

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers June 2023

A Chateau Under Siege

Bruno, Chief of Police mysteries 16

Martin Walker

When an actor in a local play is attacked during a performance, Bruno must learn whether it was an accident, a crime of passion, or an assassination attempt with implications far beyond the small French village.

The town of Sarlat is staging a re-enactment of its liberation from the British in the Hundred Years War when the play's French hero, Brice Kerquelin, is stabbed and feared fatally wounded. Is it an unfortunate prop malfunction – or something more sinister? The stricken man happens to be number two in the French intelligence service, in line for the top job.

Bruno is tasked with the safety of the victim's daughters, Claire and Nadia, as well as their father's old Silicon Valley buddies, ostensibly in town for a reunion. One friend from Taiwan, a tycoon in chip fabrication, soon goes missing, and Bruno suspects there may be a link to the French government's efforts to build a chip industry in Europe – something powerful forces in Russia and China are determined to scuttle.

Wading through a tangle of rivalries and secrets, Bruno begins to parse fact from fiction – while also becoming embroiled in some romantic complications, and, of course, finding time to put together some splendid meals.

Splendid meals indeed! Armchair detection – and travel! – at its finest. Recommended! The first is *Death in the Dordogne* (PBK, \$22.99).

Mystery | TP | \$32.99



1

The White Lady

Elinor White 01

Jacqueline Winspear

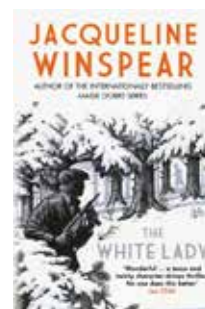
1947. Elinor White, known locally as 'the White lady', is living a solitary, quiet life in a grace-and-favour cottage in the Kent countryside. Unbeknownst to her neighbours, she is the veteran of two world wars, a trained killer and former intelligence agent.

Yet, Elinor's private and seemingly tranquil existence conceals a past trauma that comes to the fore when she is drawn into the predicament of a local man entangled with one of the most dangerous crime families in London.

A treacherous path lies ahead, but it may be one that ultimately leads Elinor to a future unshackled from her own painful history.

Brand new series for Winspear! Recommended!

Suspense | TP | \$32.99



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Crime & Mystery Bestsellers June 2023

Round Up the Usual Peacocks

Meg Langslow mysteries 31

Donna Andrews

Bestselling author Donna Andrews first introduced us to Meg Langslow as a crime-solving bridesmaid. In her 31st mystery, *Round Up the Usual Peacocks*, Meg returns to her roots, juggling cold cases and wedding guests.

Kevin, Meg's cyber-savvy nephew who lives in the basement, comes to her with a problem. He's become involved as the techie for a true-crime podcast, one that focuses on Virginia cold cases and unsolved crimes. And he thinks their podcast has hit a nerve with someone... one of the podcast team has had a brush with death that Kevin thinks was an attempted murder, not an accident.

Kevin rather sheepishly asks for Meg's help in checking out the people involved in a couple of the cases.

'Given your ability to find out stuff online, why do you need MY help?' she asks.

'Um... because I've already done everything I can online. This'll take going around and TALKING to people', he exclaims, with visible horror.

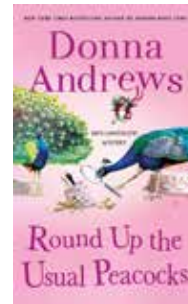
'In person!'

Not his thing. And, no, it can't wait until after the wedding, because he's afraid whoever's after them might take advantage of the chaos of the wedding at Trinity or the reception at Meg and Michael's house to strike again.

So, on top of everything she's doing to round up vendors and supplies and take care of demanding out-of-town guests, Meg must hunt down the surviving suspects from three relatively local cold cases so she can figure out if they have it in for the podcasters. Could there be a connection to a musician on the brink of stardom who disappeared two decades ago and hasn't been seen since?

Very fun cosy series – just dive right in! Recommended!

Mystery | PBK | \$24.95



3

The Mill House Murders

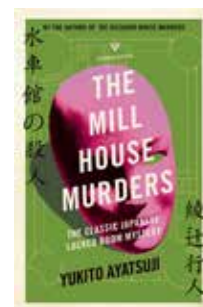
Yukito Ayatsuji

A classic Japanese murder mystery from the author of *The Decagon House Murders* (PBK, \$22.99).

