

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Catalogue February 2023

Pulp Fiction Booksellers • Shop 4, Level 1 (first floor) • Blocksidge & Ferguson Building Arcade • 144 Adelaide Street • Brisbane • Queensland • 4000 • Australia
Postal: GPO Box 297 • Brisbane • Queensland • 4001 • Australia • Tel: 07 3236-2750 • e-mail: pulpfictionbooks@bigpond.com • www.pulpfictionbooks.com.au

Includes new books by:

Elizabeth Coleman
Elly Griffiths
Tom Hindle
Ben Hobson
Joanna Jenkins
James Kestrel
Dinuka McKenzie
Nikki Mottram
Olivia Wearne
... and many others.

All the books in this catalogue are new books due for release in **February 2023**.

Because they are new books, we are at the whim of the publishers and, to some extent, the shipping companies – books can sometimes arrive later (or earlier) than, or occasionally be a different retail price than originally quoted. Because space is a luxury, we bring in limited quantities of books. Prices are subject to change without notice.

Please reserve copies of anything you want so you don't miss out – ASAP!

If a book has sold out by the time we receive your order, we will back-order and supply, when available.

Pulp Fiction has access to thousands of books not shown in our monthly catalogues. We are only too happy to order anything if we don't have it on the shelves.

If you can't make it into the shop, you can post, phone, or e-mail your order. We accept Mastercard, Visa, AMEX, cheques and Australia Post Money Orders.

Approximate current postage (base rate), within Australia, is:

up to 500g: \$9.70

500g to 1kg: \$13.25

1kg to 3kg: \$16.65

3kg to 5kg: \$20.05

anything above 5kg charged at Australia Post rates.

If your order is over \$100, we recommend adding Australia Post insurance, which is charged at \$2.50 per \$100 of value.

Until next time, good reading!
Ron and Leanne

Abbreviations used in this catalogue:

PBK = 'A' & 'B' format (standard size) paperback
TP = 'B+' & 'C' format (oversize) paperback
HC = Hardcover or cloth binding

The Pale Blue Eye

film tie-in edition

Bayard, Louis

April 19th, 1831. In two or three hours I'll be dead. So begins the chilling last testament of Gus Landor, a retired New York City police constable, whose numerous talents include codebreaking, riot control, and the 'gloveless interrogation'. A young cadet has been found hanged at a military academy on the shores of the Hudson River. Before his body could be buried, however, it was stolen and his heart brutally carved out. Fearing a scandal, the top brass at West Point have summoned Landor to help catch the culprit, and keep his discoveries away from prying eyes. As Landor embarks on a thrilling adventure to solve the case, he uncovers a series of dark secrets and finds unlikely assistance in the form of a mischievous young cadet named Edgar Allan Poe. Full of drama and unexpected twists, *The Pale Blue Eye* is a brilliantly haunting and atmospheric historical mystery. Now a major Netflix film starring Christian Bale and Gillian Anderson.
Historical mystery PBK \$22.99

Show Me the Bunny

Melanie Travis mysteries

Berenson, Laurien

Aunt Rose already has a strike against her for not being too fond of dogs – or Aunt Peg. But Melanie still agrees to organise Easter festivities at Gallagher House, the new women's shelter opened by the stern former nun, even if it takes all the jellybeans in Greenwich to sweeten the arrangement. No sooner does Melanie arrive to dye multicolour eggs and stuff baskets, than she learns devastating news about Beatrice Gallagher, the respected benefactor of the estate. Beatrice has fallen to her death, and the circumstances are shocking... No one can say why or how charitable Beatrice got pushed into an early grave. Facing an uncertain future as danger lurks around Gallagher House, Melanie and Aunt Rose must tolerate each other's company long enough to discover the truth about Beatrice's true nature and identify a vengeful killer – before another person's idyllic spring break becomes a serious nightmare...
Mystery PBK \$24.95

The Murder Book

Tom Thorne series

Billingham, Mark

Tom Thorne has it all. In Nicola Tanner and Phil Hendricks, Thorne has good friends by his side. He finally has a love life worth a damn and is happy in the job to which he has devoted his life... Hunting the woman responsible for a series of grisly murders, Thorne has no way of knowing that he will be plunged into a nightmare from which he may never wake. Finally, Thorne's past has caught

up with him and a ruinous secret is about to be revealed. If he wants to save himself and his friends, he must do the unthinkable.
Thriller PBK \$22.99

The Blue Bar

Blue Mumbai series

Biswas, Damyanti

After years of dancing in Mumbai's bars, Tara Mondal was desperate for a new start. So, when a client offered her a life-changing payout to indulge a harmless, if odd, fantasy, she accepted. The setup was simple: wear a blue-sequined saree, enter a crowded railway station, and escape from view in less than three minutes. It was the last time anyone saw Tara. Thirteen years later, Tara's lover, Inspector Arnav Singh Rajput, is still grappling with her disappearance as he faces a horrifying new crisis: on the city's outskirts, women's dismembered bodies are being unearthed from shallow graves. Very little links the murders, except a scattering of blue sequins and a decade's worth of missing persons' reports that correspond with major festivals. Past and present blur, as Arnav realises he's on the trail of a serial killer and that someone wants his investigation buried at any cost. Could the key to finding Tara and solving these murders be hidden in one of his cold cases? Or will the next body they recover be hers? The first in a series.
Mystery/suspense TP \$27.99

Murder at the Porte de Versailles

Aimée Leduc Investigations

Black, Cara

November 2001: in the wake of 9/11, Paris is living in a state of fear. For Aimée Leduc, November is bittersweet: the anniversary of her father's death and her daughter's third birthday fall on the same day. A gathering for family and friends is disrupted when a bomb goes off at the police laboratory – and Boris Viard, the partner of Aimée's friend Michou, is found unconscious at the scene of the crime with traces of explosives under his fingernails. Aimée doesn't believe Boris set the bomb. In an effort to prove this, she battles the police and his own lab colleagues, collecting conflicting eyewitness reports. When a member of the French secret service drafts Aimée to help investigate possible links to an Iranian Revolutionary guard and fugitive radicals who bombed Interpol in the 1980s, Aimée uncovers ties to a cold case of her father's. As Aimée scours the streets of the 15th *arrondissement* trying to learn the truth, she has to ask herself if she should succumb to pressure from Chloe's biological father and move them out to his farm in Brittany. But could Aimée Leduc ever leave Paris?
Mystery TP \$37.95

The Witching Tree

Natalie Lockhart mysteries

Blanchard, Alice

Detective Natalie Lockhart gained unwanted notoriety when she and her family became front and centre of not one, but two sensational murder cases. Now, she's lost her will, and her way. Burned out and always looking over your shoulder is no way to be a cop, and Natalie desperately thinks that maybe quitting is her only option left. All that changes, when a beloved resident – a practicing Wiccan and founder of the town's oldest coven – is killed in a fashion more twisted and shocking than Natalie has ever seen, leaving the town reeling. Natalie has no choice but to help solve the case along with Luke, the detective, boss, and old childhood friend she cannot admit she loves, even to herself. There is a silent, malignant presence in Burning Lake, which will not rest. And what happens next is a series of disturbing events that will shock the town, and Natalie, to the core.
Mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

Murder in Haxford

Pignon Scorpion mysteries

Bleiweiss, Rick

A delightful day in 1910, at the Haxford Spring Fair, turns horrifying and deadly – when a balloonist plummets to the earth from the blue skies above. However unlikely, it's soon discovered that this unfortunate corpse was not done in by his precipitous plunge but instead from an arrow fatally lodged in his chest. Unravelling the twisted web of intrigue that took the man's life requires the expert skills of Haxford's brilliant and sartorially splendid Chief Inspector Pignon Scorpion. But the quirky detective is not alone in this task. Aiding Scorpion in his dogged pursuit of truth and justice are his carefully chosen deputies: six quirky and unconventional thinkers from the town who meet regularly with Scorpion in Calvin Brown's barbershop to unmask ne'er-do-wells and solve local crimes. Since his move to the charming village, the enigmatic detective has also realised his growing dependence upon its bookshop's owner. Lovely and quick-witted Thelma Smith not only helps Pignon with his criminal cases, but she seems well on her way to unlocking the mysteries of his heart. Not everyone in Haxford is so cooperative. Faustin Hardcastle from the *Gazette* is bound and determined to ruin the town's new officer of the law with slanderous news reports of failure and misconduct. And other residents of the picture-perfect village do not welcome the inspector's inquiring eye and expert nose for trouble. When they engage in decidedly unquaint activities – like gambling, revenge, forgery, and loan sharking – it falls to Pignon Scorpion to reveal their deceit and criminal misdeeds... all in a good day's

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery February 2023 (continued)

work. Once done, he and Thelma can then thoroughly enjoy a delicious dinner at the Bridgehouse Inn. The follow-up to *Pignon Scorpion and the Barbershop Detectives* (TP, \$39.95).

Historical mystery TP \$39.95

The Fall

Blok, Rachael

The bigger the sin, the further the fall...

With Easter approaching, the verger of St Albans Cathedral was supposed to be readying the church. Instead, he discovers a man lying dead, fallen from the famous 150-foot-high tower. Did he jump, or was he pushed? For DCI Maarten Jansen, it's a simple case of suspected suicide. Until a witness, Willow, prompts a deeper investigation into a long-buried past, involving a psychiatric hospital, a pregnant woman, and 50 years of silence. As Willow's own family history entwines with the case, Jansen starts to wonder how everything is connected.

Thriller PBK \$22.99

The Passenger

Boschwitz, Ulrich Alexander

Berlin, November 1938. With storm troopers battering against his door, Otto Silbermann must flee out the back of his own home. He emerges onto streets thrumming with violence: it is Kristallnacht, and synagogues are being burnt, Jews rounded up and their businesses destroyed. Turned away from establishments he had long patronised, betrayed by friends and colleagues, Otto finds his life as a respected businessman has dissolved overnight. Desperately trying to conceal his Jewish identity, he takes train after train across Germany in a race to escape this homeland that is no longer home. Twenty-three-year-old Ulrich Alexander Boschwitz wrote *The Passenger* at breakneck speed in 1938, fresh in the wake of the Kristallnacht pogroms, and his prose flies at the same pace. Shot through with Hitchcockian tension, *The Passenger* is a blisteringly immediate story of flight and survival in Nazi Germany.

Historical suspense PBK \$22.99

Murder at an Irish Castle

Irish Castle mysteries

Brannigan, Ellie

Rodeo Drive bridal-wear designer Rayne McGrath expected her 30th birthday to start with a power lunch and end with champagne, lobster, and a diamond engagement ring from her fiancé. Instead, flat broke and busted, she's on a plane to Ireland where she discovers that she's inherited a rundown family castle. Uncle Nevin's will contains a few caveats – for example, if Rayne doesn't turn McGrath Castle around within a year, the entire village will be financially destroyed. With the fate of the town in her hands, and rumours that Rayne's uncle's death wasn't actually an accident, she can't possibly go back to her old life in LA. As the devastating truth about her uncle dawns on Rayne, it's not just her reputation that's on the line, it's her life. The first in a series.

