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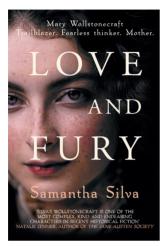
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Fiction



LOVE AND FURY

SAMANTHA SILVA

'A beautifully imagined novel ... wise, warm, and brilliant'

Charlotte Gordon, author of Romantic Outlaws

'Now, Daughter, I'm to tell you a story to coax you into the world...'

London, 1797. Mary Wollstonecraft awaits the midwife who will help bring her child into the world and support her through the uncertain days that follow. As Mary's strength falters, she urgently weaves the tale of her life to bind her frail Little Bird close.

Wollstonecraft's life and writings broke convention, traversed Europe and vindicated the rights of women. Through triumph and loss, she blazed a trail and passed that legacy on to her child, the future Mary Shelley. Reclaiming the brief moment when the stories of mother and daughter overlapped, *Love and Fury* is a moving tribute to an influential thinker and a remarkable woman.

SAMANTHA SILVA is a writer and screenwriter based in Idaho. She is currently adapting her debut novel, *Mr Dickens and His Carol* for the stage.

www.samanthasilvawriter.com @samantharella





TRAGEDY BRANCH LINE EDWARD MARSTON

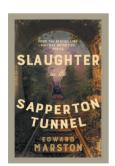
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Crime Fiction



TRAGEDY ON THE BRANCH LINE

RAILWAY DETECTIVE 19

EDWARD MARSTON

'To say the author is on top form would be unfair. In my experience he is never anything else'

Historical Novels Review

1863. Young student, Bernard Pomeroy, flies into a panic when he receives a letter in the early hours of the morning. Leaving a note for a friend with a porter at Corpus Christi College, he rushes for the next train leaving Cambridge. However, shortly after disembarking at his destination, the undergraduate lies dead on the platform.

Summoned by the master of the college, Inspector Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming begin to investigate Pomeroy's untimely demise. But it seems that Pomeroy had ruffled many feathers during his short tenure at the University. With academic disputes, sporting rivalry and a clandestine romance in play, the Railway Detective will have to disentangle the many threads of Pomeroy's life in order to answer the truth of his death.

EDWARD MARSTON has written over a hundred books across many series. They range from the era of the Domesday Book to the Home Front during WWI, via Elizabethan theatre and the Regency period. He is best known for the hugely successful Railway Detective series set during Queen Victoria's reign.

edwardmarston.com





JANUARY



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CASTLE SHADE

MARY RUSSELL & SHERLOCK HOLMES 17

LAURIE R. KING

'Mary Russell – smart, observant, fiercely feminist – is every bit as good a detective as her more famous patron'

The Guardian

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' services. The Queen, a famous beauty who has transformed Roumania from a quiet backwater into a significant force, invites the pair to Bran castle, the ancient fortress that sits on the border with the newly regained territory of Transylvania.

The threat the Queen fears is 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, 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 is the author of highly praised stand-alone suspense novels and a contemporary mystery series, as well as the Mary Russell & Sherlock Holmes series. She lives in California.

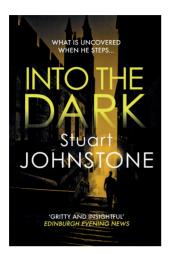
laurierking.com

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Crime Fiction



INTO THE DARK

SERGEANT DON COLYEAR 2

STUART JOHNSTONE

'Atmospheric with a dash of the chilling'

'Cut his eyes out, so he has. What kind of a monster could . . . Cut his eyes out?'

The brutal murder of ten-year-old Callum Bradley sent shockwaves across Scotland. But weeks have stretched on with no solid leads except for a 999 call which may have hinted at the boy's mutilation and murder.

However, the call was made three weeks before the crime took place. The caller, a resident at an Edinburgh care home, is drifting in and out of lucidity due to dementia. It is a dead end to his colleagues, though Sergeant Don Colyear cannot let it drop. When another murder horrifies the city, the clock is suddenly ticking for Colyear and he is drawn far away from his usual beat, to hunt down a violent killer before it is too late.

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 Scotland.

storystuart.com @story stuart







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Romance



THE BEST VALENTINE'S DAY EVER AND OTHER STORIES

ANNA JACOBS

'Anna Jacobs' books have an impressive grasp of human emotions'

Sunday Times

Romance can be found in every corner of the world and has changed the lives of people in every period of history. In this collection of sixteen stand-alone short stories, including a brand-new tale, Anna Jacobs encapsulates the spark of first love and the glow of second chances in her inimitable style which fans new and old will take to their hearts

This collection includes:

'The Best Valentine's Day Ever': Heartbreak prompts Chrissie to seek comfort with her gran, Nancy. But unhappiness and misunderstandings turn into a double celebration across generations.

'The Group Settler's Wife': Western Australia, 1924. Maggie is forging a new life for her family, the chance for a fresh start for them all after the lingering effects of war. While unaccustomed to the rough and ready conditions of pioneer life, Maggie discovers a stronger side to herself and will find happiness where she did not expect it.

ANNA JACOBS was born in Lancashire at the beginning of the Second World War. She has lived in different parts of England as well as Australia and has enjoyed setting her modern and historical novels in both countries. She is addicted to telling stories and hopes to celebrate the publication of her one hundredth novel in 2022, as well as sixty years of marriage.

annajacobs.com



THE FIRE PORTRAIT

BARBARA MUTCH

'Rich in description and full of life' Historical Novels Review

When Englishwoman Frances McDonald sets up home in a remote South African hamlet in the shadow of the Hex River Mountains, 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's 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 from the arid veld to the bright lights of London and beyond.

