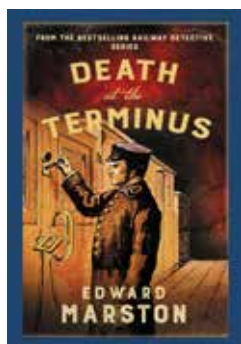


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DEATH AT THE TERMINUS

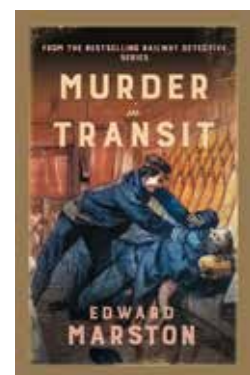
RAILWAY DETECTIVE 21

EDWARD MARSTON

‘Edward Marston is a master of his craft’

Daily Mail

York, 1865. A passenger train stands ready to depart, but the bustle becomes chaos when an explosion rips through the brake van of the train, killing guard Jack Follis. Inspector Robert Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming are sent to investigate whether it an accident, deliberate vandalism or targeted murder. The longer the investigation goes on, the more complex it becomes and with a dizzying array of suspects and motives, will the combined skills of the detectives be enough to identify and catch the culprit?



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MURDER IN TRANSIT

RAILWAY DETECTIVE 22

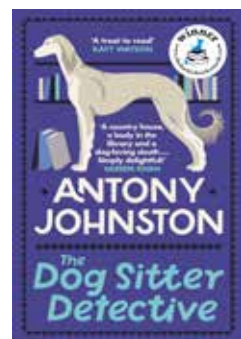
EDWARD MARSTON

1866. On a train bound for Portsmouth, an elegant woman shares a first-class compartment with Giles Blanchard who is in a celebratory mood. However, he will never reach his home on the Isle of Wight alive. It is a fortuitous encounter for the woman and her partner-in-crime. Not only have they picked the dead man’s pocket, they now possess the material for an extremely lucrative blackmail.

Colbeck and Leeming are swiftly dispatched to investigate. But as they sift through the evidence will the fact that their inquiries lead them to the door of Queen Victoria’s home on the island be one complication too many?

EDWARD MARSTON is best known for his hugely successful Railway Detective series and he also writes the Home Front Detective novels set during the First World War; and the Ocean Liner mysteries.

edwardmarston.com



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THE DOG SITTER DETECTIVE

DOG SITTER DETECTIVE 1

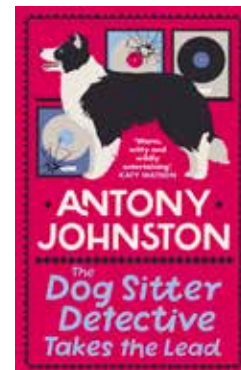
ANTONY JOHNSTON

‘A country house, a body in the library and a prickly, dog-loving sleuth . . . simply delightful!’

Vaseem Khan

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.

With her friend is accused of murder, Gwinny must sniff out the true culprit. With some arger-than-life suspects and two pedigree Salukis in tow, she is set to have a ruff time of it.



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THE DOG SITTER DETECTIVE TAKES THE LEAD

DOG SITTER DETECTIVE 2

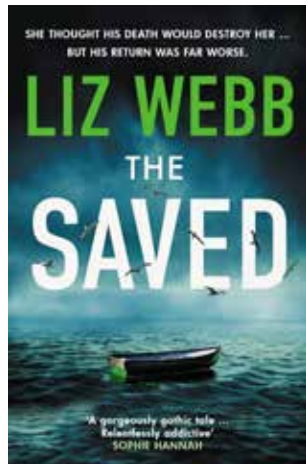
ANTONY JOHNSTON

Gwinny Tuffel has her first West End role in a decade but she is dog-sitting on the side to keep the wolf from the door. So, when rock star Crash Double needs help with his Border Collie, she jumps at the chance. But the easy gig turns sour when his body surfaces in the canal at Little Venice.

Convinced that it is not an accident, it is up to Gwinny to make sure the killer faces the music.

ANTONY JOHNSTON’s career has spanned books, award-winning video games and graphic novels including collaborations with Anthony Horowitz and Alan Moore. Johnston can often be found writing at home in Lancashire with a snoozing hound for company.

[@antonyjohnston](http://dogsitterdetective.com)



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THE SAVED

LIZ WEBB

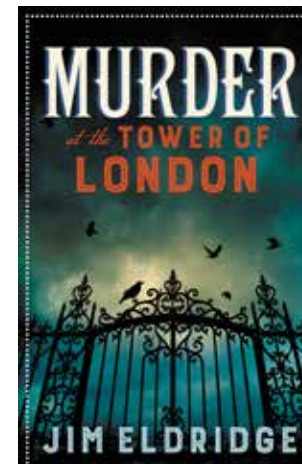
'A brilliant, hair-raising premise ... relentlessly addictive'
Sophie Hannah

Nancy and Calder are moving from London to an isolated Scottish island. But while Nancy is focused on their new beginning, she is increasingly unsettled by the stark island and Calder's dark past, which he's kept hidden from her. Then a nightmare begins: Calder's boat upturned in the bay, his body adrift in the icy water. He's clinically dead with no heartbeat. Miraculously the doctors bring him back, but Nancy doesn't recognise the man who has come back from the dead.

As secrets, lies and bodies begin to wash up on the island, Nancy must come to terms with the fact that despite the fresh start, sometimes the slate cannot be wiped clean.

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.

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Crime Fiction

MURDER AT THE TOWER OF LONDON

MUSEUM MYSTERIES 9

JIM ELDRIDGE

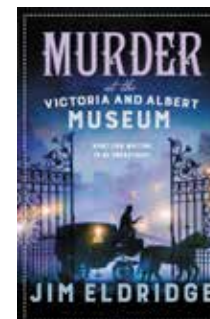
'Abigail and Daniel are an engaging pair of sleuths'
Marni Graff

London, 1899. The dead body of a Yeoman Warder is found inside one of Henry VIII's suits of armour in the Tower of London. When the Prince of Wales hears of this outrage, he fears this may be an expression of Republican unrest. He reluctantly calls upon the services of Daniel Wilson and Abigail Fenton, the Museum Detectives, to investigate discreetly.

Wilson and Fenton learn about the Tower's bloody history, but dark deeds are not confined to its shadowy past. Further twists and turns of a dastardly plot will unravel before the case is closed.

