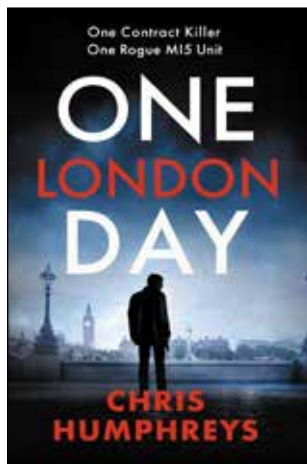


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Crime Fiction

## ONE LONDON DAY

MR PHIPPS THRILLERS 1

CHRIS HUMPHREYS

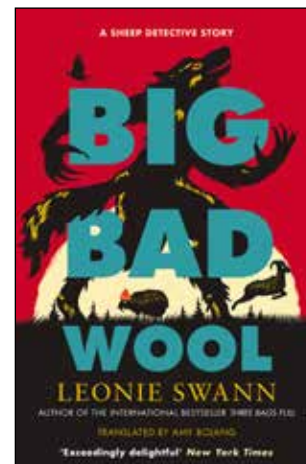
'The novel's darkly comic tone and cinematic feel make this a series to watch'

*The Times*

One city, one day, and a battle of wills reaches boiling point.

Joseph Severin, a respectable North London businessman, has a lucrative side job. He's doing the books, old school (because these days the only trail you can't trace is a paper one) for a rogue MI5 outfit, the Shadows, headed by psychopathic Sebastien. However, when the game is rumbled, Sebastien sends hitman Mr Phipps to kill Severin and get those books back. The spider web of collateral damage will be extensive, taking in Lottie, for whom Severin has developed a sudden, wild passion; Sonya, a Russian escort with a desperate deadline; and at MI5, the ambitious Ellerby, who has them all in her sights.

CHRIS HUMPHREYS' acting career has taken him from the West End to Hollywood with stops along the way for *The Bill* and *Coronation Street*. His debut novel (written as C.C. Humphreys), *The French Executioner*, was shortlisted for the CWA Steel Dagger and, more recently, *Plague* won the Arthur Ellis Award for Best Crime Novel. He lives in Totnes, Devon.



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## BIG BAD WOOL

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES 2

LEONIE SWANN

'Exceedingly delightful'

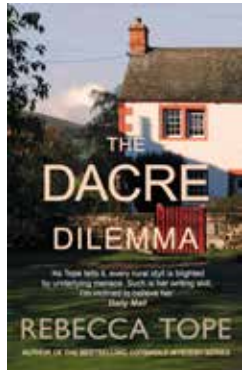
*New York Times*

On the edge of a French forest, a flock of unusually clever sheep – educated by bedtime stories and past detective work – face a chilling new mystery and the threat of a shadowy figure. Sheep have vanished, other animals too. The theory of a werewolf might be just a wild fairy tale, but when a human is killed, it becomes clear that even fantasies can be fatal. Miss Maple, Mopple and their woolly companions, aided by their goat neighbours, set out to reveal the truth. Armed with sheep logic, courage, and a steady supply of food, the flock follow the werewolf's trail, determined to prevent any more bloodshed.

LEONIE SWANN's debut novel, *Three Bags Full*, was an instant hit, topping the bestseller charts in her native Germany for months and being translated into 26 languages. She has since continued her ovine detectives' investigations in *Big Bad Wool* and introduced a motley crew of senior sleuths in *The Sunset Years of Agnes Sharp*. Swann lives in Cambridgeshire.

The *Three Bags Full* film starring Hugh Jackman is out in May as *The Sheep Detectives*.





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## THE DACRE DILEMMA

LAKE DISTRICT MYSTERIES 15

**REBECCA TOPE**

'Rich in psychological insight'  
*Deadly Pleasures*

Simmy Brown, four months pregnant and balancing life between her Windermere florist shop and home, agrees to deliver flowers to Eleanor Padgett, a textile expert helping Simmy's husband's auction house. The trip to the pretty Lake District village of Dacre offers a welcome breath of spring air – until a walk through the churchyard leads to a shocking discovery: the body of a young man. Soon Simmy is caught up in another tangle of secrets which threatens to overshadow her peaceful world.



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## THE ESKDALE EPISODE

LAKE DISTRICT MYSTERIES 16

**REBECCA TOPE**

With the approach of autumn, a heavily pregnant Simmy Brown is anticipating the imminent arrival of her new child and juggling the move of her florist business to Keswick. A bouquet order to be delivered to the beautiful but remote Eskdale is an awkward addition to Simmy's to-do list. There she encounters three generations of women – and the next day, one of them is brutally murdered. Drawn into the mystery, Simmy and her friends soon find themselves navigating eccentric artists and fractured families. However, the truth is darker than anyone imagined – and time is running out, in more ways than one ...

**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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## THE SURGEON'S HOUSE

**JODY COOKSLEY**

'Deliciously dark. Perfect for a winter's night'  
*Barbara Havelocke*

London, 1883. The brutal murder of Rose Parmiter, beloved cook at Evergreen House, shatters the sanctuary Rebecca Harris has built for vulnerable women and children. As grief grips the household, unsettling events begin to stir – echoes of a past that refuses to stay buried. The malign legacy of the Everley family, who called Evergreen House home, casts a sinister shadow, and when two more lives are claimed, dread spreads through the refuge.

Rebecca must draw out the poison of the past before Evergreen's promise of hope is consumed by darkness.

**JODY COOKSLEY's** previous novel *The Glass House* is a fictional account of the life of Julia Margaret Cameron. *The Small Museum* won the Caledonia Novel Award. She lives in Surrey.





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**MARTIN DAVIES** is the author of nine novels, including international bestseller *The Conjuror's Bird*, which was a Richard and Judy Book Club selection and *Havana Sleeping*, which was shortlisted for a Historical Dagger award by the Crime Writers' Association.

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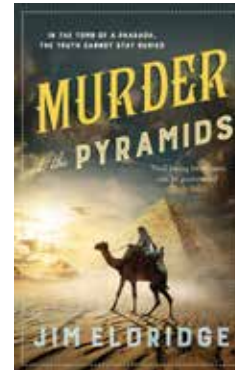
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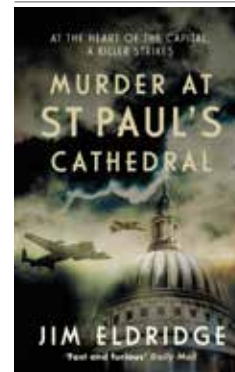
MUSEUM MYSTERIES 12

**JIM ELDRIDGE**

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

*Daily Mail*

January 1901. Abigail and Daniel Wilson, 'The Museum Detectives', are on their way to the Great Pyramid at Giza. Their explorations, including the Robbers' Tunnel, take a very sinister turn when they come upon the body of a man who has been brutally murdered. Investigations by the local police reveal him to be Simeon McGruder, an American writer who was penning an article about the mysteries of the Sphinx.