BARBARA MUTCH was born and brought up in South Africa, the granddaughter of Irish immigrants. For most of the year she lives in Surrey but spends time whenever possible at her home in the Cape. When not writing, Barbara is a pianist, a keen enthusiast of the Cape's birds and landscape.

barbaramutch.com



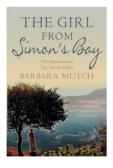
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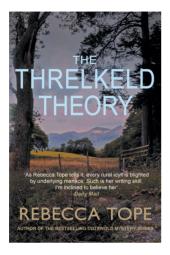
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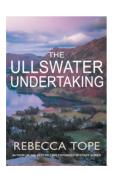
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THE THRELKELD THEORY

LAKE DISTRICT MYSTERIES 11

REBECCA TOPE

'My favourite type of mystery – a really good whodunit'

Euro Crime

A wedding day turns into a far darker affair in the idyllic Lake District.

On a glorious July morning in the pretty Lake District village of Threlkeld, Simmy Brown and Christopher Henderson celebrate their wedding day. While the event passes off without undue calamity, once most of the guests have departed a severely injured young man is found nearby.

Pressure on police resources compromises the investigation and speculation is rife. Was it an accident or something more sinister? What was just a chilling suspicion develops into an altogether more disturbing theory.

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









JANUARY

MURDER AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY

MUSEUM MYSTERIES 7

JIM ELDRIDGE

'This is just the novel for whiling away a few pleasant evenings with a nice cup of tea' Publishers Weekly

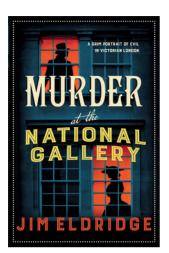
1897, London. The capital is shocked to learn that the body of a woman has been found at the National Gallery, eviscerated in a manner that recalls all too strongly the exploits of the infamous Jack the Ripper.

Daniel Wilson and Abigail Fenton are contacted by a curator of the National Gallery for their assistance. The dead woman, an artist's model and lady of the night, had links to artist Walter Sickert who was a suspect during the Ripper's spree of killings. Scotland Yard have arrested Sickert on suspicion of this fresh murder but it is not the last ...

Copycat murders of the Ripper's crimes implicate the artist who loves to shock but Sickert insists that he is innocent. Who would want to frame him? Wilson and Fenton have their work cut out catching an elusive and determined killer.

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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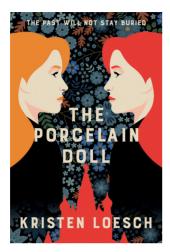
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Fiction

THE PORCELAIN DOLL

KRISTEN I OFSCH

'A masterful debut' Ellen Alpsten, author of *Tsarina*

In a faraway kingdom, in a long-ago land ...

... Rosie lived peacefully in Moscow and her mother told her fairy tales. One summer night, all that came abruptly to an end when her father and sister were gunned down. Now, Rosie's only inheritance from her reclusive mother is a notebook full of eerie, handwritten tales, but there is another story lurking between the lines.

Currently studying at Oxford University, Rosie has a fiancé who knows nothing of her former life. Desperate for answers to the questions that have tormented her, Rosie returns to her homeland and uncovers a devastating family history which spans the 1917 Revolution, the siege of Leningrad, Stalin's purges and beyond. At the heart of those answers stands a young noblewoman, Tonya, as pretty as a porcelain doll, whose actions reverberate across the century...

KRISTEN LOESCH grew up in San Francisco. She holds a BA in History, and a Master's degree in Slavonic Studies from the University of Cambridge. Her debut historical novel, *The Porcelain Doll*, was shortlisted for the Caledonia Novel Award and longlisted for the Bath Novel Award. After a decade living in Europe, she now resides in the Pacific Northwest.

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①

FEBRUARY

SARAH'S GIFT

THE WATERFRONT SERIES 2

ANNA JACOBS

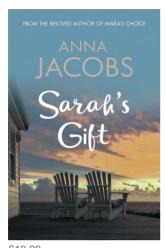
'A pacy page-turner with a ripping plot and characters you care about'

Daily Mail

Sarah Blakemere has been married and widowed three times and seen great success in her business life. Now at the age of ninety-five, she signs her final will and testament, pleased with how it will throw the cat among the family pigeons.

Sarah has left her luxurious home in a waterside development in Mandurah, Western Australia, to two female relatives in the UK, on the condition that they live in the house together for a year. After that period they can sell it and split the money between them, but if either of them doesn't last the full year, the next person on the list will be invited to try for the inheritance.

Will the experience do as Sarah had hoped and shake Portia and Fleur out of their ruts? And when they find another surprise bequest from Sarah, what will they do with it?



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Romance

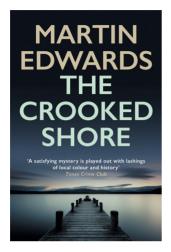








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Crime Fiction



THE CROOKED SHORE

LAKE DISTRICT COLD-CASE MYSTERY 8

MARTIN EDWARDS

'As always a satisfying mystery is played out with lashings of local colour and history'

Times Crime Club

DCI Hannah Scarlett is an acknowledged expert in solving cold cases, but she is struggling under the weight of bureaucracy when Ramona Smith's disappearance from Bowness more than twenty years ago crosses her desk.

The prime suspect was charged but found not guilty. Now the case has come back into the public eye as the result of a shocking tragedy on the Crooked Shore, the fount of dark legends south of the Lake District. A ruthless killer, who has already got away with one murder, plans further appalling crimes. DCI Scarlett finds herself racing against the clock as she strives to solve the mysteries and save innocent lives.

