

Pulp Fiction

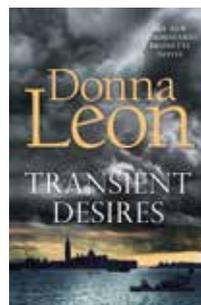
Crime & Mystery Bestsellers March 2021

Transient Desires (Commissario Brunetti mysteries 30)

Donna Leon

In his many years as a Commissario, Guido Brunetti has seen all manner of crime and known intuitively how to navigate the various pathways in his native Venice to discover the person responsible. Now, in the thirtieth novel in Donna Leon's masterful series, he faces a heinous crime committed outside his jurisdiction. He is drawn in innocently enough: two young American women have been badly injured, in a boating accident – joy riding in the Laguna, with two young Italians. However, Brunetti's curiosity is aroused by the behaviour of the young men, who abandoned the victims after taking them to the hospital. If the injuries were the result of an accident, why did they want to avoid association with it. 'Donna Leon's thirtieth Brunetti novel is as powerful as any she has written, testing Brunetti to his limits, forcing him to listen very carefully for the truth...' – *publisher's blurb*. Recommended! Armchair travel to Venice (we have no other choice about it just now, as things stand!).

Mystery | TP | \$32.99



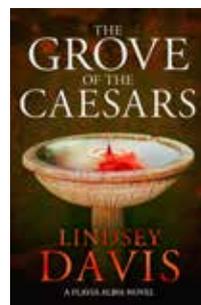
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The Grove of the Caesars (Flavia Albia mysteries 08)

Lindsey Davis

Saturnalia, the Romans' mid-December feast, nominally to celebrate the sun's rebirth but invariably a drunken riot. Flavia Albia needs a case to investigate, but all work is paused. Albia is lumped with her own domestic stress: overexcited children and bilious guests, too many practical jokes, and her magistrate husband Tiberius preoccupied with local strife. He fears a Nut War. Nuts are both the snack and missile of choice of tipsy celebrants, so there is a fortune to be made. This year a hustling gang from the past is horning in on the action. As the deadly menace strikes even close to home, and with law and order paused for partying, Albia and Tiberius must go it alone. The Emperor has promised the people a spectacular entertainment – but Domitian himself is a target for the old criminals' new schemes. Can the Undying Sun survive the winter solstice, or will criminal darkness descend upon Rome? Wonderful. Start with *The Ides of April* (PBK, \$22.99)

Historical mystery | PBK | \$22.99



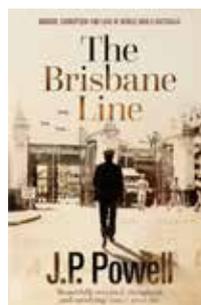
2

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



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Crime & Mystery Bestsellers March 2021 (continued)

***Premeditated Mortar* (Fixer-Upper mysteries 08)**

Kate Carlisle

Shannon Hammer is about to embark on one of the biggest projects of her career. Her best friend Jane Hennessey has purchased one wing of the Gables, formerly the old state insane asylum, located on a bucolic hillside two miles northeast of Lighthouse Cove. Jane plans to turn her section into a small luxury hotel complete with twenty ocean-view rooms, a spa, and a restaurant. Shannon is raring to get started on the enormous project and is shocked when a group of unruly protesters shows up at the ground-breaking ceremony and wreaks havoc. She's even more freaked out, when someone pushes her into a pit of bricks in a closed-off room of the asylum. Despite her close call, Shannon wants nothing more than to get back to work... until she finds a body not far from where she was pushed. Now, Shannon is determined to get to the bottom of the goings on at the Gables, even if it kills her... A cosy recommendation.

Mystery | PBK | \$18.99



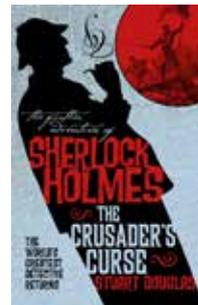
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***Sherlock Holmes and the Crusader's Curse* (Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)**

Stuart Douglas

A cursed legacy... The last Lord Thorpe, reclusive owner of Thorpe Manor, has died. Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson are invited to the auction at which the estate will be sold off, in hopes Holmes can uncover the whereabouts of the missing De Trop Diamond, a jewel-encrusted gemstone brought back from the Crusades by an earlier member of the Thorpe dynasty – and the source of a legendary curse. Making the acquaintance of the various potential bidders for the Manor, and visiting the nearby village, the two men learn local legends from the local publican, before exploring the grounds of the Manor itself. All seems well until first one of the guests, and then the publican, is found dead. Trapped in the Manor by a ferocious snowstorm, and cut off from his network of London assistants, Holmes must convince the remaining guests that the curse is not real, and that there is a murderer in their midst...

