

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers 2021

The Thursday Murder Club

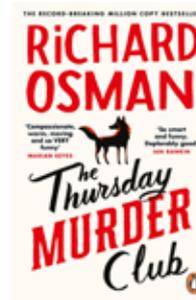
Thursday Murder Club mysteries 01

Richard Osman

Four unlikely friends... A shocking murder... Welcome to the Thursday Murder Club...

In a peaceful retirement village – four unlikely friends meet up once a week to investigate unsolved murders. But when a brutal killing takes place on their very doorstep, the Thursday Murder Club find themselves in the middle of their first live case. Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim, and Ron might be pushing eighty, but they still have a few tricks up their sleeves. Can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer before it's too late? Really fun and the perfect antidote to difficult times. And an international bestseller now to boot – with a sequel (see #3), *The Man Who Died Twice* (TP, \$32.99)! Recommended.

Mystery | PBK | \$19.99



1

Digging Up Dirt

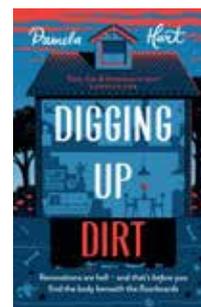
Poppy McGowan mysteries 01

Pamela Hart

Renovations are hell. And that's before you find the body beneath the floorboards.

An intriguing mystery from a stylish new voice in crime fiction, for readers of Kerry Greenwood and Holly Throsby. When your builder finds bones under the floor of your heritage home, what do you do? For TV researcher Poppy McGowan, the first step is to find out if the bones are human (which means calling in the cops and delaying her renovations) or animal (which doesn't). Unfortunately, 'help' comes in the form of Dr Julieanne Weaver, archaeologist, political hopeful, and Poppy's old enemy. She declares the bones evidence of a rare breed of fat-tailed sheep, and slaps a heritage order on the site. The resultant archaeological dig introduces Poppy to Tol Lang, the best-looking archaeologist she's ever met – and also Julieanne's boyfriend. When Julieanne is found murdered in Poppy's house, both she and the increasingly attractive Tol are considered suspects – and so Poppy uses her media contacts and news savvy to investigate other suspects. Did Julieanne have enemies in the right-wing Australian Family Party, for which she was seeking preselection, or in the affiliated Radiant Joy Church? Or at the Museum of New South Wales, among her rivals and ex-boyfriends? And who was her secret lover? Can Poppy save herself, and Tol... and finally get her house back? Very fun modern cosy set in Sydney. Fantastic feedback – recommended! (Check out the dedication too – so cool! Mwah!)

Mystery | TP | \$29.99



2

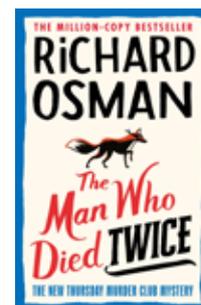
The Man Who Died Twice

Thursday Murder Club mysteries 02

Richard Osman

Elizabeth, Joyce, Ron, and Ibrahim – the Thursday Murder Club – are still riding high off their recent real-life murder case and are looking forward to a bit of peace and quiet at Cooper's Chase, their posh retirement village. But they are out of luck. An unexpected visitor – an old pal of Elizabeth's (or, perhaps, more than just a pal?) – arrives, desperate for her help. He has been accused of stealing diamonds worth millions from the wrong men and he's seriously on the lam. Then, as night follows day, the first body is found. But not the last. Elizabeth, Joyce, Ron, and Ibrahim are up against a ruthless murderer who wouldn't bat an eyelid at knocking off four septuagenarians. Can our four friends catch the killer before the killer catches them? And if they find the diamonds, too? Well, wouldn't that be a bonus? You should never put anything beyond the Thursday Murder Club. Richard Osman is back with everyone's favourite mystery-solving quartet – in the sequel to the international bestselling cosy *The Thursday Murder Club* (PBK, \$19.99) (see #1). Lotsa fun – recommended!

Mystery | TP | \$32.99



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Crime & Mystery Bestsellers 2021 (continued)

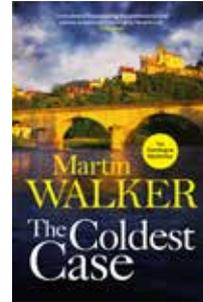
The Coldest Case

Bruno, Chief of Police 14

Martin Walker

Bruno Courreges is Chief of Police of the lovely town of St Denis in the Dordogne. His main wish is to keep the local people safe and his town free from crime. But crime has a way of finding its way to him. For thirty years, Bruno's boss, Chief of Detectives Jalipeau, known as J-J, has been obsessed with his first case. It was never solved, and Bruno knows that this failure continues to haunt J-J. A young male body was found in the woods, near St Denis, and never identified. For all these years, J-J has kept the skull, as a reminder. He calls him 'Oscar'. Visiting the famous prehistory museum in nearby Les Eyzies, Bruno sees some amazingly lifelike heads expertly reconstructed from ancient skulls. He suggests performing a similar reconstruction on Oscar as a first step towards at last identifying him. An expert is hired to start the reconstruction, and the search for Oscar's killer begins again in earnest. The latest in this wonderful series (another of Ron's faves!), set in the Dordogne. *Death in the Dordogne (aka Bruno, Chief of Police)* is the first in the series (PBK, \$19.99).

