

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers January 2021

The Brisbane Line

J P Powell

This has come from out of nowhere! Small press offering – an engrossing murder mystery, set in seedy WWII Brisbane – by local historian and archaeologist, J P Powell. Selling lots – and those who've read it are impressed! Recommended!

Mystery | TP | \$29.99



1

Mystery on Southampton Water (Inspector French 12) (Collins Crime Club)

Freeman Wills Crofts

The Joymount Rapid Hardening Cement Manufacturing Company is in serious financial trouble. Two young company employees hatch a plot to break in to a rival works, Chayle on the Isle of Wight, to find out Chayle's secret for underselling them. But the scheme does not go according to plan. The death of the night watchman, theft and fire are the result. Inspector French is brought in to solve the mystery. Collins Crime Club Classic reissues (this and #3, below). Freeman Wills Croft (1879–1957) was a Very Big Deal, back in the day; people like Raymond Chandler praised his superior plotting skills. Maybe, it's time to rediscover him – and many other Golden Age mystery writers...

Classic mystery | PBK | \$22.99



2

Crime at Guildford (Inspector French 13) (Collins Crime Club)

Freeman Wills Crofts

The managing director of a large jewellery firm proposes a weekend board meeting at his Guildford home to sort out the firm's shaky affairs. On Sunday morning, the guests discover that one of their number is dead. When a daring jewellery heist takes place in London, Inspector French is called in to investigate two connected mysteries. A Collins Crime Club reissue – see #2, above!

Classic mystery | PBK | \$22.99



3

Broadcast 4 Murder (Sophie Kimball mysteries 07)

J C Eaton

Latest in the cosy crime mystery series... Phee's mother Harriet is going to be a star! At least, that's how the Sun City West retiree describes her chance to host a live radio program of her book club's Booked 4 Murder Mystery Hour on Arizona's KSCW. But instead of chatting about charming cosies, Harriet ends up screaming bloody murder over the airwaves after discovering the body of Howard Buell, the station's programming director, in a closet – with a pair of sewing shears shoved into his chest... Now, with the whole town on pins and needles, it's up to Phee to stitch together enough clues from the past to uncover the identity of a killer in the present...

'So cleverly written, you won't guess the perpetrators until the very end.' – Mary Marks, award-winning author of the Quilting Mystery Series. First in the series is *Booked 4 Murder* (PBK, \$24.95).

Cosy mystery | PBK | \$18.99



4

Pulp Fiction

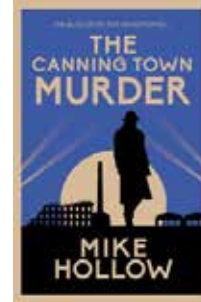
Crime & Mystery January 2021 (continued)

The Canning Town Murder (Blitz Detective 02)

Mike Hollow

September, 1940. As the Blitz takes its nightly toll on London and Hitler prepares his invasion fleet just across the Channel in occupied France, Britain is full of talk about enemy agents. Suspicion is at an all-time high and no one is sure who can be trusted. In Canning Town, rescue workers are unsettled when they return to a damaged street and discover a body that shouldn't be there. When closer examination of the corpse reveals death by strangling, Detective Inspector John Jago is called upon to investigate. But few seem to really care about the woman's death – not even her family. As Jago digs deeper he starts to uncover a trail of deception, betrayal, and romantic entanglements... First published as *Fifth Column* – this whole series is being reprinted – great feedback from regulars! The first is *The Blitz Detective* (PBK, \$19.99).

Mystery | PBK | \$19.99



5

The Dead of Winter (Josephine Tey 09)

Nicola Upson

December 1938, and storm clouds hover once again over Europe. Josephine Tey and Archie Penrose gather with friends for a Cornish Christmas, but two strange and brutal deaths on St Michael's Mount – and the unexpected arrival of a world famous film star, in need of sanctuary – interrupt the festivities. Cut off by the sea and a relentless blizzard, the hunt for a murderer begins. Pivoting on a real moment in history, the ninth novel in the 'Josephine Tey' series draws on all the much-loved conventions of the Golden Age Christmas mystery, whilst giving them the contemporary twist which has come to distinguish the books so far. (This is also known as *The Secrets of Winter* in the USA.) After a slow start, this series is really beginning to get some traction, and seems to gain more fans with each new volume – recommended! The first book is *An Expert in Murder* (PBK, \$19.99).