Mystery TP \$41.95

Death and the Decorator

Fethering mysteries

Brett, Simon

Having decided to redecorate Woodside Cottage, Jude has engaged the services of local man Pete, who has painted and decorated the homes of Fethering residents for many years. Pete is currently working on Footscrow House, a large Victorian building which is being converted into holiday flats by a local developer. Having arranged to meet at 'Fiasco House', as it is known locally due to the many failed business enterprises over the years, Jude and Pete make a surprising discovery behind a wall panel: a woman's handbag! The casual discovery becomes serious when the police identify the handbag's owner as Anita Garner, a young woman who vanished in suspicious circumstances 30 years earlier. Determined to find out what really happened to Anita all those years ago, Jude and her neighbour Carole's investigations plunge them into a maze of deception and murder, as they uncover a number of uncomfortable secrets beneath the serene surface of Fethering life...

Mystery TP \$41.95

The Lost Book of

Eleanor Dare

Brock, Kimberly

What happened to the Lost Colony of Roanoke remains a mystery, but the women who descended from Eleanor Dare have long known that the truth lies in what she left behind: a message carved onto a large stone and the contents of her treasured commonplace book. Brought from England on Eleanor's fateful voyage to the New World, her book was passed down through the 15 generations of daughters who followed as they came of age. Thirteen-year-old Alice had been next in line to receive it, but her mother's tragic death fractured the unbroken legacy and the Dare Stone and the shadowy history recorded in the book faded into memory. Or, so, Alice hoped. In the waning days of World War II, Alice is a young widow and a mother herself when she is unexpectedly presented with her birthright: the deed to Evertell, her abandoned family home and the history she thought forgotten. Determined to sell the property and step into a future free of the past, Alice returns to Savannah with her own 13-year-old daughter, Penn, in tow. But when Penn's curiosity over the lineage she never knew begins to unveil secrets from beneath every stone and bone and shell of the old house and Eleanor's book is finally found, Alice is forced to reckon with the sacrifices made for love and the realities of their true inheritance as daughters of Eleanor Dare.

Historical mystery TP \$32.99

A Mansion for Murder

Kate Shackleton mysteries

Brody, Frances

1930, Yorkshire. Intrigued by a mysterious letter from a stranger offering important information, Private Investigator Kate Shackleton arrives in the mill village of Saltaire. At nearby Milner Field mansion, overshadowed by its reputation for misfortune and untimely deaths, she expects to meet the letter writer, Ronnie Creswell. Kate soon hears the shocking news that Ronnie has been killed. At first his death

appears to be a tragic accident at the mill, but soon it becomes clear that Ronnie's demise was no mishap. Kate is enlisted to help investigate the murder. Kate moves into the tower rooms at Milner Field, as she tries to uncover resentments, industrial espionage, and old secrets in the close-knit village. Although she doesn't believe in curses, she wonders what sinister truth lies behind this latest in the litany of deaths connected to the infamous Milner Field. Then just when things couldn't get any worse, a young girl in the village goes missing, and Kate must use all her strength and skill to unravel the mystery around the mansion once and for all... This well-loved series is great fun – imagine Miss Marple in her youth; and begins with *Dying in the Wool* (PBK, \$24.99).

Historical mystery PBK \$24.99

Who Killed Jerusalem?

Brown, George

In 1977, Ickey Jerusalem, San Francisco's golden-boy poet laureate, is found dead in a locked, first-class toilet on an arriving red-eye flight. Ded Smith, a desperately unhappy, intelligent philistine with a highly developed philosophy to match, is called in to investigate the poet's death. Thus, begins a series of hilarious encounters with the members of Jerusalem's coterie. Ded, soon, realises that to find out what happened, he must not only collect his usual detective's clues but also, despite his own poetically challenged outlook, get into the dead poet's mind. Fighting his way through blasphemous funerals, drug-induced dreams, poetry-charged lovemaking, offbeat philosophical discussions, and much, much more, he begins to piece together Jerusalem's seductive, all-encompassing metaphysics. But, by then, the attempts to kill Ded and the others have begun. Before Ded's death-dodging luck runs out, will he be able to solve the case, and perhaps in the process, develop a new way of looking at the world that might allow him to replace his unhappiness with joy? A seamless melding of the intricate plotting of Umberto Eco in *The Name of the Rose* with the fabulous world of William Blake.

Mystery TP \$45.95

A Doomful of Sugar

Maple Syrup mysteries

Brun, Catherine

After the death of her father, Leila Khoury returns to her hometown of Sugar Ridge, Vermont, only to find out her father's will demands that she run his maple syrup store for at least a year. Although her father's death was written off as a robbery gone wrong, the police chief, and friend of the family, believes he was murdered. The more Leila learns, the more she starts to believe it, too. Leila wants her father's killer brought to justice, even if she has to put herself in a sticky situation to find them herself. The first in a new series.

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Locked Ward

Natalie King, Forensic Psychiatrist series

Buist, Anne

Natalie King may be a psychiatrist, but that doesn't mean she can persuade her baby to go to sleep. Sienna wants to party through the night – and lack of sleep is a major trigger for Natalie's bipolar disorder. Sleep school at Southside private psych unit, however,

turns out to have its own hazards. It's bad enough that Natalie doesn't really want to be there, that she wants to keep her professional status quiet and that she's seen enough group therapy to be quite sure it's not her thing. But then someone arrives, who Natalie knows very well indeed – and not in a good way. Luckily, she's out of Southside by the time the murder happens. Unluckily, she knows everyone who's involved, including the cops. They think they have an open-and-shut case. Natalie's pretty sure they've locked the door on the wrong person. The first of these suspenseful Australian mysteries is *Medea's Curse* (PBK, \$22.99).

Mystery/suspense TP \$32.9

Wined and Died

in New Orleans

Vintage Cookbook mysteries

Byron, Ellen

It's hurricane season in New Orleans and vintage cookbook fan Ricki James-Diaz is trying to shelve her weather-related fears and focus on her business, Miss Vee's Vintage Cookbook and Kitchenware Shop, housed in the magnificent Bon Vee Culinary House Museum. Repairs on the property unearth crates of very old, very valuable French wine, buried by the home's builder, Jean-Louis Charbonnet. Ricki, who's been struggling to attract more customers to Miss Vee's, is thrilled when her post about the discovery of this long-buried treasure goes viral. She's less thrilled when the post brings distant Charbonnet family members out of the woodwork, all clamouring for a cut of the wine's sale. When a dead body turns up in Bon Vee's cheery fall decorations, the NOPD zeroes in on Eugenia Charbonnet Felice as the prime suspect, figuring that as head of the Charbonnet family, she has the most to gain. Ricki is determined to uncover the real culprit, but she can't help noticing that Eugenia is acting strangely. Ricki wonders what kind of secret her mentor has bottled up, and fears what might happen if she uncorks it.

Mystery PBK \$24.95

Nonna Maria and the Case of the Missing Bride

Nonna Maria mysteries

Garcattera, Lorenzo

Nonna Maria has lived on Ischia, an island in the Gulf of Naples, her entire life. Recognisable by the widow's black she's worn every day for decades, she always has pasta on the stove and espresso in the pot for the neighbours who stop by to ask her advice on life and love. Everyone knows her, and she knows everyone's business. So, if something goes wrong, islanders look to her, not the local *carabinieri*, to find the solution. When a recently-engaged woman confesses that she's afraid her fiancé, a stranger to Ischia with a murky past, might not be who he seems, Nonna Maria helps her disappear so she can investigate the true nature of her betrothed. The stranger has also raised the suspicions of Captain Murino of the *carabinieri*, but he's occupied investigating the death of a tour boat captain who drowned in the wee hours of the morning. Captain Murino believes it was an accident, but Nonna Maria knows the man was a born sailor and too good a swimmer to drown, no matter how much wine he might

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery February 2023 (continued)

have drunk. While Captain Murino has his hands full, she pours herself a glass of white wine and gets to work, even though getting involved will expose her to the dangers lurking just beneath the surface of her idyllic home. The first in a series.

Mystery TP \$37.95

Standalone

Dickie Cornish mysteries

Chambers, Christopher

It's been over a year, since that bleak Christmas when a rich man peeled homeless, drug-addled Dickie Cornish from a steam grate, cleaned him up, and convinced him to use his street connections to track down his missing property. Now, as the summer sun bakes those same mean streets, the air is thick with crime, contagion, corruption. Dickie struggles with sobriety, antipsychotic meds, and counselling at the VA, but manages to make a meagre living as a private investigator with his sidekick, 'Stripe' – until an ex-con named Al-Mayadeen Thomas sticks a gun to Dickie's forehead and kidnaps him to a grim flophouse – a motel filled with squatters more desperate than the poor souls in the shelters. Thomas demands that Dickie find his daughter, missing for years from the motel in a notorious cold case. The other squatters plead for him to find their vanished children as well. Thomas takes his own life to seal Dickie's help, Police Chief Linda Figgis hauls Dickie in, gives him a Faustian choice: she directs him to help her close the Thomas cold case, but only if he forgets about the other vanished and abused children. To his horror, Dickie finds himself in the middle of a war within the police, with either side closing in for the kill to keep the truth hidden.

Noir TP \$27.99

Date with Mystery

Dales Detective mysteries

Chapman, Julia

The Dales Detective Agency's latest assignment appears to be an open and shut case. Hired by a local solicitor to find a death certificate for a young woman who died over 20 years ago, Samson O'Brien is about to find out that things in Bruncliffe are rarely that straightforward. Particularly, when the solicitor insists that Delilah Metcalfe, with her wealth of local knowledge, works alongside Samson on this sensitive investigation. Delilah is eager to help, needing to take her mind off the impending custody case for her precious dog, Tolpuddle, and problems with her dating agency. As Samson and Delilah begin their inquiries, they soon become embroiled in a mystery that has lain at the heart of the town for decades. But in uncovering the truth have they exposed secrets that some would prefer remained buried? A reissue, with new cover art, of the third cosy crime novel in Julia Chapman's hugely-popular Dales Detective series. Recommended. If you haven't tried these, start with *Date with Death* (PBK, \$22.99).

Mystery (reissue) PBK \$22.99

Hide

Detective Harriet Foster series

Clark, Tracy

When a young red-haired woman is found brutally murdered in downtown Chicago, one detail stands out: the red lipstick encircling

her wrists and ankles. Detective Harriet Foster is on the case, even though she's still grieving the sudden death of her partner. As a Black woman in a male-dominated department, Foster anticipates a rocky road ahead acclimating to a new team – and building trust with her new partner isn't coming easily. After another victim turns up with the same lipstick markings, Foster suspects she's looking for a serial killer. Through a tip from a psychiatrist, Foster learns about Bodie Morgan: a troubled man with a twisted past and a penchant for pretty young redheads with the bluest eyes. As Foster wades into Morgan's sinister history, the killer continues their gruesome assault on Chicago's streets. In her desperate race to catch the murderer before they strike again, Foster will have to confront the darkest of secrets – including her own. The first in a new series.