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**MURDER AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL**

CATHEDRAL MYSTERIES 1

**JIM ELDRIDGE**

May, 1941. A senior chorister at St Paul's is found beaten to death in the cathedral's crypt and Detective Chief Inspector Coburg is called in to investigate. The dead man was not popular. That, coupled with the long list of staff and volunteers, including the Night Watch protecting the cathedral from the worst of the Blitz, means that there are many suspects. Further complications arise with links to top-secret work being carried out at Bletchley Park. Coburg is under pressure to close this fiendishly complex case, when the killer strikes again.

**JIM ELDRIDGE** was born towards the end of World War II, and survived attacks by V2 rockets on the King's Cross area where he lived. In 1971, he sold his first sitcom to the BBC and had his first book commissioned, and has now sold over three million copies. He lives in Kent with his wife.



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## BEATTIE CAVENDISH AND THE WHITE PEARL CLUB

MARY-JANE RILEY

'An atmospheric blend of murder, intrigue and sharply observed characters. Post-war espionage fiction at its finest'

Jenni Keer, author of *Boldwood*

In 1948, the war's shadow still lingers over Britain. Beattie Cavendish, formerly of the SOE, refuses to settle into a conventional life. When offered an undercover role by GCHQ, she eagerly accepts. Tasked with monitoring the Bowen family, her mission takes a deadly turn when their housekeeper, Sofia, is murdered. Teaming up with war-weary detective Patrick Corrigan, Beattie uncovers a dangerous web of spies and secrets.



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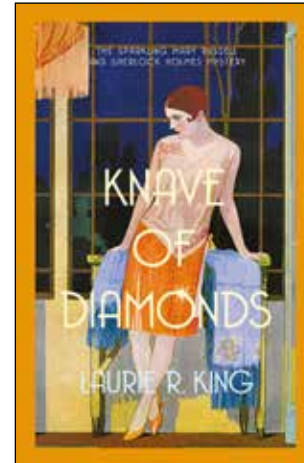
Crime Fiction

## BEATTIE CAVENDISH AND THE HIGHLAND HIDEAWAY

MARY-JANE RILEY

1949. The Cold War is tightening its grip, spies lurk in every shadow, and the race for the atomic bomb is reaching a deadly pitch. When GCHQ operative Beattie Cavendish is sent to a pivotal listening station in the Scottish Highlands, she finds a base in chaos – its commander missing, its mission compromised, and whispers of a spy ring. Beattie's task takes a darker and more personal turn when her uncle vanishes nearby. With private detective Patrick Corrigan at her side, Beattie must uncover the truth before snow and secrecy seal them in.

MARY-JANE RILEY was a BBC journalist, presenting radio programmes and major crime stories over the past twenty years. She has also published four thrillers. She lives in Suffolk.



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## KNAVE OF DIAMONDS

MARY RUSSELL & SHERLOCK HOLMES 19

LAURIE R. KING

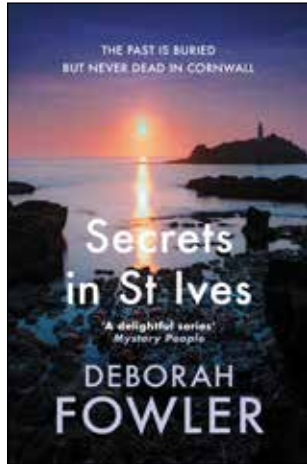
'King has added to the Holmes legends with skill, creating a convincing blend of fiction and reality'  
*The Times*

When Mary Russell was a child, she adored her Uncle Jake, the black sheep of the family. But she hasn't heard from him in many years, until he presents himself at her door with an abundance of problems for his clever niece to deal with. Not the least of which is the reason the family rejected him in the first place: his involvement in the infamous disappearance of the Irish Crown Jewels from Dublin Castle in 1907.

It was a theft that shook a government, enraged a King and threatened the establishment. Juggling conflicting loyalties and international secrets, Russell is entangled in the web of a case that not even the great Sherlock Holmes could solve.

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 Northern California.





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## SECRETS IN ST IVES

ST IVES MYSTERIES 2

**DEBORAH FOWLER**

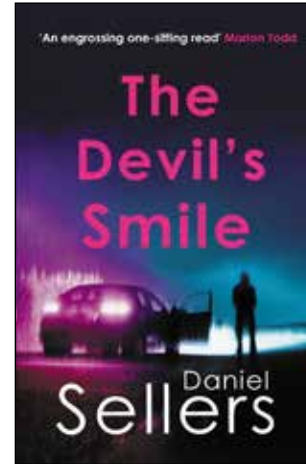
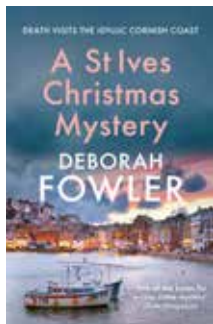
'A delightful series'

*Mystery People*

St Ives in summer hides its shadows well. And as the season gets underway, Chief Inspector Louis Peppiatt is handed a cold case: the disappearance of a local farmer over thirty years ago. Among his first stops is Merrin McKenzie, connected to the troubled family and to Peppiatt through a previous investigation. But who's still hiding the truth decades later?

As Peppiatt and Merrin follow the faint threads of the past, they uncover shocking secrets and betrayals that expose the darker undercurrents of their seemingly peaceful Cornish town.

**DEBORAH FOWLER's** first short story was published when she was seventeen. Since then, she has published over six hundred short stories, novels, a crime series and several works of non-fiction. She lives in a small hamlet just outside St Ives.



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## THE DEVIL'S SMILE

THE YORKSHIRE KILLINGS 2

**DANIEL SELLERS**

'Echoes of David Peace's Red Riding Quartet - a slice of Yorkshire Noir to savour'

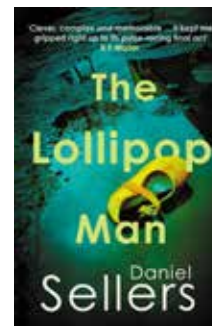
*Chris Simms*

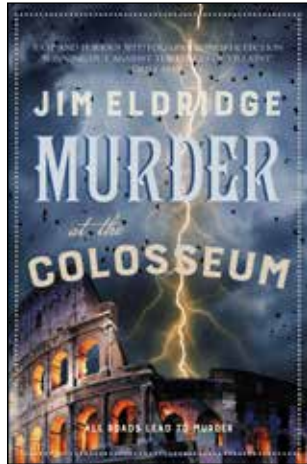
October, 1995. Adrian Brown's second year at Leeds University is a blur of throbbing bass lines and neon-lit nights out. However, a violent encounter with a man he met in a basement club has the power to sober him up.