Mystery | TP | \$32.99



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The Lady with the Gun Asks the Questions

Phryne Fisher collection

Kerry Greenwood

The Honourable Phryne Fisher – she of the Lulu bob, Cupid's bow lips, diamante garters and pearl-handled pistol – is the 1920s' most elegant and irrepressible sleuth. Miss Phryne Fisher is up to her stunning green eyes in intriguing crime in each of these entertaining, fun, and compulsively readable stories. With the ever-loyal Dot, the ingenious Mr Butler, and all of Phryne's friends and household, the action is as fast as Phryne's wit and logic. 'With Phryne Fisher, the indefatigable Greenwood has invented the character-you-fall-in-love-with genre.' – *The Australian*.

If you love Phryne, you'll want to grab this collection of new stories! And don't forget the most-recent, full-length Phryne Fisher novel, *Death at Daylesford* (TP, 29.99).

Historical mystery | TP | \$29.99



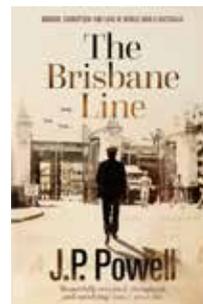
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The Brisbane Line

J P Powell

This has come from out of nowhere, while we were in the long lockdown of 2020! 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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Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers 2021 (continued)

Slough House

Slough House series 07

Mick Herron

At Slough House – MI5's London depository for demoted spies – Brexit has taken a toll. The 'slow horses' have been pushed further into the cold, Slough House has been erased from official records, and its members are dying in unusual circumstances, at an unusual clip. No wonder Jackson Lamb's crew is feeling paranoid. But are they actually targets? With a new populist movement taking hold of London's streets and the old order ensuring that everything's for sale to the highest bidder, the world's a dangerous place for those deemed surplus. Jackson Lamb and the slow horses are in a fight for their lives as they navigate dizzying layers of lies, power, and death. 'This is a darker, scarier Herron. The gags are still there but the satire's more biting. The privatisation of a secret service op and the manipulation of news is relevant and horribly credible.' – *Ann Cleeves*, author of the Vera Stanhope series. We love the series! Start with *Slow Horses* (PBK, \$22.99).

Suspense | PBK | \$22.99



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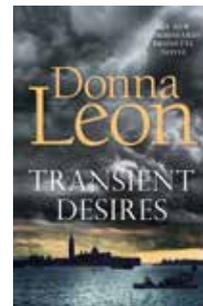
Transient Desires

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 | PBK | \$19.99



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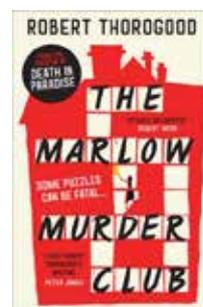
The Marlow Murder Club

Robert Thorogood

Seventy-seven-year-old Judith Potts is blissfully happy. She lives alone in a faded mansion in Marlow, sets crosswords for *The Times*, and there's no man in her life to tell her what to do or how much whisky to drink. One evening, while out swimming in the Thames, Judith witnesses a brutal murder. When the local police don't believe her story, Judith and two unlikely friends decide to investigate for themselves. Together, they are the Marlow Murder Club. But soon another body turns up, and it seems they have a real-life serial killer on their hands. Now, the puzzle they set out to solve has become a trap from which they might never escape...

To solve an impossible murder, you need an impossible hero... From the creator of the BBC One hit TV series, *Death in Paradise*. 'A hugely enjoyable murder mystery written with wonderful verve, humour and compassion. Utterly delightful' – *Robert Webb*. 'I love Robert Thorogood's writing' – *Peter James*.

Mystery | PBK | \$19.99



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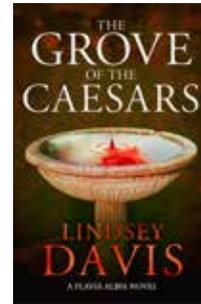
The Grove of the Caesars

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); or, in the case of old Dad's – Marcus Didius Falco – investigations, with *The Silver Pigs* (PBK, \$22.99).

Historical mystery | PBK | \$22.99



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