Mystery/suspense TP \$29.99

The Dazzle of the Light

Clarke, Georgina

Ruby Mills is ruthlessly ambitious, strikingly beautiful – and one of the Forty Thieves' most talented members. Harriet Littlemore is an aspiring journalist from a 'good' family, engaged to a rising star of the Tory party – but she wants a successful career of her own. After witnessing Ruby fleeing the scene of a robbery, Harriet develops a fascination with the young thief that extends beyond journalistic interest. As their personal aspirations bring them into closer contact than society's rules usually allow, Ruby and Harriet's stories become increasingly intertwined. Their magnetic dynamic, fraught with envy and desire, tells a compulsive, cinematic story about class, morality, and the cost of being an independent woman in 1920s' London.

Historical mystery PBK \$22.99

A Routine Infidelity

Ted Bristol mysteries

Coleman, Elizabeth

Private investigator Edwina 'Ted' Bristol deals in the cheating husbands and missing chihuahuas of Melbourne, but yearns for the heart-stopping excitement of real crime. When Ted discovers her sister, Bob, has fallen prey to an internet catfishing scam, she sets out with her beloved miniature schnauzer and shrewd sidekick, Miss Marple, to catch the swindler. Meanwhile, when conducting routine surveillance on a couple suspected of having an affair, she uncovers a plot to embezzle millions. As Bob's case takes a series of bizarre twists and turns and the embezzlement investigation escalates into murder, Ted finds her own life in peril. Will she crack her first criminal case, before it's too late? If you love the madcap adventures of Phryne Fisher, you're sure to love Ted Bristol, written by Elizabeth Coleman, screenwriter of *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*.

Mystery TP \$29.99

Death at Fort Devens

Andy Roark mysteries

Golt, Peter

Boston, 1985. Private Investigator Andy Roark left the military behind years ago, but his past comes flooding back when he's hired by an old army buddy who's worried

about his rebellious teenage daughter's safety. There are bonds of blood between Roark and the highly-decorated Lieutenant Colonel Dave Billings, forged in the steamy Vietnamese jungle, and some debts aren't easy to forget. Working the case for free, Roark's investigation quickly leads him to Boston's Combat Zone, five acres of sex, drugs and crime, right in the heart of one of America's oldest cities – and to Judy's unsavoury new boyfriend, the drug-dealing K – nice. Then Judy runs away, and the clock starts ticking in earnest. Roark is determined to save his friend's daughter from a life of drugs and prostitution, but it'll take more than missing-person flyers and polite questions to save the girl and get them both out of the concrete jungle of the Combat Zone alive.

Noir TP \$39.95

Mystery in Provence

Miss Ashford Investigates

Gonroy, Vivian

Fresh from teaching at her prestigious Swiss boarding school, Miss Atalanta Ashford suddenly finds herself the most eligible young lady in society when she inherits her grandfather's substantial fortune. But with this fortune, and an elegant new Parisian home, comes a legacy passed down from grandfather to granddaughter... sleuthing discreetly for Europe's elite. This young lady isn't one to back down from a challenge and Miss Ashford must depend on her sharp wit and charm to solve her first case, which takes her to the lush lavender fields of Provence and a wedding at the mansion of the Comte de Surmonne. Now, as murder strikes twice, Atalanta will have to race to solve the case but will she be able to stop the blushing bride from facing a fatal 'I do'? The first in a series.

Historical mystery TP \$29.99

Murder at Crime Manor

Detective Roger LeCarre series

Craig, Fergus

Detective Roger LeCarre. Scourge of crime. Guardian of Exeter. Amateur squash player. And, now, party guest at Powderham, the manor house owned by mysterious billionaire tech genius Eli Quartz. It is a small and unconventional gathering: the Bishop, a fading radio star, a desperate aristocrat, the aging butler and his absurdly beautiful daughter – and Detective Roger LeCarre. Then a snowstorm blows in and the group realise they are trapped. And when, completely against expectations for this kind of situation, someone winds up dead, it's obvious who must solve the crime. Obvious, but for the fact the murder weapon was in Detective Roger LeCarre's hand, and the body was at his feet... 'What's better than a good crime novel? I'll tell you – a spoof crime novel, by the absurdly funny and clever Fergus Craig' – *Miranda Hart*. The first Roger LeCarre was *Once Upon a Crime* (HC, \$34.99).

Parody thriller HC \$39.99

Don't Know Tough

Granor, Eli

In Denton, Arkansas, the fate of the high school football team rests on the shoulders of Billy Lowe, a volatile but talented running back. Billy comes from an extremely troubled home: a trailer park where he is terrorised by

his mother's abusive boyfriend. Billy takes out his anger on the field, but when his savagery crosses a line, he faces suspension. Without Billy Lowe, the Denton Pirates can kiss their playoff bid goodbye. But the head coach, Trent Powers, who just moved from California with his wife and two children for this job, has more than just his paycheque riding on Billy's bad behaviour. As a born-again Christian, Trent feels a divine calling to save Billy – save him from his circumstances, and save his soul. Then Billy's abuser is found murdered in the Lowe family trailer, and all evidence points toward Billy. Now, nothing can stop an explosive chain of violence that could tear the whole town apart on the eve of the playoffs. Winner of the Peter Lovesey First Crime Novel Contest.

Noir PBK \$22.99

Golden Ashes

Inspector French mysteries

Grofts, Freeman Wills

The new Sir Geoffrey Buller is earning his living in Chicago when he unexpectedly inherits his title, an English baronetcy, and Forde Manor in Surrey, complete with its vast collection of priceless works of art. His widowed housekeeper, who knows a thing or two, is surprised to discover that Sir Geoffrey is having his pictures cleaned. But then disaster strikes! A devastating fire, a missing artist and a lot of insurance money – from a mosaic of detail, Inspector French must reconstruct the pattern of a most cunning and complex crime... Yet more, Inspector French reissued!

Classic mystery PBK \$22.99

James Tarrant, Adventurer

Inspector French mysteries

Grofts, Freeman Wills

James Tarrant wants to make a lot of money. But as an assistant chemist in a sleepy village backwater his career seems to have reached a dead end and he has no way to further his ambitions. Suddenly inspiration strikes, and his goal looks to be within reach, with a willing young accomplice who will do almost anything for him. But would she go as far as murder? Inspector French is called in to investigate shady business deals, two-timers, and multiple motives for revenge... Yet more, Inspector French reissued!

Classic mystery PBK \$22.99

The Library Suicides

Dafydd, Fflur

You can get in. But you can't get out. Welcome to the library... Twins Ana and Nan are lost after the death of their mother. Everyone knows who drove Elena, the renowned novelist, to suicide – her long-term literary critic, Eben. But the twins need proof, if they're going to get revenge. Desperate to clear his name, Eben requests access to Elena's diaries at the National Library, where the twins work; and they see an opportunity. With careful planning, the twins lock down the labyrinthine building, trapping their colleagues, the public and most importantly Eben inside. But as a rogue security guard starts freeing hostages, the plan unravels. And what began as a single-minded act of revenge blooms into a complex unravelling of loyalties, motives and what it is that makes us who we are. An intensely-memorable and provocative, literary read

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery February 2023 (continued)

for fans of high concept thrillers that break the mould, and books about books, and the concept of the written word.

Thriller TP \$32.99

1794: the City Between the Bridges

Jean Mickel Cardell mysteries
Dag, Niklas Natt och
The year is 1794. A young nobleman, Eric Three Roses, languishes in hospital. Some think he would be just at home in the madhouse across the road. Ridden with guilt, he spends his nights writing down memories of his lost love who died on their wedding night. Her mother also mourns her and when no one listens to her suspicions, she begs the aid of the only person who will listen: Jean Mickel Cardell, the one-armed watchman. Cecil Winge is six months in the ground, but when his younger brother Emil seeks out the watchman to retrieve his brother's missing pocket watch, Cardell enlists his help to discover what really happened at Three Roses' estate that night. But, unlike his dead brother, the younger Winge is an enigma, and Cardell soon realises that he may be more hindrance than help. And when they discover that a mysterious slave trader has been running Three Roses' affairs, it is a race against time to discover the truth before it's too late. The follow-up to *The Wolf and the Watchman* (PBK, \$22.99).

Historical noir PBK \$22.99

Murder at the Lakeside Library

Lakeside Library mysteries
Danvers, Holly
Rain Wilnot has just returned to her family's waterfront log cabin in Lofty Pines, Wisconsin after the untimely death of her husband. The cabin is peaceful compared to Rain's corporate job and comes with an informal library that Rain's mother, Willow, used to run. But as Rain prepares for the reopening of the library, all hopes for a peaceful life are shattered when she discovers the body of Thornton Hughes, a real estate buyer, on the premises. The community of Lofty Pines starts pointing fingers at Willow, since she has been unusually absent from the library this summer. A fishy rumour surfaces when Rain learns that Willow had been spending a lot of time with Thornton. The town even thought they were having an affair. While theories swirl about Thornton's death, Rain takes it upon herself to solve the case to exonerate her mother. As more clues surface, Rain will have to piece together the mystery. But if she isn't careful, she may be the next to end up dead in the water. The first in a series.

Mystery TP \$39.95

The Hanging Tree

Brother Athelstan mysteries
Doherty, Paul
London, January 1382. The Crown's treasury has been robbed. Tens of thousands of silver and gold coin mysteriously lifted from the most secure chamber in the kingdom; the five Clerks of the Dark who guarded the king's treasure brutally garrotted. Sir John Cranston and Brother Athelstan are appointed to investigate – but Athelstan has problems of his own. Clement the Key Master, who

helped fashion the complex locks to the royal treasure chamber, has been found strangled in the nave of Athelstan's parish, St Erconwald's church. At the same time, six of the city's hangmen have been savagely murdered, their bodies stripped. Pinned to each corpse is a scrawled note: *'Vengeance! The Upright Men never forget!'* The Guild of Hangmen who frequent the majestic tavern, The Hanging Tree, on the River Thames, have petitioned for Sir John and Brother Athelstan to find the culprit. But have the sleuthing pair taken on more than they can handle... and could the two investigations be connected?

Historical mystery TP \$39.95

The Girl with the Dragonfruit Tattoo

Trouble in Paradise! Mysteries
Doyle, Carrie
On the tropical island of Paraiso, Plum Lockhart has a new zest for life. Her villa rental company is growing like a weed, she's solved a couple of pesky murders, and things with her long-time crush are finally starting to heat up. Plum does sometimes miss her sparkly life in the Big Apple, so she's thrilled when she gets an invite to dinner on the yacht, where she can mingle with famous singers, up-and-coming stars, society swans, and billionaires. After a few hours on the boat, Plum is less than impressed with celebrity set and when a server tries to pull her aside to confide a secret, she wonders what else may be lurking beneath the surface. Two days later, one of the servers from the yacht – a girl with a dragonfruit tattoo – washes up dead, and Plum's sweet bit of paradise quickly goes sour. As the ship prepares to set sail across the Caribbean, Plum hops on board to investigate the case, undercover. But the best laid plans turn deadly as it becomes clear that everyone on the boat has a motive and Plum must sleuth out the killer before she becomes the next victim...