Sheila Hargreaves, who has grown fond of Adrian following their brush with the infamous Lollipop Man, has written a book about the murders and is busy with a new TV show, *Yorkshire CrimeTime*. But then her erratic co-presenter Tony Tranter goes missing, and his body turns up riddled with stab wounds. Could his death be linked to other violent attacks on men?

Moving from dark city corners to the glare of the TV studio lights, Sheila and Adrian find themselves on the trail of another killer.

**DANIEL SELLERS** is the bestselling author of the Detective Lola Harris Mysteries and is an obsessive fan of Agatha Christie. His crime thrillers are pacy and dark, with as much interest in whydunnit as who. He grew up in Yorkshire, and has lived and worked in Liverpool, Glasgow, Ireland and Finland. Sellers now lives in Argyll.





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## MURDER AT THE COLOSSEUM

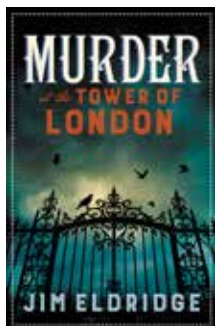
MUSEUM MYSTERIES 11

JIM ELDRIDGE

'An engaging and enjoyable series'  
*Historical Novel Society*

1900. Archaeologist Abigail Wilson returns to the Eternal City as a guest speaker at a festival on Classical Rome, although she also hopes the trip will be a well-earned holiday for herself and her husband, private investigator Daniel Wilson. However, the bloody history of the ancient arena seeps into the present with the violent murder of one of Abigail's colleagues and his wife at the Colosseum.

Moving from the Forum to the Spanish Steps, Rome is suddenly the backdrop of another investigation for the Museum Detectives who clash with local authorities and a rising mafia influence in a race to uncover the truth.



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Fiction

## ONE GOOD THING

GEORGIA HUNTER

The new novel from the author of the multi-million copy bestseller *We Were the Lucky Ones*

Italy, 1941. Lili Passigli is studying at the University of Ferrara when Mussolini's Racial Laws deem her of 'inferior' Jewish descent. As Hitler's strength grows, Lili's world begins to shrink around her, with the papers awash with Fascist propaganda and the city walls desecrated with anti-semitic slurs. When Germany invades northern Italy, Lili and her best friend Esti find themselves alone in Nazi-occupied territory. With the help of the resistance, they flee with Esti's two-year-old son Theo in tow, traveling south toward the Allies and freedom.

On this journey through war-torn Italy, they will face untold challenges and devastating decisions.

**GEORGIA HUNTER** comes from a family of Holocaust survivors. *We Were the Lucky Ones* was born of her quest to uncover her family's staggering history. It has since been published in twenty languages and adapted into a critically acclaimed TV series. *One Good Thing* is her second novel. She lives in Connecticut, USA.





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'Just the ticket for anyone wanting to escape to Bella Italia'

**David Hewson**

The enthralling murder mystery series set in the wine-soaked Italian countryside.

**CAMILLA TRINCHIERI** worked for many years on films in Rome with directors including Federico Fellini and Luchino Visconti. She emigrated to the US in 1980 and received her MFA in Creative Writing from Columbia University. She lives in the USA.

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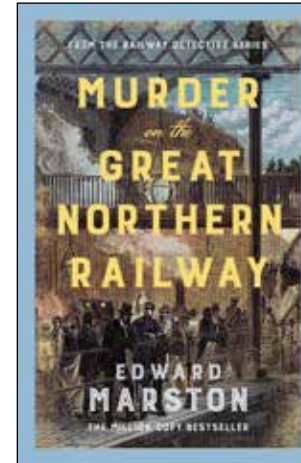
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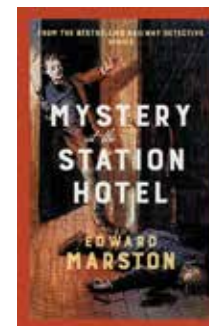
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## MURDER ON THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY

RAILWAY DETECTIVE 24

**EDWARD MARSTON**

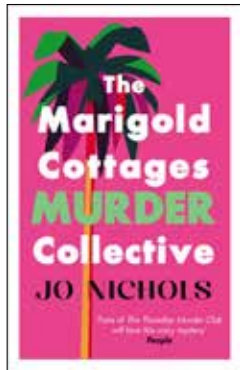
'Marston is a master of his craft'

**Daily Mail**

April 1867. Amid the usual bustle at King's Cross, a large wooden box is loaded onto a train bound for Lincoln, its watchful escort insistent it remain in sight. But a daring robbery derails those plans, leaving behind a dead man and a vanished treasure.

Detective Inspector Colbeck is called in after a plea from the Dean of Lincoln Cathedral to find the killers and recover a priceless silver model of the cathedral. With the annual Horse Fair flooding the city with visitors, Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming must navigate a web of confusion to track the culprit, although Colbeck grows certain the thief is still close at hand. But time is short, and the Railway Detective faces one of his most complex cases yet.

**EDWARD MARSTON** has written well over a hundred books, including some non-fiction. 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.



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## THE MARIGOLD COTTAGES MURDER COLLECTIVE

JO NICHOLS

'Fans of *The Thursday Murder Club* will love this cozy mystery'

*People*

At Marigold Cottages, landlady Mrs B only rents to favoured tenants. There is anxious playwright Sophie, agoraphobe Hamilton, single mum and sculptor Ocean, perfectionist Lily-Ann, and the mysterious Nicholas. Their quirky community is upended when ex-con Anthony moves in and a dead body turns up on their doorstep shortly after. The police arrest Anthony, but Mrs B, convinced of his innocence, confesses instead. Horrified, her tenants form the 'Marigold Cottages Murder Collective' to clear her name.

## MURDER ON CHARITY LANE

Peace descends on Marigold Cottages after the recent spate of murders, but Mrs B finds the calm unbearable and craves another mystery. She invites her friend Elsa Moore, who is a suspect in the killing of her wealthy employer, to move into a vacant cottage and rallies her tenants to investigate the death. When a series of strange disturbances plague the residents, and a second murder follows, it seems their community is in jeopardy, and the close-knit residents must uncover the truth and prove Elsa's innocence.

**JO NICHOLS** is the pseudonym of Joel Ross and Lee Nichols, a husband-and-wife duo who authored over thirty books across five genres and wrote a Netflix animated series before penning *The Marigold Cottages Murder Collective*.



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## THE AMERICAN SUSPECT

NIGHTHAWK 5

JIM KELLY

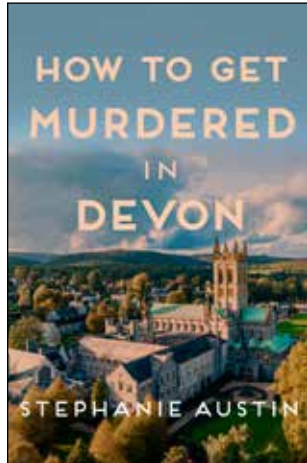
'Sinister, mysterious and refreshingly different'  
*Andrew Taylor*

October, 1942. Thousands of American GIs are stationed across eastern England building airfields to bomb Nazi Germany, and Cambridge's dance halls and pubs are a hot spot for Yanks on leave. Detective Inspector Eden Brooke is called to the aerodrome east of the city when the remains of an airman, identified by his dog tag, are uncovered by workers extending the runway. However, this is no recent burial.