MARTIN EDWARDS received the CWA Diamond Dagger, the highest honour in UK crime writing, in 2020. The author of twenty novels, he has received various other awards including the Edgar from Mystery Writers of America and the CWA Dagger in the Library, judged by British librarians. He has been nominated for CWA Gold Daggers three times and was shortlisted for the Theakston's Prize for best crime novel of the year for *The Coffin Trail*.

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A DEVON NIGHT'S DEATH

DEVON MYSTERIES 5

STEPHANIE AUSTIN

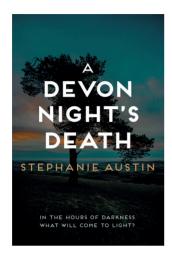
'Absolutely perfect for fans of MC Beaton' Kate Rhodes

In the Dartmoor town of Ashburton, reluctant antique shop owner and accidental amateur sleuth, Juno Browne, has cash-flow problems. So, when the mild and gentlemanly bookbinder, Frank Tinkler, rents a room above the shop, he seems like the answer to a prayer.

At home, Juno accidentally disturbs intruders and shortly afterwards, one of them falls to his death from a viaduct. Was it accident, suicide or murder? When Juno recognises his accomplice as Frank's nephew, Scott, she decides to investigate ...

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



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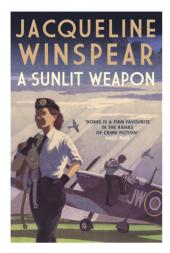








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A SUNLIT WEAPON

MAISIF DOBBS 17

JACQUELINE WINSPEAR

'Dobbs is a firm favourite in the ranks of crime fiction'

Daily Mail

October 1942. Jo Hardy, an Air Transport Auxilliary ferry pilot, is delivering a Spitfire to Biggin Hill Aerodrome, when she has the terrifying experience of coming under fire from the ground. In a bid to find out who was trying to take down her aircraft, she returns on foot to the area, and discovers an African American soldier bound and gagged in an old barn. A few days later another ferry pilot crashes and is killed in the same area of Kent. Although the death has been attributed to 'pilot error' Jo believes there is a connection between all three events – and she wants desperately to help the soldier, who is now in the custody of American military police.

Jo takes her suspicions to Maisie Dobbs. As the psychologist-investigator delves into the case, she discovers the incidents are inextricably linked with the visit to Britain by the First Lady of the United States, Eleanor Roosevelt. Maisie must work fast to uncover the connection, to save the life of the president's wife and a soldier caught in the crosshairs of those who would see them both dead.

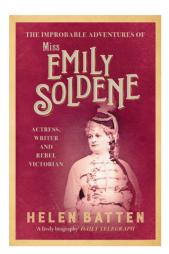
JACQUELINE WINSPEAR is the author of the New York Times bestsellers The American Agent and The Consequences of Fear, as well as fourteen other bestselling Maisie Dobbs novels. Originally from the UK, Winspear now lives in the USA.

jacquelinewinspear.com @maisie_dobbs









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History/Biography

THE IMPROBABLE ADVENTURES OF MISS EMILY SOLDENE

ACTRESS, WRITER AND REBEL VICTORIAN

HELEN BATTEN

'Fascinating ... she emerges as a woman of unconquerable spirit'

Country Life

From humble beginnings with the threat of the workhouse looming, Emily Soldene rose to become a star of the London stage and a formidable impresario with her own opera company. The darling of theatreland, she later reinvented herself as a journalist and writer who scandalised the country with her outrageous memoir.

Weaving through the grit and glamour of Victorian music halls and theatres, taking encounters with the Pre-Raphaelites and Charles Dickens in her stride, Emily became the toast of New York and ventured far off the beaten track to tour Australia and New Zealand.

Batten paints a vibrant portrait of an almost forgotten star who trod the boards, travelled the globe and tore up the Victorian rule book.

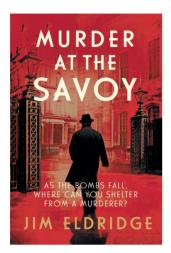
HELEN BATTEN is a best-selling writer and psychotherapist. After reading history at Cambridge, Helen studied journalism and worked in television, producing and directing documentaries for the BBC. Helen has had three non-fiction books published and lives in London.

helenbatten.com @helenbatten





MARCH



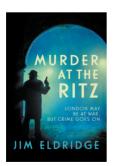
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Crime Fiction



MURDER AT THE SAVOY

HOTEL MYSTERIES 2

JIM ELDRIDGE

'Fascinating period details and stalwart British characters'

Publishers Weekly

September 1940: the height of the Blitz. The Savoy Hotel boasts London's strongest air raid shelter with all the luxury expected from one of the capital's most prestigious hotels. It prompts the arrival of a disgruntled crowd from the East End, demanding they be allowed entry and respite from the endless bombing raids. They are given permission to enter and are stunned by the opulence that greets them.

The all-clear sounds the next morning and London comes slowly back to life, but not everyone can dust themselves down and carry on. One of the hotel's guests has been discovered dead, stabbed in the back. 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.









ALL OF HILL'S BOOKS ARE A PLEASURE TO READ' SIMON BRETT

Over Southwold

SUZETTE A.HILI

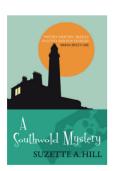
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SHADOW OVER SOUTHWOLD

SUZETTE A. HILL

'All of her books are a pleasure to read'
Simon Brett, author of A Nice Class of Corpse

1961. London florist Felix Smythe and close friend Professor Cedric Dillworthy are Suffolk-bound once more. But their hopes of a trouble-free visit are dashed by the gruesome murder of a highly respected resident – an event which seems to be linked with the bizarre killing in Cambridge of a cleric with murky proclivities.

