

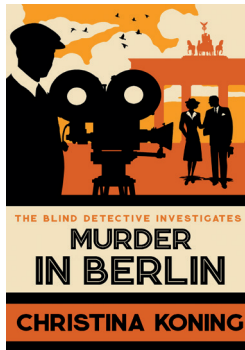
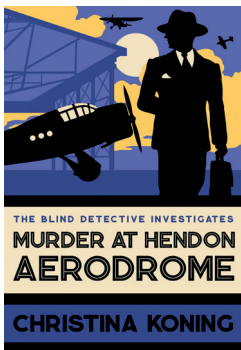


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Allison & Busby is delighted to reissue Christina Koning's acclaimed inter-war mystery series and to be the publisher for her brand new instalment, *Murder in Dublin*.

The Blind Detective is set in London, summer 1927. Frederick Rowlands, a First World War veteran who was blinded at Ypres, is working as a switchboard operator in the City when an over-heard telephone conversation draws him into a murder case.

From then on, his safe and conventional life, painstakingly reconstructed after the horrors he experienced in the trenches, is shaken to its very foundation. Drawn into situations he could never have predicted, Rowlands must rely on his remaining senses as well as a remarkable memory to negotiate the webs of lies and sinister motives that lie ahead.

CHRISTINA KONING has worked as a journalist, reviewing fiction for *The Times*, and has taught Creative Writing at the University of Oxford and Birkbeck, University of London. From 2013 to 2015, she was Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Newnham College, Cambridge. She won the Encore Prize in 1999 and was long-listed for the Orange Prize in the same year.





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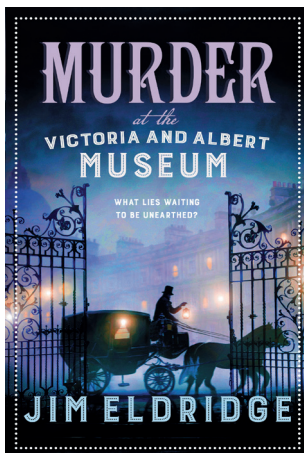
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JANUARY



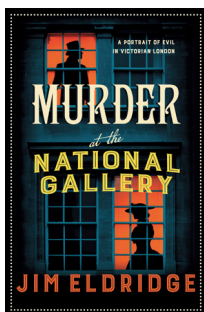
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Crime Fiction



MURDER AT THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

MUSEUM MYSTERY SERIES 8

JIM ELDRIDGE

'Abigail and Daniel are an engaging pair of sleuths'

Marni Graff

London, 1899. Queen Victoria lays the foundation stone on the site of what she names as The Victoria and Albert Museum. Shortly after, the Museum Detectives Daniel Wilson and Abigail Fenton are called to the site because the dead body of curator Andrew Page has been found.

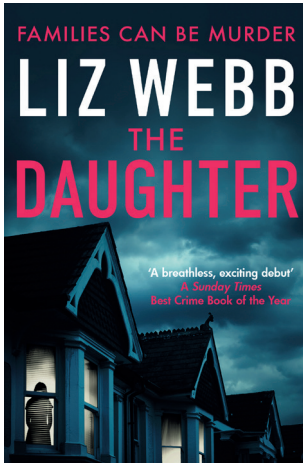
The Queen is determined that nothing will sully her beloved Albert's legacy. But the more Wilson and Fenton dig, the more they discover other potential motives for Page's murder, and they will have to tread carefully as someone is determined to stand in their way ...

JIM ELDRIDGE was born in central London towards the end of World War II, and survived attacks by V2 rockets on the Kings Cross area where he lived. In 1971 he sold his first sitcom 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.

jimeldridge.com



JANUARY



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Crime Fiction

THE DAUGHTER

LIZ WEBB

'A breathless, exciting debut'

A Sunday Times Best Crime Book of the Year

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 suspicious death opened up fault lines beneath the surface of their ordinary family life.

Hannah is disturbed by the uncanny resemblance she now has to her glamorous mother. She begins to exploit this arresting likeness to force the truth into the light, but in doing so is propelled into a fatal standoff she could never have foreseen.

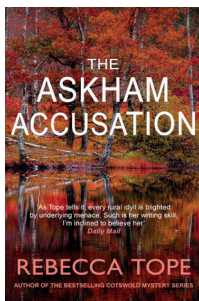
LIZ WEBB originally trained as a classical dancer and was a stand-up comic and later radio drama producer before she became a novelist. She lives in North London.

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THE ASKHAM ACCUSATION

LAKE DISTRICT MYSTERIES 12

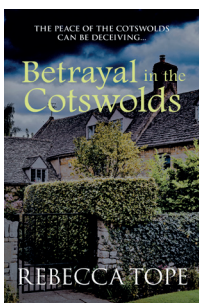
REBECCA TOPE

'For the lover of cosy crime, this is a series to look for'

Mystery People

Autumn clouds are drawing in over the picturesque Lake District village of Askham, and mourners, including Simmy Henderson, are heading to the funeral of Humphrey Craig. Taking a quiet moment later at the grave, Simmy meets two women: academic Lindsay Wilson, and ninety-year-old matriarch Pauline Parsons.

Just twenty-four hours later, Mrs Parsons is found dead on Askham Fell, and Simmy faces questioning at Penrith police station. An accusation has been made, but if Simmy is to avoid arrest for a murder she did not commit, she will have to uncover the killer herself.



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Crime Fiction

BETRAYAL IN THE COTSWOLDS

COTSWOLD MYSTERIES 20

REBECCA TOPE

Upper Oddington is home to Umberto Kingly, as well as his three dogs, and will be Thea Slocombe's latest house-sitting assignment. Thea expects a quiet stay until the serene atmosphere is shattered by a fatal hit-and-run.

The ensuing police investigation plunges Thea deep into the victim's complicated family dynamic and she cannot help wondering if the reverberations of a scandal have led to a deliberate and murderous assault.

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.

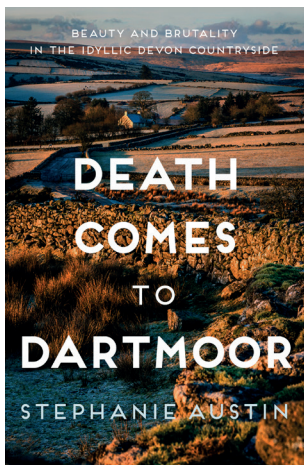
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DEATH COMES TO DARTMOOR

DEVON MYSTERIES 6

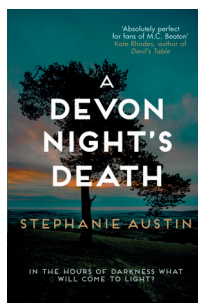
STEPHANIE AUSTIN

'Absolutely perfect for fans of M. C. Beaton'

Kate Rhodes, author of *Devil's Table*

Fresh from holiday, Juno Browne is settling back into her life in the quaint Dartmoor town of Ashburton, working at her antiques shop and as domestic helper and dog walker when the brutal killing of local journalist Sandy Thomas shocks the town. One of Juno's friends has managed to catch the killing on camera and Juno is swept up into a fresh murder inquiry.

What was Sandy really investigating on the night she was killed? With a spate of dognappings to contend with as well, the Devon countryside never felt less tranquil, and inevitably means Juno's amateur sleuthing skills will be called upon once again ...