A fresh murder means that a black US serviceman faces the hangman's noose, but Brooke looks through the clouds of tension and prejudice and believes he sees an innocent man.

**JIM KELLY** is the son of a Scotland Yard detective. He went to university in Sheffield, later training as a journalist and working on the *Bedfordshire Times*, *Yorkshire Evening Press* and 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.





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## HOW TO GET MURDERED IN DEVON

DEVON MYSTERIES 9

STEPHANIE AUSTIN

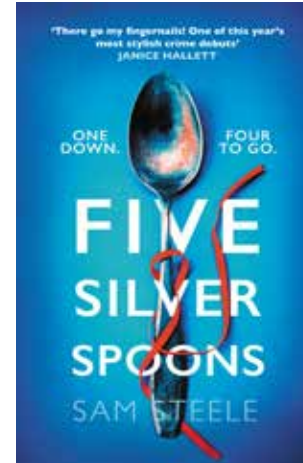
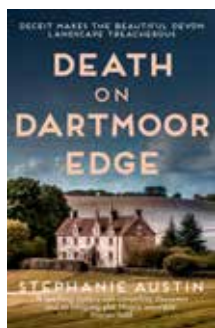
**'An evocative Devon mystery to be enjoyed by all fans of rural crime'**

**Kate Ellis**

Juno Browne's purchase of a car for her lover, Daniel Thorncroft, takes a dark turn when a dead body is found in the boot. Inspector Ford investigates, but Juno's curiosity and concern for the missing seller, Amber Horrell, lead her to sleuth on her own. It turns out that the Horrells, Amber's family, are notorious in this corner of Devon, with an ancient murder and a vanishing red diamond in their past and a shady antiques business very much in their present.

As a second murder occurs, Juno's involvement deepens, and the line between reality and fiction blurs, revealing a truth far more complex than she ever imagined.

**STEPHANIE AUSTIN** has enjoyed a varied career, working as an artist and an antiques trader, and 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.



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Export trade paperback

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## FIVE SILVER SPOONS

SAM STEELE

**'A pacy bloody thriller with a terrifically twisty narrative'**

**Emma Flint**

**One down.**

When a supposed overdose victim is found to have received a postcard marked *You're first*, DI Hope Fenton uncovers links to a circle of privileged Cambridge alumni: an eco-entrepreneur, a surgeon, a lecturer, and a government minister. But are they potential victims – or suspects?

**Four to go.**

As the investigation unravels and the body count rises, Hope is trying, and failing, to cope with the shadow cast by the abduction and disappearance of her son Noah eight years ago. The unanswered questions of what happened to him also haunt her ex-husband, forensic scientist Dr Adam Fenton. But could it be that this new case holds the key to Noah's disappearance as well?

**They should have made sure he was dead.**

*Five Silver Spoons* is a gripping tale of shameless entitlement and merciless revenge.

**SAM STEELE** is the pseudonym of Sarah Steele, *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Missing Pieces of Nancy Moon* and other sweeping historical fiction. She trained as a classical pianist and violinist before joining the world of publishing at Hodder and Stoughton. She was for many years a freelance editor, and now lives in Stroud.



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## AGNES SHARP AND THE WEDDING TO DIE FOR

MISS SHARP INVESTIGATES 3

LEONIE SWANN

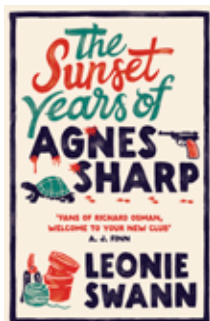
'Fans of Richard Osman's *Thursday Murder Club* will find much to like here'

*New York Times*

**Something old, something red, something stolen, something dead.**

Sunset Hall, a house-share for the old and unusual, is gearing up as energetically as its aged inhabitants can for Bernadette's big wedding day. However, with the RSVPs comes an anonymous note that threatens to cast a pall over the upcoming festivities. Agnes is in (somewhat begrudging) wedding planning mode and she and the not-so-sprightly gang of pensioners decide to hide the note from the betrothed, not wanting to cause stress.

It is up to Agnes to dig into this poison pen letter, determined to help the wedding go off without a hitch . . . aside from the bodies they've already had to hide from the blushing bride.



## THE HONG KONG WIDOW

KRISTEN LOESCH



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Fiction

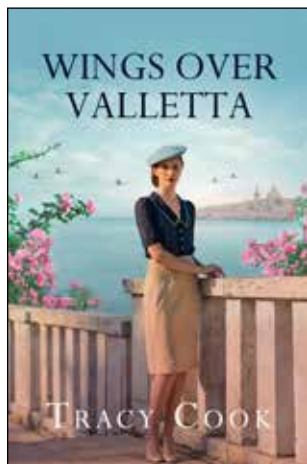
'A stunning, addictive, genre-bending book that will sink its claws into you from the very first page'  
*C.J. Cooke*

1953. Mei's 'gift' of speaking to ghosts is one that she has endeavoured to bury while fighting to survive as a refugee in post-war, post-revolution Hong Kong. When former silent film star Holly Zhang invites Mei to the infamous Maidenhair House, the startling summons revives her link to the man who destroyed her life. During six séances over six nights, a medium will be asked to leave until only one remains as the recipient of a staggering reward, but the only prize Mei wants is revenge.

Years later, that shocking night in the labyrinthine mansion has become an urban legend, dismissed by the police at the time as a collective hallucination. Mei must uncover the truth of what really happened and see if the ghosts she has carried can finally be laid to rest.

**KRISTEN LOESCH** holds a BA in History, as well as a Master's degree in Slavonic Studies from the University of Cambridge. Her debut historical novel, *The Porcelain Doll*, was shortlisted for the Caledonia Novel Award and was a finalist for the Edgar Award. She lives in Switzerland.





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## WINGS OVER VALLETTA

TRACY COOK

**How far will a mother go to find her long-lost child?**

Malta, 1941. As the Germans blitz Malta, Kitty Campbell is determined to find the daughter she was forced to give up for adoption, before it's too late. But the trail to her child is complicated by family secrets and a mysterious stranger on the island. As Kitty searches, she meets reconnaissance pilot Bill Hamilton and joins Fighter Command in Valletta as an Aircraft Plotter, surrounded by military secrets at the very heart of Malta's defences and that of the entire Mediterranean.

As she plots the aircraft battles fiercely fought in the skies above and invasion threatens, Kitty's search for her little girl will force her to choose between loyalty to her country and to her child...

