

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers July 2022

London Bridge is Falling Down

Bryant & May 20

Christopher Fowler

The brilliant duo of Arthur Bryant and John May uncovers a nefarious plot behind the seemingly innocuous death of an old lady – and when the case leads them to London Bridge, it all comes down on the Peculiar Crimes Unit. When 91-year-old Amelia Hoffman dies in her top-floor flat on a busy London road, it's considered an example of what has gone wrong with modern society: she slipped through the cracks in a failing system. But detectives Arthur Bryant and John May of the Peculiar Crimes Unit have their doubts. Mrs Hoffman was once a government security expert, though no one can quite remember her. When a link emerges between the old lady and a diplomat trying to flee the country, it seems that an impossible murder has been committed. Mrs Hoffman wasn't the only one at risk. Bryant is convinced that other forgotten women with hidden talents are also in danger. And, curiously, they all own models of London Bridge. With the help of some of their more certifiable informants, the detectives follow the strangest of clues in an investigation that will lead them through forgotten alleyways to the city's fabled bridge in search of a desperate killer. But just when the case appears to be solved, they discover that Mrs Hoffman was smarter than anyone imagined. There's a bigger game afoot that could have terrible consequences. 'Unbeatable fun... [Christopher Fowler] takes delight in stuffing his books with esoteric facts.' – *The Guardian*. These are lots of fun – but sadly – think this will be the last. The first is *The Full Dark House* (PBK, \$19.99). Recommended!

Mystery | PBK | \$22.99



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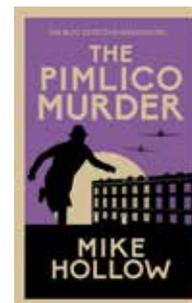
The Pimlico Murder

Blitz Detective 06

Mike Hollow

Armistice Day, 1940. The nation remembers the Great War while a new and harrowing conflict rumbles on. The Blitz Detective, John Jago, must set aside his own painful memories to investigate a suspicious death in Pimlico, south-west London. The body of a young man has been discovered in an Anderson shelter, with two white poppies in his pocket. As the investigation progresses, Jago and his assistant, DC Cradock, find themselves knee deep in Pimlico's shady underworld, and connections with Mosley's fascist party. It will take all their skills to uncover the truth behind the young man's brutal death. Regulars really enjoying these – the first is *The Blitz Detective* (PBK, \$19.99)

Mystery | PBK | \$19.99



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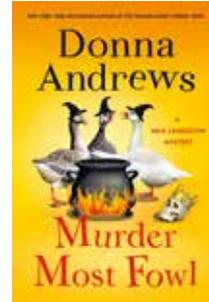
Murder Most Fowl

Meg Langslow 29

Donna Andrews

Bestselling, fun, cosy mystery series. In *Murder Most Fowl*, Meg Langslow's in for a busy summer. Her husband is directing a production of *Macbeth* and she also has to keep an eye on Camp Birnam, where a group of medieval reenactors are commemorating the real-life *Macbeth*, by setting up what they fondly believe is an authentic medieval Scottish military camp. And then there's Damien Goodwin, a filmmaker who has been hanging around, trying to document the production. When Goodwin hosts a showing of some of the footage he's taken, he manages to embarrass or offend just about everyone. The next morning Meg isn't exactly surprised to find that someone has murdered him. But who? Some people's motives were obvious from the footage: the couple whose affair was revealed... the bombastic leader of the reenactors, who could be facing years in prison if the evidence from the video helps convict him of sheep stealing... the actress who's desperately trying to downplay a health issue that could cost her the role of her life. Other motives are only hinted at – did the filmmaker have other footage that would reveal why one of the actors is behaving so furtively? Unfortunately, whoever murdered Goodwin also destroyed all the electronic devices on which his video was stored. So, Caerphilly's chief of police – and Meg – must rediscover the same secrets the filmmaker did if they want to catch a killer. The first is *Murder with Peacocks* (PBK, \$24.95).

Mystery | PBK | \$24.95



3

The Widow of Bath

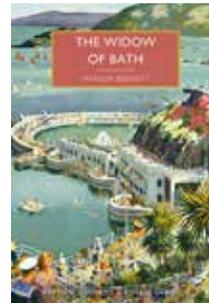
British Library Crime Classics

Margot Bennett

When an old flame comes calling, Hugh Everton is powerless to resist. Hugh Everton was intent on nothing more than quietly drinking in the second-rate hotel he found himself in on England's south coast – and then in walked his old flame Lucy and her new husband and ex-judge, Gregory Bath. Entreated by Lucy to join her party for an evening back at the Bath residence, Hugh is powerless to resist, but when the night ends with the judge's inexplicable murder, he is pitched back into a world of chaos and crime – a world he had tried to escape for good.