STEPHANIE AUSTIN has enjoyed a varied career. When not writing she is actively involved in amateur theatre as a director and actor. She lives in Devon.

stephanieaustin.co.uk
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JANUARY



£9.99

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Fiction



THE LACE WEAVER

LAUREN CHATER

'Unforgettable and emotionally wrenching'

Kate Forsyth

1941, Estonia. As Stalin's brutal Red Army crushes everything in its path, Katarina Rebane is desperate to protect her grandmother's precious legacy: the weaving of gossamer-fine shawls and the intricate lace patterns holding stories passed down through generations.

In Moscow, Lydia Volkova is suffocating in a prison of privilege, yearning for freedom and hoping to rediscover her beloved mother's Baltic heritage.

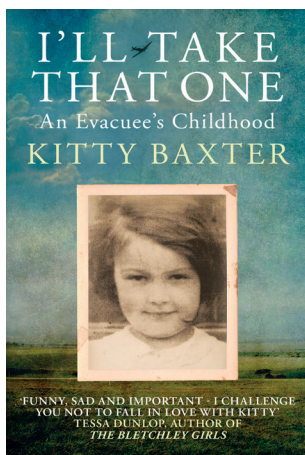
As the battle for their homeland intensifies, these two women are caught in a fight for life, liberty and love.

After working in the media sector for many years, **LAUREN CHATER** turned her passion for reading and research into a professional pursuit. *The Lace Weaver* was her debut, and her most recent novel is *The Winter Dress*. She is currently completing her Masters of Cultural Heritage through Deakin University in Victoria, Australia.

laurenchater.com



JANUARY



£8.99

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ISBN 9780749028497

Rights: World English

Memoir



I'LL TAKE THAT ONE

AN EVACUEE'S CHILDHOOD

KITTY BAXTER

'Funny, sad and important – I challenge you not to fall in love with Kitty'

Tessa Dunlop, author of *The Blechley Girls*

A UNIQUE, UNFORGETTABLE MEMOIR OF A FAMILY THAT WAS CHANGED FOREVER BY THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Kitty Baxter was born in London in 1930, the daughter of a road sweeper and a cleaner and one of five children. On her ninth birthday, as the shadow of war loomed ever closer, Kitty 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. Kitty recalls the gruelling years she was cut off from her parents and how she navigated joyful moments as well as times of struggle and loss.

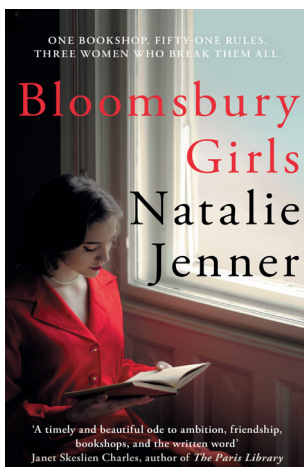
One of the last generation of women from this era, Kitty's voice remains as whip-smart as her irrepressible nine-year-old self who triumphed over the adversity of a most unusual childhood.

KITTY BAXTER was born in Camberwell, London. After the war, Kitty went on to work in Mayfair for over thirty-five years. She regularly volunteers at the Imperial War Museum to share her story.





FEBRUARY



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Fiction

THE BLOOMSBURY GIRLS

NATALIE JENNER

'A timely and beautiful ode to friendship, bookshops, and the written word'

Janet Skeslien Charles, author of *The Paris Library*

1950, London. Bloomsbury Books on Lamb's Conduit Street has resisted change for a hundred years, run by men and guided by the manager's unbreakable rules. But after the turmoil of war in Europe, the world is changing and the women in the shop have plans.

As the paths of stylish Vivien, loyal Grace and brilliant Evie cross with literary figures such as Daphne Du Maurier, Samuel Beckett and Peggy Guggenheim, these Bloomsbury girls are working together to plot out a richer and more rewarding future.

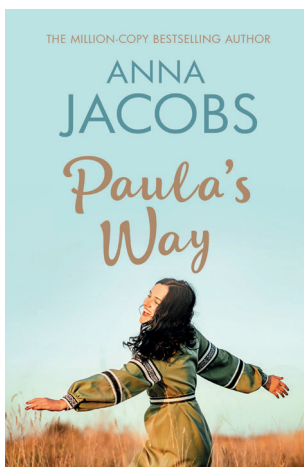
NATALIE JENNER'S debut novel *The Jane Austen Society* was an instant international bestseller. Born in England and raised in Canada, Natalie has been a corporate lawyer, career coach and, most recently, an independent bookstore owner. She lives in Ontario, Canada.

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Romance

PAULA'S WAY

THE WATERFRONT SERIES 3

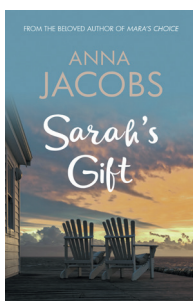
ANNA JACOBS

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

Sunday Times

An unexpected inheritance is most people's dream, but not for Paula. Having put bad times behind her, she is now happy and secure in Western Australia with her own business. She has little interest in the minor stately home in the English countryside of which she is apparently now the owner.

Persuaded to visit the property in Wiltshire, Paula travels to England, but she has to confront complications both romantic and financial that will test the old adage that home is where the heart is.



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 recently celebrated the publication of her one hundredth novel, as well as sixty years of marriage. Anna has sold over four million copies of her books to date.

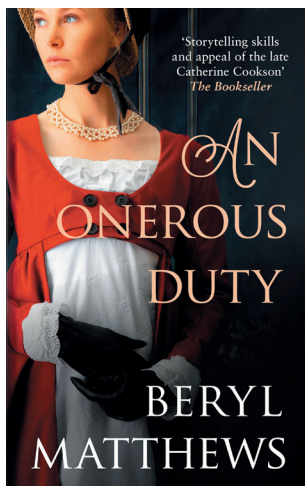
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FEBRUARY



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ISBN 9780749029609

Rights: World English

Romance



AN ONEROUS DUTY

BERYL MATTHEWS

'A born storyteller'

Barbara Erskine

London, 1802. Major Harry Sterling has left behind his regiment following the death of his father and, in quick succession, his older brother. The responsibilities that come with being Duke of Ranliegh now fall to him, including marrying and siring an heir without delay.

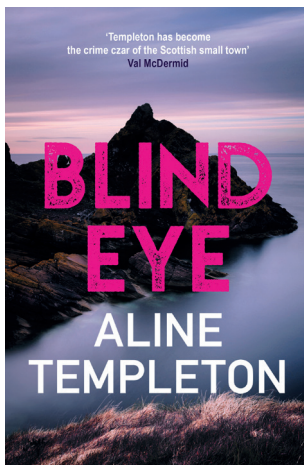
However, Harry finds himself distracted from looking for a wife when his soldier instincts lead him to a web of treachery and the possibility that his brother's death was no accident. As his investigation unfolds, so Harry's search for a wife continues – surely the eldest Winslow girl, the wilful Isabella, wouldn't be right at all ...

BERYL MATTHEWS was born in London but now lives in Hampshire. 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.