Historical mystery | HC | \$29.99



6

Death in Daylesford (Phryne Fisher 21)

Kerry Greenwood

Disappearances, murder, bombs, booby-traps and strange goings-on keep Miss Phryne Fisher right in the middle of her most exciting adventure. When a mysterious invitation arrives for the redoubtable Miss Phryne Fisher from an unknown retired Captain Herbert Spencer, Phryne's curiosity is excited. Spencer runs a retreat in Victoria's rural spa country for the many shell-shocked soldiers of the First World War. It's a cause after Phryne's own heart... but what does Spencer want from her? Meanwhile, Cec, Bert and Tinker find a young woman floating face down in the harbour near the wharves. Could this be the missing friend of Ruth, Phryne's adopted daughter? With Detective-Inspector Jack Robinson seconded unwillingly to a special investigation, Mr and Mrs Butler with Detective-Sergeant Hugh Collins are left to shield Phryne's household from danger as Tinker, Jane and Ruth decide to solve what appears to be a heinous crime. Unaware of these happenings, Phryne and the faithful Dot view their rural sojourn as a short holiday but are quickly thrown into disturbing Highland gatherings, disappearing women, murder and the mystery of the Temperance Hotel. All test Phryne's resourcefulness in her search to save lives. It's been so long since we've had a new Phryne! Much rejoicing!

Historical mystery | TP | \$29.99



7

Pulp Fiction

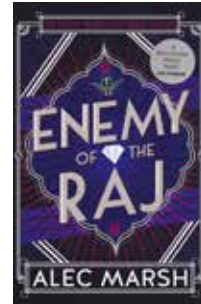
Crime & Mystery January 2021 (continued)

Enemy of the Raj (Drabble & Harris 02)

Alec Marsh

India, 1937. Intrepid reporter Sir Percival Harris is hunting tigers with his friend, Professor Ernest Drabble. Harris soon bags a man-eater – but later finds himself caught up in a hunt of a different kind... Harris is due to interview the Maharaja of Bikaner, a friend to the Raj, for his London newspaper – and he and Drabble soon find themselves accompanied by a local journalist, Miss Heinz. But is the lady all she seems? And the Maharaja himself is proving elusive... Meanwhile, the movement for Indian independence is becoming stronger, and Drabble and Harris witness some of the conflict, first hand. But even more drama comes on arrival at Bikaner when the friends find themselves confined to their quarters... and embroiled in an assassination plot! Just who is the enemy in the Maharaja's palace? What is the connection to a mysterious man Drabble meets, in Delhi? And what secret plans do the British colonial officers have up their sleeves... 'An immensely readable treat!' – *Alexander McCall Smith*. First in the series is *Rule Britannia* (PBK, \$19.99).

Mystery | PBK | \$22.99



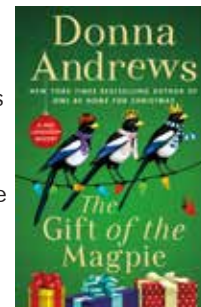
8

The Gift of the Magpie (Meg Langslow mysteries 28)

Donna Andrews

The 28th book and the seventh Christmas mystery in the Meg Langslow series. Meg's running Caerphilly's Helping Hands for the Holidays project, in which neighbours help each other with things they can't do and can't afford to have done. Her hopes for a relatively peaceful (if busy) Christmas vanish when someone murders Harvey the Hoarder, whose house the Helping Hands were decluttering. Was there any truth to the rumour that he had something valuable hidden beneath all his junk? Was one of his friends, neighbours, or relatives greedy enough to murder him for the rumoured treasure? And what about the magpie that has been bringing her family bits of tinsel and costume jewellery – does the bird's latest gift hold a clue to solving the crime? Full of intrigue, this Christmas mystery will take readers home to Caerphilly, where the suspense falls as thick as the snow... And, yeah – this is a hardcover! – we have customers who love this series so much they want it as soon as it's out – in hardcover (!) – it's that popular. *Murder with Peacocks* is the first in the series (PBK, \$24.95).

Mystery | HC | \$44.99



9

Murder at the Manchester Museum (Museum mysteries 04)

Jim Eldridge

1895. Former Scotland Yard detective Daniel Wilson, made famous from his days working the Jack the Ripper case – and his archaeologist sidekick Abigail Fenton – are summoned to investigate the murder of a young woman at the Manchester Museum. Though staff remember the woman as a recent and regular visitor, no one appears to know who she is and she has no possessions from which identify her. Seeking help from a local journalist, Daniel hopes to unravel this mystery, but the journey to the truth is fraught with obstacles... Whole series has been popular with regulars from the start, with *Murder at the Fitzwilliam* (PBK, \$19.99).

Historical mystery | PBK | \$19.99



10