Along with nosy Cambridge don, Professor Aldous Phipps, and Southwold's Inspector Jennings, the task of sifting truth from falsehood is complicated by a collection of local eccentrics: Horace Dagwood, a hectoring property tycoon; the earnest Reverend Furblow and the cranky Goodhart twins, whose brand of moral crusading may not be as harmless as first thought. The shadow over Southwold looms far, menacing visitor and resident alike and leads to an alarming result.

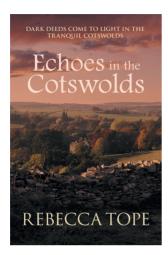
SUZETTE A. HILL was born in East Sussex. She worked as a teacher before retiring and now lives in Ledbury, Herefordshire. At the age of sixty-four and on a whim, she took up a pen and began writing, and has since published over ten novels.

suzetteahill.co.uk





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ECHOES IN THE COTSWOLDS

COTSWOLD MYSTERIES 19

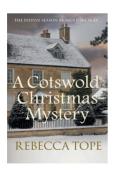
REBECCA TOPE

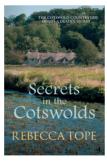
'The classic English village mystery is alive and well and living in Gloucestershire'

Sherlock Magazine

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 she is away, and Thea is glad of the change of scene. She soon meets several of the locals 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. At the heart of the mystery are secrets betrayed and revenge exacted, and Thea is once again caught up in underhand dealings played out in the idyllic countryside.











THE PIMLICO MURDER BLITZ DETECTIVE 6

MIKE HOLLOW

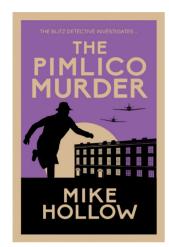
'Powerfully atmospheric' Peterborough Telegraph

Armistice Day, 1940. The nation remembers the Great War while a new and harrowing conflict rumbles on. The Blitz Detective, John Jago, must set aside his own painful memories to investigate a suspicious death in Pimlico, south-west London. The body of a young man has been discovered in an Anderson shelter, with two white poppies in his pocket.

As the investigation progresses, Jago and his assistant, DC Cradock, find themselves knee-deep in Pimlico's shady underworld and connections with Mosley's fascist party. It will take all their skills to uncover the truth behind the young man's brutal death.

MIKE HOLLOW was born in West Ham and grew up in Romford, Essex. He studied at the University of Cambridge and then worked for the BBC. 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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APRIL



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OLD SINS

DCI STRANG 4

ALINE TEMPLETON

'She has become the crime czar of the Scottish small town'

Val McDermid

On a clear, moonlit night, DCI Kelso Strang hears the unmistakable howl of a wolf. A disturbing sound, but not the only unsettling thing about the remote town 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 local farmers. There are other tensions too. An elderly lady died some months before, officially in a tragic stumble off a cliff path, but she was burdened with many secrets and her closest friend believes it was murder.

When horror strikes in Inverbeg, Strang fears further retribution is at work and as he gets closer to uncovering the ugly truth, he finds himself in more danger than ever before.

ALINE TEMPLETON grew up in the fishing village of Anstruther and has been Chair of the Society of Authors in Soctland and the first Crime Writer's Association's Bookseller's Champion. After many years living in Edinburgh, she has now moved to Kent.

alinetempleton.co.uk
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MURDER AT CLARIDGE'S A LUXURIOUS SETTING FOR MURDER JIM ELDRIDGE

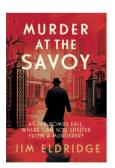
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Crime Fiction



MURDER AT CLARIDGE'S

HOTEL MYSTERIES 3

JIM ELDRIDGE

'A great story, that breezes along, and the characters are engaging and well-developed'

Historical Novels Review

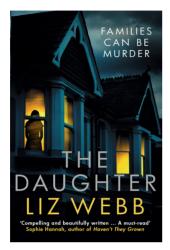
October 1940. The Blitz bombing raids continue mercilessly, but when the body of a kitchen porter from Claridge's hotel is found, it is clear that he has not been the victim of a blast: he was strangled. The man claimed to be Romanian but evidence suggests he may actually have been German. Detective Chief Inspector Coburg has to find out exactly who he was, and what he was doing at Claridge's under a false identity. Once he has established those facts, he might get an insight into why he was killed, and by whom.

But the investigation is complicated by the fact that so many of the hotel's residents are exiled European royalty. King George of Greece is registered as 'Mr Brown' and even the Duke of Windsor is staying, though without Wallis Simpson. Clandestine affairs, furtive goings-on and conspiracies against the government: Coburg must tread very lightly indeed ...





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THE DAUGHTER

LIZ WEBB

'Compelling, beautifully written ... a must read' Sophie Hannah, author of *Haven't They Grown*

I lean in and whisper the question I have never let myself utter in twenty-three years. 'Dad, did you murder Mum?'

Hannah Davidson has a dementia-stricken father, an estranged TV star brother, and a mother whose death opened up hidden fault lines beneath the surface of their ordinary family life.

Now the same age that Jen Davidson was when she was killed, Hannah realises she bears an uncanny resemblance to her glamorous mother, and when her father begins to confuse them she is seriously unnerved.