FEBRUARY



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Rights: World English

Crime Fiction



BLIND EYE

DCI KELSO STRANG SERIES 5

ALINE TEMPLETON

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

Val McDermid

DCI Kelso Strang believes something very odd is going on around the prosperous fishing port of Tarleton on Scotland's south-east coast. Firstly, a young Detective Inspector is traumatised after witnessing a doctor throwing herself off a cliff, and accusations of extortion have riven the local community.

Then the ugly death of a young farmer sets off a murder investigation, entangling Strang in a spider's web of criminality and he is entirely unprepared when he is struck by the worst tragedy of his career.

ALINE TEMPLETON grew up in the fishing village of Anstruther, in the East Neuk of Fife. She has worked in education and broadcasting, was a Justice of the Peace for ten years and the Crime Writers' Association's Bookseller's Champion. She lived in Edinburgh for many years but now lives in Kent.

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MARCH



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Fiction



THE WINTER DRESS

LAUREN CHATER

'An intriguing story of love, loss and fulfilment'

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

TWO WOMEN SEPARATED BY CENTURIES,
THEIR LIVES DRAWN TOGETHER BY A
BEAUTIFUL SILK DRESS

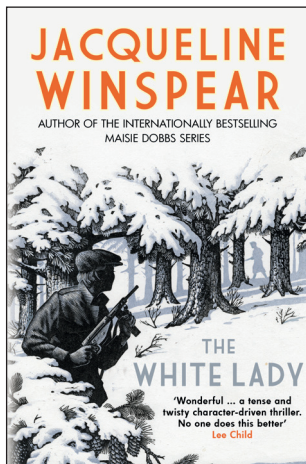
Textiles historian Jo Baaker returns to the Dutch island where she was born, to investigate the provenance of a valuable seventeenth-century silk dress retrieved from a sunken shipwreck. Her research leads her to Anna Tesseltje, a poor Amsterdam laundress who served on the fringes of the Dutch court.

But how did Anna come to possess such a precious dress? Jo is convinced the truth lies hidden between its folds, but as she gets closer to Anna's history, haunting details of her own past emerge.





MARCH



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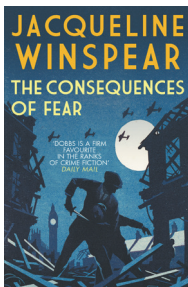
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Crime Fiction



THE WHITE LADY

JACQUELINE WINSPEAR

'The White Lady' is a triumph of storytelling . . . both fast-paced and thoughtful, bold and nuanced, a thriller that is thrillingly human'

Louise Penny, author of *A World of Curiosities*

1947. Elinor White, known locally as 'the White lady', is living a solitary, quiet life in a grace-and-favour cottage in the Kent countryside. Unbeknownst to her neighbours, she is the veteran of two world wars, a trained killer and former intelligence agent.

Yet Elinor's private and seemingly tranquil existence conceals a past trauma that comes to the fore when she is drawn into the predicament of a local man entangled with one of the most dangerous crime families in London. A treacherous path lies ahead, but it may be one that ultimately leads Elinor to a future unshackled from her own painful history.

JACQUELINE WINSPEAR is the author of the bestselling Maisie Dobbs series and *The Care and Management of Lies*, a Dayton Literary Peace Prize finalist. Originally from the UK, she divides her time between California and the Pacific Northwest.

jacquelinewinspear.com





MARCH



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Crime Fiction

BAD FOR GOOD

JO HOWE 1

GRAHAM BARTLETT

'Gripping, clever, masterly written and reeking authenticity on every page'

Peter James

A CITY ON THE BRINK.

A POLICE FORCE IN TATTERS.

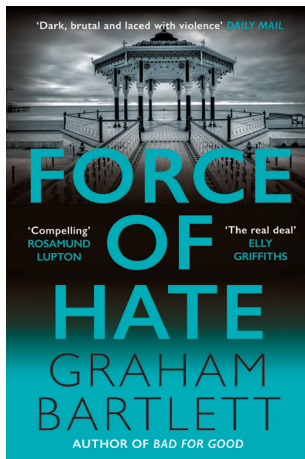
A KILLING THAT SHAKES THE COMMUNITY.

The murder of a promising footballer, son of Brighton's highest-ranking police officer, means Detective Superintendent Jo Howe has a complicated and sensitive case on her hands. The situation becomes yet more desperate when her boss, father to the murdered teenager, receives 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.



MARCH



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Crime Fiction

FORCE OF HATE

JO HOWE 2

GRAHAM BARTLETT

'Unflinching, brutal and disturbingly plausible'

Kia Abdullah, author of *Take it Back*

FORCE OF HATE DRAGS CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT JO HOWE BACK INTO BRIGHTON'S EXPLOSIVE CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD.

When a firebomb attack at a Brighton travellers' site kills women and children, Chief Superintendent Jo Howe has strong reason to believe the new, dubiously elected, far-right council leader is behind the murders.

Against the direct orders of her chief constable, Jo digs deeper into the killings. She uncovers a criminal ring of human trafficking and euthanasia all leading to a devastating plot which threatens thousands of lives and from which the murderous politician looks sure to walk away scot-free.

GRAHAM BARTLETT rose to become chief superintendent and the divisional commander of Brighton and Hove police. His first non-fiction book *Death Comes Knocking* was a *Sunday Times* Top Ten bestseller, which he then followed with *Babes in the Wood*. He co-wrote these books with bestselling author, Peter James. Bartlett is also a police procedural and crime advisor helping scores of authors and TV writers inject authenticity into their work.

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Romance

THE SECOND LADY SILVERWOOD

EMMA ORCHARD

'Hot stuff. I loved it!'

Fern Britton

IT IS 1814 AND SHE IS THE TALK OF THE TOWN ...

Sir Benedict Silverwood needs a new wife. Kate Moreton, an impoverished spinster and Italian teacher, is an outlandish suggestion, but one that grows on Benedict, alongside his attraction to Kate.

Kate has been hopelessly in love with him for years so the idea of marriage when he doesn't reciprocate her feelings is appalling, but so very tempting at the same time.

Sparks fly and passion flares after the wedding, but it becomes clear that incendiary secrets threaten Kate and Benedict's fragile new life together. The question is, will he be able to love and trust the second Lady Silverwood?

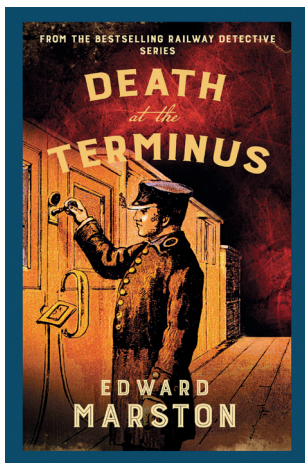
EMMA ORCHARD was born in Salford. She studied English Literature at the Universities of Edinburgh and York, before working behind the scenes in publishing and television for many years. Her first job was at Mills & Boon, where she met her husband in a classic enemies-to-lovers romance. She now lives in North London.

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Crime Fiction

DEATH AT THE TERMINUS

RAILWAY DETECTIVE 21

EDWARD MARSTON

'Edward Marston is a master of his craft'

Daily Mail

1865. A passenger train stands ready to depart amid the bustle at York station. The flurry of passengers and porters, the swooping pigeons and barking dogs are thrown into a state of turmoil when an explosion rips through the brake van of the train killing guard Jack Follis.