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





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Crime Fiction

MURDER IN DUBLIN

BLIND DETECTIVE 7

CHRISTINA KONING

‘Koning has all the qualities of a first-class mystery writer’

Daily Mail

Dublin, 1939. As the Second World War looms closer, blind war veteran Frederick Rowlands travels to the neutral territory of Ireland at the behest of Celia Swift, whose husband, Lord Castleford, has received mysterious death threats.

When a body is discovered, Castleford finds himself being accused of a murder he did not commit. As the trial begins, Rowlands fights to save his friend’s reputation — and his neck from the gallows. As a country teeters on the knife-edge of war and a man’s life hangs in the balance, will the Blind Detective identify the true killer in time?

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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Crime Fiction

THE LANTERN'S DANCE

MARY RUSSELL & SHERLOCK HOLMES 18

LAURIE R. KING

‘Deftly interlacing present and past, King offers further fascinating insights into Holmes’s family while also delivering an intriguing mystery’

Washington Post

September, 1925. After their recent Transylvanian adventures, Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes look forward to visiting Holmes’ son, the famous artist Damian Adler, and his family in the French countryside. But when they arrive, they discover that the Adlers have fled from a mysterious threat. In the ominously empty house, Russell discovers crates packed with memorabilia related to the artist Horace Vernet, including an old journal written in a nearly impenetrable code. Intrigued, Russell sets about deciphering the cryptograph.

The secrets of the past reach into the present. Could there be things about Holmes’ own history that even the master detective does not perceive?

LAURIE R. KING has won many awards for her work including the prestigious John Creasey Dagger, the Edgar, the Nero and Macavity Awards. In 2022 she was named Grand Master by Mystery Writers of America. King 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

SHARP SCRATCH

MARTINE BAILEY

'Devilishly clever'

Essie Fox, author of *The Fascination*

Five candidates. One job. A killer prepared to murder their way to the top.

Salford, 1983. Lorraine Quick is a single mother, a member of a band going nowhere fast, and personnel officer at the grim Memorial Hospital. A new general manager position is being introduced, and Lorraine's recent training in the cutting-edge science of psychometric testing will be pivotal. As the profiles start to emerge, a chilling light is cast on the candidates.

When a lethal dose of anaesthetic is deliberately substituted for a flu vaccine, and a second suspicious death quickly follows, it's clear a killer is at work in the hospital. Can Lorraine's personality tests lead her to the murderer?

MARTINE BAILEY studied English Literature while playing in bands on the Manchester music scene. She qualified in psychometric testing and over her career, assessed staff for a top security psychiatric hospital and dealt with cases of sexual abuse and violence. Having written historical crime fiction, Bailey's writing has jumped to a modern setting. She lives in Chester.

martinebailey.com
[@MartineBailey](https://twitter.com/MartineBailey)

THE OTHER PRINCESS

DENNY S. BRYCE

'A remarkably told story of a remarkable woman'

Weina Dai Randel, author of *The Last Rose of Shanghai*

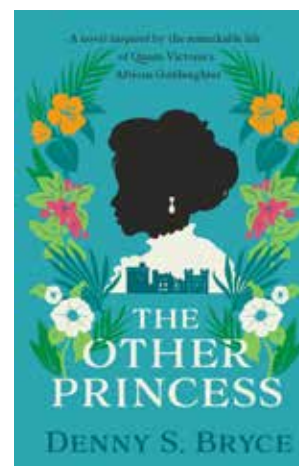
A princess enslaved becomes goddaughter to a queen.

By the time she was seven years old, Aina had been born into life as an Egbado princess, witnessed the brutal killing of her entire family, and had been enslaved to a rival chieftain. With a death sentence hanging over her head, she would also face being bartered as an exotic trophy, renamed and presented to the distant Queen Victoria as a 'gift'.

From traumatic beginnings, Sarah Forbes Bonetta's will to survive led her to negotiate Her Majesty's court, cultivate friends in high places and to flourish in a world far removed from her rural African upbringing. From West Africa to Windsor Castle, *The Other Princess* is a vivid imagining of the life of Queen Victoria's Black goddaughter, shining a light on a woman searching for home, love and identity

DENNY S. BRYCE's previous novels include *Wild Women and the Blues* and *In the Face of the Sun*. Bryce is a professor on the MFA Creative Writing programme at Drexel University, a book critic for NPR and has written for *USA Today* and *Harper's Bazaar*. She traces her family back to Jamaica, Bermuda and Nigeria, the birthplace of Sarah Forbes Bonetta. Bryce lives in Savannah, Georgia.

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Crime Fiction

THE HURRICANE BLONDE

HALLEY SUTTON

‘Brim with scandal and sordid secrets’
The Times

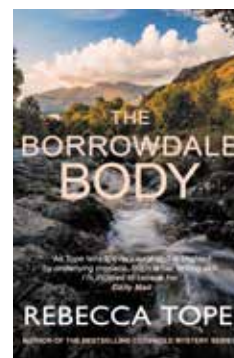
Hollywood loves a dead girl. She’s always so photogenic.

Salma Lowe understands better than anyone how Hollywood chews up and spits out starlets. She is the offspring of Hollywood royalty, a former child star and sister to Tawney, dubbed the ‘Hurricane Blonde’, who was murdered in the mid-’90s. The case remains unsolved.

When Salma discovers another dead woman with an uncanny resemblance to Tawney on the very property where her sister was murdered, she plunges back into Los Angeles’ seductive allure. But searching for the truth will take her deep into the rotten heart of Hollywood past and present, and into her family’s dark secrets.

HALLEY SUTTON is the author of *The Lady Upstairs* and *The Hurricane Blonde*. She holds a degree in creative writing from the University of California Santa Cruz, and a master’s 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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Crime Fiction

THE BORROWDALE BODY

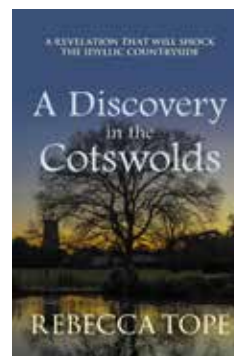
LAKE DISTRICT MYSTERIES 13

REBECCA TOPE

‘Will appeal to readers who enjoy cosy village mysteries’
Publishers Weekly

Christopher Henderson is due to hold the clearance sale from High Gates House in Borrowdale, when a man’s body is discovered. Cajoled by the heir to the estate into remaining silent until after the auction, Christopher’s sale begins but is halted by the police. A murder has been committed.

Simmy, Christopher’s wife, applies herself to the mystery but she will have to contend with a ruthless and determined killer in her fight for the truth.