**TRACY COOK** read History at Oxford University before she produced and directed documentary series for the BBC. She moved into freelance journalism and PR, but her lifelong dream has always been to write. After graduating from the Faber Academy Writing a Novel Course, she was longlisted for the Bridport Novel Prize in 2021. *Wings Over Valletta* is her first published novel. She lives in Surrey with her husband.



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Crime Fiction

## TRUTH TO TELL

DI KELSO STRANG 7

ALINE TEMPLETON

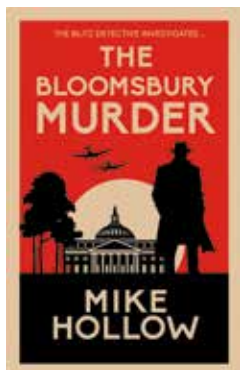
**'The crime czar of the Scottish small town'**  
**Val McDermid**

At this dead hour of the morning, the lorry park is deserted. It is a bitterly cold night, with rain falling and an edge of snow, and under the sickly yellow lighting the huge vehicles and tarpaulined trailers are dark and bulky as huddled beasts.

For the last six months, Callan has been spending nights looting the lorries for their precious cargos – and it's all been going well. But this fateful evening something will change: Callan will be caught up in a murder, and DCI Kelso Strang will find himself at the heart of the investigation ...

**ALINE TEMPLETON** grew up in the fishing village of Anstruther, in the East Neuk of Fife. She has worked in education and broadcasting and was a Justice of the Peace for ten years. She has been a Chair of the Society of Authors in Scotland and a director of the Crime Writers' Association. She lives in Kent.





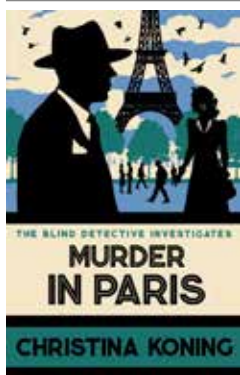
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## THE BLOOMSBURY MURDER

BLITZ DETECTIVE 10

MIKE HOLLOW

'A-grade crime fiction ... totally recommended'

Lee Child

January 1941. Detective Inspector John Jago is called to a house in London's Bloomsbury where he finds a woman who has been left to die, her only crime seemingly being her kindness to strangers. She gave victims of the Blitz and those scattered from war-torn Europe a refuge. But who would want to strike down an angel of mercy in her own home, and what is the deadly secret that has followed her halfway across the world?

**MIKE HOLLOW** studied Russian and French at the University of Cambridge and then worked for the BBC. He lives in Hampshire.

## MURDER IN PARIS

BLIND DETECTIVE 10

CHRISTINA KONING

'One of the most fascinating detectives'

Amanda Craig

Paris, 1945. Frederick Rowlands has been tasked with confirming the identity of Clara Metzner. Problems abound, not only because of Rowlands' blindness, but because Clara's concentration camp experiences have changed her almost beyond recognition. But the pressure is on, as Clara's testimony could help expose collaborators. But when Clara – or the woman claiming to be her – is found murdered, Rowlands is thrust into a race to stop more deaths, including his own.

**CHRISTINA KONING** has worked as a journalist, reviewing fiction for *The Times*. She won the Encore Prize and was longlisted for the Orange Prize in the same year. She lives in Cambridge.



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## THE DEVIL IN OXFORD

RUBY VAUGHN 3

JESS ARMSTRONG

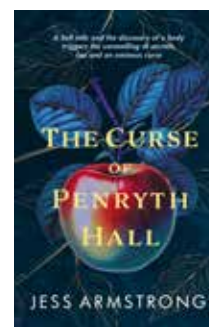
'Irresistible'

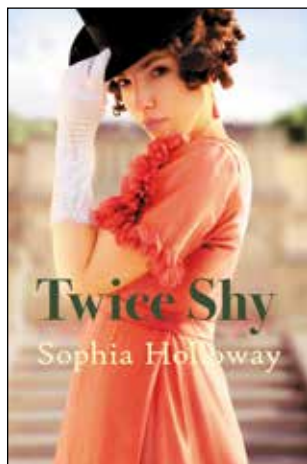
Publishers Weekly

December, 1923. Ruby Vaughn is looking forward to a quiet, relaxing trip to Oxford in the week before Christmas with her octogenarian housemate and colleague Mr Owen. Far away from the arcane, unusual — and occasionally illegal — books that seem to always get her into trouble. The most she expects to do is attend a handful of his antiquarian society meetings.

But when the body of disgraced scholar Julius Harker is found amongst his exhibition of Egyptian antiquities looted by Napoleon, panic spreads throughout the cobbled streets of Oxford. The last thing Ruby wants is another investigation, but then an old friend comes begging for her help. If that wasn't enough, her past insists on haunting her when Ruan Kivell, the intriguing folk healer that she met in Cornwall, suddenly reappears. It seems there is much more going on in Oxford that meets the eye.

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






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## TWICE SHY

SOPHIA HOLLOWAY

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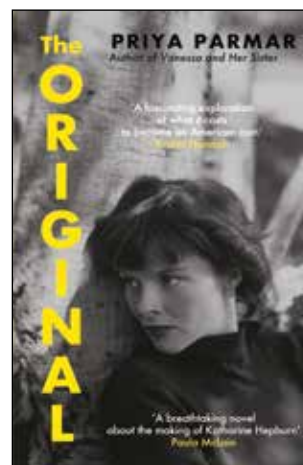
**'These characters are so real and so likeable that I was rooting for them all the way'**

**Mary Kingswood**

London, 1818. Rejected by her bereaved father at thirteen and then jilted at nineteen, Elizabeth Ashling is deeply distrustful of men and has no wish to return to London Society. However, circumstances mean she must endure a Season, and there she meets Sir Lucius Radstock. He is as ardent a horse-lover as she is, although that is the only subject on which they appear to see eye to eye.

As Elizabeth thaws towards Sir Lucius, all seems to be going well, until an old rival reveals that Sir Lucius has been as duplicitous as the rest of his gender.

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




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## THE ORIGINAL

PRIYA PARMAR

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**'A brilliant, ambitious woman determined to live - and love - on her own terms ... Fans of early Hollywood will devour this novel!'**

**Kristin Hannah**

**Katharine Hepburn won more Oscars than any actor in history - and yet her most memorable role is the one she carved out for herself. Priya Parmar brilliantly brings to life this legendary star in this beguiling novel.**

Hollywood in the early 1930s is a town full of secrets. When Katharine Hepburn arrives to launch her film career, she leaves behind her East Coast marriage and icy patrician family to live and love on her own terms. But stars must play by the rules and Kate, brilliant and bisexual, refuses to conform.