In response to a summons from the North Eastern Railway, Inspector Robert Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming are sent to investigate. Was it an accident, deliberate vandalism or targeted murder? The longer the investigation goes on, the more complex it becomes. With a dizzying array of suspects and motives, will the combined skills of the detectives be enough to identify and catch the culprit?

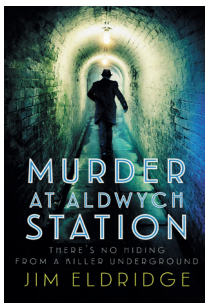


EDWARD MARSTON has written well over a hundred books. He is best known for his hugely successful Railway Detective series and he also writes the Bow Street Rivals series featuring twin detectives set during the Regency; the Home Front Detective novels set during the First World War; and the Ocean Liner mysteries.

edwardmarston.com



APRIL



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Crime Fiction

MURDER AT ALDWYCH STATION

LONDON UNDERGROUND STATION MYSTERIES 1

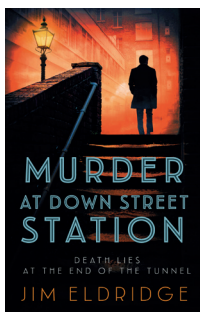
JIM ELDRIDGE

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

Historical Novel Society

THERE IS NO HIDING FROM A KILLER UNDERGROUND

December 1940. With the Luftwaffe pounding the city nightly, Londoners seek refuge in underground stations. Aldwych has been taken out of service to provide shelter for the priceless Elgin Marbles, as well as civilians escaping the bombing. When the body of a young man is discovered on the tracks, wearing evening dress but barefoot, Detective Chief Inspector Coburg and Sergeant Lampson are on the case. Caught up in a world of underground jazz clubs, abandoned tube stations and looters, Coburg and Lampson must track down the ruthless murderer before it's too late ...



£19.99

Demy format hardback

ISBN 9780749028480

Rights: World English

Crime Fiction

MURDER AT DOWN STREET STATION

LONDON UNDERGROUND STATION MYSTERIES 2

JIM ELDRIDGE

'An engaging and enjoyable series'

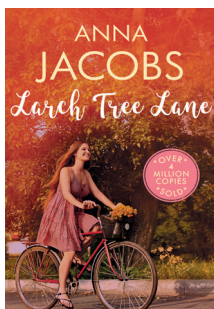
Historical Novel Society

Down Street underground station is now a secret retreat for Prime Minister Winston Churchill and his cabinet from the relentless air raids. In this supposedly secure location, the body of a woman is found, stabbed in the heart. Chief Inspector Coburg and Sergeant Lampson are called to investigate but whispers of treason and corruption succeed in muddying the waters of the case.





APRIL



£8.99

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ISBN 9780749028763

Rights: World English

Romance

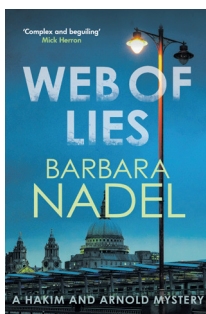
LARCH TREE LANE

LARCH TREE LANE SERIES 1

ANNA JACOBS

In the quiet of the Wiltshire countryside, Maggie Hatherall, full of life despite her advancing years, is worried about what she is going to do with her two-hundred-year-old home. Newcomer Lucia Grey has escaped a bad marriage but her ex is reluctant to let her go. For architect Corin Drayton, an unexpected inheritance is the start of a complicated family wrangle but it does mean he stumbles upon Larch Tree Lane, hidden among the rolling hills.

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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Crime Fiction

WEB OF LIES

A HAKIM AND ARNOLD MYSTERY

BARBARA NADEL

London, December 2019. Two young boys, Habib and Loz, are trying their luck at selling knock-off pain remedies to pensioners. But they are troubled by an encounter with a potential elderly customer and a young man with a blood-smeared face.

Mumtaz Hakim wants to help if she and her partner Lee Arnold can. While they set about uncovering the truth, they find themselves drawn into a gruesome investigation involving an old man and a newborn baby.

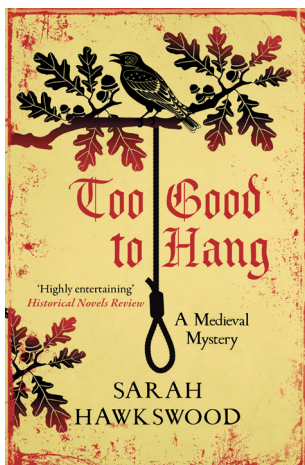
BARBARA NADEL comes from the East End of London and now lives in Essex. Prior to becoming a full-time author, she worked in psychiatric institutions and in the community with people experiencing mental health problems. Nadel is also the author of the award-winning Inspector Ikmen series now being filmed as *The Turkish Detective*.

[@BarbaraNadel](#)





MAY



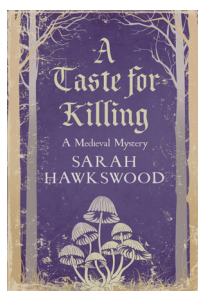
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Crime Fiction



TOO GOOD TO HANG

BRADECOTE & CATCHPOLL 11

SARAH HAWKSWOOD

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

Historical Novels Review

April, 1145. Thorgar the Ploughman is found by the bloodied body of Father Edmund, a village priest in Ripple, and is summarily hanged for being caught in the act, despite his pleas of innocence. When his sister goes to Worcester to seek justice for Thorgar, the lord Sheriff sends Hugh Bradecote, with Serjeant Catchpoll and Underserjeant Walkelin, to discover the truth.

They soon expose strong motives for placing the blame on the ploughman's shoulders, some unpleasant secrets festering among the villagers, as well as the whisper of a treasure long lost and now re-discovered. The shadow the noose casts is a long one, but the Sheriff's men will need to plumb the darkness to uncover the true killer.

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.

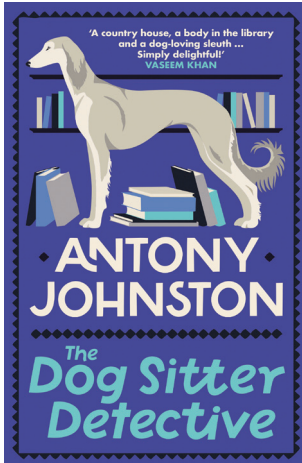
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THE DOG SITTER DETECTIVE

ANTONY JOHNSTON

'A country house, a body in the library, a cast of dodgy wedding guests, and a prickly, dog-loving sleuth ... Simply delightful!'

Vaseem Khan, author of *The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra*

MEET GWINNY, AN UNLIKELY BLOOD-HOUND, AND HER FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS DETERMINED TO DIG UP THE TRUTH.

Penniless Gwinny Tuffel is delighted to attend her good friend Tina's upmarket wedding. But when the big day ends with a dead body and not a happily-ever-after, Gwinny is left with a situation as crooked as a dog's hind leg.

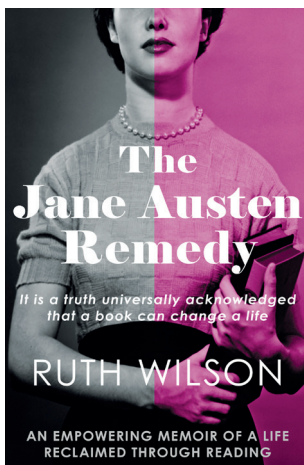
When her friend is accused of murder, Gwinny takes it upon herself to sniff out the true culprit. With a collection of larger-than-life suspects and two pedigree Salukis in tow, she is set to have a ruff time of it.

