

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers February 2023

Five Decembers

Hard Case Crime

James Kestrel

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 everyone! (And, as you see, from its position on our bestsellers, he is succeeding!)

Hardboiled | PBK | \$19.99



1

The Spanish Cape Mystery

American Mystery Classics

Ellery Queen

The Spanish Cape Mystery is a study in jealousy, revenge and mistaken identity. The setting is a brooding headland called the Spanish Cape. The cast contains the monstrous Captain Kidd, the ill-fated David Cumer and his beautiful niece Rosa, and Rosa's suitors. Into this scene drives Ellery Queen, intent on a holiday. Instead he must solve a baffling kidnap-murder!

First published in 1935 – now part of the fabulous range of Otto Penzler American Mystery Classic reissues.

Classic mystery | TP | \$28.95



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Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers February 2023 (continued)

Average Jones

Library of Congress Crime Classics

Samuel Hopkins Adams

'You have one rare faculty, Jones. You can, when you choose, sharpen the pencil of your mind to a very fine point. Specialise, my boy, specialise.'

Adrian Van Reypen Egerton Jones – 'Average', to his friends – has spent the five years since graduation from college 'specialising in life', indulging his wanderlust and living comfortably on \$25,000 a year. In order to inherit the millions that his late uncle has bequeathed, Average must spend five continuous years as a resident of New York City. Already bored, he is advised by his friends Waldemar and Bertram to take up a hobby. Waldemar, a newspaper owner, suggests that he become an 'Ad-Visor' – someone who investigates classified ads on behalf of clients to root out swindlers.

As his college professor had opined, Jones possesses a particular singularity of focus, which allows him to notice details that others miss. In the process of investigating unusual and downright bizarre advertisements, he stumbles into solving actual crimes – and he finds he was born to it. Why would someone advertise for a musician to play a B-flat trombone in a certain street at a specific time of day? Or offer an unusually large reward for information about the death of a bulldog? What can be the meaning of a message written entirely in pinpricks? Who is the man who speaks only in Latin?

These and other tantalising puzzles will leave the reader eager to spend more time with the decidedly not-Average Jones.

Originally published in 1911 – this sounds a lot of fun! It looks like Samuel Hopkins Adams is one of those 'lost' writers of the early 20th century that no one much remembers now – but was huge back in the day. His stories and books were made into Hollywood movies – and novels sold by the ton. And, now – thanks to the Library of Congress Crime Classics – we can rediscover this – more than a century after publication.

Classic mystery | TP | \$24.99



3

Jumping Jenny

British Library Crime Classics

Anthony Berkeley

Another of the fabulous British Library/Poisoned Pen Press reissues...

Gentleman sleuth Roger Sheringham is at a fancy dress party where the theme is murderers and victims. The fun takes a sinister turn, however, when a real victim is discovered in the ballroom.

Sheringham finds himself in dire straits, when the police declare him to be their chief suspect. For the first time in his career, he has to work against them to save his own neck.

British Golden Age fun! (This was originally published in 1933.)

Classic mystery | TP | \$33.95



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Crime & Mystery Bestsellers February 2023 (continued)

Date with Death

Dales Detectives 01

Julia Chapman

Meet two sleuths from a sleepy Yorkshire village as they investigate murders and discover the secrets behind the twitching curtains. *Date with Death* is the first cosy crime novel in Julia Chapman's Dales Detective series, perfect for fans of Richard Osman's *The Thursday Murder Club* and M C Beaton.

Samson O'Brien has been dismissed from the police force, returning to his hometown of Bruncliffe in the Yorkshire Dales to set up the Dales Detective Agency. However, the villagers aren't that welcoming to a man they see as trouble.

Delilah Metcalfe is struggling to keep her business, the Dales Dating Agency, afloat as well as trying to control her wayward dog, Tolpuddle, when Samson's first case – a supposed suicide – takes an unexpected turn, and a trail of deaths lead back to the door of Delilah's agency.

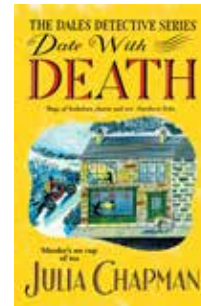
With suspicion hanging over someone, for whom they both care, the two feuding neighbours soon realise that they need to work together to solve the mystery of the dating deaths. But working together is easier said than done...