Mystery PBK \$24.95

Many Deadly Returns:

21 Stories Celebrating 21 Years of Murder Squad, anthology
Edwards, Martin (editor)
Murder Squad, a group of award-winning crime and mystery writers, celebrate their 21st birthday with a bang in this criminally good collection of short stories. A dawn swim turns deadly in a brand-new short story starring DCI Vera Stanhope... Two bored cell-mates play a game with chilling results... A hen night in an isolated cottage brings new meaning to 'I will survive'... A train traveller teaches a valuable lesson in reading labels... A day at the seaside turns stormy for a woman who doesn't care for foreigners... A wealthy retiree makes a new friend who connects her to the Other Side... and much, much more. Short, sharp and packed with twists, these 21 unputdownable tales showcase Murder Squad's range and talent throughout the years. So, why not treat yourself to a slice of murderously moreish fiction, and join us in wishing the squad 'Many Deadly Returns'. With stories by Ann Cleeves, Martin Edwards, Kate Ellis, Margaret Murphy, Chris Simms, and Cath Staincliffe, as well as John Baker, Chaz Brechley, and Stuart Pawson.

Mystery TP \$39.95

Irish Knit Murder

Knit & Nibble mysteries
Ehrhart, Peggy
The Listers have been part of Arborville society for generations – though, 70-something Isobel Lister doesn't fit the role of upper-crust heiress. She's always been a colourful character, and her fun-loving spirit is on display at the senior centre celebration as she performs some beloved Irish songs. But, just minutes later, her body is found backstage. It's hard to imagine who'd target such a harmless eccentric, but Pamela finds herself suspecting everyone. There's the Wiccan who thought St Patrick wasn't so saintly; the woman upset about cultural appropriation who feels the commercialisation of shamrocks is a sham; the two men Isobel was seeing, who could have been green with jealousy – and old friends and family who may have feared Isobel would spill their secrets. But Pamela's on the case, and that means for the killer, the jig will soon be up...

Mystery PBK \$24.95

A Gift of Poison

Brontë mysteries
Ellis, Bella
Haworth, 1847. Anne and Emily Brontë have had their books accepted for publication, while Charlotte's has been rejected everywhere, creating a strained atmosphere at the parsonage. At the same time, a shocking court case has recently concluded, acquitting a workhouse master of murdering his wife by poison. Everyone thinks this famously odious and abusive man is guilty. However, he insists he is many bad things but not a murderer. When an attempt is made on his life, he believes it to be the same person who killed his wife and applies to the detecting sisters for their help. Despite reservations, they decide that perhaps, as before, it is only they who can get to the truth and prove him innocent – or guilty – without a shadow of doubt. The first of these ingenious, Brontë-sisters-as-detectives mysteries is *The Vanished Bride* (PBK, \$22.99).

Historical mystery TP \$34.99

Fatal Proof

Benson & de Vere series
Fairfax, John
(aka Brodrick, William)
William Benson knows what it's like to be accused of something you didn't do – the fear, the vulnerability and the nightmare of watching your life unravel. Now, he speaks on behalf of those who have no voice, defending anyone who claims to be innocent. This time, it's Karmen Naylor, estranged daughter of a south London crime boss, fighting a murder charge and desperate to be believed. But Benson becomes trapped into a grudge match between two rival clans, endangering himself and those he loves. Tess de Vere is by Benson's side but she's keeping something from him. A stranger on the trail of a state-sanctioned death squad operating in Northern Ireland during the Troubles brings a terrible secret into the heart of her own life. And he won't go away. Can Tess and Will find their way through all the secrets and the lies? Should justice always be served – and, if so, at what cost?

Mystery TP \$32.99

In Farm's Way

Farm to Table mysteries
Flower, Amanda
Shiloh Bellamy still expects the last few Winter months to be busy with repairs, spring planning, and networking with local businesses. She might even be able to broker a new partnership with Fields Brewery and its organic brewer's association. Well, she could if the owner, Wallace, wasn't found murdered at the county Ice Fishing Derby. Once again, Shiloh gets tangled up in the investigation when the police ignore an entire crop of suspects to blame one of her friends. She'll have to dig deep to find the truth, reel in a killer, and convince her city-slicker pug to wear his winter boots. But with Bellamy Farm still struggling, can Shiloh spare the time to look into the town's fishy characters? Or will her dream farm be the next thing floating belly up?

Mystery PBK \$24.95

Six Sweets Under

True Confections mysteries
Fox, Sarah
Former actress Becca Ransom lived her dream in Hollywood for seven years before returning to her hometown of Larch Haven, known as the Venice of North America. The Vermont town has canals instead of roads, gondolas instead of cars, and charming cottages plucked from the pages of a fairy tale. It's also where Becca is pursuing her newest passion as a chocolatier at True Confections, the chocolate shop owned by her grandparents, Lolly and Pops. While Becca's testing new flavours and reconnecting with old friends, the town is gearing up for the annual Gondola Races, popular with both residents and tourists, with one exception. Local curmudgeon Archie Smith wants nothing more than to keep tourists away from Larch Haven. He's determined to derail this year's event and does his best to stir up trouble for the organisers, including Becca's grandfather. Following a heated argument with Pops, Archie is found floating, face down, in the canal; and Pops finds himself in hot water, as one of the top suspects. Becca's determined to clear her grandfather's name, but when the case heats up, she could be facing a sticky end. The first in a series.

Mystery PBK \$24.95

You Are Sherlock Holmes:

You Control the Action
– Three Interactive Cases
Galland, Richard Wolfrik
Strap on the deerstalker of the world's most famous detective. In this interactive puzzling adventure, you choose which steps to take. Enter the mind palace of Sherlock Holmes as you view the most testing mysteries through his very eyes. You must choose your own path at every step, as you attempt to solve the riddles of three classic cases, based on the original stories by Arthur Conan Doyle. Your task is to decipher the clues, solve the puzzles and make the right choices to solve each fiendish case. Do you have what it takes to step into the shoes of Sherlock Holmes?

Sherlockiana HC \$29.99

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery February 2023 (continued)

Fools Die on Friday

Hard Case Crime, Cool & Lam mysteries
Gardner, Erle Stanley
A lost classic of detective fiction, featuring private eyes Donald Lam (once played by Frank Sinatra!) and Bertha Cool. Hired to prevent a socialite from poisoning her husband, Donald Lam dreams up an ingenious scheme involving a carton of anchovy paste, and a fictitious national ad campaign. But when the whole thing backfires spectacularly and bodies, witnesses, and suspects start piling up, it'll take every ounce of Donald's brainpower and Bertha's bruising ruthlessness to keep the police at bay – and a killer from getting away with murder. 'About the best of the series... perhaps, since the very first.' – *Raymond Chandler*.

Hardboiled TP \$33.95

Like a Sister

Garrett, Kellye
When the body of reality TV star Desiree Pierce is found on a playground in the Bronx the morning after her 25th birthday party, the police and the media are quick to declare her death an overdose. A tragedy, certainly, but not a crime. Yet, Columbia grad student Lena – principled, headstrong, and allergic to the spotlight – knows that can't be the case. Despite the bitter truth that the two hadn't spoken in two years, they were half-sisters. Lena knew Desiree. And Desiree would never travel above 125th Street. Something is very wrong with the facts. So, why is no one listening? While the two sisters had been torn apart by Desiree's partying and by their difficult father, Lena becomes determined to find justice for Desiree. Even if that means untangling her family's darkest secrets – or ending up dead, herself.

Mystery/suspense PBK \$22.99

Something to Hide

Inspector Lynley mysteries
George, Elizabeth
A Nigerian born detective sergeant working for the Metropolitan Police is found unconscious in her own flat and ends up in hospital – where she dies of her injury. The post-mortem reveals that the subdural hematoma is the result of a blow to her head. DI Thomas Lynley, DS Barbara Havers and DS Winston Nkata are called in to investigate a case that touches upon not only the work and the life of the murdered detective but also upon a controversial cultural tradition that damages and often destroys the future of everyone it involves.

Mystery/suspense PBK \$24.99

Listen To Me

Rizzoli & Isles series
Gerritsen, Tess
The murder of Sofia Suarez is both gruesome and seemingly senseless. Why would anyone target a respected nurse, who was well liked by her friends and her neighbours? As Detective Jane Rizzoli and Forensic Pathologist Maura Isles investigate the baffling case, they discover that Sofia was guarding a dangerous secret – a secret that may have led the killer straight to her door. Meanwhile, Jane's watchful mother Angela Rizzoli is conducting an investigation of her own. She may be a grandmother, not a police detective, but she's savvy enough to know

there's something very strange, perhaps even dangerous, about the new neighbours across the street. The problem is, no one believes her, not even her own daughter. Immersed in the hunt for Sofia's killer, Jane and Maura are too busy to pay attention to Angela's fears. With no one listening to her, and danger mounting in her neighbourhood, Angela just may be forced to take action on her own...

Thriller PBK \$22.99

Death by Chocolate Snickerdoodle

Death by Chocolate mysteries
Graves, Sarah
As co-owners of Eastport's beloved waterfront bakery, the Chocolate Moose, Jake and Ellie know their customers expect them to cream the competition at the town's annual Cookie Baking Contest. But they're really just in it for fun, hoping to get Jake's daughter-in-law baking again. Those plans collapse, when fearsome local curmudgeon Alvin Carter is murdered, and every crumb of evidence points to Tiptree family friend – and all-around sweet guy – Billy Breyer. Billy's sisters beg Jake and Ellie to prove his innocence. After all, lots of folks had gone sour on Alvin, whose popularity ranked somewhere between a toothache and the plague. But just as the ladies begin sifting through the suspects, a series of grass fires blaze across the island, threatening catastrophe. Now, Jake and Ellie will need all their courage – and an extra dash of that down-east Maine stubbornness – to sniff out the real killer before anyone else gets burned...

Mystery TP \$37.95

The Best American Short Stories 2022

Greer, Andrew Sean & Pitlor, Heidi (editors)
A collection of the year's best short stories, selected by Pulitzer Prize winner Andrew Sean Greer and series editor Heidi Pitlor. The latest edition of the respected literary annual collects 20 top-selected short stories from the previous year.