ANTONY JOHNSTON'S career has spanned books, award-winning video games and graphic novels including collaborations with Anthony Horowitz and Alan Moore. He wrote the *New York Times* bestseller *Daredevil Season One* for Marvel Comics and is the creator of *Atomic Blonde* which grossed over \$100 million at the box office. Johnston is a former vice chair of the Crime Writers' Association and can often be found writing at home in Lancashire with a snoozing hound for company.

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Memoir



THE JANE AUSTEN REMEDY

RUTH WILSON

'Essential reading for anyone who wants to experience and understand the unique comfort that Austen's works universally provide'

Natalie Jenner,
author of *The Jane Austen Society*

AN EMPOWERING MEMOIR OF A LIFE
RECLAIMED THROUGH READING

Ruth Wilson first encountered *Pride and Prejudice* in the 1940s and has returned to Jane Austen countless times over the course of a long life. After her sixtieth birthday, she took the radical decision to retreat from her conventional married life and live alone while confronting feelings of loss and unhappiness. As Wilson read between the lines of Austen's six major novels, she felt herself reclaiming her voice and her sense of self.

An uplifting memoir of love, self-acceptance and the curative power of reading, *The Jane Austen Remedy* is an inspirational account of nine vivid decades, unravelling memories and searching for small truths to help explain the arc of a life that has been both ordinary and extraordinary.

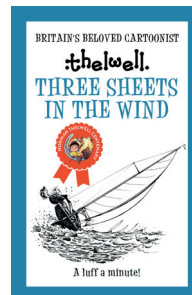
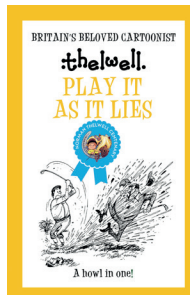
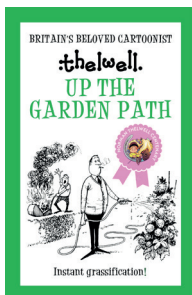
RUTH WILSON read her first Jane Austen novel in 1947 and in 2021 completed her PhD on reading and teaching Jane Austen. In between, she taught English and worked on oral history projects including one with Holocaust survivors. She lives in Sydney, Australia.





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NORMAN THELWELL contributed more than 1,600 cartoons to *Punch* magazine, the *Sunday Express* and *Tatler*. Thelwell's cartoons remain a popular and wry look at British life. He was particularly well-known for his cartoons on horse riding, fishing, sailing, motoring and country pursuits and was one of the founder members of the British Cartoonists' Association. 2023 marks his centenary and there will be events and exhibitions to celebrate his iconic work.





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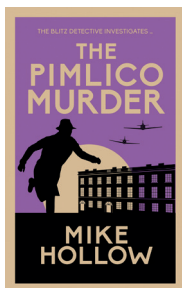
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Crime Fiction



THE CAMDEN MURDER

BLITZ DETECTIVE 7

MIKE HOLLOW

'Powerfully atmospheric'

Peterborough Telegraph

November 1940. As dawn begins to break, blackout regulations are rendered pointless by a car burning fiercely near the Regent's Canal in Camden Town, north London. In the burnt-out vehicle police find the charred remains of a body. The leads drive Detective Inspector John Jago off on a murky trail of deceit, corruption and murder.

It seems that the Blitz Detective will have to make his own luck to bring to light an unexpected killer.

MIKE HOLLOW was born in West Ham and grew up in Essex. He studied at the University of Cambridge and then worked for the BBC and later in the charity sector. He now devotes his time to writing the Blitz Detective books.

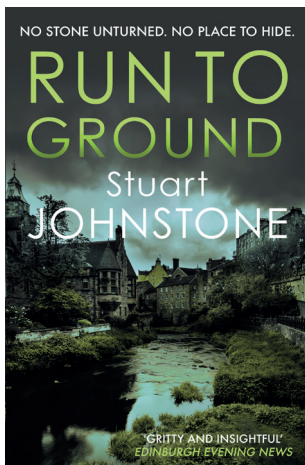
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JUNE



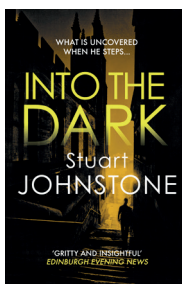
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RUN TO GROUND

SERGEANT DON COLYEAR 3

STUART JOHNSTONE

'Gritty and insightful'

Edinburgh Evening News

Don Colyear has made the transition from his role as a Community Police Sergeant to a new position in Edinburgh's CID, but the adjustment has not been easy. The workload is one thing but being micro-managed by DCI Templeton as well is more than testing.

When Colyear's investigation into a mysterious death spirals into a complicated case centred on 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.

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.

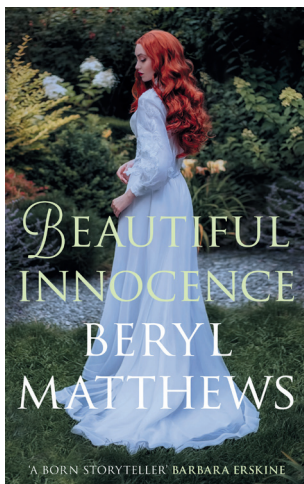
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JUNE



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Romance

BEAUTIFUL INNOCENCE

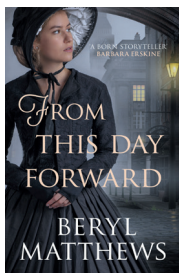
BERYL MATTHEWS

'Storytelling skills and appeal of the late Catherine Cookson'

The Bookseller

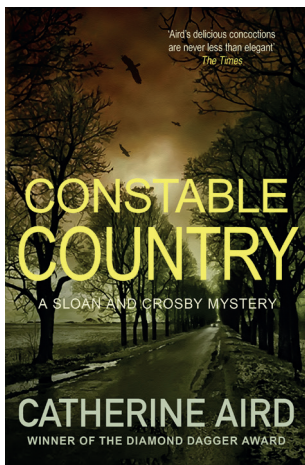
London, 1900. Hester Stanmore watches in disbelief as the jury declares her attacker 'not guilty', and the courtroom erupts into chaos. The man in the dock is being congratulated as if he were a hero, but she has seen the madness in his eyes when he had attacked her and left her for dead.

Hester was determined to bring him to justice, but what would happen now? As she endeavours to pick up the pieces of her life, Hester meets the mysterious Daniel Hansen, and perhaps she will find the happy ending she justly deserves ...





JUNE



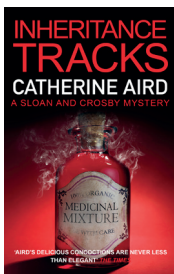
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Crime Fiction



CONSTABLE COUNTRY

SLOAN AND CROSBY MYSTERIES

CATHERINE AIRD

'Catherine Aird is as clever a detective writer as Margery Allingham'

Times Literary Supplement

When Mike Wakefield's business partner absconded with their printing firm's money, Mike and his wife Stephanie feared bankruptcy. Detective Inspector Sloan is at first tasked with what appears to be a cut-and-dry case of embezzlement, but that is before unsettling events – tyres slashed, bricks through windows – make it clear that someone is really gunning for him.