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Crime Fiction

A DISCOVERY IN THE COTSWOLDS

COTSWOLDS MYSTERIES 21

REBECCA TOPE

Thea Osborne reconnects with her friend Emmy while on a visit in Baunton, near Cirencester. Emmy needs Thea’s help in tracing her missing niece, Ginny. But before Thea can get started, she stumbles upon the body of Alice, a woman she had briefly seen the day before. While the search for Ginny focusses on social media, Thea is caught up in the murder investigation and it becomes clear that Ginny and Alice are linked in a sinister way.

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](http://rebeccatope.com)



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Crime Fiction

THE SUNSET YEARS OF AGNES SHARP

AGNES SHARP 1

LEONIE SWANN

'Fans of Richard Osman's superannuated detectives, welcome to your new club'

A. J. Finn, author of *The Woman in the Window*

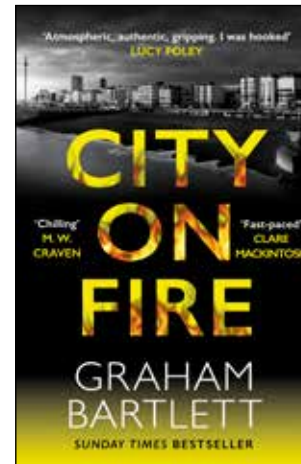
One murder to solve and another to cover up. It'll be tricky, but the OAP residents of Sunset Hall are going to give it their best shot.

Sunset Hall is a house-share for the old and unruly, led by Agnes Sharp. It's an eventful day when this group of idiosyncratic geriatrics gets a visit from the police to inform them that a body has been discovered next door. Secretly everyone is relieved that the body in question is not the one they're currently hiding in the shed (sorry about that, Lillith). All they have to do is find out who murdered their neighbour, so they can pin Lillith's death on them, thus killing two old birds with one stone.

To investigate, the group, including Hettie the tortoise, will venture into the not-so-idyllic village of Duck End and tangle with their own dark secrets.

LEONIE SWANN's debut novel, *Three Bags Full*, was an instant hit, topping the bestseller charts in her native Germany for months. It has since been translated into 26 languages. She lives in Cambridgeshire.

@_leonieswann



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Crime Fiction

CITY ON FIRE

JO HOWE 3

GRAHAM BARTLETT

'Atmospheric, authentic, gripping. I was hooked'
Lucy Foley, author of *The Paris Apartment*

After losing her sister to an overdose, Chief Superintendent Jo Howe is desperate to tackle the world of drugs that consumes the shadowy backstreets of Brighton. Operation Eradicate is her response but not everyone sees it as a positive development ...

For self-made millionaire Sir Ben Parsons it is a threat to his business - his colossal empire relies on addicts who survive on Respite Pharmaceuticals' substitute drugs. With connections in the highest levels of government, media and organised crime, Parsons unleashes a brutal counterattack on Howe.

How will she survive being caught in the line of fire?

GRAHAM BARTLETT was the chief superintendent of Brighton and Hove police. His first non-fiction book, *Death Comes Knocking*, was a *Sunday Times* bestseller, co-written with Peter James. He has since published *Bad for Good* and *Force of Hate* starring Chief Superintendent Jo Howe. Bartlett is also a crime writing advisor helping scores of authors and TV writers inject authenticity into their work.

policeadvisor.co.uk
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Romance

MAGNOLIA GARDENS

LARCH TREE LANE 3

ANNA JACOBS

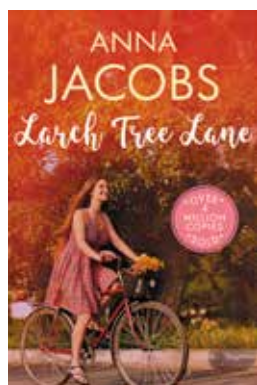
'Great stuff!'
Daily Mail

At the end of Hawthorn Close, nestled at the heart of the Wiltshire village of Essington St Mary, is a charming park which boasts two magnificent magnolia trees. Under their sweeping branches, new arrivals are moving into the neighbourhood, including those being lent a helping hand from a local charitable trust. Amongst them is Brett, an orphan just out of the foster child system; Carla, who is escaping an abusive ex-partner; and Matthew Woodley, a widower whose house had burnt down while he was in hospital.

New beginnings are dawning for everyone and as the coming weeks unfold, Brett, Carla and Matthew will set out on paths to lives they could not have imagined when they first came to Magnolia Gardens.

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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POLES APART

ANNA AND JACQUI BURNS

An uplifting, feel-good read about the power of friendship and community

Four women, one sleepy village... It's time to give life a whirl

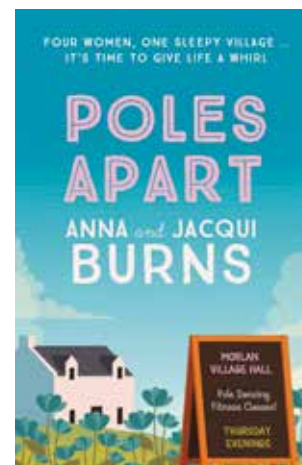
The Pembrokeshire village of Morlan is a beautiful place to live, but four female residents find themselves in search of something more.

Gwen seems to have it all but in reality her marriage is on the rocks. **Meg** has struggled with her health and her love life has barely got a pulse, but is she ready to shake things up? Recently widowed **Ivy** is fed up, but at seventy-two can she revamp more than her just home? Mum of two **Summer** dearly loves her young children but is desperate to escape the sleep-deprived fog that has settled over her.

The announcement that pole dancing exercise classes are coming to the village hall offers something fresh to each of them. As the disparate group come together, a bond is formed that will allow them to overcome the trials and tribulations that lie ahead...

ANNA BURNS is a psychiatrist and her mother **JACQUI BURNS** is a lecturer. They write their novels while living over two hundred miles apart, focussing on strong but relatable women at the centre of families and communities. Their first book *Love at Café Lompar* was shortlisted for the RNA Debut Novel Award.

annaandjacquiburns.com
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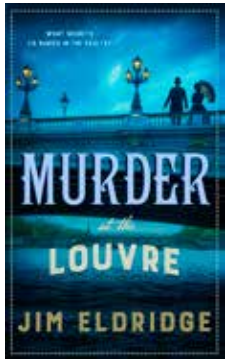
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Crime Fiction

MURDER AT THE LOUVRE

MUSEUM MYSTERIES 10

JIM ELDRIDGE

'Fast and furious with old-fashioned detection winning out against the forces of villainy'

Daily Mail

Paris, 1899. Abigail Wilson has been invited by Professor Alphonse Flamand, prominent French Professor of Archaeology, to join him on a dig in Egypt. Overjoyed with the opportunity, Abigail and her husband, Daniel, travel to Paris to meet Flamand.