Fiction TP \$32.99

The Last Remains

Dr Ruth Galloway mysteries
Griffiths, Elly
When builders renovating a cafe in King's Lynn find a human skeleton behind a wall, they call for DCI Harry Nelson and Dr Ruth Galloway, Head of Archaeology at the nearby University of North Norfolk. Ruth is preoccupied with the threatened closure of her department and by her ever-complicated relationship with Nelson. However, she agrees to look at the case. Ruth sees at once that the bones are modern. They are identified as the remains of Emily Pickering, a young archaeology student who went missing in the 1990s. Emily attended a course run by her Cambridge tutor. Suspicion falls on him and also on another course member – Ruth's friend Cathbad, who is still frail following his near death from COVID. As they investigate, Nelson and his team uncover a tangled web of relationships within the student group and the adults leading them. What was the link between the group and the King's Lynn cafe where Emily's

bones were found? Then, just when the team seem to be making progress, Cathbad disappears. Was it guilt that led him to flee? The trail leads Ruth and Nelson to the Neolithic flint mines in Grimes Graves which are as spooky as their name. The race is on, first to find Cathbad and then to exonerate him, but will Ruth and Nelson uncover the truth in time to save their friend?

Mystery TP \$32.99

Sparring Partners

collection
Grisham, John
Three stories of the law from the master of the legal thriller. *Homecoming* takes us back to Ford County, the fictional setting of many of John Grisham's unforgettable stories. Jake Brigance is back, but he's not in the courtroom. He's called upon to help an old friend, Mack Stafford, a former lawyer in Clanton who three years earlier became a local legend when he stole some money from his clients, divorced his wife, filed for bankruptcy, and left his family in the middle of the night, never to be heard from again. Until now. Now Mack is back and he's leaning on his old pals, Jake and Harry Rex, to help him return. His homecoming does not go as planned. In *Strawberry Moon*, we meet Cody Wallace, a young death row inmate only three hours away from execution. His lawyers can't save him, the courts slam the door, and the Governor says no to a last-minute request for clemency. As the clock ticks down, Cody has only one final request. *The Sparring Partners* are the Malloy brothers, Kirk and Rusty, two successful young lawyers who inherited a once prosperous firm when its founder, their father, was sent to prison. Kirk and Rusty loathe one another, and speak to each other only when necessary. As the firm disintegrates, the fiasco falls into the lap of Diantha Bradshaw, the only person the partners trust. Can she save the Malloys, or does she take a stand for the first time and try to save herself?

Thriller PBK \$22.99

Death and Hard Cider

Benjamin January mysteries
Hambly, Barbara
September 1840. A giant rally is being planned in New Orleans to stir up support for presidential candidate William Henry Harrison: the Indian-killing, hard-cider-drinking, wannabe 'people's president'. Trained surgeon turned piano-player Benjamin January has little use for politicians. But the run up to the rally is packed with balls and dinner parties, and the meagre pay is sorely needed. Soon, however, January has more to worry about than keeping his beloved family fed and safe. During an elegant reception thrown by New Orleans' local Whig notables, the son of a prominent politician gets into a fist fight with a rival over beautiful young flirt Marie-Joyeuse Maginot – and, the day after the rally is over, Marie-Joyeuse turns up dead. The only black person amongst the initial suspects is arrested immediately: January's dear friend, Catherine Clisson. With Catherine's life on the line, January is determined to uncover the truth and prove her innocence. But his adversaries are powerful politicians, and the clock is ticking...

Historical mystery TP \$39.95

Miss Aldridge Regrets

Canary Club mysteries
Hare, Louise
London, 1936. Lena Aldridge is wondering if life has passed her by. The dazzling theatre career she hoped for hasn't worked out. Instead, she's stuck singing in a sticky-floored basement club in Soho and her married lover has just left her. She has nothing to look forward to, until a stranger offers her the chance of a lifetime: a starring role on Broadway and a first-class ticket on the *Queen Mary* bound for New York. After a murder at the club, the timing couldn't be better and Lena jumps at the chance to escape England. Until death follows her onto the ship and she realises that her greatest performance has already begun. Because someone is making manoeuvres behind the scenes, and there's only one thing on their mind... *murder*. An exquisite new novel from Louise Hare. A brilliant murder mystery, it also explores class, race and pre-WWII politics, and will leave readers reeling from the beauty and power of it.

Historical mystery PBK \$22.99

Fatal Conflict

Grey & Villere series
Hilton, Matt
Where's Tony Vaughan? That's the question the Brogans are asking. And they don't ask nicely, as Private Investigator Tess Grey finds out. Angered by the Brogans' treatment of his fiancé, Nicolas 'Po' Villere is ready to enact retribution. As is Tess, who is itching for a new case and is troubled by Tony's apparent fate. Tess and Po track Tony down and discover he's aided Leah Brogan – the heavily pregnant and oppressed daughter of one of the Brogans – in escaping the family. To make matters worse, the pair also stole money from someone they shouldn't have... someone who won't take such an insult lying down. Leah dreams of freedom for her unborn child, but those chasing them will go to extreme lengths to deny her it. Tess is determined to fight for Leah and the child, but at what cost for her and Po's future?

Mystery/suspense TP \$39.95

The Murder Game

Hindle, Tom
One house. Nine guests. Endless motives for murder... In the seaside town of Hamlet Wick, nine guests assemble for a New Year's Eve party to remember. The owner of Hamlet Hall has organised a murder mystery evening with a 1920s twist, and everyone has their own part to play. But the game has barely begun when one guest is found dead – killed by a fatal injury to the head. With no phone signal and no way out of the house, the others are trapped with a killer in their midst. Someone is playing by their own rules. And in a close-knit community, old rivalries run deep... This is Tom Hindle's fiendish follow-up to *A Fatal Crossing* (PBK, \$22.99).

Mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

The Death of John Lacey

Hobson, Ben
He felt the lump of gold still in his pocket. He would find his way out of this place and leave his brother happy, and he would etch his name into the red earth or be damned. John Lacey's lust for power and gold brings

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery February 2023 (continued)

him riches and influence beyond his wildest dreams. Only he knows the terrible crime he committed to attain that wealth. Years later, as Lacey ruthlessly presides over the town he has built and named after himself, no one has the courage to question his power, or how he wields it. Brothers Ernst and Joe Montague are on the run from the law. They land in Lacey's town and commit desperate crimes to avoid capture. Lacey vows retribution and galvanises those in the town to hunt them down. But not everyone is blind to Lacey's evil, and a reckoning is approaching. An Australian western set in the goldfields of Ballarat, *The Death of John Lacey* is a viscerally powerful story of greed, power, and violence.

Historical mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

The Darkness Knows

Inspector Konrad series

Indriðason, Arnaldur

A frozen body is discovered in the icy depths of Langjökull glacier, apparently that of a businessman who disappeared 30 years before. At the time, an extensive search and police investigation yielded no results – one of the missing man's business associates was briefly held in custody, but there wasn't enough evidence to charge him. Now, the associate is arrested again and Konrad, the retired policeman who originally investigated the disappearance, is called back to reopen the case that has weighed on his mind for decades. When a woman approaches him with new information that she obtained from her deceased brother, progress can finally be made in solving this long-cold case. In *The Darkness Knows*, readers are reunited with Konrad, the unforgettable retired detective from *The Shadow District* (PBK, \$19.99).

Noir PBK \$22.99

Three Assassins

Isaka, Kotaro

Suzuki is just an ordinary man until his wife is murdered. When he discovers the criminal gang responsible he leaves behind his life as a maths teacher and joins them, looking for a chance to take his revenge. What he doesn't realise is that he's about to get drawn into a web of unusual professional assassins, each with their own agenda. The Whale convinces his victims to take their own lives using just his words. The Cicada is a talkative and deadly knife expert. The elusive Pusher dispatches his targets in deadly traffic accidents. Suzuki must take each of them on, in order to try to find justice and keep his innocence in a world of killers.

Thriller PBK \$22.99

How to Kill a Client

Jenkins, Joanna

Taking on law's old boys club can have deadly results...

'Everyone is going to say what a great guy and a great lawyer he was. He wasn't. He was a prick... And a shithouse lawyer.' Gavin Jones is dead at 39. As an in-house lawyer who controlled millions of dollars in fees per year, he was legal firm Howard Greene's biggest client and wielded that power with manipulative contempt. But he saved his worst behaviour for women, at work and at home. The partners of Howard Greene relied on his favour to fund their

lavish lifestyles. If sycophantic admiration of the man was all it took to secure work from Gavin, that's what they delivered. But no one liked Gavin. The list of those who suffered from his cruelty was long enough to include pretty much everyone who had contact with him. So, who actually killed him?

A fast-paced and wickedly funny thriller about power and revenge set in the pristine towers of capitalism, *How to Kill a Client* is a scorching debut straight out of tomorrow's headlines; from a bold new voice about misogyny, corruption, and the legal industry. 'Keeps you gripped... The perfect tonic for anyone who has had a difficult client.' – *Richard Beasley SC.*

Legal thriller TP \$32.99

Outside

Jonasson, Ragnar

In a deadly Icelandic snowstorm, four friends break into an abandoned hunting lodge, hoping to wait out the storm until morning. But nothing can prepare them for what's inside... With no other option, they are forced to spend a terrifying night in the cabin: watching as intently and silently as they, themselves, are being watched. As the night darkens, old secrets spill into the light, and tensions rise between the four friends. Soon, it's clear that what they've discovered in the cabin is far from the only mystery lurking there. Nor the only thing to be afraid of...

Mystery/suspense PBK \$22.99

Unnatural History

Alex Delaware series

Kellerman, Jonathan

When Lieutenant Milo Sturgis and Psychologist Alex Delaware are called to the scene of a converted LA industrial building with a man brutally murdered inside, it sets off their most complex case, yet. The victim had recently received rave media attention for his latest photography project: images of homeless people living their 'dreams'. However, some saw this elaborately costumed project as nothing more than exploitation. Did anger turn to murder? Or do the roots of violence reach down to the victim's family – a clan, sired by an elusive billionaire? As new murders arise, Alex and Milo look into the unsettling case, culminating in one of the deadliest threats they've ever faced.

Mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

Primer and Punishment

House-Flipper mysteries

Kelly, Diane

Carpenter Whitney Whitaker and her cousin Buck are looking, once again, to rehab and resell a house, only this particular house is made of fiberglass, floats, and has been dubbed the Skinny Dipper. The old houseboat sure could use some work, but the unusual project has Whitney bubbling with excitement. The charming and handsome Grant Hardisty lives on the cabin cruiser in the adjacent slip, but the cousins soon learn he's left a half dozen angry ex-wives in his wake and made enemies of all sorts of unsavoury folks. The man is clearly caught in an increasingly dangerous current with no life preserver in sight. Whitney and Buck are spraying primer on their houseboat when – *Kaboom!* – Grant's boat blows sky

high with the man himself inside. Detective Collin Flynn has no shortage of suspects, but the waters become muddied when several of them confess to the crime. Is one of those who confessed truly guilty, or are they taking a dive for someone else? When anonymous threats are made against the cousins, Whitney must quickly determine who killed their neighbour at the lake, or she and Buck might also be sunk.