Full of wit, warmth and characters you'll care about, continue the murder mystery series with *Date with Malice* (PBK, \$22.99).

'A classic whodunit set in the spectacular landscape of the Yorkshire Dales... A satisfying read riddled with dry Yorkshire humour (and dry-stone walls)' – *Cath Staincliffe*, author of the Scott & Bailey series.

These are really beginning to take off! Everyone, who buys the first in the series, seems to come back, quick smart, for more...

Mystery | PBK | \$22.99



5

Murder at Claridge's

Hotel mysteries 03

Jim Eldridge

October 1940. The Blitz bombing raids continue mercilessly, but when the body of a kitchen porter from Claridge's hotel is found, it is clear that he has not been the victim of a blast: he was strangled.

Detective Chief Inspector Coburg has to find out exactly who he was, and what he was doing at Claridge's under a false identity. Armed with those facts, he might get an insight into why he was killed, and by whom.

But the investigation is complicated by the fact that so many of the hotel's residents are exiled European royalty. Clandestine affairs, furtive goings-on and conspiracies against the government: Coburg must tread very lightly indeed.

Series starts with *Murder at the Ritz* (PBK, \$19.99).

Historical mystery | PBK | \$22.99



6

The Last Remains

Ruth Galloway mysteries 15

Elly Griffiths

When builders discover a human skeleton during a renovation of a café, they call in archaeologist Dr Ruth Galloway. The bones turn out to be modern – the remains of Emily Pickering, a young archaeology student who went missing in 2002. Suspicion soon falls on Emily's Cambridge tutor and also on another archaeology enthusiast who was part of the group gathered the weekend before she disappeared – Ruth's friend Cathbad.

As they investigate, DI Nelson and his team uncover a tangled web of relationships within the archaeology group and look for a link between them and the café where Emily's bones were found. Then, just when the team seem to be making progress, Cathbad disappears. The trail leads Ruth to the Neolithic flint mines in Grimes Graves. 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?

Recommended! If you haven't discovered them yet – start with *The Crossing Places* (PBK, \$22.99).

Mystery | TP | \$32.99



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Crime & Mystery Bestsellers February 2023 (continued)

Slow Horses

Slough House 01

Mick Herron

Slough House is a dumping ground for members of the intelligence service who've screwed up: left a service file on a train, say, blown a surveillance, or become drunkenly unreliable. They're the service's poor relations – the slow horses – and most bitter among them is River Cartwright, whose days are spent transcribing mobile phone conversations.

But when a young man is abducted, and his kidnappers threaten to behead him live on the internet, River sees an opportunity to redeem himself.

But is the victim who he first appears to be? And what's the kidnappers' connection with a disgraced journalist? As the clock ticks on the execution, River finds that everyone involved has their own agenda...

Shortlisted for the CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger Award. The critically-acclaimed first book in Mick Herron's bestselling Slough House series is now a major Apple TV+ series starring Gary Oldman and Kristen Scott Thomas.

We love these! (we're old school fans of the series, from way back) – and thanks to the popularity of the fantastic adaptation, the whole series is selling briskly to brand new fans!

Suspense | PBK | \$22.99



8

How to Kill a Client

Joanna Jenkins

'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 thirty-nine. 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, **right here in Brisbane!** If you think you know the legal world in Brisbane – think again! This might give you an entirely different perspective... Mwah!

Mystery/suspense | TP | \$32.99



9

Encore in Death

Eve Dallas 56

J D Robb

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.

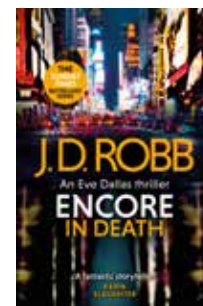
As the crowd had gathered to watch Eliza sing, Fitzhugh had raised a final toast to his glamorous wife and fallen to the floor. Death by cyanide poisoning. It's time for Lt Eve Dallas to make her entrance.

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...

This is the 56th (!) instalment in the futuristic thriller/mystery series – and still going strong! The first is *Naked in Death* (PBK, \$22.99) – but really – you can start anywhere

Thriller | TP | \$34.99



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