However, when Abigail arrives for the appointment at his office in the Louvre, she finds Flamand dead with a knife in his chest. Despite her pleas of innocence, Abigail is arrested. Determined to prove that she has been framed for the brutal murder, the Museum Detectives will delve far into the shadowy corners of the City of Light for the truth.



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Romance

HAWTHORN CLOSE

LARCH TREE LANE 2

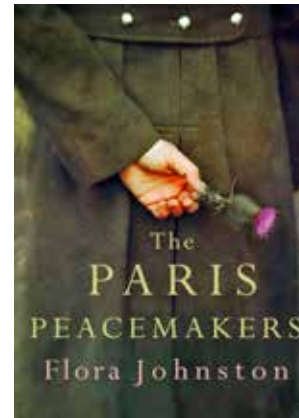
ANNA JACOBS

'Impressive'

Sunday Times

Recently moved to the village of Essington St Mary, Rob Carswell discovers the plight of his new neighbour Ilsa who is battling illness as well as the bullying tactics of a local builder. Nearby, Amy Hatherall is feeling adrift following the death of her mother, but a final handwritten letter leads her in an unexpected direction to a great-aunt she never knew she had.

As the line of old hawthorn trees begin to blossom, they watch over as romance and new beginnings bloom for the residents of the close.



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Fiction

THE PARIS PEACEMAKERS

FLORA JOHNSTON

A powerful tale of love and loss in the aftermath of World War One

Will the brittle pieces of Europe ever fit together again?

Paris, 1919. As the fragile negotiations of the International Peace Conference get underway, typist Stella Rutherford throws herself into her work and the mixture of glamour and devastation the City of Light reveals. She will do anything to escape the grief coming in waves for her beloved brother Jack, buried near Arras.

Her sister Corran is about to put her academic career to use teaching the troops in France, a chance to see what the experience was like for countless men, including her fiancé Rob Campbell.

Rob was part of the celebrated Scottish rugby team who were swept up in war fever and mown down in battle. He has been profoundly marked by his time as a surgeon on the front line, devastated by the incessant grind of the injured, dying and dead.

The Paris Peacemakers follows three Scots as they attempt to pick up the pieces of their lives while the fabric of Europe is stitched together for good or ill.

FLORA JOHNSTON worked in museums and heritage interpretation, including at the National Museums of Scotland, which greatly influenced the historical fiction she now writes. Her debut novel *What You Call Free* was published in 2021. She studied at St. Andrews University and lives in Edinburgh.

florajohnston.com @florajowriter



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Crime Fiction

A DEVON MIDWINTER MURDER

DEVON MYSTERIES 7

STEPHANIE AUSTIN

'An evocative Devon mystery to be enjoyed by all fans of rural crime'

Kate Ellis, author of *Serpent's Point*

As amateur sleuth Juno Browne's Sunday gets to a chilly start in the delightful Devon town of Ashburton, a murder is brewing. As always seems to happen, Juno is in the wrong place at the wrong time, and she discovers the body of Bob the Blacksmith, his dead hands entwined with a sprig of elder.

Juno begins to see links with previous 'accidental' deaths, although her way through the cloud of suspicion is further obscured 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 on a deadly path to the truth.

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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ISBN 9780749031879

Rights: World

Romance

TO CATCH A HUSBAND

SOPHIA HOLLOWAY

'Worthy of the great Georgette Heyer'

Bishop's Stortford Independent

Gloucestershire, 1813. Miss Mary Lound of Tapley End would be the first to say that she demonstrates more grace with a fishing rod in her hand than she might ever twirling in a ballroom. This was not, however, a problem until her ne'er-do-well brother sold the family estate, leaving Mary and her mother in very straitened circumstances. When the new owner, Sir Rowland Kempsey, takes up residence, Mary decides to direct her energies into recovering her beloved home by catching a husband.

Promisingly Sir Rowland thinks Miss Lound is a breath of fresh air. But with awkward attempts at flirtation, a duplicitous predator at large in the neighbourhood and the emergence of feelings that complicate her pragmatic goal, Mary discovers that landing the man she wants is more difficult than she had anticipated.

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

@RegencySophia
sophiaholloway.co.uk





LITANY OF LIES

BRADECOTE & CATCHPOLL 12

SARAH HAWKSWOOD

A new Bradecote and Catchpoll (and Wakelin) medieval mystery is always a true delight'

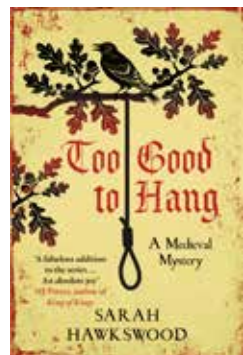
M. J. Porter

Midsummer, 1145. The steward of Evesham Abbey is found dead at the bottom of a well pit. The Abbot, whose relationship with the lord Sheriff of Worcestershire is strained at best, dislikes needing external help with the unfortunate incident. However, he grudgingly receives the trio of Undersheriff Hugh Bradecote, Serjeant Catchpoll and Underserjeant Walkelin.

As the sheriff's men probe who had more reason to want Walter the Steward dead, they discover that truth is in short supply. With the tensions between the Abbey and the local castle guard reaching boiling point, another killing will force the investigation down a dangerous path.

SARAH HAWKSWOOD describes herself as a 'wordsmith' who is only really happy when writing. She 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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EVERY TIME WE SAY GOODBYE

NATALIE JENNER

'Heartbreaking, engrossing, and thoroughly dazzling'

Nina de Gramont, author of *The Christie Affair*

London, 1955. Vivien Lowry's latest play opened to a rapturous reception from the audience, but the critics' savage reviews have forced its closure and called into question her entire career.

Then the opportunity arises for her to work as a script doctor on a film shooting in Rome's Cinecittà Studios. What Vivien doesn't count on is the greatest male bastion of them all: the Vatican.

Caught between the church and censors, as well as two very different men, Vivien must also face the long-buried truth of the recent World War and what really happened to her fiancé if she's to deal with her past and step into the 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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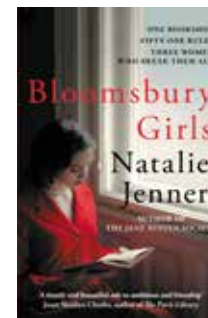
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Fiction





THE COVENT GARDEN MURDER

BLITZ DETECTIVE 8

MIKE HOLLOW

'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, the war has closed the theatres and ruined the market trade. When a daylight air raid hits the Prince Albert Theatre in Drury Lane, rescuers find a man dying in the wreckage. But it wasn't the bomb that's ending his life – he's been stabbed, and with his dying breath he whispers what sounds like a fragmented confession.