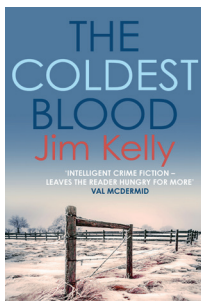
DI Sloan and DC Crosby have a tangled set of motives and some devious chicanery to unpick to discover a killer.

CATHERINE AIRD is the author of more than twenty crime novels and story collections, most of which feature Detective Inspector Sloan. She was awarded the CWA Diamond Dagger for her lifetime contributions to crime fiction and she was made an MBE. She lives in Kent.





JUNE



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Crime Fiction

THE COLDEST BLOOD

DRYDEN MYSTERIES 4

JIM KELLY

'Kelly goes from strength to strength'

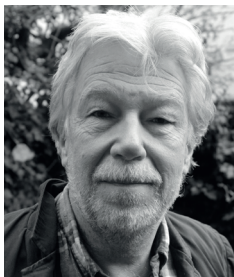
The Mirror

As mid-winter temperatures grip the cathedral city of Ely, a man is found frozen to death. The police may think that Declan McIlroy killed himself, but journalist Philip Dryden is not convinced, and he begins digging. All too soon, there's another frozen corpse to consider and suddenly a routine suicide gives way to a chilling trail of cruelty stretching back thirty years, towards a mystery from Dryden's own childhood.

THE SKELETON MAN

DRYDEN MYSTERIES 5

JIM KELLY



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Crime Fiction

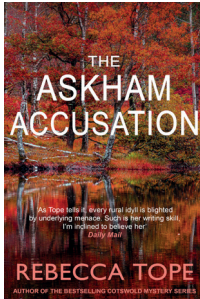
The Cambridgeshire hamlet of Jude's Ferry is a lonely spot, long-requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence for military training, one of its few claims to fame is that in its long history, it never recorded a single crime.

But when a Territorial Army exercise leads to the discovery of a skeleton hanging in a noose, local reporter Philip Dryden cannot help but probe closer, and then a man is pulled from the river in nearby Ely. The man has no memory, yet the name 'Jude's Ferry' seems to greatly disturb him ...

JIM KELLY is the son of a Scotland Yard detective and after training as a journalist worked on publications including the *Financial Times*. His first book, *The Water Clock*, was shortlisted for the John Creasey Award and he has since won a CWA Dagger in the Library and the New Angle Prize for Literature. He lives in Ely, Cambridgeshire.



JULY



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Crime Fiction

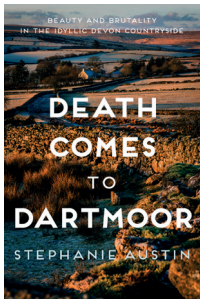
THE ASKHAM ACCUSATION

LAKE DISTRICT MYSTERIES 12

REBECCA TOPE

Autumn clouds are drawing in over the picturesque Lake District village of Askham, and Simmy Henderson is taking a moment at the graveside after the funeral of Humphrey Craig. There she meets two women: academic Lindsay Wilson, and ninety-year-old matriarch Pauline Parsons.

Just twenty-four hours later, Mrs Parsons is found dead on Askham Fell, and Simmy faces police questioning. An accusation has been made, but if Simmy is to avoid arrest for a murder she did not commit, she will have to uncover the killer herself.



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Crime Fiction

DEATH COMES TO DARTMOOR

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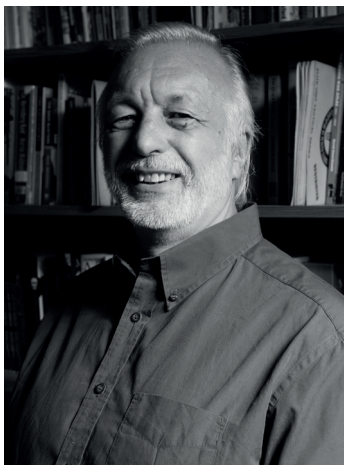
STEPHANIE AUSTIN

Fresh from holiday, Juno Browne is settling back into her life in the quaint Dartmoor town of Ashburton, when the brutal killing of local journalist Sandy Thomas shocks the town and sweeps Juno into a fresh murder inquiry. What was Sandy really investigating on the night she was killed?

With a spate of dog kidnappings to contend with as well, the Devon countryside never felt less tranquil, and inevitably means Juno's amateur sleuthing skills will be called upon once again ...



JULY



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Crime Fiction

MURDER AT THE TOWER OF LONDON

MUSEUM MYSTERIES 9

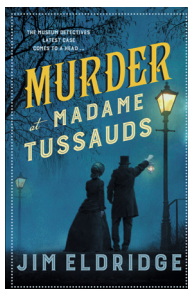
JIM ELDRIDGE

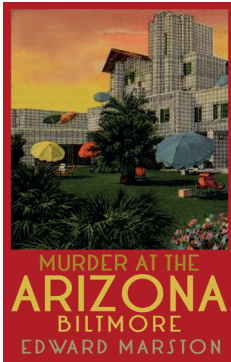
'A captivating series'

Marni Graff

London, 1899. Daniel Wilson and Abigail Fenton, the museum detectives, are called upon to investigate a bizarre murder at the White Tower, the heart of the Tower of London. The dead body of a Yeoman is found inside a suit of armour belonging to Henry VIII, having been run through with a sword.

As their inquiries proceed, Wilson and Fenton learn about the long and bloody history of the *Tower of London*, unlocking hidden secrets at the heart of the mysterious deaths ...





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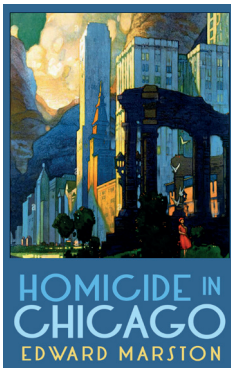
Crime Fiction

MURDER AT THE ARIZONA BILTMORE

EDWARD MARSTON

Merlin Richards sets off from the Welsh valleys to the Arizona desert to launch his architectural career inspired by a note from his idol, Frank Lloyd Wright. Arriving at the building site of the Arizona Biltmore hotel, Richards meets a beautiful young designer named Rosa Lustig. Merlin is captivated but only a few hours later, he is the prime suspect in Rosa's murder. Jealous suitors, envious workers, and cynical police are all convinced that Merlin is a killer and he will need to build not an impressive edifice, but a case that will imprison a murderer.

First published as *Murder in Perspective* by Keith Miles.



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Crime Fiction

HOMICIDE IN CHICAGO

EDWARD MARSTON

Chicago, 1931. Despite the Great Depression, there are still men who have the means to make their dreams a reality. One of these men is Hobart St. John, who wants a mansion in the Chicago suburb of Oak Park. For young Welsh architect Merlin Richards, the opportunity to work on the house is an answer to his prayer. But then a body is found on site hanging from a rafter. The authorities dismiss it as a case of suicide but how can that be when his hands were tied behind his back? Richards' dream assignment is fast becoming a nightmare, and he realises that the answers he wants might cost him his life.

First published as *Saint's Rest* by Keith Miles.