Determined to uncover exactly what happened to her mum, Hannah begins to exploit her arresting likeness, but soon the boundaries between Hannah and her mother become fatally blurred.

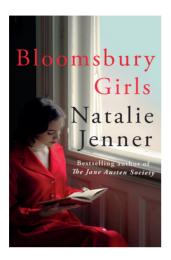
LIZ WEBB originally trained as a classical dancer, then worked as a secretary, stationery shop manager, art class model, cocktail waitress, stand-up comic, voice-over artist, script editor and radio drama producer, before becoming a novelist. She lives in North London.

lizwebb.co.uk @lizwebbauthor





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Fiction

BLOOMSBURY GIRLS

NATALIE JENNER

'A book lover's dream'
Sarah Penner, author of *The Lost Apothecary*

One bookshop. Fifty-one rules. Three women who break them all.

Bloomsbury Books has resisted change for a hundred years, run by men and guided by the general manager's unbreakable rules. But after the turmoil of war in Europe, the world is changing and the women in the shop have plans.

The brilliant and stylish Vivien Lowry, still grieving her fiancé who was killed in action during World War II, has a long list of grievances, the biggest of which is Alec McDonough, the head of fiction. Loyal Grace Perkins has been working to support her family following her husband's breakdown in the aftermath of the war, while torn between duty and dreams of her own. Fiercely bright Evie Stone was one of the first female Cambridge students to earn a degree, but was denied an academic position in favour of a less accomplished male rival.

Now Vivien, Grace and Evie are plotting out a future that is richer and more rewarding than anything society will allow.

NATALIE JENNER's debut novel The Jane Austen Society was an instant international bestseller. Born in England and raised in Canada, Natalie has been a corporate lawyer, career coach and, most recently, an independent bookstore owner. She lives in Ontario, Canada with her family and two rescue dogs.

nataliejenner.com

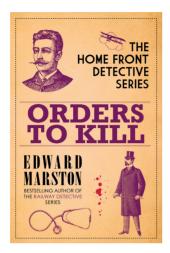
@NatalieMJenner and @authornataliejenner





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Crime Fiction

ORDERS TO KILL

HOME FRONT DETECTIVE 9

EDWARD MARSTON

'Edward Marston is a master of his craft' Daily Mail

December 1917. Ada Hobbes arrives on a frosty morning to clean the house owned by Dr Tindall, a surgeon at the Edmonton Military Hospital. She is shocked to find the blood-covered body of her employer sprawled across the floor. He has been hacked to death.

Detective Inspector Harvey Marmion and Sergeant Joe Keedy arrive to a horrific scene. Someone enjoyed killing him, without a doubt. Their investigation takes them far out of London and on the trail of a very different Dr Tindall, one who was not the respectable local doctor everyone thought he was. Marmion and Keedy will need to sift through a number of likely suspects to find the killer behind this gruesome murder.

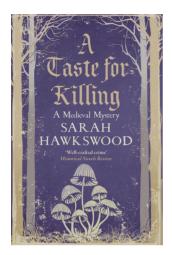








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Crime Fiction



A TASTE FOR KILLING

BRADECOTE AND CATCHPOLL 10

SARAH HAWKSWOOD

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

January, 1145. Godfrey Bowyer, the best but least likeable bow maker in Worcester, dies an agonising death by poisoning. Although similarly struck down after the same meal, his wife Blanche survives. The number of people who could have administered the poison should mean a very short investigation for the Sheriff's men, Hugh Bradecote and Serjeant Catchpoll, but perhaps someone was pulling the strings, and that widens the net considerably. Could it be the cast-out younger brother or perhaps Orderic the Bailiff, whose wife may have had to endure Godfrey's attentions? Could it even be the wife herself?

With Bradecote eager to return to his manor and worried about his wife's impending confinement, and Underserjeant Walkelin trying to get his mother to accept his choice of bride, there are distractions aplenty, though Serjeant Catchpoll will not let them get in the way of solving this case.

SARAH HAWKSWOOD read Modern History at Oxford and first published a non-fiction book on the Royal Marines in the First World War before moving on to medieval mysteries set in Worcestershire.

bradecoteandcatchpoll.com @bradecote









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Romance

KIRSTY'S VINEYARD

ANNA JACOBS

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

Daily Mail

In the aftermath of a heart-breaking accident, Kirsty is shocked to discover that she has inherited a vineyard in Western Australia from Ed James, a lonely old man she befriended at the library. But there is a condition to his legacy: Kirsty must give up her quiet life in England and live at the vineyard for a least one year.

How will a shy librarian cope on her own in a strange country? As she is forced to take her life off hold, one thing is certain, Kirsty's life is about to change for ever.









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Crime Fiction

BAD FOR GOOD

GRAHAM BARTLETT

'Bad For Good is a cracking debut'
Mark Billingham

'Masterly written'
Peter James

How far would you go?

The murder of a promising footballer who is crucially the son of Brighton's Chief Superintendent, means Detective Superintendent Jo Howe has a complicated and sensitive case on her hands. The situation becomes yet more desperate following devastating blackmail threats.

Howe can trust no one as she tracks the brutal killer in a city balanced on a knife edge of vigilante action and a police force riven with corruption.

GRAHAM BARTLETT was a police officer for thirty years and rose to become chief superintendent and the divisional commander of Brighton and Hove police. He entered the Sunday Times Top Ten with his first non-fiction book, Death Comes Knocking, which he later followed with Babes in the Wood. Both these books he co-wrote with international bestseller, Peter James. As well as writing, Bartlett is a police procedural and crime advisor helping scores of authors and TV writers achieve authenticity in their drama.