As Detective Inspector John Jago begins to investigate, there's an underlying question he must grapple with: was the murdered man himself a killer?

MIKE HOLLOW was born in West Ham and grew up in Romford, Essex. He studied Russian and French at the University of Cambridge and then worked for the BBC. In 2002 he went freelance as a copywriter, journalist and editor. Mike also works as a poet and translator.

blitzdetective.com
[@MikeHollowBlitz](https://twitter.com/MikeHollowBlitz)



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Crime Fiction



THE SMALL MUSEUM

JODY COOKSLEY

Winner of the 2023 Caledonia Novel Award

London, 1873. Madeleine Brewster's marriage to Dr Lucius Everley was meant to be the solution to her family's sullied reputation. After all, Lucius is a well-respected collector of natural curiosities, his 'Small Museum' of bones and things in jars is his pride and joy, although kept under lock and key. His sister Grace's philanthropic work with fallen women is also highly laudable. However, Maddie is confused by and excluded from what happens in what is meant to be her new home.

Maddie's skill at drawing promises a role for her though when Lucius agrees to let her help him in making a breakthrough in evolutionary science. But the more Maddie learns about both Lucius and Grace, the more she suspects that unimaginable horrors lie behind their polished reputations.

Framed for a crime that would take her to the gallows and leave the Everleys unencumbered, Maddie's only hope is her friend Caroline Fairly. But will she be able to put the pieces together before the trial reaches its fatal conclusion?

JODY COOKSLEY studied literature at Oxford Brookes University and has a Masters in Victorian Poetry. Her debut novel *The Glass House* is a fictional account of the life of nineteenth-century photographer, Julia Margaret Cameron. *The Small Museum*, her third novel, won the 2023 Caledonia Novel Award. Cooksley is originally from Norwich and now lives in Cranleigh.

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Fiction



A MATCH TO REMEMBER

HELEN HAWKINS

'I can't wait to read Helen Hawkins' next book'

Jennifer Page, author of *Love Letters on Hazel Lane*

For amateur footballer Lizzie Morris, it's the first day of her teacher training at Cranswell Primary School. Horrifyingly, she immediately comes face to face with her first love from back in her own school days. Instantly, their competitive relationship reignites and to make matters worse, the Head Teacher asks them to organise Sports Day together. Their friendly rivalry of old threatens to derail all of her plans.

Will she overcome their bickering to pass her teacher training, win the football tournament and survive this brush with her past?

HELEN HAWKINS is a writer, editor and English teacher. Her first novel, *A Concert for Christmas*, was shortlisted for Penguin's Christmas Love Story Competition and highly commended in 2023's I Am In Print Romance Competition. When she is not writing, Helen can be found editing, singing and dancing with her local operatic society in Oxfordshire.

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THE COMFORT OF GHOSTS

MAISIE DOBBS 18

JACQUELINE WINSPEAR

'Immensely readable'

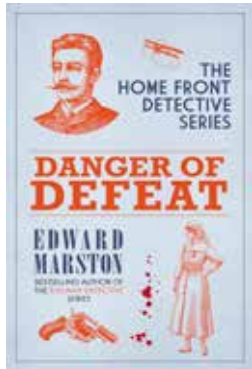
Daily Mail

London, 1945. The capital is the backdrop for many struggling following the war. Maisie Dobbs is drawn into the story of a group of squatters, including a demobbed soldier, who have set up camp in the Belgravia mansion of her former in-laws Lord and Lady Julian Compton. Her attempt to help brings to light a decades-old mystery that concerns her first husband, James Compton, who was killed while flying an experimental fighter aircraft.

It is an investigation that will challenge so much of what Maisie understands about her life and forces her to look at the past and the many mirrors that could have been reflecting something other than she had come to believe was truth.

JACQUELINE WINSPEAR is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling Maisie Dobbs series. Her stand-alone books include *The Care and Management of Lies*, *The White Lady* and her memoir, *This Time Next Year We'll be Laughing*. Originally from the United Kingdom, Winspear now divides her time between California and the Pacific Northwest.

[jacquelinewinspear.com](https://www.jacquelinewinspear.com)



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Crime Fiction

DANGER OF DEFEAT

HOME FRONT DETECTIVE 10

EDWARD MARSTON

'A master of his craft'
Daily Mail

February, 1918. A burglary in Limehouse escalates into a siege between a band of thieves and the authorities, and a police constable lies dead. Detective Inspector Harvey Marmion and Detective Sergeant Joe Keedy hasten to the scene and when the door is eventually battered down, Keedy bravely leads the way in. Then a gunshot is heard: Keedy has been hit.

While his partner is rushed to hospital, Marmion is on the trail of the burglars. As a defenceless Keedy remains in the sights of the murderous thieves, Marmion delves into the secrets that lie behind this fatal incident ...



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Crime Fiction

SPRING OFFENSIVE

HOME FRONT DETECTIVE 11

EDWARD MARSTON

March, 1918. British newspapers carry the dreadful news that the German Spring offensive has begun, with thousands of British lives lost.

Detective Sargeant Joe Keedy is awaiting release from hospital in London and is anxious to resume the fight against crime on the Home Front. Then late one night, a bank is raided and the gang escape by car with a sizeable haul.

Detective Inspector Harvey Marmion is put in charge of the case, but without Keedy at his side he faces an uphill battle to solve this perplexing case.



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Crime Fiction

THE CURSE OF PENRYTH HALL

JESS ARMSTRONG

'A delightful debut'
People

Since the Great War, Ruby Vaughn has made a life for herself running a rare bookshop alongside her octogenarian employer and house mate in Exeter. She's always avoided dwelling on the past, but it has a way of finding her. When Ruby must deliver a box of books to a folk healer living deep in the Cornish countryside, she is brought back to the one place she swore she'd never return: Penryth Hall.

A foreboding place, Penryth Hall is home to a once dear friend, Tamsyn, and her husband, Sir Edward Chenoweth. Ruby is eager to depart, but her plans change when Penryth's bells ring for the first time in thirty years. Edward is dead; he met a gruesome end, and with his death brings whispers of a returned curse. To protect her friend, Ruby must work to find out what really happened in the orchard that night.