Mystery PBK \$24.95

Five Decembers

Hard Case Crime

Kestrel, James

December 1941. America teeters on the brink of war, and in Honolulu, Hawaii, police detective Joe McGrady is assigned to investigate a homicide that will change his life forever. Because the trail of murder he uncovers will lead him across the Pacific, far from home and the woman he loves; and, though the US doesn't know it yet, a Japanese fleet is already steaming toward Pearl Harbor. This extraordinary novel is so much more than just a gripping crime story – it's a story of survival against all odds, of love and loss and the human cost of war. Spanning the entirety of World War II, *Five Decembers* is a beautiful, masterful, powerful novel that will live in your memory forever. Winner of the 2022 Edgar Award for Best Novel. Take note: Ron *lurved* this! He will press it on you!

Hardboiled PBK \$19.99

Havana Highwire

PI Henry Gore Cuban Noir series

Keyse-Walker, John

Welcome to 1950s Cuba, where the days are languid and lazy, and the nights are electric with the excitement of sin. World-weary American Henry Gore was born in the cold Midwest. But a lucky connection – and a 100 peso bribe – scores him a license to operate as a private investigator in Havana, a place where he can finally get warm. Soon, he's trailing after cheating husbands to finance his permanent vacation in the land of sun, cigars, and compliant señoritas. But when he snaps the wrong man's photo at a fancy casino, he receives a fist in the face for his troubles – and a dark warning from the Mob. Private dicks are bad for business. If he carries on working, his license will be permanently revoked. *Capisci?* No work means no money. No way to eat. No way to pay the rent. Desperate to make ends meet, Henry grabs an offer of work from Fulgencio Batista's military regime with both hands – setting in motion a chain of events with dark and deadly consequences. The first in a series.

Noir TP \$41.95

To Kill a Mocking Girl

Bookbinding mysteries

Kincaid, Harper

Quinn Victoria Caine is back in her quirky town of Vienna, Virginia, starting her new life as a bookbinder in her family-owned, charm-for-days bookshop, Prose & Scones. With her trusty German Shephard, RBG – 'Ruff Barker' Ginsburg – by her side, what can go wrong? Okay, sure, bumping into her ex, Scott, or her former high school nemesis, Tricia, is a drag. It certainly doesn't help that they have acquired the new hobby of

shoving their recent engagement in her face every chance they get. But that doesn't mean Quinn wanted to find Tricia dead in the road. So, why does half the town think she may have done it? Quinn is determined to find Tricia's killer, even if it means partnering with her cousin-turned-nun, Sister Daria, and Detective Aiden Harrington, her older brother's 'too-movie-star-handsome-for-his-own-good' best friend. They believe she's innocent, but of course that doesn't influence the police, who peg her as their prime suspect. Or, at least, until she's poisoned. But there is no way Quinn is going to stop now. Vienna is her town and – for better or worse – Tricia was one of their own. Someone may have killed the mocking girl, but no one's going to stop the notorious QVC. The first in a series.

Mystery TP \$43.95

In Hot Water

Misty Bay Tea Room mysteries

Kingsbury, Kate

Vivian Wainwright is living her dream. The middle-aged widow owns the Misty Bay Tearoom, a quaint, English-accented shop on the Oregon coast. But on the eve of the tearoom's second anniversary, the dream turns nightmarish when a man falls to his death from a hotel balcony. The body belongs to Dean Ramsey, ex-husband of Vivian's assistant, Jenna. Detective Tony Messina quickly zeroes in on Jenna as prime suspect, since she was seen leaving the hotel shortly before the body was found. Vivian and her other assistant, Gracie, set out to help clear Jenna's name, using their wit and a bit of criminology know-how, Vivian picked up from her late attorney husband. Detective Messina is on board, but he's starting to develop feelings for his number one suspect. Puzzling questions persist – chief among them, whose clothes was Dean wearing when he landed on the rocky shore? To complicate matters, Vivian's friend, pet shop owner Hal Douglass, seems to know some secrets about the hotel that could add a long list of names to the suspect list... including Hal's own. Vivian must work quickly because if she can't, Jenna faces a murder rap... or worse. The first in a new series.

Mystery TP \$41.95

A Cornish Recipe for Murder

Nosey Parker Cosy mysteries

Leitch, Fiona

When popular TV baking contest and national institution *The Best of British Baking Roadshow* rolls into town and sets up camp in the grounds of Boskern House, a historic stately home near Penstemon; former police officer Jodie 'Nosey' Parker finds herself competing to represent Cornwall, in the grand final. But with a fellow contestant who will stop at nothing to win and a drag queen host with secrets of their own, Jodie discovers that the roadshow doesn't just have the ingredients for the perfect showstopper cake, but also for the perfect murder... And, when a body is found in the grounds of the house, Jodie is drawn into another high-stakes case, along with local DCI Nathan Withers. Can Jodie expose the culprit? Or will the murderer become the real showstopper?

Mystery PBK \$22.99

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery February 2023 (continued)

Harsh Times

Llosa, Mario Vargas

The new novel from the Nobel Prize-winning master of fiction – the true story of Guatemala's political turmoil of the 1950s. *Guatemala, 1954*. A CIA-supported military coup topples the government. Behind this violent act is a lie passed off as truth, which forever changed the development of Latin America: that those in power encouraged the spread of Soviet communism in the Americas. Mario Vargas Llosa has written a drama on a world stage, in which some persecutors end up as victims of the very plot they helped construct. Ironic and sensual, provocative and redemptive, *Harsh Times* is a story of international conspiracies and conflicting interests in the time of the Cold War, the echoes of which are still felt today.

Suspense PBK \$22.99

The Curfew

Logan, T M

I should have known something was wrong. I should have sensed it. Felt it in the air, like the build-up of pressure before a thunderstorm, that heavy, loaded calm. Andy and Laura are good parents. They tell their son Connor that he can go out with friends to celebrate completing his exams, but he must be home by midnight. When Connor misses his curfew, it sets off a series of events that will change the lives of five families forever. Because five teenagers went into the woods that night, but only four came out. And telling the truth might mean losing everything... What would you do?

Thriller PBK \$22.99

Post After Post-Mortem: an Oxfordshire Mystery

British Library Crime Classics

Lorac, E C R

'Now tell us about your crime novel. Take my advice and don't try to be intellectual over it. What the public likes is blood.' The Surrays and their five children form a prolific writing machine, with scores of treatises, reviews, and crime thrillers published under their family name. Following a rare convergence of the whole household at their Oxfordshire home, Ruth – middle sister, who writes 'books, which are just books' – decides to spend some weeks there, recovering from the pressures of the writing life, while the rest of the brood scatter to the winds again. Their next return is heralded by the tragic news that Ruth has taken her life after an evening at the Surrays' – hosting a set of publishers and writers; one of whom is named as Ruth's literary executor, in the will she left behind. Despite some suspicions from the family, the verdict at the inquest is suicide – but when Ruth's brother Richard receives a letter from the deceased which was delayed in the post, he enlists the help of CID Robert Macdonald to investigate what could only be an ingeniously-planned murder.

Classic mystery TP \$33.95

The Dead of Winter

Macbride, Stuart

How can you tell who did it, when everyone is guilty? It was supposed to be a simple delivery job for DI Victoria Montgomery-Porter and her sidekick, Edward Reekie – pick up a prisoner from HMP Grampian and take them to their new state-funded

home – but life's never that straightforward. From the outside, Glenfarach looks like a quaint, sleepy, snow-dusted village, nestled in the heart of Cairngorms National Park. But things aren't quite what they seem. The place is thick with security cameras, it doesn't appear on any modern map, and there's a strict nine o'clock curfew, because Glenfarach is the last resort for criminals who've served their sentences but can't be safely released into the general population. Victoria's just supposed to drop her 'guest' off and head back to Aberdeen, before the approaching blizzards shut everything down, but when an ex-cop-turned-gangster is discovered skinned alive in his bungalow, someone needs to take charge. The weather's closing in, tensions are mounting, and time's running out – something nasty has come to Glenfarach, and Victoria is standing right in its way...

Mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

The Making of Incarnation

McCarthy, Tom

Bodies in motion. Birds, bees and bobsleighs. What is the force that moves the sun and other stars? Where's our fucking airplane? What's inside Box 808, and why does everybody want it? Deep within the archives of time-and-motion pioneer Lillian Gilbreth lies a secret. Famous for producing solid light-tracks that captured the path of workers' movements, Gilbreth helped birth the era of mass observation and big data. Did she also, as her broken correspondence with a young Soviet physicist suggests, discover in her final days a 'perfect' movement, one that would 'change everything'? An international hunt begins for the one box missing from her records, and we follow contemporary motion-capture consultant Mark Phocan across geopolitical fault lines and experimental zones: places where the frontiers of potential – to cure, kill, understand or entertain – are constantly tested and refined. And all the while, work is underway on the blockbuster film *Incarnation*, an epic space tragedy.

Thriller PBK \$19.99

1989

Allie Burns 02

McDermid, Val

1989. The world is on the brink of revolution and journalist Allie Burns is a woman on a mission. When she discovers a lead about the exploitation of society's most vulnerable, Allie is determined to investigate and give voice to the silenced. Elsewhere, a ticking clock begins the countdown to a murder. As Allie begins to connect the dots and edges closer to exposing the truth, it is more shocking than she ever imagined. There's nothing like a killer story, and to tell it, Allie must risk her freedom and her life...

Thriller PBK \$22.99

Taken

DS Kate Miles series

McKenzie, Dinuka

Detective Sergeant Kate Miles is back from maternity leave, and struggling on multiple fronts – the pressures of a second child, financial strain from her husband losing his job, and a corruption scandal that may involve her father. When an infant goes missing, Kate finds herself fronting a high-profile and emotionally-fraught case.

Was baby Sienna removed from her bassinets by an unknown abductor or is the answer much closer to home? Amidst a frenzied media demanding answers, and a station chief looking for any reason to remove her from the investigation, Kate is pushed to her limits, pulled between the competing demands of the family at the centre of the case and her own spiralling personal life. A follow-up to *The Torrent* (TP, \$32.99), which we loved! Recommended.

Mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

Augusta Hawke

Augusta Hawke mysteries

Malliet, G M

Sometimes it's safer to ignore your neighbours' secrets. Where are Niko and Zora Norman? While Augusta Hawke is a successful author of 18 crime novels, since her husband's death she's been living vicariously through her Jules Maigret-like detective, Claude, and his assistant Caroline. Then a handsome police detective appears investigating a real-life mystery. Where are her neighbours, the Normans? No one has a clue what's happened – except Augusta. Although she isn't nosy, spending all day staring out the windows for inspiration means she does notice things. Like the Normans arguing. And that they've been missing a week. Once the Normans' car is found abandoned, Augusta senses material for a bestseller and calls on the investigatory skills she's developed as a crime writer. But she soon uncovers long-hidden secrets and finds herself facing real-life dangers her characters never faced... ones she can't write her way out of. The first in a new series.

Mystery TP \$41.95

A Winter Grave

May, Peter

A young meteorologist checking a mountain top weather station in Kinlochleven discovers the body of a missing man entombed in ice. Cameron Brodie, a Glasgow detective, sets out on a hazardous journey to the isolated and ice-bound village. He has his own reasons for wanting to investigate a murder case so far from his beat. Brodie must face up to the ghosts of his past and to a killer determined to bury forever the chilling secret that his investigation threatens to expose.