Surrounded by a legendary circle of intimates, including the powerful David and Irene Selznick, charming and romantically conflicted actor Cary Grant, ambitious director John Ford, and millionaire tycoon Howard Hughes, Kate navigates a web of sex, ambition, loyalty, and betrayal. All of them strive for success while struggling to outrun their own secrets. As Kate's career ascends, she faces an agonising choice: be the star everyone wants her to be, or risk everything to become the woman she always was. Drawing on primary archival sources, Parmar brings a novelist's eye and a fresh perspective to Hepburn's life and sparkling career.

**PRIYA PARMAR** is the author of the novels *Exit the Actress* and *Vanessa and Her Sister*, a *New York Times* Notable Book, and co-writer of the musical *Sylvia*. She divides her time between the US and UK with her family and four rescue dogs.



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## ONE LONDON DAY

MR PHIPPS THRILLERS 1

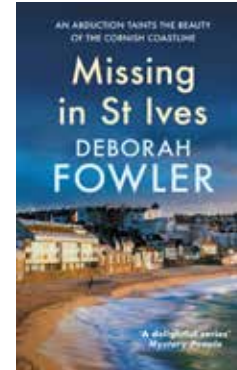
CHRIS HUMPHREYS

'An intelligent, sharp, no-holds-barred thriller that had me leaning forward, turning page after page'

Giles Kristian

One city, one day, and a battle of wills reaches boiling point.

Joseph Severin, a respectable North London businessman, has a lucrative side job. He's doing the books, old school (because these days the only trail you can't trace is a paper one) for a rogue MI5 outfit, the Shadows, headed by psychopathic Sebastien. However, when the game is rumbled, Sebastien sends hitman Mr Phipps to kill Severin and get those books back. The spider web of collateral damage will be extensive, taking in Lottie, for whom Severin has developed a sudden, wild passion; Sonya, a Russian escort with a desperate deadline; and at MI5, the ambitious Ellerby, who has them all in her sights.



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## MISSING IN ST IVES

ST IVES MYSTERIES 3

DEBORAH FOWLER

Merrin McKenzie has returned to her hometown of St Ives, putting tragedy behind her. She has settled into a busy but peaceful life with a lovely cottage and some fulfilling pro bono legal work. New friendships, including with Chief Inspector Louis Peppiatt, are also beginning to blossom in the unfolding spring season.

When Merrin takes a call from Jane, a friend going through a messy divorce, Merrin wants to help in any way she can, which leads to her taking in Jane's teenage daughter, Emily. But then Emily disappears. When a ransom demand is made for the girl's safe return, matters take a distinctly sinister turn. Can Merrin restore the shattered tranquillity of the stunning Cornish coastline?



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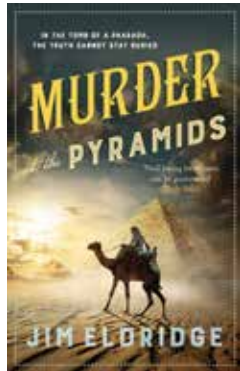
## ESCAPE TO ST IVES

ST IVES MYSTERIES 4

DEBORAH FOWLER

When Amanda Eustace sails into St Ives, she instantly turns heads. Glamorous, wealthy and generous to a fault, she quickly befriends Merrin McKenzie, former solicitor now with a fledgling shop on vibrant Fore Street. But Amanda's stories don't always add up. Why has she stayed so long? Where is the companion she arrived with? And why does she seem increasingly on edge?

As rumours stir, Amanda's glittering façade begins to crack. Behind it, Merrin will find a tangle of secrets including family tensions, hidden loyalties, and dangers that reach far beyond the harbour walls.



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## MURDER AT THE PYRAMIDS

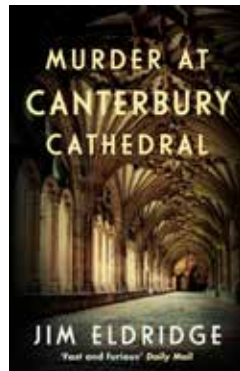
MUSEUM MYSTERIES 12

JIM ELDRIDGE

**'An engaging and enjoyable series'**

*Historical Novels Review*

January 1901. Abigail and Daniel Wilson, 'The Museum Detectives', are on their way to the Great Pyramid at Giza. Their explorations, including the Robbers' Tunnel, take a very sinister turn when they come upon the body of a man who has been brutally murdered. Investigations by the local police reveal him to be Simeon McGruder, an American writer who was penning an article about the mysteries of the Sphinx.



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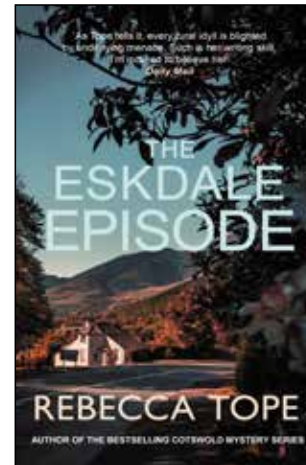
## MURDER AT CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

CATHEDRAL MYSTERIES 2

JIM ELDRIDGE

Kent, May 1941. The towns and countryside south of London continue to take a battering from German bombers. Canterbury, with the focal point of its distinctive cathedral, is among the hardest hit. The landmark and holy site is the scene of further tragedy when Canon Walter de la Coeur is found savagely bludgeoned to death on the exact spot where Thomas Becket also met his end centuries before.

DCI Coburg and Sergeant Lampson are called in from Scotland Yard and must sift through the dead man's responsibilities for the cathedral's finances, as well as his private life. But their quest to find the killer is hampered when the deadly force of the Blitz strikes very close to home.



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## THE ESKDALE EPISODE

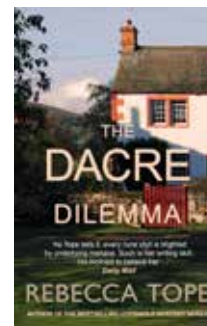
LAKE DISTRICT MYSTERIES 16

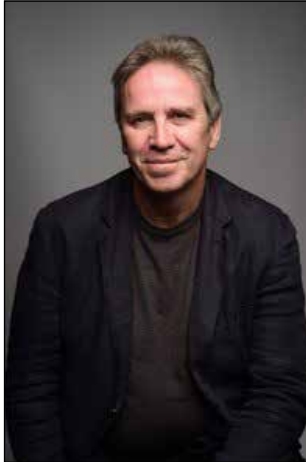
REBECCA TOPE

**'As Tope tells it, every rural idyll is blighted by underlying menace. Such is her writing skill, I'm inclined to believe her'**

*Daily Mail*

With the approach of autumn, a heavily pregnant Simmy Brown is anticipating the imminent arrival of her new child and juggling the move of her florist business to Keswick. A bouquet order to be delivered to the beautiful but remote Eskdale is an awkward addition to Simmy's to-do list. There she encounters three generations of women – and the next day, one of them is brutally murdered. Drawn into the mystery, Simmy and her friends soon find themselves navigating eccentric artists and fractured families. However, the truth is darker than anyone imagined – and time is running out, in more ways than one ...