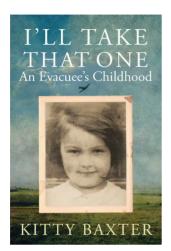
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JUNE



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Rights: World English

Memoir



I'LL TAKE THAT ONE ANEVACUEE'S CHILDHOOD

KITTY BAXTER

Little did I realise something sinister was happening in the world and this day, my ninth birthday, was not only going to be the last day of my beautiful, safe and secure childhood, but a day that would change the lives of millions of men, women and children. No-one could ever have imagined what the future held.

Kitty Baxter was born in London in 1930, the daughter of a road sweeper and a cleaner and one of five children. War broke out just as Kitty turned nine and she became one of thousands of children evacuated to the countryside. This would be the first of three times that she was rehoused far from home over the course of the war

Sometimes treated more like a servant than a small child, Kitty endured gruelling years cut off from her parents rather than a safe haven from war. She recalls her experiences living with strangers' families in environments radically different to working-class London and how she navigated joyful moments and times of struggle and loss.

One of the last generation of women from this era, Kitty's voice remains as whip-smart as her irrepressible nine-year-old self who triumphed over the adversity of a most unusual childhood.

KITTY BAXTER was born in 1930 in Camberwell, London. After the war, Kitty went on to live a happy life in London and ran a café in Mayfair for over 35 years. She regularly volunteers at the Imperial War Museum to share her story.





JUNE

THE SEASON Sophia Holloway

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Romance



THE SEASON

SOPHIA HOLLOWAY

The Season that changes everything ...

Henrietta Gaydon is making her debut in London society for the Season, but her popularity and apparent ease disguises the fact that she is out of her depth and that she dreads the objective of finding a husband. She longs for home, her father and Lord Henfield, who she has always treated as an older brother.

Charles Henfield stopped thinking of Henrietta like a sister when she was sixteen and he is determined to try his luck with her in London. Mistakes and misunderstandings, the complication of a feud between mamas, and Henrietta's no longer fraternal feelings for Henfield, all conspire to make this a Season to remember.

SOPHIA HOLLOWAY read Modern History at Oxford and also writes the Bradecote and Catchpoll medieval mysteries as Sarah Hawkswood.

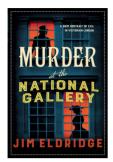
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Crime Fiction

MURDER AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY

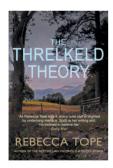
MUSEUM MYSTERIES 7

JIM ELDRIDGE

1897, London. The capital is shocked to learn that the body of a woman has been found at the National Gallery, eviscerated in a manner that recalls all too strongly the exploits of the infamous Jack the Ripper.

Daniel Wilson and Abigail Fenton are contacted by a curator of the National Gallery for their assistance. The dead woman, an artist's model and lady of the night, had links to artist Walter Sickert who was a suspect during the Ripper's spree of killings. Scotland Yard have arrested Sickert on suspicion of this fresh murder but it is not the last ...





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Crime Fiction

THE THRELKELD THEORY

LAKE DISTRICT MYSTERIES 11

REBECCA TOPE

On a glorious July morning in the pretty Lake District village of Threlkeld, Simmy Brown and Christopher Henderson celebrate their wedding day. While the event passes off without undue calamity, once most of the guests have departed a severely injured young man is found nearby.

Pressure on police resources compromises the investigation and speculation is rife. Was it an accident or something more sinister? What was just a chilling suspicion develops into an altogether more disturbing theory.

JULY



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BETRAYAL IN THE COTSWOLDS

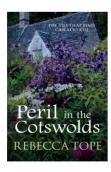
COTSWOLD MYSTERIES 20

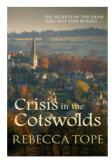
REBECCA TOPE

'An excellent thriller' Good Book Guide

A handsome, if slightly shabby, stone house in Upper Oddington is home to Umberto Kingley as well as his three dogs and will be Thea Slocombe's latest house-sitting assignment. Without even a local shop, Thea expects the location to be one of her quietest, until the serene atmosphere is shattered with a fatal hit-and-run.

The ensuing high-profile police investigation plunges Thea deep into the victim's complicated family dynamics and the rift that had already torn it apart. And she cannot help wondering if the reverberations of scandal have led to a deliberate and murderous assault.









AUGUST



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Fiction

THE PORCELAIN DOLL

KRISTEN LOESCH

In a faraway kingdom, in a long-ago land ...

... Rosie lived peacefully in Moscow and her mother told her fairy tales. One summer night, all that came abruptly to an end when her father and sister were gunned down. Now, Rosie's only inheritance from her reclusive mother is a notebook full of eerie, handwritten tales, but there is another story lurking between the lines.

Currently studying at Oxford University, Rosie has a fiancé who knows nothing of her former life. Desperate for answers to the questions that have tormented her, Rosie returns to her homeland and uncovers a devastating family history which spans the 1917 Revolution, the siege of Leningrad, Stalin's purges and beyond.





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Romance

SARAH'S GIFT

ANNA JACOBS

Sarah Blakemere has been married and widowed three times and seen great success in her business life. Now at the age of ninety-five, she signs her final will and testament, pleased with how it will throw the cat among the family pigeons.

Sarah has left her luxurious home in a waterside development in Mandurah, Western Australia, to two female relatives in the UK, on the condition that they live in the house together for a year. After that period they can sell it and split the money between them, but if either of them doesn't last the full year, the next person on the list will be invited to try for the inheritance.