Mystery TP \$32.99

Easter Bonnet Murder

Lucy Stone mysteries

Meier, Leslie

Known for its cheerful staff and elaborate annual Easter Bonnet Contest, the Heritage House senior centre regularly attracts new residents and positive press. But once the town's retired librarian, Miss Julia Tilley, checks in to recover from an illness, Lucy sees a side of the facility that isn't quite so perfect and pristine. And the place may soon be making headlines for different reasons following an unexplained disappearance... Lucy can't fathom how Agnes Neal could go missing from assisted living over a silly Easter bonnet contest, or why few seem concerned as signs point to foul play. A retired journalist with an independent mind, Agnes had an eye for details and little interest in conforming to catty cliques or rules set by her caretakers – traits that threatened some and angered others.

While police stall the investigation without answers, Lucy realises backstabbing has no age limit when alarming parallels bloom between her daughter's college frenemies and social circles at Heritage House. Gathering clues as flimsy as a half-eaten milk chocolate bunny, Lucy must hop to it and discover what happened to Agnes – before her own story becomes another springtime tragedy left unsolved.

Mystery PBK \$24.95

What We May Become

Messineo, Teresa

Tuscany, 1945. As the war in Europe ends, American Red Cross nurse Diana Bolsena finds herself separated from her unit. Unable to reconnect with the American army, she's left to survive with nothing but her spirit, her talents as a nurse, and her nightmares of the horror of war. Determined to return to active duty in the Pacific, to earn her way back Diana begins caring for a disabled child on the estate of the enigmatic Signora Bugari. Amidst the ravages of war, it is a peaceful existence until a visiting German officer, Herr Adler, arrives demanding Bugari return what is rightfully his. When a shocking murder attracts more people to the isolated estate, Diana suspects Adler's hidden secrets could affect the course of history. But who will uncover them first? And what will happen to humanity if they fall into the wrong hands?

Historical mystery TP \$39.95

Crows Nest

Dana Gibson mysteries

Mottram, Nikki

Fleeing problems in her own marriage, child protection worker Dana Gibson leaves Sydney for a job in the Queensland town of Toowoomba. Her first house call is to nearby Crows Nest to assess the children of Sandra Kirby, which results in her getting both her new boss and a local detective offside. Dana soon learns that, in the country, city rules do not apply. When Sandra and her best friend are found shot dead, Dana is drawn into an investigation that will force her to strip away the friendly veneer of small-town life, while grappling with ghosts of her own. As buried secrets, bitter tensions and corruption come to light, how far will locals go to stop her uncovering the truth of what happened?

Mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

Death in Irish Accents

Dublin Driver mysteries

Murphy, Gattie

It's been over a year since Megan found herself entangled in a murder – much to everyone's relief, including her girlfriend Jelena and Detective Paul Bourke. So when a body of a young woman quite literally lands in her lap at her favourite Dublin café, Megan tries to do the right thing and leave the crime solving to the police, so she can enjoy the St Patrick's Day weekend. After all, she has no connection to the victim. Or does she? Megan's latest client, world-renowned romance novelist Claire Woodward, is fascinated by Megan's own history of catching killers. Claire also just happens to be the murder victim's literary mentor. So, maybe, Megan can just sort of stay on the periphery of the case while trying to help out? Just a wee bit without causing too much fuss? Even Detective Bourke would approve

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery February 2023 (continued)

since he has personal reasons not to trust Claire. The investigation leads Megan to the victim's writing group, who think that Claire has plagiarised the poor young lady's work. And when another member of the group is found dead, Megan will have to step up her sleuthing before the killer decides to write her off for good.

Mystery PBK \$24.95

Death in Heels

Dublin Drag mysteries

Murphy, Kitty

Fi McKinnery is full of nerves as the gorgeous Mae B (*aka*, her best friend Robyn) takes to the stage for her debut at drag club TRASH, but Mae B is dazzling... that is until local queen Eve lampoons her performance and ruins the show. So, when Eve turns up dead later that night, face down in the gutter of a rain-soaked Dublin street, the timing seems awfully suspicious... The police are quick to rule Eve's death an accident, but Fi is convinced it was foul play. When her 'Hagatha Christie' amateur sleuthing backfires, it drives a wedge between Fi and Robyn. But when another friend is targeted in a hit-and-run, she's determined to get this twisted killer caught, no matter what the consequences. Even as the rest of the gang start to distance themselves, Fi is certain that they're all in terrible danger. Something dark is lurking beneath the feathers, glitter and sequins of Dublin's drag scene. And it's not just the sticky floor and cracked mirrors. Someone is targeting the queens. When another member of the group is gunned down, it's clear the danger is coming ever closer. Can Fi stop the killer before any more of her friends are hurt? The first in a series.

Mystery TP \$29.99

Danger on the Atlantic

Jane Wunderly mysteries

Neubauer, Erica Ruth

Atlantic Ocean, 1926. Voyaging from Southampton to New York, self-reliant Jane is determined to prove herself a worthy investigator on the stately ship – even awkwardly going undercover as the fashionable wife of her magnetic partner, Mr Redvers. Few details are known about the rumoured German spy the duo have been tasked with identifying among fellow passengers, but new troubles unfold once wealthy newlywed Vanessa FitzSimmons announces the sudden disappearance of her husband at sea... Miles Van de Meter, the man Vanessa rushed to marry in Monte Carlo, has allegedly vanished into thin air along with his luggage. Redvers guesses the shifty heiress may be weaving tall tales for fun between flutes of champagne, yet Jane isn't convinced – not after the stunning murder of a trusted acquaintance sends them into uncharted waters. Facing two dangerous mysteries and a boat load of suspects, Jane must navigate a claustrophobic quest for answers before the culprits can slip from her grasp on land... or, worse, ensure she and Redvers never reach their destination.

Historical mystery TP \$37.95

A Murderous Persuasion

Jane Austen Tea Society mysteries

Oliver, Katie

Phaedra Brighton has her life all figured out – she has a profession she enjoys, a wonderful (if exasperating) cat, and a cosy carriage house on the grounds of her aunt's inn. She needs no Captain Wentworth to sweep her off her feet (though, she would not mind a Mr Darcy). But when Aunt Wendy decides she is selling Laurel Springs Inn, Phaedra faces losing her beloved home. In a last-ditch attempt to drum up more business, Phaedra convinces Wendy to host an immersive *Persuasion*-themed, murder-mystery weekend. It is a fool proof plan to draw attention to the establishment in the hopes of saving it. Until make believe becomes reality and one of the participants winds up dead. With more suspects than she knows what to do with, Phaedra finds herself on the hunt for a killer once again. But with time running out, Phaedra quickly realises that with this investigation, there will be no second chances.

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Under Lock and Skeleton Key

Secret Staircase mysteries

Pandian, Gigi

After a disastrous accident derails Tempest Raj's career, and life, she heads back to her childhood home in California to comfort herself with her grandfather's Indian home-cooked meals. Though she resists, every day brings her closer to the inevitable: working for her father's company. Secret Staircase Construction specialises in bringing the magic of childhood to all by transforming clients' homes with sliding bookcases, intricate locks, backyard treehouses, and hidden reading nooks. When Tempest visits her dad's latest renovation project, her former stage double is discovered dead – inside a wall that's, supposedly, been sealed for more than a century. Fearing she was the intended victim, it's up to Tempest to solve this seemingly impossible crime. But as she delves further into the mystery, Tempest can't help but wonder if the Raj family curse that's plagued her family for generations – something she used to swear didn't exist – has finally come for her. The first in a series.

Mystery PBK \$26.95

Grave Intentions

Harith Athreya mysteries

Raman, R V

Seasoned detective Harith Athreya is back, this time to investigate suspicious incidences on a riverside dig in the heart of remote Bundelkhand. In this place, rich in myth and history, the legend goes that anyone who sets foot on nearby island Naaz Tapu would be cursed forever. When an archaeologist defies local folklore, the fallout is swift and deadly. Is the death a result of the ancient curse, or is it a more down-to-earth case of murder? Athreya needs to unravel the truth from legend before the curse strikes again... The follow-up to *A Will to Kill* (PBK, \$19.99).

Mystery PBK \$19.99

The Secrets They

Left Behind

Redmond, Lissa Marie

Three missing girls, no leads, a vault of dark secrets, and a case that's getting chillier by the minute... Three college freshmen go missing from their rural hometown of Kelly's Falls while on Christmas break. Their cell phones, coats, and purses are left behind, but the girls have disappeared without a trace. As the days turn into weeks, and the investigation grows cold, 23-year-old Buffalo police officer Shea O'Connor is called on to dig up leads undercover. Still bearing the emotional and physical scars of a previous case, O'Connor infiltrates as 18-year-old Shea Anderson, a college freshman and the 'niece' of the town's police chief. As she begins to immerse herself in the missing girls' world, befriending their friends and family, and doing whatever it takes to maintain her cover, O'Connor realises the track is far colder than she initially thought. But whoever was behind the girls' disappearance was only warming up, and they have set their crosshairs directly on her. The heat is on for O'Connor as she closes in on the shocking truth about what really happened the night the girls vanished.

Mystery/suspense TP \$43.95

Cheddar Late Than Dead

Grilled Cheese mysteries

Reilly, Linda

Winter in Balsam Dell is a snowy affair, and to add in some cheer after the holidays Carly's former classmate Klarissa Taddeo is hosting her extravagant bridal shower at the historic Balsam Dell inn. But when a double booking throws some mould in the cheese, Klarissa is left scrambling. Dawn, the maid of honour and wedding planner, saves the day by moving the shower to her family's mansion and books Carly to cater the party. It seems the group is going to pull off the shower without a hitch. That is, until Klarissa's fiancé crashes the event. She's furious with her groom-to-be and when a loud argument ensues, everyone is shocked by what they hear. When the groom is later found dead at the bottom of the stairs, his drink spiked with a hefty dose of poison, Carly must put her nose to the rind and save Klarissa from being suspect #1. Because you know what they say: it's always the (almost) wife.

Mystery PBK \$24.95

The Murders at Fleat House

Riley, Lucinda

The sudden death of a pupil in Fleat House at St Stephen's – a small private boarding school in deepest Norfolk – is a shocking event that the headmaster is very keen to call a tragic accident. But the local police cannot rule out foul play and the case prompts the return of high-flying Detective Inspector Jazmine 'Jazz' Hunter to the force. Jazz has her own private reasons for stepping away from her police career in London, and reluctantly agrees to front the investigation as a favour to her old boss. Reunited with her loyal sergeant Alastair Miles, she enters the closed world of the school, and as Jazz begins to probe the circumstances surrounding Charlie Cavendish's tragic death, events are soon to take another troubling turn. Charlie is exposed as an arrogant bully, and those around him had both motive and opportunity to switch the drugs he took

daily to control his epilepsy. As staff at the school close ranks, the disappearance of young pupil Rory Millar and the death of an elderly classics master provide Jazz with important leads, but are destined to complicate the investigation further. As snow covers the landscape and another suspect goes missing, Jazz must also confront her personal demons... Then, a particularly grim discovery at the school makes this the most challenging murder investigation of her career. Because Fleat House hides secrets darker than even Jazz could ever have imagined...