JESS ARMSTRONG's debut novel *The Curse of Penryth Hall* won the Mystery Writers of America/Minotaur First Crime Novel Competition. She has a masters degree in American History but prefers writing about imaginary people to the real thing. Armstrong lives in New Orleans.

writingjess.com
[@jesslarmstrong](https://twitter.com/jesslarmstrong)



MURDER AT LORD'S STATION

LONDON UNDERGROUND STATION 3

JIM ELDRIDGE

'An engaging and enjoyable series'
Historical Novel Society

March, 1941. The Blitz is taking its toll on London. Inspector Coburg and Sergeant Lampson are just recovering from one devastating air raid when they get a call asking them to go to the disused Lord's Underground station. The body of a man has been found on the platform, beaten to death by what Dr Welbourne believes to have been a cricket bat.

Could the dead man be associated with the British Empire XI who are playing against English cricket teams at the world-famous Lord's cricket ground? Coburg and Lampson have a puzzling case to solve ...

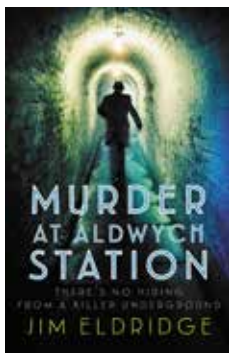
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Crime Fiction



SHARP SCRATCH

MARTINE BAILEY

'Taut, twisty and addictive. Martine Bailey is one to watch'

Louisa Treger, author of Madwoman



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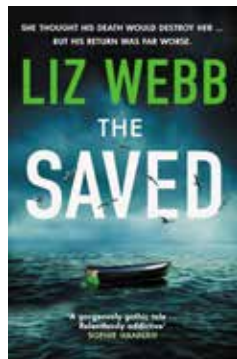
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Crime Fiction

Five candidates. One job. A killer prepared to murder their way to the top.

Salford, 1983. Lorraine Quick is a single mother, a member of a band going nowhere fast, and personnel officer at the grim Memorial Hospital. A new general manager position is being introduced, and Lorraine's recent training in the cutting-edge science of psychometric testing will be pivotal. As the profiles start to emerge, a chilling light is cast on the candidates.

When a lethal dose of anaesthetic is deliberately substituted for a flu vaccine, and a second suspicious death quickly follows, it's clear a killer is at work in the hospital. Can Lorraine's personality tests lead her to the murderer?



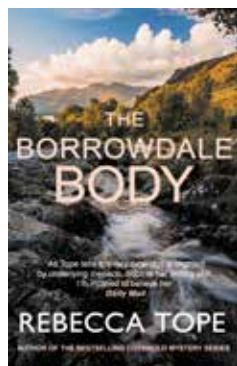
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Crime Fiction



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Crime Fiction

THE SAVED

LIZ WEBB

'Unputdownable'

Jo Brand

Nancy and Calder are moving from London to an isolated Scottish island. But while Nancy is focused on their new beginning, she is increasingly unsettled by the stark island and Calder's dark past. Then a nightmare begins: Calder's boat upturned in the bay, his body adrift in the icy water. He's clinically dead with no heartbeat. Miraculously the doctors bring him back, but Nancy doesn't recognise the man who has come back from the dead.

As secrets, lies and bodies begin to wash up on the island, Nancy must come to terms with the fact that despite the fresh start, sometimes the slate cannot be wiped clean.

THE BORROWDALE BODY

LAKE DISTRICT MYSTERIES 13

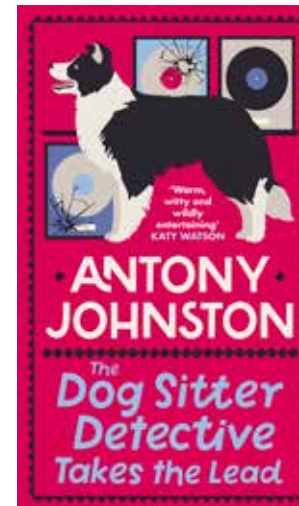
REBECCA TOPE

'Tope has considerable skill in creating a large cast of fully rounded characters, who are not only believable but also memorable'

Mystery People

Christopher Henderson is due to hold the clearance sale from High Gates House in Borrowdale, when a man's body is discovered. Cajoled by the heir to the estate into remaining silent until after the auction, Christopher's sale begins but is halted by the police. A murder has been committed.

Simmy, Christopher's wife, applies herself to the mystery but she will have to contend with a ruthless and determined killer in her fight for the truth.



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Crime Fiction



THE DOG SITTER DETECTIVE TAKES THE LEAD

DOG SITTER DETECTIVE 2

ANTONY JOHNSTON

'The very best of modern cosy crime magic'

Jonathan Whitelaw author of *The Bingo Hall Detectives*

Gwinny Tuffel is preparing for her first acting role in a decade in the West End, but she is dog-sitting on the side to keep the wolf from the door. So, when ageing rock star Crash Double needs help with his Border Collie, she jumps at the chance. But the easy gig turns sour when the singer's dead body surfaces in the canal at Little Venice.

While the police dismiss the death as an accident, Gwinny suspects murder most foul. With a medley of suspects and some far-fetched motives to make heads or tails of, it is up to Gwinny to make sure the killer faces the music.



AGNES SHARP AND THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

AGNES SHARP 2

LEONIE SWANN

'Agnes Sharp and her wonderfully drawn friends are unforgettable characters'

Sam Blake

Sunset Hall doyenne Agnes Sharp is only too pleased when her housemate Edwina wins a trip to a spa hotel in Cornwall - heaven knows the group of elderly sleuths could do with a change of scenery. But the hotel is no paradise, despite the romantic package and five-course menu.

As soon as they've made themselves comfortable, Agnes thinks she has witnessed a murder on the cliffs. And it soon becomes clear that the perpetrator is among them.

Will Agnes and her friends survive their holiday?

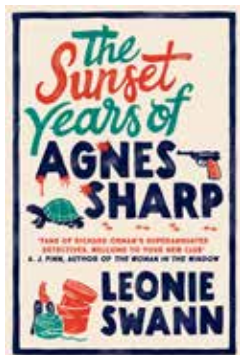
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Crime Fiction



POLES APART

ANNA AND JACQUI BURNS

Four women, one sleepy village... It's time to give life a whirl

Gwen seems to have it all but in reality her marriage is on the rocks. **Meg** has struggled with her health and her love life has barely got a pulse, but is she ready to shake things up? Recently widowed **Ivy** is fed up, but at seventy-two can she revamp more than her just home? Mum of two **Summer** dearly loves her young children but is desperate to escape the sleep-deprived fog that has settled over her.

The announcement that pole dancing exercise classes are coming to the village hall offers something fresh to each of them. As the disparate group come together, a bond is formed that will allow them to overcome the trials and tribulations that lie ahead...