AUGUST



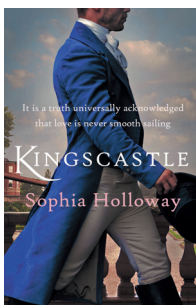
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Romance



THE CHAPERONE

SOPHIA HOLLOWAY

'Holloway has done an excellent job'

Austenprose

Sophy Hadlow does not want to return for another London Season. Her own debut into Society was marred by her self-consciousness about her excessive height and her cringing embarrassment every time she was announced as 'The Lady Sophronia Hadlow'. Yet, much to her dismay, Sophy is back in London to oversee the debut of her youngest sister and their wild cousin, Susan Tyneham, who risks ruining both her own and her innocent cousin's chances of marriage.

Sophy, a most reluctant, novice chaperone, is left to guide her sister and attempt to keep Susan from complete disaster, all whilst dealing with her own unexpected feelings for the roguish Lord Rothley.

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

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AUGUST



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Crime Fiction

THE HURRICANE BLONDE

HALLEY SUTTON

'A racy and hard-to-put-down piece of neo-noir'

Washington Post

Salma Lowe, progeny of Hollywood royalty and a former child-star turned guide of the Stars Six Feet Under tour, understands better than anyone that Hollywood loves a dead girl. She's always so photogenic. Her own sister, Tawney, dubbed the "Hurricane Blonde", was murdered in the mid-'90s, and the case remains unsolved. Salma herself has sworn off acting and just hopes to stay sober and out of trouble, until another dead body is discovered on her tour, on the very property where her sister once lived and died.

Salma has to face the fact that a killer has struck again and with the police investigation going nowhere, she needs to plunge herself back into that world to find the culprit. But the search for the truth will take her deep into the rot of Hollywood past and present, into her family's own long-buried and terrible secrets.

HALLEY SUTTON is the author of *The Lady Upstairs* and *The Hurricane Blonde*. She holds a bachelor's degree in creative writing from the University of California Santa Cruz, and a master's degree in writing from Otis College of Art and Design. A writer and editor, she lives in Los Angeles, where she spends her time chasing down noir and Hollywood trivia.

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AUGUST



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Crime Fiction

A DISCOVERY IN THE COTSWOLDS

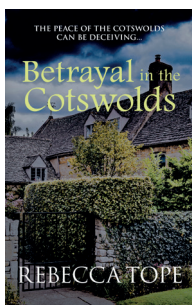
COTSWOLD MYSTERIES 21

REBECCA TOPE

'The Cotswold setting will appeal to readers who enjoy cosy village mysteries'

Publishers Weekly

Thea Osborne reconnects with her friend Emmy while on a visit to Cirencester with her stepdaughter Stephanie. Emmy, now married to local farmer Nick Weaver, asks Thea to help them find their missing niece, Ginny. Before Thea can get started, she stumbles upon the recently killed body of Alice, a woman they had briefly seen the day before. Thea is diverted into helping the police with the murder investigation but it soon becomes clear that Nick might have a more sinister connection with both Ginny and Alice.





SEPTEMBER

CELIA

SOPHIA HOLLOWAY



£8.99

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ISBN 9780749030520

Rights: World

Romance



'Both very funny and deeply absorbing ... Beautifully written, and for once the comparison with Heyer is very apt'

Mary Kingswood, author of *Stranger at the Dower House*

Celia Mardham's first London Season should have been a great success, but a near fatal riding accident has left her with a pronounced limp which means she cannot even curtsy, let alone dance.

Condemned to spinsterhood, her mother Lady Mardham makes one last effort. She draws up a list of guests for a country house party, picking only young ladies who will not be rivals, as well as some potential suitors.

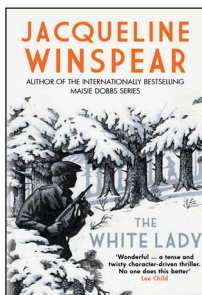
Among the gentlemen is Lord Levedale and when he meets Celia he sees her, not the limp. However, a number of accidents, misunderstandings and spiteful interventions litter the path ahead, and may succeed in driving them apart for good.

Previously published as *Bless Thine Inheritance*





SEPTEMBER



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Crime Fiction

THE WHITE LADY

JACQUELINE WINSPEAR

'A tense and twisty character-driven thriller . . . No one does this better than Jacqueline Winspear'

Lee Child

1947. Elinor White, known locally as 'the White lady', is living a solitary, quiet life in a grace-and-favour cottage in the Kent countryside. Unbeknownst to her neighbours, she is the veteran of two world wars, a trained killer and former intelligence agent.

Yet Elinor's seemingly tranquil existence conceals a past trauma that comes to the fore when she is drawn into the predicament of a local man entangled with one of the most dangerous crime families in London.



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Crime Fiction

BLIND EYE

DI KELSO STRANG SERIES 5

ALINE TEMPLETON

'Reading Templeton has become something of an addiction.'

Publishing News

DCI Kelso Strang believes something very odd is going on around the prosperous fishing port of Tarleton on Scotland's south-east coast. A doctor has throw herself off a cliff, and accusations of extortion have riven the local community.

Then the ugly death of a young farmer means Strang finds himself caught in a spider's web of criminality and entirely unprepared when he is struck by the worst tragedy of his career.





OCTOBER



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Crime Fiction

THE COVENT GARDEN MURDER

BLITZ DETECTIVE 8

MIKE HOLLOW

'Well-written excellent historical fiction'
Historical Novels Review

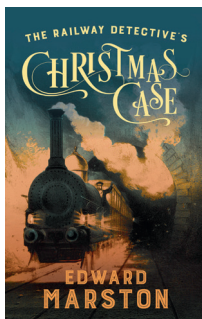
December, 1940. Christmas is coming, but the season of goodwill is overshadowed by the death and destruction of the Blitz. In London's Covent Garden, where the glamour of theatreland rubs shoulders with the bustle of the capital's biggest fruit and vegetable market, the war has closed the theatres and ruined trade.

When an air raid hits a theatre in Drury Lane, rescuers find a man dying in the wreckage. But it wasn't the bomb that's claimed his life – he's been stabbed. As Detective Inspector John Jago begins to investigate, there's an underlying question he must grapple with: was the murdered man himself a killer?





OCTOBER



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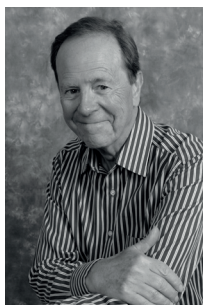
THE RAILWAY DETECTIVE'S CHRISTMAS CASE

THE RAILWAY DETECTIVE SERIES 20

EDWARD MARSTON

December 1864. A blockage on the line necessitates some quick thinking by the driver of an excursion train heading through the Malvern Hills. The passengers are alarmed and Cyril Huddleday alights to talk to the driver, fireman and guard, when he is shot dead by a sniper.

Christmas is coming all too soon and Inspector Robert Colbeck and Sergeant Victor Leeming are under pressure to solve the case quickly. However, with a enemies in the shadows behind the seasonal excursion, the hunt for a cold-blooded killer is far from straightforward.



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Crime Fiction

DANGER OF DEFEAT

HOME FRONT DETECTIVE 10

EDWARD MARSTON

February 1918. Detective Inspector Harvey Marmion and Detective Sergeant Joe Keedy are pulled from their beds to attend a sinister siege involving three burglars where one policeman has already been shot dead. Attempts at talking the men in the house into surrender are met with stony silence so the police proceed to batter down the door and Keedy bravely leads the way. A gunshot is heard. Keedy is hit.