Sherlockiana | PBK | \$19.99



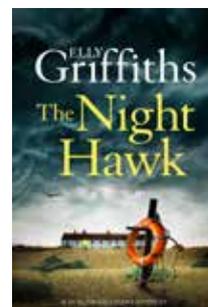
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***The Night Hawk* (Dr Ruth Galloway mysteries 13)**

Elly Griffiths

Dr Ruth Galloway returns to the moody and beautiful landscape of North Norfolk to confront another killer. A devastating new case for our favourite forensic archaeologist in this acclaimed and bestselling crime series. The Night Hawks, a group of metal detectorists, are searching for buried treasure when they find a body on the beach in North Norfolk. At first, Nelson thinks that the dead man might be an asylum seeker; but he turns out to be a local boy, Jem Taylor, recently released from prison. Ruth is more interested in the treasure, a hoard of Bronze Age weapons. Nelson at first thinks that Taylor's death is accidental drowning, but a second death suggests murder. Nelson is called to an apparent murder-suicide of a couple at the isolated Black Dog Farm. Local legend talks of the Black Shuck, a spectral hound that appears to people before they die. Nelson ignores this, even when the owner's suicide note includes the line, 'He's buried in the garden.' Ruth excavates and finds the body of a giant dog. All roads lead back to this farm in the middle of nowhere, but the place spells serious danger for anyone who goes near. Ruth doesn't scare easily. Not until she finds herself at Black Dog Farm... Everyone who tries an Elly Griffiths seems to come back for more. Recommended!

Mystery | TP | \$32.99



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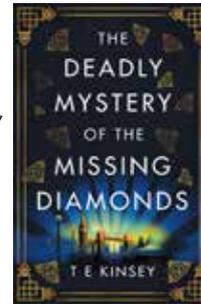
Crime & Mystery Bestsellers March 2021 (continued)

The Deadly Mystery of the Missing Diamonds (Dizzy Heights mysteries 01)

T E Kinsey

Missing diamonds. Mysterious deaths. And all that jazz. London, 1925. With their band the Dizzy Heights, jazz musicians Ivor 'Skins' Maloney and Bartholomew 'Barty' Dunn are used to improvising as they play the Charleston for flappers and toffs, but things are about to take a surprising turn. Superintendent Sunderland has had word that a deserter who stole a fortune in diamonds as he fled the war is a member of the Aristippus private members' club in Mayfair – where the Dizzy Heights have a residency. And the thief is planning to steal a hoard of jewels hidden there under the cover of a dance contest. As mutual pal Lady Hardcastle has suggested, Skins and Dunn are perfectly placed to be Sunderland's eyes and ears – and Skins' wife Ellie soon lends a hand with a bit of light snooping. But the stakes change dramatically when a mysterious death at the club brings a sinister note to the investigation. With the dance contest fast approaching, the trio must solve the mystery of the missing diamonds, unmask the murderer, and prevent more deadly crimes – all, without missing a beat. Twenties' fun and shenanigans. Great feedback from regulars.

Historical mystery | TP | \$35.95



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The Siamese Twin Mystery (American Mystery Classics)

Ellery Queen

The Siamese Twin Mystery finds Ellery and his father, the irascible Inspector Queen, trapped in a mountain retreat by a raging forest fire. The members of the household are a strange lot, and the mysterious murder of the retreat's host indicates to the Queens that not only are they isolated with an odd assortment of characters, but a dangerous killer as well! Another American Mystery Classic reissue presented by Otto Penzler – originally published in 1933.

Classic mystery | TP | \$35.95



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Death and the Brewery Queen (Kate Shackleton 12)

Frances Brody

North Yorkshire, 1930. It's the season for warm and spirited countryside celebrations. Ever since the war, pubs have been in the doldrums; in an attempt to promote and breathe new life back into the business, brewers select a charismatic employee as local queen – to be the face of their industry. And this year's queen, wages clerk Ruth Parnaby, has invited the ever-intrepid Kate Shackleton and her niece Harriet to accompany her on public engagements at a garden party thrown in her honour. But when Ruth leads children to the stables for pony rides, the drayman is missing, later found in the last place imaginable – the fermentation room – deceased. What looked to be a simple case of asphyxiation in the dangerous fermentation room is quickly clarified by the pathologist as murder – the drayman was already dead before he was taken into the room. Someone was looking to cover it up. The horse dealer who sold the pony to the drayman comes under suspicion, but more and more Ruth's nasty father, Slater Parnaby's strong motive to dissuade his daughter from any festivities lingers in Kate's mind, despite his having an alibi. The case is muddy, at best, and it's going to take Kate at her keenest to decipher the truth. Really well-executed (see what I did there?) historical murder mystery series that's a firm favourite with regulars. Start with *Dying in the Wool* (PBK, \$24.99).

Historical mystery | PBK | \$22.99



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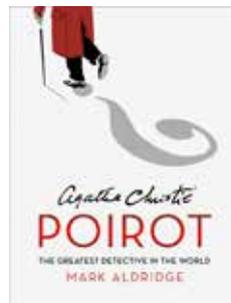
Agatha Christie's Poirot: The Greatest Detective in the World

Mark Aldridge

From the very first book publication in 1920 to the upcoming film release of *Death on the Nile*, this investigation into Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot celebrates a century of probably the world's favourite fictional detective. This book tells his story decade by decade, exploring his appearances not only in the original novels, short stories and plays but also across stage, screen, and radio productions. The hardback edition includes more than 400 illustrations.

Poirot has had near-permanent presence in the public eye ever since the 1920 publication of *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. From character development, publication history and private discussion concerning the original stories themselves, to early forays on to the stage and screen, the story of Poirot is as fascinating as it is enduring. Based on the author's original research, review excerpts and original Agatha Christie correspondence, *Poirot: The Greatest Detective in the World* is a lively and accessible history of the character, offering new information and helpful pieces of context, that will delight all Agatha Christie fans, from a new generation of readers to those already highly familiar with the canon.

Christie | HC | \$59.99



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