

# Pulp Fiction

## Crime & Mystery Bestsellers 2022

### **The Bullet that Missed**

Thursday Murder Club mysteries 03

**Richard Osman**

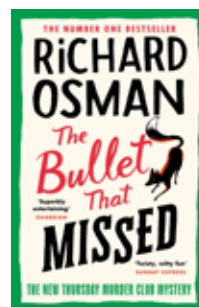
It is an ordinary Thursday, and things should finally be returning to normal. Except, trouble is never far away, where the Thursday Murder Club are concerned. A decade-old cold case – their favourite kind – leads them to a local news legend and a murder with no body and no answers. Then a new foe pays 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**



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### **Murder in Williamstown**

Phryne Fisher mysteries 22

**Kerry Greenwood**

Accustomed to both murder and dalliance, Australia's favourite detective, the inimitable Miss Fisher, returns in a case that will test her tact and judgement to the full.

When the redoubtable Miss Phryne Fisher receives threatening letters at her home, she enlists the unflappable apprentice Tinker to investigate. But as the harassment of Phryne threatens to spin out of control, her lover, Lin Chung is also targeted.

Meanwhile, Dot begins to fear that her fiancé, newly promoted Sergeant Hugh Collins, has gone cold on setting a date for their wedding. Phryne's clever daughters, Ruth and Jane, begin their own investigation into suspiciously dwindling funds when they are sent to help at the Blind Institute.

None of this is quite enough to prevent Phryne from accepting an invitation to a magnificent party at the house of the mysterious Hong. When the party is interrupted by shocking tragedy, Phryne gathers all of her unerring brilliance to track down the miscreants. With some unlikely assistance, Phryne is in a race against time to save a pair of young lovers from disgrace and death.

It's been a while! Lovely to see Phryne in action, again. :)

**Historical mystery | TP | \$32.99**



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# Pulp Fiction

## Crime & Mystery Bestsellers 2022 (continued)

### **The Thursday Murder Club**

Thursday Murder Club mysteries 01

**Richard Osman**

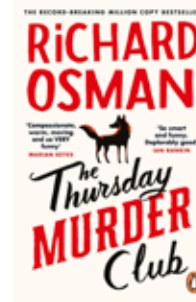
*Four septuagenarians with a few tricks up their sleeves. A female cop with her first big case. A brutal murder. Welcome to... the Thursday Murder Club.*

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves the Thursday Murder Club. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case.

As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it's too late?

Still selling! Apparently, Spielberg's company is going to be making a film of it as well – so, the series is certain to be a fixture on these lists, for some time, yet...

**Mystery | PBK | \$22.99**



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### **Deception Bay**

Joe Washington mysteries 02

**J P Powell**

*Deceit is usually wrong, sometimes necessary, and often the best course of action.*

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.

*Deception Bay* continues J P Powell's Brisbane wartime saga. Regulars say this is even better than the first (*The Brisbane Line* (TP, \$29.99)). Recommended!

**Historical mystery | TP | \$29.99**



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### **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...

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**



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# Pulp Fiction

## Crime & Mystery Bestsellers 2022 (continued)

### **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.

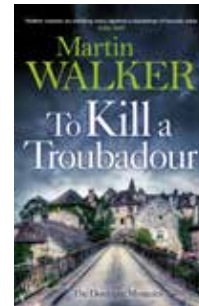
The success of his song provokes outrage among extreme Spanish nationalists. Then, in a stolen car found on a Périgord back road, police discover a distinctive bullet for a state-of-the-art sniper's rifle that can kill at three kilometres, and they fear that Joel might be the intended target.

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**



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### **The Torrent**

Detective Kate Miles 01

**Dinuka McKenzie**

*A loving husband lost to devastating summer floods. A teenage girl injured during a robbery. Two seemingly unconnected cases that will push a detective to the brink.*

An atmospheric, compelling new voice in Australian crime fiction; winner of the 2020 HarperCollins Australia Banjo Prize for Fiction.

In Northern New South Wales, heavily pregnant and a week away from maternity leave, Detective Sergeant Kate Miles is exhausted and counting down the days.

But a violent hold-up at a local fast-food restaurant with unsettling connections to her own past, means that her final days will be anything but straightforward.

When a second case is dumped on her lap, the closed case of a man drowned in recent summer floods, what begins as a simple informal review quickly grows into something more complicated. Kate can either write the report that's expected of her or investigate the case the way she wants to.

As secrets and betrayals pile up, and the needs of her own family intervene, how far is Kate prepared to push to discover the truth? *'The Torrent* is subtle and clever and Dinuka has talent to burn. It unfolds so beautifully and the writer is in control every step of the way. *Highly, highly recommended!* – Dervla McTiernan.

*'Such a good read'* – Val McDermid.

We love this – looking forward to more!!

**Mystery/suspense | TP | \$32.99**



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# Pulp Fiction

## Crime & Mystery Bestsellers 2022 (continued)

### **Bad Actors**

Slough House 08

#### **Mick Herron**

In London's MI5 headquarters, a scandal is brewing that could disgrace the entire intelligence community. The Downing Street super-forecaster – a specialist who advises the Prime Minister's office on how policy is likely to be received by the electorate – has disappeared without a trace.

Claude Whelan, who was once head of MI5, has been tasked with tracking her down. But the trail leads him straight back to Regent's Park itself, with First Desk Diana Taverner as chief suspect. Has Taverner overplayed her hand, at last?

Meanwhile, her Russian counterpart, Moscow intelligence's First Desk, has cheekily showed up in London and shaken off his escort. Are the two unfortunate events connected?

Over at Slough House, where Jackson Lamb presides over some of MI5's most embittered demoted agents, the slow horses are doing what they do best, and adding a little bit of chaos to an already unstable situation... There are bad actors everywhere, and they usually get their comeuppance before the credits roll.

But politics is a dirty business, and in a world where lying, cheating, and backstabbing are the norm, sometimes the good guys can find themselves outgunned.

We love Herron – pretty sure, you will too! – the series starts with the brilliant *Slow Horses* (PBK, \$22.99)

**Suspense | TP | \$32.99**



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### **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).

**Historical mystery/suspense | PBK | \$19.99**



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# Pulp Fiction

## Crime & Mystery Bestsellers 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 the Osmans – definitely read these!

**Mystery | TP | \$29.99**



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