

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers June 2022

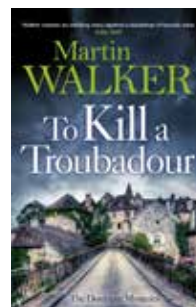
To Kill a Troubadour

Bruno, Chief of Police mysteries 15

Martin Walker

Armchair detection – and travel! – at its best... *Les Troubadours*, a folk music group that Bruno has long supported, go viral with their new number, 'Song for Catalonia,' when the Spanish government suddenly bans the song. The songwriter, Joel Martin, is a local enthusiast for the old Occitan language of Périgord and the medieval troubadours, and he sympathises with the Catalan bid for independence. The success of his song provokes outrage among extreme Spanish nationalists. Then, in a stolen car found on a Périgord back road, police discover a distinctive bullet for a state-of-the-art sniper's rifle that can kill at three kilometres, and they fear that Joel might be the intended target. The French and Spanish governments agree to mount a joint operation to stop the assailants, and Bruno is the local man on the spot who mobilises his resources to track them down. While Bruno tries to keep the peace, his friend Florence reaches out for help. Her abusive ex-husband is about to be paroled from prison and she fears he will return to reclaim their children. Will Bruno and Florence be able to prevent this unwanted visit? Despite the pressures, there is always time for Bruno to savor *les plaisirs* of the Dordogne around the table with friends. The plot descriptor sounds quite heavy and doesn't convey the joy that just being in Bruno's world brings. Really – you feel like you're breathing the air of rural France – as well as eating the food and drinking the wine – and enjoying the company! Recommended! Start anywhere – but the first in the series is *Death in the Dordogne* (PBK, \$22.99).

Mystery | TP | \$32.99



1

Deception Bay

Joe Washington mysteries 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 (*The Brisbane Line* (TP, \$29.99)). Recommended!

Mystery | TP | \$29.99



2

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers June 2022 (continued)

Castle Shade

Mary Russell 17

Laurie R King

A queen, a castle, a dark and ageless threat – all await Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes in this chilling adventure. The queen is Marie of Roumania: the doubly royal granddaughter of Victoria, Empress of the British Empire, and Alexander II, Tsar of Russia. A famous beauty who was married at seventeen into Roumania's young dynasty, Marie had beguiled the Paris Peace Conference into returning her adopted country's long-lost provinces, singlehandedly transforming Roumania from a backwater into a force. The castle is Bran: a tall, quirky, ancient structure perched on high rocks overlooking the border between Roumania and its newly regained territory of Transylvania. The castle was a gift to Queen Marie, a *thank you* from her people, and she loves it as she loves her own children. The threat is... well, that is less clear. Shadowy figures, vague whispers, the fears of girls, dangers that may be only accidents. But this is a land of long memory and hidden corners, a land that had known Vlad the Impaler, a land from whose churchyards the shades creep. When Queen Marie calls, Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes are as dubious as they are reluctant. But a young girl is involved, and a beautiful queen. Surely, it won't take long to shine light on this unlikely case of what would seem to be *strigoi*? Or, as they are known in the West... vampires. Series is great – all have been bestsellers here at Pulp! Highly recommended – start with *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* (PBK, \$19.99).

Sherlockiana | PBK | \$19.99



3

A Sunlit Weapon

Maisie Dobbs 17

Jacqueline Winspear

October 1942. Jo Hardy, a 22-year-old ferry pilot, is delivering a Supermarine Spitfire – the fastest fighter aircraft in the world – to Biggin Hill Aerodrome, when she realises someone is shooting at her aircraft from the ground. Returning to the location on foot, she finds an American serviceman in a barn, bound and gagged. She rescues the man, who is handed over to the American military police; it quickly emerges that he is considered a suspect in the disappearance of a fellow soldier who is missing. Tragedy strikes two days later, when another ferry pilot crashes in the same area where Jo's plane was attacked. At the suggestion of one of her colleagues, Jo seeks the help of psychologist and investigator Maisie Dobbs. Meanwhile, Maisie's husband, a high-ranking political attaché based at the American embassy, is in the thick of ensuring security is tight for the first lady of the United States, Eleanor Roosevelt, during her visit to Britain. There's already evidence that German agents have been circling: the wife of a president represents a high value target. Mrs Roosevelt is clearly in danger, and there may well be a direct connection to the death of the woman ferry pilot and the recent activities of two American servicemen. To guarantee the safety of the First Lady – and of the soldier being held in police custody – Maisie must uncover that connection. At the same time, she faces difficulties of an entirely different nature with her young daughter, Anna, who is experiencing wartime struggles of her own. These are perennial favourites here – recommended! The first in the series is *Maisie Dobbs* (PBK, \$24.99).

