the city, Wilson and Fenton face their most intricate and dangerous case yet.







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MARA'S CHOICE

WATERFRONT 1

ANNA JACOBS

'Adored by a whole army of readers for her heart-warming stories'

Lancashire Evening Post

When Mara Gregory receives a letter from the father whom she believed to have died when she was a child, her world is turned upside down. Aaron Buchanan only discovered that he had a daughter a couple of years ago and now he is desperate to play a part in her life. In the face of her mother's opposition, Mara arranges to meet him and his family.

Amid a stunning waterfront community on Australia's west coast, will Mara find him the disappointment that her mother promises? And when Australia brings another man into her life, she is faced with some huge decisions and some heartrending choices.







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