As Keedy is rushed to hospital, Marmion is on the trail of the men who fled the scene and startling revelations emerge. A cold-blooded killer is intent on finishing the job he started and has Keedy in his sights.





OCTOBER

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1815. Cassandra Hazeldon is on the run. Under duress to marry a repellent friend of her uncle, she makes her escape with the aid of a weighty bronze figure. However, she is now penniless and very much alone. Only thinking of the present, Cassandra inveigles herself into a grand mansion in London's Mayfair. Lord Irlam, or Hal to his friends, returns home drunk to find Cassandra fast asleep in his library. The orphaned heiress confides in Hal and he promises to help her, to do the right thing, though their powerful mutual attraction is prompting other ideas ...

Hal passes Cassandra off as a friend of his sister in the social whirl of Brighton, but as the summer stretches before them, things begin to unfold that will change the course of their futures forever.





NOVEMBER



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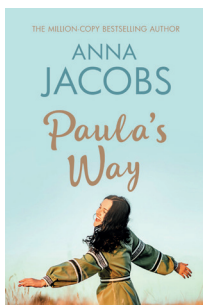
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In the peaceful Wiltshire valley of Essington St Mary, architect Corin Drayton stumbles upon a ghastly new building development that is set to destroy the tranquil atmosphere of the neighbourhood. He is horrified. Only recently Corin has spent his life savings on renovating a home Larch Tree Lane for himself and his newly pregnant wife. The future looks uncertain, but love and sorrow are certainly on the horizon for the locals.



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Persuaded to visit the property in Wiltshire, Paula travels to England, but she has to confront complications both romantic and financial that will test the old adage that home is where the heart is.





NOVEMBER



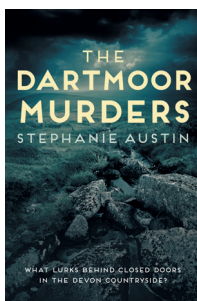
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A DEVON MIDWINTER MURDER

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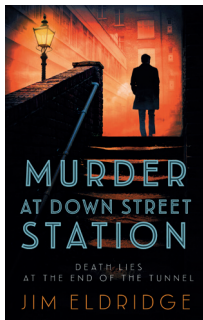
With Christmas fast approaching, amateur sleuth Juno Browne helps her friends to organise a Christmas Fair to raise funds for a local animal sanctuary. The event is a success, but whilst Santa is handing out presents in the fairy-lit grotto, a murder is being committed in a dark corner of the garden. Juno discovers the body of Bob the Blacksmith, found clutching a horseshoe decorated with a sprig of elder. Suspicion falls on Bob's long-suffering wife, Jackie, and on Don Drummond, with whom Bob violently quarrelled in the past.

From this cloud of suspicion, Juno begins to make connections between Bob's murder and previous 'accidental' deaths, but her course is obstructed by those who insist on links to ancient folklore. Determined to take the evidence with a generous pinch of salt, Juno navigates pagan ceremonies and astrological connections that turn up yet more bodies and a deadly path to the truth.





NOVEMBER / DECEMBER



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Crime Fiction

November

MURDER AT DOWN STREET STATION

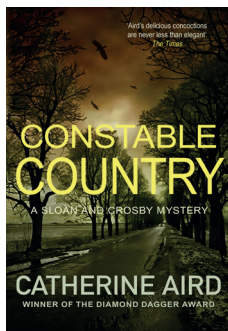
LONDON UNDERGROUND STATION MYSTERIES 2

JIM ELDRIDGE

'An engaging and enjoyable series'

Historical Novel Society

December, 1940. Down Street underground station is now a secret retreat for Prime Minister Winston Churchill and his cabinet from the relentless air raids. In this supposedly secure location, the body of a woman is found, stabbed in the heart. Chief Inspector Coburg and Sergeant Lampson are called to investigate but whispers of treason and corruption succeed in muddying the waters of the case.



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Crime Fiction

December

CONSTABLE COUNTRY

SLOAN AND CROSBY MYSTERIES

CATHERINE AIRD

Detective Inspector Sloan appears to have a cut-and-dry case of embezzlement from a printing firm to handle, although unsettling events – tyres slashed, bricks through windows – put a more sinister complexion on things. Matters reach a peak when one of the company's employees is found dead ... And he wasn't the only casualty

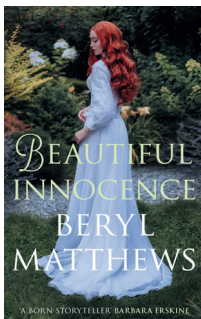
DI Sloan and DC Crosby have a tangled set of motives and some devious chicanery to unpick to discover a killer.





DECEMBER

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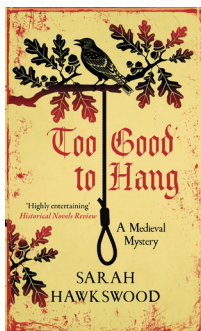
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London, 1900. Hester Stanmore watches in disbelief as the jury declares her attacker, the man who left her for dead, 'not guilty', and the courtroom erupts into chaos. Hester was determined to bring him to justice, but what would happen now? As she endeavours to pick up the pieces of her life, Hester meets the mysterious Daniel Hansen, and perhaps she will find the happy ending she justly deserves ...



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TOO GOOD TO HANG

BRADecOTE & CATCHPOLL 11

SARAH HAWKSWOOD

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

April, 1145. Thorgar the Ploughman is found by the bloodied body of Father Edmund, a village priest in Ripple, and is summarily hanged for being caught in the act, despite his pleas of innocence. When his sister goes to Worcester to seek justice for Thorgar, the lord Sheriff sends Hugh Bradecote, with Serjeant Catchpoll and Underserjeant Walkelin, to discover the truth. The shadow the noose casts is a long one, but the Sherrif's men will need to plumb the darkness to uncover the true killer.





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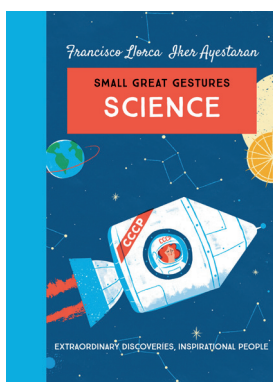


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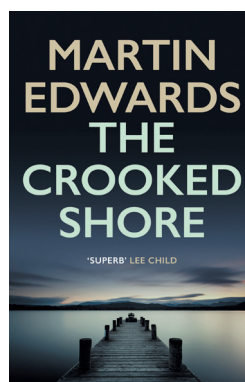
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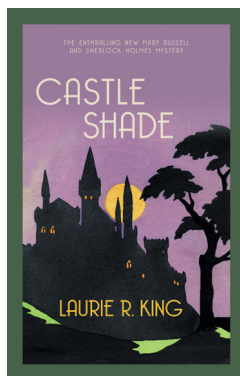
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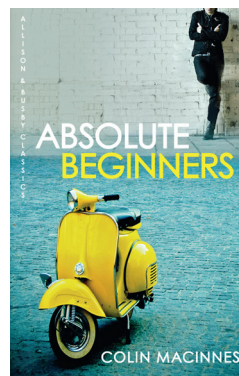
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