Will the experience do as Sarah had hoped and shake Portia and Fleur out of their ruts? And when they find another surprise bequest from Sarah, what will they do with it?



MURDER AT THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

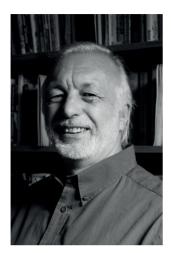
MUSEUM MYSTERIES 8

JIM ELDRIDGE

'Captivating' Marni Graff

May 1899: Queen Victoria lays the foundation stone on the site of a new museum being built in South Kensington, which she names as The Victoria and Albert Museum. Shortly after, Daniel Wilson and Abigail Fenton are called to the site because the dead body of a man, Andrew Page, has been found in one of the trenches.

The more Wilson and Fenton dig, the more they discover other potential motives for Page's murder, some with potentially explosive implications for the Royals and the Government. They will have to tread carefully as someone is determined that they will not uncover any more ...



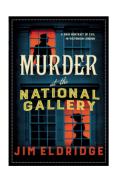
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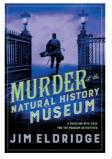
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Crime Fiction









SEPTEMBER



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Fiction

THE WINTER DRESS

LAUREN CHATER

'From a few shimmering strands of truth, Lauren Chater has spun an intriguing story of love, loss and fulfilment'

Pip Williams, author of *The Dictionary of Lost Words*

Jo Baaker, a textiles historian and Dutch ex-pat is drawn back to the island where she was born to investigate the provenance of a seventeenth-century silk dress retrieved by divers from a local shipwreck. Jo's research leads her to Anna Tesseltje, a poor Amsterdam laundress turned ladies' companion who served the enigmatic artist Catharina van Shurman. The two women were said to share a powerful bond, so why did Anna abandon Catharina at the height of her misfortune?

Jo is convinced the truth lies hidden between the folds of this extraordinary dress. But as she delves deeper into Anna's history, troubling details about her own past begin to emerge.

LAUREN CHATER was awarded a grant by the Neilma Sidney Literary Fund to travel to the Netherlands to research *The Winter Dress*, inspired by a real seventeenth-century gown found off the Dutch coast. She is currently completing her Masters of Cultural Heritage through Deakin University.

laurenchater.com

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SEPTEMBER

THE JANE AUSTEN REMEDY

RUTH WILSON

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a book can change a life

As she approached the age of seventy, Ruth Wilson began to have recurring dreams about losing her voice. And as she grappled with feelings of unfathomable sadness, she made the radical decision to retreat from her conventional life with her husband to a small sunshine-yellow cottage in New South Wales, Australia where she lived alone for the following ten years.

Ruth had fostered a lifelong love of reading, and from the moment she first encountered *Pride and Prejudice* in the 1940s she had looked to Jane Austen's heroines as her models for the sort of woman she wanted to become. She resolved to re-read Austen's six novels; to reflect on her life in relation to what she discovered in each of them. And as Ruth read between the lines of both the novels and her own life, she began to reclaim her voice.

Published the year Ruth turns ninety, *The Jane Austen Remedy* is an inspirational account of the lessons learned from Jane Austen over nine decades, as well as a timely reminder that it's never too late to seize a second chance.

RUTH WILSON read her first Jane Austen novel in 1947. In 2021, she graduated from The University of Sydney with a PhD that suggests a new approach to reading literary fiction at school. She encourages her four children, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren to read widely, wisely and well. She and her husband are a married couple who live apart together.



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Memoir







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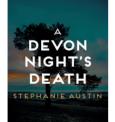
A SUNLIT WEAPON

MAISIE DOBBS 17

JACQUELINE WINSPEAR

October 1942. Jo Hardy, an Air Transport Auxilliary ferry pilot, is delivering a Spitfire to Biggin Hill Aerodrome, when she comes under fire from the ground. In a bid to find out who was trying to take down her aircraft, she returns on foot to the area, and discovers an African American soldier bound and gagged in an old barn. A few days later another ferry pilot crashes and is killed in the same area.

Jo believes there is a connection between all three events and takes her suspicions to Maisie Dobbs. As the psychologist-investigator delves into the case, she discovers a link with the visit to Britain by the First Lady of the United States, Eleanor Roosevelt, and must work with speed to save the life of the president's wife and a soldier caught in the crosshairs of those who would see them both dead.



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Crime Fiction

A DEVON NIGHT'S DEATH

DEVON MYSTERIES 5

STEPHANIE AUSTIN

In the Dartmoor town of Ashburton, reluctant antique shop owner and accidental amateur sleuth, Juno Browne, has cash-flow problems. So, when the mild and gentlemanly bookbinder, Frank Tinkler, rents a room above the shop, he seems like the answer to a prayer.

At home, Juno accidentally disturbs intruders and shortly afterwards, one of them falls to his death from a viaduct. Was it accident, suicide or murder? When Juno recognises his accomplice as Frank's nephew, Scott, she decides to investigate ...





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SEPTEMBER

WEB OF LIES

HAKIM & ARNOLD 8

BARBARA NADEL

'This series has brilliantly established itself' Crimesquad

In the shadow of St Paul's, Arnold and Hakim are drawn into an investigation involving an old man and a newborn baby.

London, December 2019. Two young boys, Habib and Loz, are trying their luck at selling knock-off 'essential oils'. But they are troubled by an encounter with a possible and elderly customer and a young man with a blood-smeared face.

When Habib's big sister Iqra hears the boys discussing what happened, she puts them in touch with Lee Arnold and his partner Mumtaz Hakim. While they set about uncovering the truth behind the odd situation, they find themselves at the heart of a gruesome investigation involving the discovery of a newborn's bones.