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Fiction

August

ESCAPE TO PUMPKIN COTTAGE

ANNA AND JACQUI BURNS

Pippa is ready for a fresh start. Throwing herself into renovating run-down B&B Pumpkin Cottage is a challenge, but she is settling into village life and falling for outdoorsy Jake, when problems start coming thick and fast ...

Jenny has plenty on her plate. It's busy enough running Riverside Lodge but now her husband Phil has been diagnosed with early-onset dementia. She didn't need the threat of another B&B on her doorstep.

As the spat between the rival businesses escalates and an autumn storm brings matters to a head, Pippa and Jenny will have to see if the town is big enough for the both of them.



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Fiction

September



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Romance

MAGNOLIA GARDENS

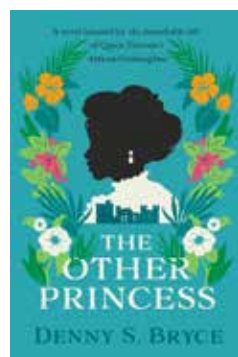
LARCH TREE LANE 3

ANNA JACOBS

'Rich, realistic characters and believable plots' *Booklist*

At the end of Hawthorn Close, nestled at the heart of the Wiltshire village of Essington St Mary, is a charming park boasting two magnificent magnolia trees. Under their sweeping branches, new arrivals are moving into the neighbourhood, including those being lent a helping hand from a local charitable trust. Amongst them is Brett, an orphan just out of the foster child system; Carla, who is escaping an abusive ex-partner; and Matthew Woodley, a widower whose house had burnt down while he was in hospital.

As the coming weeks unfold, Brett, Carla and Matthew will set out on paths to lives they could not have imagined when they first came to Magnolia Gardens.



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Fiction

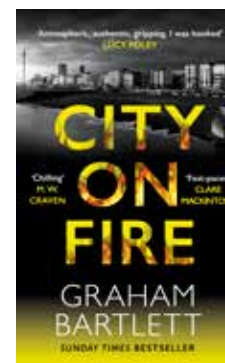
THE OTHER PRINCESS

DENNY S. BRYCE

'Gripping, vibrant and teeming with rich details',
Kristan Higgins, author of Pack up the Moon

By the time she was seven years old, Aina had been born into life as an Egbado princess, witnessed the brutal killing of her family, and had been enslaved to a rival chieftain. With a death sentence hanging over her, she would also face being renamed and presented to the distant Queen Victoria as a 'gift'.

From traumatic beginnings, Sarah Forbes Bonetta's will to survive led her to negotiate Her Majesty's court and to flourish in a world far removed from her African upbringing.



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Crime Fiction

CITY ON FIRE

JO HOWE 3

GRAHAM BARTLETT

'Fast-paced' *Clare Mackintosh, author of A Game of Lies*

After losing her sister to an overdose, Chief Superintendent Jo Howe is desperate to tackle the world of drugs that consumes the shadowy backstreets of Brighton. Operation Eradicate is her response but not everyone sees it as a positive development ...

For self-made millionaire Sir Ben Parsons it is a threat to his business - his colossal empire relies on addicts who survive on Respite Pharmaceuticals' substitute drugs. With connections in the highest levels of government, media and organised crime, Parsons unleashes a brutal counterattack on Howe.

How will she survive being caught in the line of fire?



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Crime Fiction

A DARTMOOR DECEPTION

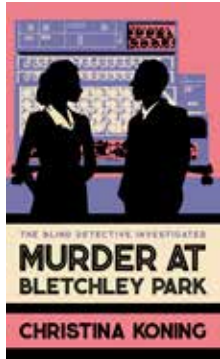
DEVON MYSTERIES 8

STEPHANIE AUSTIN

'Hugely enjoyable' *Marion Todd author of A Blind Eye*

Juno Browne is overworked and underpaid, staff absences are making running her shop difficult, and her elderly client, Maisie, is demanding more of her time. However, she is not the only one with problems. Her friend Elizabeth is being blackmailed, and dear Ricky's errant nephew is on the run from criminals in London.

Juno's attempts to help take her from an isolated manor house on Dartmoor to London's glittering theatreland. Can she avoid being fatally entangled in threads of deceit and murder?



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Crime Fiction

MURDER AT BLETCHLEY PARK

BLIND DETECTIVE 8

CHRISTINA KONIG

'A first-class mystery writer' *Daily Mail*

Spring, 1941. The Second World War has reached a peak and at Bletchley Park, home to the nation's code-breakers, the race is on to prevent further losses. This endeavour is suddenly very close to home for Frederick Rowlands, blind veteran of the Great War, when his daughter, Margaret, who works at 'the Park' as a cryptographer, is arrested on suspicion of betraying secrets to the enemy.

Then a young woman is found murdered, and Rowlands is drawn into a deadly battle of wits where he must decode a series of clues that will lead him to the killer and the real traitor at Bletchley Park.

MURDER IN TRANSIT

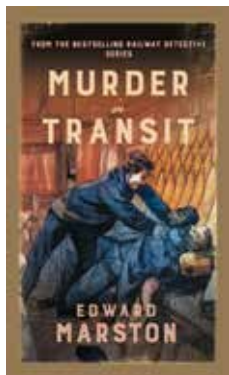
RAILWAY DETECTIVE 22

EDWARD MARSTON

'A master of his craft' *Daily Mail*

1866. On a train bound for Portsmouth, an elegant woman shares a first-class compartment with Giles Blanchard who is in a celebratory mood. However, he will never reach his home on the Isle of Wight alive. For the woman, this encounter will prove fortuitous for herself and her partner-in-crime. Not only are they the richer for picking the dead man's pocket, they also now possess the material for an extremely lucrative blackmail.

Detective Inspector Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming are swiftly dispatched to investigate. But as they sift through the evidence will the fact that their inquiries lead them to the door of Queen Victoria's home on the island be one complication too many?



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Crime Fiction

A CONCERT FOR CHRISTMAS

HELEN HAWKINS

'The perfect cosy Christmas romance'

Jennifer Bibby, author of *The Cornish Hideaway*

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Romance

Schoolteacher Sophie Lawson has fled to the Cotswold countryside after a tragic break-up and is throwing herself into dating and organising Cranswell's annual Christmas concert.

The festive fun is marred by the arrival of a handsome but surly musical director, tricky pupils and concert preparations falling into disarray. Disaster strikes, but the show must go on.

Will the concert bring Christmas harmony to Cranswell and will Sophie end the year on a high note?

