

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers September 2022

The Bullet That Missed

Thursday Murder Club mysteries 03

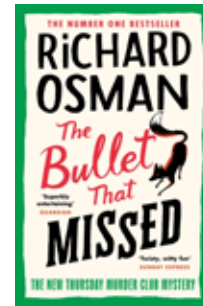
Richard Osman

It is an ordinary Thursday, and things should finally be returning to normal. Except trouble is never far away, where the Thursday Murder Club are concerned. A decade-old cold case – their favourite kind – leads them to a local news legend and a murder with no body and no answers. Then a new foe pays Elizabeth a visit. Her mission? Kill or be killed. Suddenly, the cold case has become red hot. While Elizabeth wrestles with her conscience (and a gun), Joyce, Ron, and Ibrahim chase down the clues with help from old friends and new. But can the gang solve the mystery and save Elizabeth before the murderer strikes again?

From an upmarket spa to a prison cell complete with espresso machine to a luxury penthouse high in the sky, this third adventure of the Thursday Murder Club is full of the cleverness, intrigue, and irresistible charm that readers have come to expect from Richard Osman's bestselling series.

Great, cosy mystery hijinks. Just what the world needs to get it through The Pandemic, and sundry other Global Crises. Recommended!

Mystery | TP | \$32.99



1

The Ink Black Heart

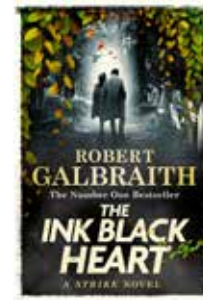
Comoran Strike 06

Robert Galbraith

When frantic, dishevelled Edie Ledwell appears in the office begging to speak to her, private detective Robin Ellacott doesn't know quite what to make of the situation. The co-creator of a popular cartoon, *The Ink Black Heart*, Edie is being persecuted by a mysterious online figure who goes by the pseudonym of Anomie. Edie is desperate to uncover Anomie's true identity. Robin decides that the agency can't help with this – and thinks nothing more of it until a few days later, when she reads the shocking news that Edie has been tasered and then murdered in Highgate Cemetery, the location of the Ink Black Heart. Robin and her business partner Cormoran Strike become drawn into the quest to uncover Anomie's true identity. But with a complex web of online aliases, business interests and family conflicts to navigate, Strike and Robin find themselves embroiled in a case that stretches their powers of deduction to the limits – and which threatens them, in new and horrifying ways...

You can tell it's close to Christmas, when all the International Bestseller-type volumes get wheeled out! We just go with it. You should, as well. Maybe, start with the first – if you haven't already? *Cuckoo's Calling* (PBK, \$22.99).

Mystery/suspense | TP | \$32.99



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Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers September 2022 (continued)

Murder By the Book

British Library Crime Classics

Martin Edwards (editor)

With Martin Edwards as librarian and guide, delve into an irresistible stack of bibliomysteries, where 'golden age – inspired puzzle masters [are] doing what they do best: bringing together readers, books, and felonies [in] perhaps the single best collection yet in this blue-chip series' (*Kirkus*, starred review).

There is no better hiding place for clues – or red herrings – than inside the pages of a book. But in this world of resentful ghost writers, indiscreet playwrights, and unscrupulous book collectors, literary prowess is often a prologue to disaster. Readers should be warned that the most riveting tales often conceal the deadliest of secrets.

Featuring much-loved Golden Age detectives Nigel Strangeways, Philip Trent, Detective Chief Inspector Roderick Alleyn, and others, a bookish puzzle threatens an eagerly awaited inheritance; a submission to a publisher recounts a murder that seems increasingly to be a work of nonfiction; an irate novelist puts a grisly end to the source of his writer's block.

Another fantastic anthology in the British Library Crime Classics series. Recommended!

Classic mystery | TP | \$33.95



3

Agatha Christie: An Elusive Woman

Lucy Worsley

'Christie lovers should read this biography for the same reason they read her novels.' – *The Times*.

'A model of how to combine biographical information, analysis and literary criticism into a propulsive narrative' – *Daily Telegraph*.

'Worsley's book excels in bringing a broader historical perspective to Christie's life and work, and her enthusiasm is infectious.' – *Observer*.

'Nobody in the world was more inadequate to act the heroine than I was.'