When Lucy's husband dies of mysterious circumstances, Hugh finds himself questioning whether she is responsible for the untimely death, and if so, how she managed it. First published in 1952, *The Widow of Bath* offers intricate puzzles, international intrigue, and a richly evoked portrait of post-war Britain, all delivered with Bennett's signature brand of witty and elegant prose. This edition includes an introduction by CWA Diamond Dagger Award-winning author Martin Edwards. 'What lingers most in the mind is the arch dialogue, which is so relentlessly witty that some readers will lick their lips with incredulous gusto.' – *Kirkus Reviews*.

Classic mystery | TP | \$33.95



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Crime & Mystery Bestsellers July 2022 (continued)

An A-List for Death

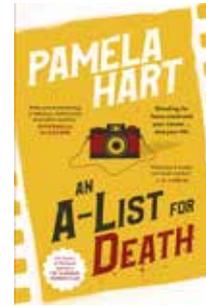
Poppy McGowan 02

Pamela Hart

Shooting for fame could end your career... and your life. A sparkling mystery from a stylish new voice in crime fiction, in a book that will delight fans of Richard Osman and Kerry Greenwood. TV researcher Poppy McGowan has never sought the spotlight and is none too happy to be photographed with rock god Nathan Castle. When the photo pops up on celebrity gossip sites, it sparks a media feeding frenzy, forcing Poppy to go to ground, don a wig, and pull some nifty moves to escape a tailing car. On top of that, she cops abuse from Nathan's outraged fans.

None of this would have happened, if Poppy hadn't found Nathan's mother Daisy, one-time glamour girl and elderly best friend of her Aunt Mary, bleeding and unconscious in her bathroom. The police dismiss the case as an accident, but Poppy is sure there are questions to be answered. Who attacked Daisy, and why? Will she come out of her coma? What secrets are her gathering family hiding? What happens to Daisy's money if she dies? When a murder occurs outside Daisy's flat, the police step in at last. Unfortunately, they finger Poppy's boyfriend, Tol, for the crime – after all, he had bad blood with the victim. As Daisy's money-hungry family circle amid hints of poisoning, bribery and blackmail, Poppy must find a way to clear Tol's name and ensure Daisy's safety. 'A comedic take on celebrity culture, fandom, senior citizens and archaeology. Witty, entertaining, fabulous.' – *Petronella McGovern*, bestselling author of *The Good Teacher*. The first in the series is *Digging Up Dirt* (TP, \$29.99) a really fun yarn set in Sydney which has garnered a very enthusiastic following from regulars. Once you've read all the Osman's – definitely read these!

Mystery | TP | \$29.99



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Nobody Walks

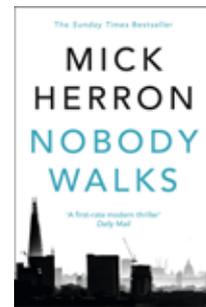
J K Coe 01

Mick Herron

Set in the same fictional London as his CWA Gold Dagger Award-winning Slough House spy series, Mick Herron now introduces Tom Bettany, a man with a violent past and only one thing to live for: Avenging his son's death. Tom Bettany is working at a meat processing plant, in France, when he gets a voicemail from an Englishwoman he doesn't know telling him that his estranged 26-year-old son is dead – Liam Bettany fell from his London balcony, where he was smoking pot.

Now, for the first time since he cut all ties years ago, Bettany returns home. But more than a few people are interested to hear Bettany is back in town, from incarcerated mob bosses to those in the highest echelons of MI5. He might have thought he'd left it all behind when he first skipped town, but nobody ever really walks away... A reissue of a 2015 Herron – before his Slough House series had hit the heights and became bestsellers.

Suspense (reissue) | PBK | \$22.99



6

Rotten to the Core

Lady Hardcastle 08

T E Kinsey

Summer 1911. A scorching heatwave engulfs the quiet town of Littleton Cotterell and brings about an unusually early harvest. The villagers are thrilled, but events quickly turn sour when one of them turns up dead in an apple orchard, stabbed through the heart. Amateur sleuth Lady Hardcastle and her trusty lady's maid, Flo, suddenly have a juicy case on their hands. Might the mysterious stranger they recently met in the village be to blame? When a second cider-related murder takes place, it quickly becomes clear that there's more to these mysterious deaths than meets the eye. The daring duo uncover whispers of an ancient order and moonlit rituals. And evidence points to a macabre secret in the village stretching back years. A secret someone will do anything – anything at all – to keep hidden. Something is rotten, that's for sure. With the local constabulary baffled, Lady Hardcastle and Flo must use all their powers of wit and whimsy to get to the bottom of the dastardly deed. But can they catch the killer before any more people drop dead? The first is *A Quiet Life in the Country* (TP, \$39.95) – and, generally, once a customer starts on these – they come back for the rest (mwah!).