BARBARA NADEL was born and brought up in the East End of London. Before becoming a full-time author, she worked in psychiatric institutions and in the community with people experiencing mental health problems. She is also the author of the award-winning Inspector Ikmen series. Barbara now lives in Essex.

@BarbaraNadel



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Crime Fiction







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OCTOBER



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Crime Fiction



THERAILWAYDETECTIVE'S CHRISTMAS CASE

RAII WAY DETECTIVE 20

EDWARD MARSTON

'Packed with characters Dickens would have been proud of. Wonderful, well written' Time Out

An excursion train comes through a tunnel in the Malvern Hills to be confronted by a blockage on the line ahead. The driver manages to slow the train down so that the impact is minimised, but the sharp jolt alarms the passengers. The first person to alight is Arthur Heale, the man in charge of the excursion to the delightful spa town of Great Malvern. He walks to the front of the locomotive to see a boulder on the line, but as he is chatting to the driver, fireman and guard, Heale is shot dead by a sniper.

As the puzzling case unfolds for the Railway Detective, among the pressing questions is whether Heale was actually the intended target at all. Far from home with Christmas drawing near, Inspector Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming must find the killer before he can strike again.



OCTOBER



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Romance

A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS

ANNA JACOBS

Abigail Beadle has given two decades of her life to caring for her late father and preserving the family home, Ashgrove House in Wiltshire. When her loathed stepmother, Edwina, dies, Abigail is glad to be released from her bullying. She will also be able to look after the house properly, perhaps have a real Christmas at home, without Edwina's stranglehold on the finances.

But her stepmother left behind a will that casts doubt on Abigail's inheritance and raises the possibility that she will have to leave the home she loves so much. It is not until Lucas Chadwick, the man she loved when she was young, returns to the village that Abigail begins to believe her life might be able to start at last ...





ANNA JACOBS

In a village in Wiltshire, just off a busy road, Larch Tree Lane winds slowly up a low hill. Among the residents is Maggie Hatherall, full of life despite her advancing years, who worries what she is going to do with her two-hundred-year-old home.

Lucia Grey has escaped a bad marriage but her ex is reluctant to let her start a new life free of him. And for architect Angus Drayton, an unexpected inheritance is the start of a complicated family wrangle but it does lead to him stumbling upon Larch Tree Lane hidden in the Wiltshire countryside.

From the cottages and farms, to the local shop, pub and old manor house, residents' lives are set to intertwine, relationships bloom and both romance and heartache lie ahead.



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Romance



OCTOBER



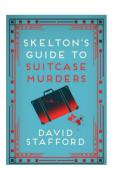
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Crime Fiction



SKELTON'S GUIDE TO BLAZING CORPSES

SKELTON'S CASEBOOK 3

DAVID STAFFORD

'An intriguing tongue-in-cheek tale with lashings of period charm'

The Times Crime Club

It is November 5th, Guy Fawkes Night, 1930. Bonfires are blazing, rockets burst. In a country lane, revellers discover a car that has been set on fire. At first they assume that this is the work of vandals taking the Guy Fawkes spirit a little too far, then they notice, sitting at the wheel, a body, charred beyond recognition. The initial assumption is that the owner of the car, Mr William Hodge, a successful travelling vacuum cleaner salesman has taken his own life by flooding the car with petrol and lighting a match. The post mortem, however, reveals that Mr Hodge was either unconscious or dead before the fire was lit

When Tommy Blamire, a local criminal, is charged with the murder, barrister Arthur Skelton believes him to be innocent, so sets out to prove as much and ensure justice is served.

DAVID STAFFORD began his career in theatre. He has written numerous dramas, comedies, biographies and documentaries including two television films working with Alexei Sayle and Benjamin Zephaniah.

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Crime Fiction

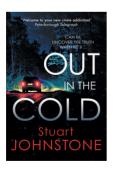
RUN TO GROUND

SERGEANT DON COLYEAR 3

STUART JOHNSTONE

'Gritty and insightful' **Edinburgh Evening News**

Don Colyear has begun his career in Edinburgh's CID, but the transition has not been easy. The workload and paperwork are one thing but being micro-managed by DCI Templeton as well is more than testing. And when Colyear's investigation of a mysterious death spirals into a complicated case centred around a massive consignment of Class A drugs, a double murder and a clash between low-level and professional criminals, his instincts are put to the test.



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NOVEMBER



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Crime Fiction

MURDER AT CLARIDGE'S

HOTEL MYSTERIES 3

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October 1940. The Blitz bombing raids continue mercilessly. But when the body of a kitchen porter from Claridge's hotel is found, it is clear that he has not been the victim of a blast: he was strangled. The man claimed to be Romanian but evidence suggests he may actually have been German. Detective Chief Inspector Coburg has to find out exactly who he was, and what he was doing at Claridge's under a false identity.

But the investigation is complicated by the fact that so many of the hotel's residents are exiled European royalty, even the Duke of Windsor is staying. Furtive goings-on and conspiracies against the government: Coburg must tread very lightly indeed ...





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With Bradecote eager to return to his manor and worried about his wife's impending confinement, and Underserjeant Walkelin trying to get his mother to accept his choice of bride, there are distractions aplenty, though Serjeant Catchpoll will not let them get in the way of solving this case.



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The outlook looks bleak until events throw Isabelle and the impoverished Earl of Idsworth together. However, Dunsfold is determined to force her into a more lucrative match and Isabelle will need to rise above her circumstances to reach her chance of happiness.











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