Why did Agatha Christie spend her career pretending that she was 'just' an ordinary housewife, when clearly she wasn't? As Lucy Worsley says, 'She was thrillingly, scintillatingly modern'. She went surfing in Hawaii, she loved fast cars, and she was intrigued by the new science of psychology, which helped her through devastating mental illness. So why – despite all the evidence to the contrary – did Agatha present herself as a retiring Edwardian lady of leisure? She was born in 1890, into a world which had its own rules about what women could and couldn't do. Lucy Worsley's biography is not just of an internationally renowned bestselling writer. It's also the story of a person who, despite the obstacles of class and gender, became an astonishingly successful working woman.

With access to personal letters and papers that have rarely been seen, Lucy Worsley's biography is both authoritative and entertaining and makes us realise what an extraordinary pioneer Agatha Christie was – truly a woman who wrote the 20th century. Love Worsley (and Christie!) – so this would be a 'just read it!'-type recommendation.

Love Worsley (and Christie!) – so this would be a 'just read it!'-type recommendation.

Biography | TP | \$34.99



4

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). Lotsa fun – recommended!

Mystery | PBK | \$22.99



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Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers September 2022 (continued)

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 Aunty 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 all the Osmans – definitely read these!

Mystery | TP | \$29.99



6

Celtic Cross

Mirabelle Bevan mysteries 09

Sara Sheridan

'Beneath that prim exterior lies a fearless, fly-by-the-seat-of-her-pants kind of gal. One part Nancy Drew, two parts Jessica Fletcher, Mirabelle has a dogged tenacity to rival Poirot' – *Sunday Herald*.

About to get married, Mirabelle and her fiancé, retired Superintendent Alan McGregor, are torn about where they will settle but when a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity comes up to buy a secluded house on the banks of the Firth of Forth, they submit to getting permission from the local landlord. But that permission comes at a price and when a nun dies in mysterious circumstances – at the Little Sisters of Gethsemane Convent, nearby – they are drafted to uncover what happened.

'Sara Sheridan never fails to surprise. Unfailingly stylish, undeniably smart, Miss Bevan is destined to bring the exploits of the past to the best-seller lists of the present' – *Daily Record*.

Great fun – love a historical mystery! Armchair detection and time machine, combined!

Mystery | PBK | \$24.99



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Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers September 2022 (continued)

Sweet Remnants of Summer

Isabel Dalhousie 14

Alexander McCall Smith

Our favourite moral philosopher is caught up in a delicate dispute between members of a prominent family as her husband, Jamie, is dragged into his own internecine rivalry.

Isabel accepts an invitation to serve on the advisory committee of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, but soon finds herself swept up in an all-too-familiar dilemma. David is the grandson of a Scottish clan chief and is supportive of Scottish nationalism. But his fervent beliefs are threatening family harmony, especially because his sister Catriona's socialist views put her at odds with her brother. When their mother, Laura, a fellow committee member, asks Isabel to intervene, she tries to demur. But always one for courteous resolutions to philosophical disagreements, Isabel can't help but intercede. In the meantime, Jamie, having criticised Isabel for getting involved in the affairs of others, does precisely that himself. Jamie is helping to select a new cellist for his ensemble, but he suspects that the conductor may be focused on something other than his favoured candidate's cello skills. With so many factors complicating matters, Isabel and Jamie will have to muster all their tact and charm to ensure that comity is reached between all these fractious parties.

Smith's gentle mysteries are imbued with genuine kindness and charm that are hard not to love. The first in the Isabelle Dalhousie series is *The Sunday Philosophy Club* (PBK, \$19.99).

Mystery | TP | \$32.99



8

Black River

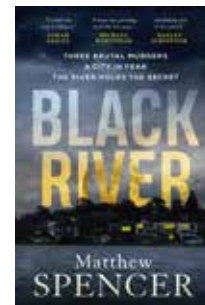
Matthew Spencer

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



9

Inspector French and the Cheyne Mystery

Collins Crime Club

Freeman Wills Crofts

When young Cheyne finds things going wrong and a dangerous gang of criminals unpleasantly interested in him, he tries to outwit them on his own. When things get serious and his life attempted, he goes to Scotland Yard. French comes into the case, and carries out one of his usual investigations of untiring thoroughness directed by flashes of inspiration.

More Golden Age Hijinks (first published in 1926!) from the granite-jawed detective (going by the cover art!).

Classic mystery | PBK | \$22.99



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