Historical mystery | TP | \$35.95



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Crime & Mystery Bestsellers July 2022 (continued)

The Brisbane Line

Joe Washington 01

J P Powell

As WWII ravages the world and the Japanese Empire has set its sights on Australia, the Americans have come to save us. But not all soldiers are heroes, and not all heroes are soldiers. Sergeant Joe Washington, a US Military policeman, loves music and photography, but spends his days delving into the sordid and petty crimes committed by the thousands of American troops passing through town. While trying to find stolen gasoline stores, he is sent to investigate the body of an American soldier found dumped in a cemetery. Suddenly, Joe is up against notorious detective Frank Bischof. Although ordered to leave the investigation alone, Joe fears that Bischof is protecting the most likely suspect while trying to pin the crime on an innocent – and intriguing – young woman, Rose. A woman who seems to walk between the parallel worlds of black-market deals and Brisbane's high society. Solid historical set in Brizzie during WW2 – we did very well with, back in 2020 – once again, on our bestseller list – thanks to the sequel coming out (see below!).

Mystery | TP | \$29.99



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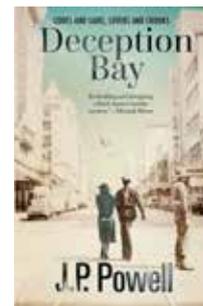
Deception Bay

Joe Washington 02

J P Powell

Deceit is usually wrong, sometimes necessary, and often the best course of action. *Deception Bay* continues J P Powell's Brisbane wartime saga. American MP Joe Washington, an investigator with the Provost Marshall's Office, and Australian Rose McAlister are swept back together when she returns to join Central Bureau, General MacArthur's code-breaking group of eccentrics in 'Brisbane's Bletchley Park'. Again and again, Joe is drawn to the Brisbane River. Reports of a man who jumped from a bridge, a code breaker allegedly drowned by suicide, and an arm with an unrecognisable tattoo fished out of the water at the submarine base. Together, they follow the clues but are quickly drawn into the city's dark tank stream, filled with predators and conmen and Joe's nemesis, corrupt Queensland detective Frank Bischof. Regulars say this is even better than the first. Recommended!

Mystery | TP | \$29.99



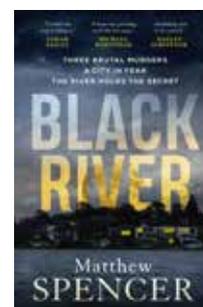
9

Black River

Matthew Spencer

The elite neighbourhoods of Sydney are becoming a serial killer's hunting ground. But for a city – and a detective – on the edge, not everything is as it seems in a twisting novel of suspense. During a stifling summer in Sydney, the body of a chaplain's daughter is found wrapped in black plastic on the deserted grounds of an elite boarding school. Is it the work of the killer who's been stalking the privileged neighbourhoods along the Parramatta River? Gut instinct tells Detective Sergeant Rose Riley something even more devious might be at play. Eager to find the so-called Blue Moon Killer before he strikes again, Riley forms an uneasy alliance with Adam Bowman, a journalist with a valuable, and unsettling, link to the school's history. As Riley's investigation takes her deep into the secret lives of Sydney's prominent citizens, Bowman delves into the darkest places of his own childhood for answers. When their paths converge, Riley must use every bit of her cunning to stop another murder. Excavating Bowman's past might just be the key to unlocking the case. Or it could prove to be Riley's undoing. Because, clue by clue, she's being pulled into the sights of a killer. Much pressure was applied by our lovely A&U sales rep to a reluctant Ron to read this (thanks, Deb!). He just wasn't that fussed, based on the blurb. But he eventually did – and was completely won over. Really good Oz murder mystery – beautifully evokes Sydney, without all the usual Harbour/Bridge/Opera House clichés – and there are little echoes here of some great Oz mystery movies like *Heatwave* and *Lantana*. A real cracker – and we want more! Customers agree. Recommended!

Mystery/suspense | TP | \$32.99



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