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Crime Fiction

## THE HONOURABLE MEMBER FOR MURDER

WESTMINSTER MYSTERIES 1

DAVID WEIR

**The witty crime caper that lifts the lid on life in the Houses of Parliament**

Another day dawns over the Houses of Parliament and Maxwell Murray, 'Chief of Staff', researcher and what sometimes feels like nanny to the hapless MP Eliot Oakcroft, has much to do. Invitations for Oakcroft to consider, party correspondence, and, here and there, some legitimate constituency business. All while keeping the honourable member for Middlebury-Mid out of trouble and the inevitable media spotlight.

But today, there's something a little different. Miranda Cley is seeking Eliot's help to free her mother from prison. After all, she can't have murdered Miranda's father, Charlie, if Miranda has just seen him alive and well. Max and his assistant Diana are on the case, wafting the scent of a possible career-making miscarriage of justice Eliot's way. But as the mystery of Charlie Cley's disappearance unravels, it quickly becomes clear that investigating could jeopardise not just their careers but their very lives.

**DAVID WEIR** comes from Edinburgh and was a newspaper reporter, feature writer and film critic in Scotland and England before getting a job for 'a couple of years' at the House of Commons. Fast forward a few decades and he has worked in all its procedural offices and managed Select Committees including Treasury, Home Affairs and Standards. This is Weir's first novel and he lives in London.



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## A SHROUD OF SNOW

BRADECOTE &amp; CATCHPOLL 14

SARAH HAWKSWOOD

**'Chilling and riveting. This immersive, evocative book will grip you from first page to last'**

S.D. Sykes

December, 1145. Hamelin Isenmongere, trader in iron and charcoal from Gloucester, is considered by many to be the most popular man in Worcester. Why then is his dead body found cloaked in snow and ice on the quayside near his warehouse, with his head beaten in?

As the winter bites, Undersheriff Hugh Bradecote, Serjeant Catchpoll and Walkelin begin the hunt for a killer. However, matters are complicated when evidence leads them to Worcester Castle and the hunt for a spy in the midst of complicated political crosscurrents. Bradecote, Catchpoll and Walkelin must uncover whether the murder was an act of betrayal from close to home, or one that casts a shadow over the fight for England's crown.

**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.





**THE LANGDALE LEGACY**

LAKE DISTRICT MYSTERIES 17

**REBECCA TOPE**

**'As Tope tells it, every rural idyll is blighted by underlying menace. Such is her writing skill, I'm inclined to believe her'**

*Daily Mail*

Florist Persimmon 'Simmy' Brown is juggling life with a demanding newborn when visitors arrive in the Lake District with questions about a long-forgotten disappearance. Thea Slocombe and her brother Damien are searching for the truth about their great-grandfather, John Armstrong, who vanished without a trace in 1931, leaving behind his family and a medal awarded for an act of bravery few now remember.

As dormant rumours of murder begin to surface, Simmy soon finds her investigative instincts reawakened. With a resentful relative determined to prevent further enquiries, it becomes clear that some secrets have been buried for generations – and the past can be just as dangerous as the present.

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**ONE BERLIN DAY**

MR PHIPPS THRILLERS 2

**CHRIS HUMPHREYS**

**'The novel's darkly comic tone and cinematic feel make this a series to watch'**

*The Times*

**From the author of *One London Day***

Mr Phipps's days of freelance assassinations may be behind him, along with the big pay outs, but after the debacle of one particular London day, working for MI6 again is not so bad.

Phipps is headed back to Germany on the trail of a former Stasi agent mixed up in a lucrative people-smuggling operation. But it's a very different country from his army days – he needs to learn the new rules fast, distinguish friend from foe and get out alive. As well as handling the complication of an enemy with a very personal grudge against him.

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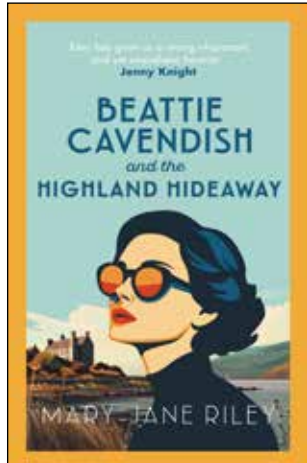
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## BEATTIE CAVENDISH AND THE HIGHLAND HIDEAWAY

MARY-JANE RILEY

'A page-turner to be savoured, filled with brilliantly realised settings and characters, sparkling dialogue, and twists and turns that intensify the intrigue as the web of lies thickens'  
**Jenny Knight**

1949. The Cold War is tightening its grip, spies lurk in every shadow, and the race for the atomic bomb is reaching a deadly pitch. When GCHQ operative Beattie Cavendish is sent to a pivotal listening station in the Scottish Highlands, she finds a base in chaos – its commander missing, its mission compromised, and whispers of a spy ring. Beattie's task takes a darker and more personal turn when her uncle vanishes nearby.

With private detective Patrick Corrigan at her side, Beattie must uncover the truth before snow and secrecy seal them in.



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Memoir

## LEARNING TO DRINK AND WHAT CAME AFTER

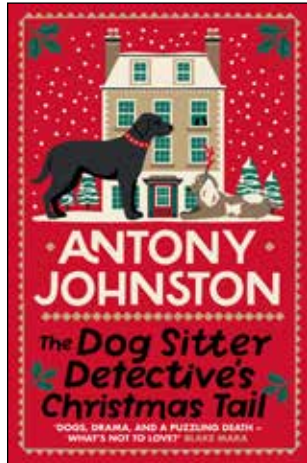
GERALDINE NORMAN

The memoir of whipsmart artworld insider and trailblazing journalist Norman takes in wit and wealth, high art and low life, and quite a lot of wine.

*Learning to Drink and What Came After* is an irreverent take on a life that has been lived across the pages of *The Times*, within the darkly glamorous haunts of Soho and behind the scenes at The Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg.

Norman's remarkable life has enjoyed a ringside seat in the drinking dens of Soho alongside artists and criminals, the last days (and nights) of 1970s Fleet Street, the lofty world of the Mayfair auction houses and the dangerous glamour of post-glasnost Saint Petersburg.

**GERALDINE NORMAN** was born in Wales in 1940 and brought up in Oxford. She has a BA in Mathematics from the University of Oxford and joined *The Times* as a statistician in 1962. In 1967, she launched the *Times-Sotheby Index of Art Prices* and in 1969 became *The Times* Sale Room Correspondent. In 1971, she married author and playwright Frank Norman, best known for his memoir of prison life *Bang to Rights*. She was director of the Hermitage Development Trust and has written extensively on its artworks as well as the investigation of forgers and fakes in the art world.