Mystery/suspense | TP | \$29.99



4

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers June 2022 (continued)

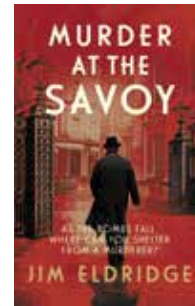
Murder at the Savoy

Hotel mysteries 02

Jim Eldridge

September 1940: the height of the Blitz. The Savoy Hotel boasts London's strongest air raid shelter with all the luxury expected from one of the capital's most prestigious hotels. It prompts the arrival of a disgruntled crowd from the East End, demanding they be allowed entry and respite from the endless bombing raids. They are given permission to enter and are stunned by the opulence that greets them. The all-clear sounds the next morning and London comes slowly back to life, but not everyone can dust themselves down and carry on. One of the hotel's guests has been discovered dead, stabbed in the back. Detective Chief Inspector Coburg and Sergeant Lampson are called in and the finger of suspicion falls firmly upon the East Londoners, but not everything is as it seems in these sumptuous surroundings. Jim Eldridge, author of the Museum Mysteries, turns his pen to Wartime London's grandest hotels. We've sold a bucket of the Museum mysteries – and this new series is proving just as popular! The first is *Murder at the Ritz* (PBK, \$19.99)

Mystery | PBK | \$19.99



5

An A-List for Death

Poppy McGowan mysteries 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 the Osmans – definitely read these!

Mystery | TP | \$29.99



6

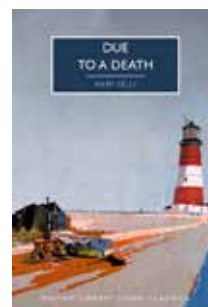
Due to a Death

British Library Crime Classics

Mary Kelly

A car speeds down a road between miles of marshes and estuary flats, its passenger a young woman named Agnes, fresh from a discovery that has turned her world turned upside down. Meanwhile, the news of a body found on the marsh is spreading round the local area, panic following in its wake. A masterpiece of suspense, Mary Kelly's 1962 novel follows Agnes as she casts her mind back through the past few days to find the links between her husband, his friends, a mysterious stranger new to the village and a case of unexplained death. Gripping, intelligent and affecting, *Due to a Death* was nominated for the Gold Dagger Award and showcases the author's versatility, and willingness to push the boundaries of the mystery genre. Reissue of a 'lost classic', from the British Library. So many gems, here!

Classic mystery | TP | \$33.95



7

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers June 2022 (continued)

The Cape Cod Mystery

American Mystery Classics

Phoebe Atwood Taylor

A local handyman 'who knows something about police work and everything about everybody's business' (Marilyn Stasio, *Mystery Alley*). Set within the brooding landscape of Cape Code, these classic whodunits are sure to please dedicated Phoebe Atwood Taylor fans and newcomer mystery buffs, alike. First, a bestselling author turns up dead. Then Asey's best friend becomes the chief suspect... and Asey knows he has to do something. There's only one clue: a sardine can. And only one weekend to clear it all up. First published in 1931 – Taylor wrote a new one, pretty much every year for twenty years, and they were hugely popular in their time – this is the first. Another fantastic addition to Otto Penzler's *Mystery Classics* series!

Classic mystery | TP | \$35.95



8

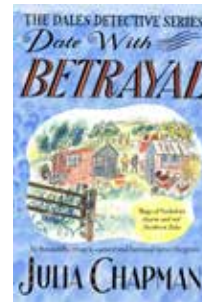
Date with Betrayal

Dales Detectives mysteries 06

Julia Chapman

Death is coming to Bruncliffe: its target is Samson O'Brien. Oblivious to his impending date with fate, Samson is busy juggling a number of cases at the Dales Detective Agency. Too busy, in fact, to notice his partner behaving oddly. Because Delilah Metcalfe knows what is coming. A hitman. Sent from London with one objective: to finally silence the troublesome O'Brien before his corruption case can make it to court. With Samson's life in peril, and betrayal around every corner, Delilah has no choice but to call in favours from all of her Bruncliffe connections in order to counteract the menace threatening to engulf the Dales town. The only trouble is the townsfolk have long memories and deep grievances when it comes to Samson O'Brien. Trust must be earned and they will take some convincing before they put themselves in danger in order to save him. And even then, it might not prove enough... Another series that seems to hook readers – read one and you'll want the rest. Recommended. Start anywhere – but the first is *Date with Death* (PBK, \$19.99)

Mystery | PBK | \$22.99



9

Guilty Creatures: A Menagerie of Mysteries

British Library Crime Classics

Martin Edwards (editor)

'Curiously enough,' said Dr Manners, 'I know a story in which the detection of a murder turned on the behaviour of a bird: in this instance a jackdaw.'

Since the dawn of the crime fiction genre, animals of all kinds have played a memorable part in countless mysteries, and in a variety of roles: the perpetrator, the key witness, the sleuth's trusted companion. This collection of fourteen stories corrals plots, centred on cats, dogs, and insects; alongside more exotic incidents involving gorillas, parakeets and serpents – complete with a customary shoal of red herrings. From the animal mysteries of Arthur Conan Doyle and F Tennyson Jesse through to more modern masterpieces of the subgenre from Christianna Brand and Penelope Wallace, this anthology celebrates one of the liveliest and most imaginative species of classic crime fiction. Fabulous!

Classic mystery | TP | \$33.95



10