Mystery PBK \$22.99

Encore in Death

Eve Dallas series

Robb, J D

It was a glittering event full of A-listers, hosted by Eliza Lane and Brant Fitzhugh, the most glittering of all celebrity couples. Everyone had expected the party to be in the newspapers the next day but not because one of the hosts was murdered! As the crowd had gathered to watch Eliza sing, Fitzhugh had raised a final toast to his glamorous wife and fallen to the floor. Death by cyanide poisoning. It's time for Lt Eve Dallas to make her entrance. From all accounts, Fitzhugh wasn't the kind of star who made enemies. Eliza, on the other hand, had many rivals, and a few of them could class as enemies. Since the champagne cocktail that killed Brant was originally intended for Eliza, could it be that she was the real target? With so many people at the party, Eve has her work cut out determining who could commit murder in the middle of a crowd. As one who's not fond of the spotlight, she dreads the media circus surrounding a case like this. All she wants is to figure out who's truly innocent, and who's only acting that way...

Eve Dallas TP \$34.99

Urgent Matters

Rodríguez, Paula

The Yankees are more astute when it comes to matters like these. They say, 'not guilty'. They don't say, 'innocent'. Because as far as innocence goes, no one can make that claim. A train crashes in the suburbs of Buenos Aires, leaving 43 people dead. A prayer card of Saint Expeditus, the patron saint of urgent matters, flutters above the wreckage. Hugo, a criminal on the run for murder, is on the train. He seizes his chance to sneak out of the wreckage unsuspected, abandoning his possessions – and, he hopes, his identity – among bodies mangled beyond recognition. As the police descend on the scene, only grizzled Detective Dominguez sees a link between the crash and his murder case. Soon, he's on Hugo's tail. But he hasn't banked on everything, from the media to his mother-in-law, getting in the way.

Mystery/suspense TP \$27.99

The Hot Beat

Hard Case Crime

Silverberg, Robert

A disgraced LA music star faces execution for a crime he didn't commit, in the long-lost crime novel of Robert Silverberg, SFF Writers of America Grand Master, available for the first time, in over 60 years. Had LA's hottest bandleader become an instrument of death? Before his extraordinary

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery February 2023 (continued)

career as a grandmaster of science fiction, Robert Silverberg honed his craft as a writer for a variety of pulp magazines, including crime digests with titles like *Trapped* and *GUILTY Detective Story Magazine*. He also wrote this long-lost novel, which appeared under the pen name 'Stan Vincent' in 1960 – and has never been published since. Meet Bob McKay: once a rising star in the toniest nightclubs of Los Angeles, now a down-and-out denizen of tawdry bars where B-girls hustle drinks and brawls break out nightly. When one hustler winds up strangled, McKay lands on Death Row. Can a starlet and a sympathetic newspaper columnist clear his name before his date with the death chamber? Featuring a new introduction by the author, and three bonus stories from *GUILTY* and *Trapped*, *The Hot Beat* offers readers a trip through time back to the pulp era, when a future star was making his bones with stories of murder, betrayal, and dangerous desires...
Hardboiled PBK \$22.99

A Man of Honour Smith, Simon

'I deserve to hang. I did this deed. No doubt about that. I had my reasons, though, and not the ones people believe.'

One fine, March day in 1868, gunshots rang out at a society charity event in Sydney's harbourside suburb of Clontarf. In the aftermath, Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh – son of Queen Victoria – lay close to death, while the assembled crowd seized and beat his attacker, Irish-born Henry James O'Farrell. Who was this character who began the day a complete unknown and ended it as the young colony's most hated man? Drawing on contemporary newspaper accounts and on O'Farrell's actual words as revealed in gaol-cell interviews, court transcripts and his own writings, Smith asks: What makes a charming, sensitive and erudite man want to arm himself and shoot the son of the world's most powerful ruler? Is he a terrorist, a patriot, a hero?

Historical mystery TP \$32.99

Disappearance of a Scribe

Eye of Isis mysteries

Stabenow, Dana

Alexandria, 47 BC. Cleopatra, seventh of her name, avatar of the goddess Isis, ruler of the Kingdom of Egypt watches over her city.

The war is over, but Alexandria, that once great beacon of learning and commerce, has suffered in its wake. Caesar has returned to Rome, and the queen must restore her city and her kingdom to their former greatness. But, now, a body has been found floating upright at the bottom of the sea, anchored in place by a cement weight around its feet. It's the second corpse to be found this way in two years, and the queen is concerned. With a city to rebuild and a kingdom to keep in line, Cleopatra cannot allow any more

murders to interfere. So, she sets Tetisheri, her Eye, her closest confidant and personal investigator to make things right. As she delves deeper into the mystery, Tetisheri will discover secrets, conspiracy and danger far beyond her ken... The sequel to *Death of an Eye* (PBK, \$22.99).
Historical mystery PBK \$22.99

Home

Steed, Gailean

Someone has broken into Zoe's flat. A man she thought she'd never have to see again. They call him the Hand of God.

He knows about her job in the cafe, her life in Dublin, her ex-girlfriend, even the knife she's hidden under the mattress. She thought she'd left him far behind, along with the cult of the Children and their isolated compound Home – but, now, he's found her, and Zoe realises she must go back with him... if she's to rescue the sister who helped her escape, originally. But returning to Home means going back to the enforced worship and strict gender roles Zoe has long since moved beyond; back to the abuse and indoctrination she's fought desperately to overcome... Going back will make her question everything she believed about her past – but could also risk her hard-won freedom. Can she break free, a second time?
Thriller TP \$32.99

Lady Joker: Volume 2 Takamura, Kaoru

Five men who meet at a Tokyo racetrack every week carry out a heist. They have kidnapped the CEO of Japan's largest beer company to extract blood money from the company's corrupt financiers. Known as Lady Joker, the men make their first attack on the beer company when their demands are not met. As the attacks escalate, the shady networks linking corporations to syndicates are exposed, the stakes rise, and bring into riveting focus the lives and motivations of the victims, the perpetrators, the heroes and the villains. Some will lose everything, even their lives. Inspired by the real-life Glico-Morinaga kidnapping, an unsolved case that terrorised Japan for two years, *Lady Joker* reimagines this watershed episode in modern Japanese history.
Mystery TP \$34.99

The Other Half Vassell, Charlotte

Rupert's 30th is a black tie dinner at the Kentish Town McDonald's – catered with cocaine and Veuve Clicquot. His girlfriend Clemmie is found murdered on Hampstead Heath. All the partygoers have alibis. Naturally. This investigation is going to be about Classics degrees and aristocrats, Instagram influencers and who knows who. Or is it whom? Detective Caius Beauchamp

isn't sure. He's sharply dressed, smart, and as into self-improvement as Clemmie – but as he searches for the dark truth beneath the luxury, a wall of staggering wealth threatens to shut down his investigation, before it's begun. Can he see through the tangled set of relationships in which the other half live, and die, before the case is taken out of his hands? Bitingly funny, full of twists, and all too close to reality, this is a stunning debut.
Mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

Late for His Own Funeral

Angela Richman mysteries

Viets, Elaine

Until his Porsche careened off the road killing him instantly and not leaving much of him behind, Sterling Chaney was an influential member of Chouteau Forest – home of the one percenters. As the eulogies at his funeral commence, an unexpected guest interrupts... Sterling. The story attracts widespread media coverage. Sterling's the man who showed up late for his own funeral. He revels in the spotlight, until it's revealed he earned his fortune via sordid means and exploiting the women who worked for him. It leaves him vilified and shunned by Chouteau society. Then there's another fatal crash. This time, Death Investigator Angela Richman is tasked with confirming that Sterling was involved. But her investigation reveals more questions than answers. Were both crashes merely accidents, or was someone doubly determined to kill Sterling?
Mystery TP \$41.95

The Best American Mystery and Suspense Stories 2022

anthology

Walter, Jess & Cha, Steph (editors)

Bestselling author and 'superb storyteller' (*Boston Globe*), Jess Walter flexes his genre chops and selects 20 short stories that represent the best examples of the form published the previous year.

Mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

Missing Dead Girls

Walters, Sara

It wasn't Tillie's choice to leave Philadelphia. But after everything that happened junior year, her mom insisted the quiet suburb of Willow Creek was the perfect place to get a fresh start, to put the trauma and rumours behind them. Madison Frank is the perfect distraction. Beautiful, fun, and from the wealthy side of town, Madison is the kind of girl who has a pull stronger than gravity. She commands attention, even inspires obsession. And by the end of summer, Tillie's forgotten everything – everyone – she left in Philadelphia. Almost. Then Madison goes missing. A photo of her bloody body is texted

to the whole student body... from an account with Tillie's name on it. Tillie's caught in a tangled web of secrets that will destroy her if they surface... and will destroy everyone she loves if they don't.

Thriller TP \$28.95

The Woman Who Knew Too Little Wearne, Olivia

December, 1948. Officer Kitty Wheeler is a member of the Women Police, responsible for 'upholding the moral virtue' of Adelaide's, at times, unruly and amorous citizens. Patrolling Somerton beach one night, Kitty and her partner spot a man leaning against the sea wall, apparently drunk. It's late, they're tired, and they leave him to sleep it off... The man is dead, his identity unknown, and Kitty has missed a career-making opportunity. In the following months, the case of the Somerton Man grips first Adelaide, then Australia, as bizarre clues point towards international espionage, Eastern mysticism or salacious scandal. Kitty, preoccupied with the case, joins the investigation wherever she can, although the men are firmly in charge. Meanwhile, she must decide whether she wants husband and family, or a career – in 1940s' Australia, she can't have both. Her boyfriend Peter wants to pop the question, but Kitty is keener on solving the case... Olivia Wearne has threaded Kitty's story into the real-life 1940s' mystery of the Somerton Man. This intriguing, sharply-observed and wholly-engaging novel explores the life and crimes of a city and its people, few of whom are without their secrets.

Historical mystery TP \$32.99

The Six Who Came to Dinner collection

Youngson, Anne

The village cleaning lady, who holds everyone's house keys, opens a boot to find some unexpected baggage; a vengeful dinner party host serves more than just a roast to her six guests; hairdresser chat is not just idle gossip, as an old man with a history gets a trim; driven to distraction by his new young wife, a man resorts to two grisly acts, in a gripping reimagining of a famous Irish ballad. Ripping away the polite façade of small communities, these stories reveal the roiling emotions and frustration that can lead seemingly ordinary people to do bad things. Rich in compassion, pathos and humour, Anne Youngson offers us her dark take on human foibles, pettiness and rivalry in this sparkling, unputdownable collection. Six short stories, full of colourful suspects and complicated motives, perfect for fans of grisly mysteries set in the English countryside.

Mystery HC \$34.99