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## THE DOG SITTER DETECTIVE'S CHRISTMAS TAIL

DOG SITTER DETECTIVE 4

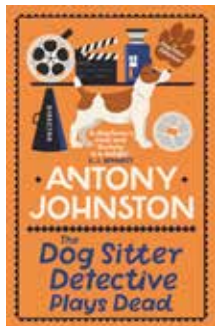
ANTONY JOHNSTON

'The very best of modern cosy crime magic'  
*Jonathan Whitelaw*

It's almost Christmas, and actress and amateur sleuth Gwinny Tuffel is still pondering what to buy DCI Birch (retired) and whether she could adopt a new furry friend. But sorting through her late father's papers leads her into his mysterious past, pointing to an enigmatic 'liaison' now living in a Somerset commune populated by a group of retired spies.

When Gwinny and Birch are unexpectedly snowed in at the remote farmhouse, they find that any skeletons in her father's closet have been joined by a body in the attic. Surrounded by people for whom keeping secrets is second nature, along with an energetic Cocker Spaniel, Gwinny and Birch are embroiled in a murder case once again. Will they uncover the culprit and escape in time for Christmas?

**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. *The Dog Sitter Detective* was the winner of the Barker Fiction Award. Johnston can often be found writing at home in Lancashire with a snoozing hound for company.



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## THE CORPSE ON THE BRISTOL TRAIN

RAILWAY DETECTIVE 25

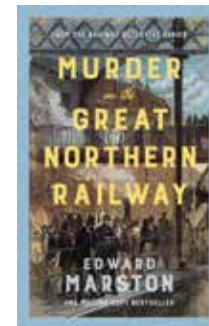
EDWARD MARSTON

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

After a journey over twenty years in the making, Marston's bestselling mystery series draws to a close with this final instalment featuring the Railway Detective

On the last train of the day from London Paddington to Bristol, a young woman drifts into what appears to be a peaceful sleep – only to be discovered dead on arrival at the terminus. With no sign of violence and no clue to her identity, the case threatens scandal for the Great Western Railway. Detective Inspector Robert Colbeck and Sergeant Victor Leeming are sent to uncover the truth behind the silent corpse. All witnesses agree on one detail: she travelled with a devoted husband who vanished into the night.

As the trail leads through railway stations, theatres and dark deception, Colbeck must expose a killer who hides behind superficial charm.





**THE MUSEUM DETECTIVES' CHRISTMAS MYSTERY**

MUSEUM MYSTERIES 13

**JIM ELDRIDGE**

'Old-school police work ... makes for a fine read'  
*The Sun*

**A Christmas mystery framed in art and murder**

London, December 1906. The capital glitters with Christmas lights and festive crowds, yet on Piccadilly something far darker stirs. Beneath Frank Dicksee's celebrated painting of Romeo and Juliet at the Royal Academy lies the body of a young woman - drowned elsewhere and carefully staged, and with echoes of Shakespeare's tragic Ophelia.

With Scotland Yard baffled, the Museum Detectives Daniel and Abigail Wilson are called in once more. Drawn into the intertwined worlds of art and theatre, they must unravel a deadly puzzle of illusion and murder before the season of goodwill is shattered by another death.

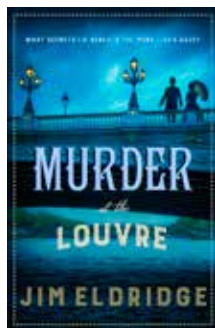
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**A DARTMOOR CHRISTMAS CARD MURDER**

DEVON MYSTERIES 10

**STEPHANIE AUSTIN**

'A sparkling mystery with compelling characters and an intriguing plot. Hugely enjoyable'  
*Marion Todd*

Bestselling romantic author Tiffany Dare has thousands of fans worldwide. Closer to home, somebody wants her dead and is choosing to send her threats in Christmas cards.

With the festive season fast approaching, local amateur sleuth Juno Browne is asked to investigate these season's greetings that carry anything but good cheer, and while the police focus their attention on stalkers and online trolls, Juno suspects the culprit may be a member of Tiffany's inner circle. With a jealous husband, spurned lovers and disgruntled employees, not to mention enraged neighbours, a bitter professional rival and a resentful teenage daughter, Ashburton's snowy landscape holds no shortage of suspects. Then a killer strikes, and all of Juno's hopes of a quiet celebration vanish. Will it be a Christmas she will want to forget?

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## OCTOBER



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L.C. TYLER has won awards for his writing, including the CWA Short Story Dagger and the Last Laugh Award (twice). He is a former chair of the Crime Writers' Association and is based in London and Sussex.

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Soon, the local and then national press have gleefully picked up on the story. Mary must turn chef-detective to clear her name and save her fledgling business.

CRAIG MELVIN holds an MA in Creative Writing from Sussex University and works as a sometime restaurant consultant and ghostwriter. He spends every new year in Cornwall and has been cooking up Mary Mackerel's food and story for many years. Fay Maschler said his debut novel, *The Belle Hotel*, 'gets to the soul of a restaurant'. Melvin lives in London.

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**FLORA JOHNSTON** worked for over twenty years in museums and heritage interpretation, including at the National Museums of Scotland, which has greatly influenced the historical fiction she now writes. She lives in Edinburgh.

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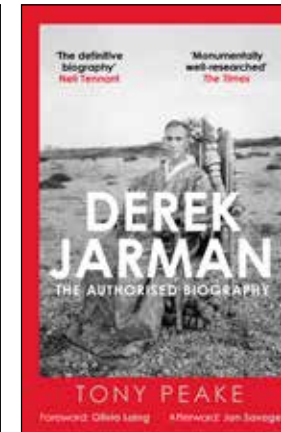
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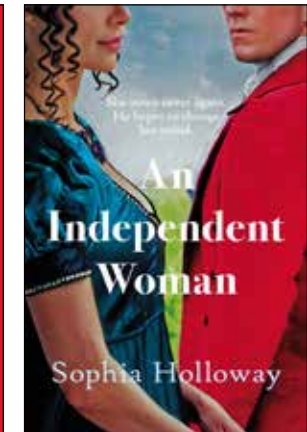
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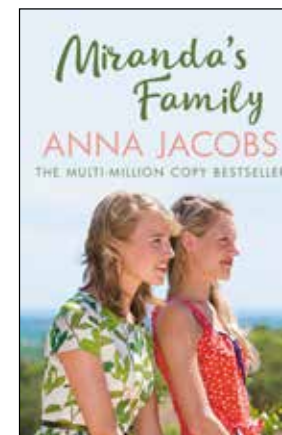
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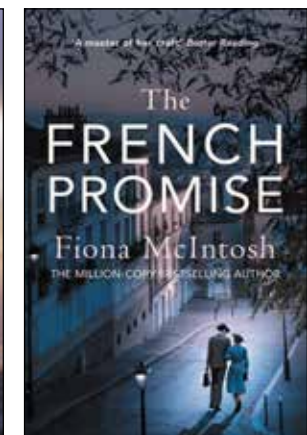
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