OCTOBER



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Rights: World English

Crime Fiction

THE SOHO MURDER

BLITZ DETECTIVE 9

MIKE HOLLOW

'Perfectly atmospheric'
Peterborough Telegraph

December, 1940. It is the day before New Year's Eve, but there will be no crowds celebrating on the streets of London this year. After a quiet Christmas, the city has just suffered its most devastating air raid since the opening days of the Blitz.

The most shocking destruction lies in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral. Paternoster Row, the centre of British book publishing, is obliterated overnight. Among the survivors is a dealer in antiquarian books who escapes death – only to die that very night, shot dead in his Soho flat. The priceless volume he'd just acquired is missing – did someone covet it enough to kill for it?

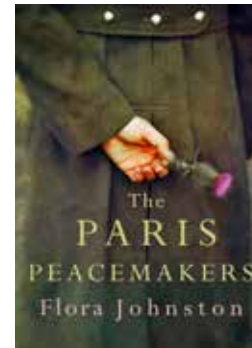
In his search for the murderer, the Blitz Detective DI John Jago uncovers a hidden world of obsessive book collectors, unscrupulous dealers and criminal gangs.



NOVEMBER

THE PARIS PEACEMAKERS

FLORA JOHNSTON



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Fiction

Paris, 1919. As the fragile negotiations of the International Peace Conference begin, typist Stella Rutherford throws herself into work. She will do anything to escape her grief for her beloved brother Jack, buried near Arras. Her sister Corran is about to put her academic career to use teaching the troops in France, a chance to see what the war was like for countless men, including her fiancé Rob Campbell. Rob was part of the celebrated Scottish rugby team who were swept up in war fever and mown down in battle. He has been profoundly marked by his time as a surgeon on the front line, devastated by the incessant grind of the injured, dying and dead.

The Paris Peacemakers follows three Scots as they attempt to pick up the pieces of their lives while the fabric of Europe is stitched together for good or ill.

EVERY TIME WE SAY GOODBYE

NATALIE JENNER

'This is Jenner's best!'
Meg Waite Clayton, author of The Last Train to London



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Fiction

London, 1955. Vivien Lowry's latest play opened to a rapturous reception from the audience, but the critics' savage reviews have forced its closure and called into question her entire career. Then the opportunity arises for her to work as a script doctor on a film shooting in Rome's Cinecittà Studios. What Vivien doesn't count on is the greatest male bastion of them all: the Vatican.

Caught between the church and censors, as well as two very different men, Vivien must also face the long-buried truth of the recent World War and what really happened to her fiancé if she's to deal with her past and step into the future.

NOVEMBER



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Crime Fiction

THE LANTERN'S DANCE

MARY RUSSELL & SHERLOCK HOLMES 18

LAURIE R. KING

The most sustained feat of imagination in mystery fiction'
Lee Child

September, 1925. After their recent Transylvanian adventures, Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes look forward to visiting Holmes' son, the famous artist Damian Adler, and his family in the French countryside. But when they arrive, they discover that the Adlers have fled from a mysterious threat. In the ominously empty house, Russell discovers crates packed with memorabilia related to the artist Horace Vernet, including an old journal written in a nearly impenetrable code. Intrigued, Russell sets about deciphering the cryptograph.

The secrets of the past reach into the present. Could there be things about Holmes' own history that even the master detective does not perceive?



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Crime Fiction

MURDER AT WHITECHAPEL

LONDON UNDERGROUND STATION 4

JIM ELDRIDGE

'An engaging and enjoyable series'
Historical Novels Review

April, 1941. Detective Chief Inspector Coburg and Sergeant Lampson are called to the former Whitechapel Road tube station, some platforms of which are being used as air raid shelters, when the body of a woman is discovered. She has been strangled and her body eviscerated.

An examination of the scene reveals an old Victorian doctor's case containing surgical tools. Has it been deliberately left to be discovered? Could this be another of Jack the Ripper's victims? Coburg and Lampson have a very puzzling case to solve ...

DECEMBER



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Crime Fiction

LITANY OF LIES

BRADECOTE & CATCHPOLL 12

SARAH HAWKSWOOD

'Read it as a standalone or, as I did, become fascinated and follow the series'

Crime Review

Midsummer, 1145. The steward of Evesham Abbey is found dead at the bottom of a well pit. The Abbot, whose relationship with the lord Sheriff of Worcestershire is strained at best, dislikes needing external help with the unfortunate incident. However, he grudgingly receives the trio of Undersheriff Hugh Bradecote, Serjeant Catchpoll and Underserjeant Walkelin. As the sheriff's men probe who had more reason to want Walter the Steward dead, they discover that truth is in short supply. With the tensions between the Abbey and the local castle guard reaching boiling point, another killing will force the investigation down a dangerous path.



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Crime Fiction

THE SECRET OF THE THREE FATES

JESS ARMSTRONG

'Ruby is a wonderful concoction'
Publishers Weekly

Ruby Vaughn's octogenarian employer and housemate Mr Owen said the trip to Manhurst Castle in the Scottish Borders was to appraise some purchases for the bookshop. However, the truth, as well as secrets he has been carefully hiding, soon unravels.

For Mr Owen, who lost a son in the Great War, a trio of mediums billing themselves as The Three Fates are the answer to his desperate wish to speak to him again. But the night of the séance brings with it a murder and Ruby and Mr Owen must uncover the truth about the killing in order to clear their names.

BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS



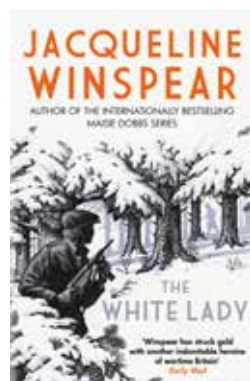
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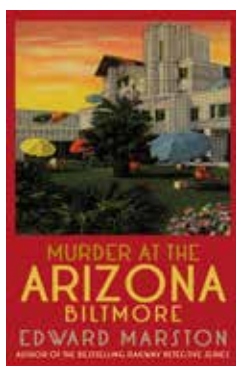
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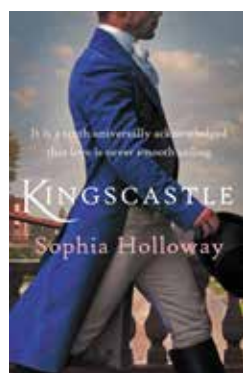
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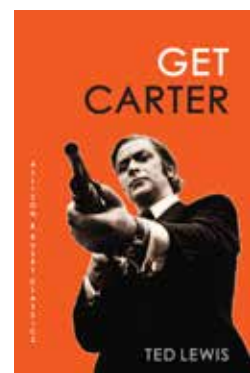
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