

Pulp Fiction

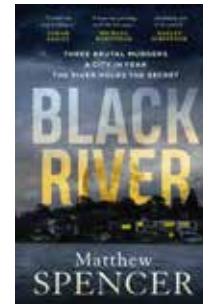
Crime & Mystery Bestsellers August 2022

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



1

Little Black Book

Bibliophile mysteries 15

Kate Carlisle

San Francisco book-restoration expert Brooklyn Wainwright is on the case when a rare edition of *Rebecca* leads to murder in this latest instalment of the *New York Times* bestselling Bibliophile Mystery series. More cosy fun – and rare books!

Mystery | PBK | \$19.99



2

Digging Up Dirt

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!) The sequel, *An A-List For Murder* (TP, \$29.99) is now available, too.

Mystery | TP | \$29.99



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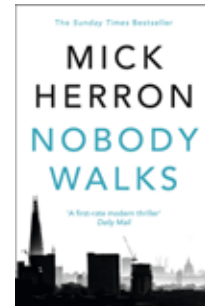
Crime & Mystery Bestsellers August 2022 (continued)

Nobody Walks

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 | PBK | \$22.99



4

The Way It Is Now

Garry Disher

Who shall inherit the sins of the father? Twenty years ago, Charlie Deravin's mother went missing, believed murdered. Her body has never been found, and his father has lived under a cloud of suspicion ever since. Now Charlie has returned to the coastal town where his mother vanished, on disciplinary leave from his job with the police sex-crimes unit, and permanent leave from his marriage. After two decades worrying away at the mystery of his mother's disappearance, he's run out of leads. Then the skeletal remains of two people are found in the excavation of a new building site... and the past comes crashing in on Charlie. From the multiple Ned Kelly Award-winning author of *Consolation* comes a stunning new standalone thriller, for readers of Jane Harper, Ian Rankin, and Chris Hammer. 'Haunting... read *The Way it is Now* for its big heart and the way it lyrically captures a moment in time' – *Sydney Morning Herald*. 'Deft and compelling crime novelist... A provocative whodunnit that is grounded firmly in the current moment' – *Guardian Australia*. Disher is always recommended!

Mystery | PBK | \$22.99



5

The Benson Murder Case

American Mystery Classics

S S van Dine

This novel opens with the death of playboy stockbroker, Alvin Benson, who is found in his brownstone mansion with a bullet through his head. First on the scene is Philo Vance, amateur detective, who is at once intrigued by the absence of Alvin's toupee and his false teeth. These odd clues set him in pursuit of an elusive murderer. He confronts a host of suspects and uncovers a number of family skeletons in his quest for the truth. S S van Dine is the pen name of Willard Huntington Wright (1888–1939) who wrote this novel in 1926. He wrote 13 bestselling crime novels and his amateur detective, Philo Vance was later immortalised on screen by William Powell in *The Canary Murder Case*. Classic, Golden Age fun and games!

Classic mystery | TP | \$35.95



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Crime & Mystery Bestsellers August 2022 (continued)

The Furies

Charlie Parker 20

John Connolly

The Furies: mythological snake-haired goddesses of vengeance, pursuers of those who have committed unavenged crimes. Now, private investigator Charlie Parker is drawn into a world of modern furies in two linked stories. In *The Sisters Strange*, the return of the criminal Raum Buker to Portland, Maine brings with it chaos and murder, as an act of theft threatens not only to tear apart his own existence but also that of Raum's former lovers, the enigmatic sisters Dolors and Ambar Strange. Parker finds himself fighting to protect two more women, as the city of Portland shuts down in the face of a global pandemic, but it may be that his clients are more capable of taking care of themselves than anyone could have imagined... Connolly's Charlie Parker books are a firm favourites with Pulp regulars. A unique blend of mystery/thriller – with a soupçon of horror, as well...

Mystery/suspense | TP | \$32.99



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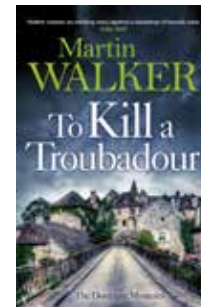
To Kill A Troubadour

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 savour *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



8

Golden Age Locked Room Mysteries

American Mystery Classics

Otto Penzler (editor)

Fourteen impossible crimes from the American masters of the form. For devotees of the Golden Age mystery, the impossible crime story represents the period's purest form: it presents the reader with a baffling scenario (a corpse discovered in a windowless room locked from the inside, perhaps), lays out a set of increasingly confounding clues, and swiftly delivers an ingenious and satisfying solution. During the years between the two world wars, the best writers in the genre strove to outdo one another with unfathomable crime scenes and brilliant explanations, and the puzzling and clever tales they produced in those brief decades remain unmatched to this day. Among the Americans, some of these authors are still household names, inextricably linked to the locked room mysteries they devised: John Dickson Carr, Ellery Queen, Clayton Rawson, Stuart Palmer. Others, associated with different styles of crime fiction, also produced great works – authors including Fredric Brown, MacKinlay Kantor, Craig Rice, and Cornell Woolrich. All of these and more can be found in *Golden Age Locked Room Mysteries*, selected by Edgar Award-winning mystery expert and anthologist Otto Penzler. Featuring a delightful mix of well-known writers and unjustly-forgotten masters, the 14 tales included herein highlight the best of the American impossible crime story, promising hours of entertainment for armchair sleuths young and old. And who doesn't love a Locked Room Mystery story? Recommended!

Classic mystery | TP | \$39.95



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Crime & Mystery Bestsellers August 2022 (continued)

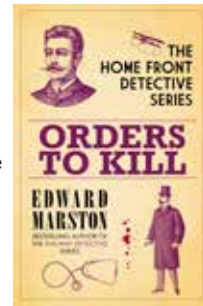
Orders to Kill

Home Front Detective 09

Edward Marston

December 1917. Ada Hobbes arrives on a frosty morning to clean the house owned by Dr Tindall, a surgeon at the Edmonton Military Hospital. She is shocked to find the blood-covered body of her employer sprawled across the floor. He has been hacked to death. Detective Inspector Harvey Marmion and Sergeant Joe Keedy arrive to a horrific scene. Someone enjoyed killing him, without a doubt. Their investigation takes them far out of London and on the trail of a very different Dr Tindall, one who was not the respectable local doctor everyone thought he was. Marmion and Keedy will need to sift through a number of likely suspects to find the killer behind this gruesome murder. Marston really is one of the masters of the historical mystery. In awe of his output!

Historical mystery | PBK | \$19.99



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