Every year, a small group of acquaintances pay a visit to the remote, castle-like Mill House, home to the reclusive Fujinuma Kiichi, son of a famous artist, who has lived his life behind a rubber mask ever since a disfiguring car accident. This year, however, the visit is disrupted by an impossible disappearance, the theft of a painting and a series of baffling murders.

The brilliant Kiyoshi Shimada arrives to investigate. But will he uncover the truth, and will you be able to solve the mystery of the Mill House Murders before he does?

Mystery | PBK | \$22.99



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Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers June 2023 (continued)

Dressed to Drill

Fixer-Upper mysteries 10

Kate Carlisle

While Shannon Hammer is thrilled to attend the premiere of the movie based on her boyfriend Mac's latest book, she can't wait to trade her killer heels for work boots and start her next renovation project in Lighthouse Cove: a quaint Victorian church that has seen better days. And will see them again – as a museum – if Shannon, her talented crew, and her sister Chloe have anything to say about it.

But on the first day of demolition, work comes to a screeching halt when they stumble on the body of a beautiful young woman in one of the chapels. Who killed the assistant art director? Suspects crawl out of the woodwork as fast as Shannon can restore it. The church is hiding a century of secrets from the days that smugglers wreaked havoc on the California coast. But it's a more recent secret that someone killed to protect. Shannon and Mac will use every tool in their toolbox to nail down the truth before any more lives are sacrificed.

Murder most cosy!

Mystery | PBK | \$24.95



5

The Seat of the Scornful: A Devon Mystery

British Library Crime Classics

John Dickson Carr

'[John Dickson Carr] is the supreme conjuror; the king of the art of misdirection... once you begin a book of his, you simply cannot put it down.' – *Agatha Christie*.

First published in 1942, this reissue is one of Carr's most tense and enjoyable game of cat and mouse pitting detective Gideon Fell against the 'chief' suspect.

When police arrive at Justice Ireton's holiday bungalow to find a man killed by gunshot and the high court justice brandishing a pistol, the case seems as straightforward as it is scandalous. But, with physical evidence that doesn't add up, the justice's vehement denial of wrongdoing, and recent events in his daughter's love life turns the deceptively simple case on its head.

Stumped, the local force calls in the larger-than-life sleuth Dr Gideon Fell, who just yesterday contended with Ireton over a brutally challenging game of chess. With Fell and the judge now facing off as detective and suspect, a new battle of wits begins in this fiendishly plotted masterclass of the mystery genre.

Another fantastic Golden Age reissue from the British Library.

Classic mystery | TP | \$33.95



6

Murder Before Evensong

Canon Clement mysteries 01

Richard Coles

'Devotees of *Midsomer Murders* and Agatha Christie's Miss Marple stories will feel most at home here' – *Guardian*.

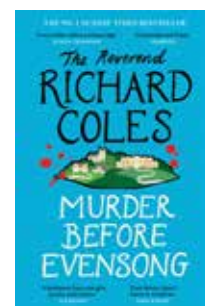
'I've been waiting for a novel with vicars, rude old ladies, murder and sausage dogs... *et voilà!*' – *Dawn French*.

Canon Daniel Clement is Rector of Champton, where he lives alongside his widowed mother – opinionated, fearless, ever-so-slightly annoying Audrey – and his two dachshunds, Cosmo and Hilda.

When Daniel announces a plan to install a lavatory in the church, the parish is suddenly (and unexpectedly) divided: as lines are drawn, long-buried secrets come dangerously close to destroying the apparent calm of the village.

And then Anthony Bowness – cousin to Bernard de Fluores, patron of Champton – is found dead at the back of the church. As the police moves in and the bodies start piling up, Daniel is the only one who can try and keep his community together... and catch a killer.

Mystery | PBK | \$22.99



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Crime & Mystery Bestsellers June 2023 (continued)

Golden Ashes

Inspector French mysteries 20

Freeman Wills Crofts

Reissue, first published in 1940.

Geoffrey Buller is an everyday office worker when he unexpectedly inherits a title and Forde Manor with its collection of priceless art. Widowed Betty Stanton takes the post of housekeeper and is surprised when she finds the new Sir Geoffrey having the paintings cleaned. The house is empty and Sir Geoffrey in Italy when disaster strikes. Inspector French reconstructs the cunning and complex crime from a mosaic of detail.

Freeman Wills Crofts was born in Dublin and worked in railway engineering before turning to detective fiction. To his plots he brought a mind trained in mathematics, specialising in the seemingly unbreakable alibi and transport timetables. His best-known character is Inspector Joseph French, who appears for the first time in *Inspector French's Greatest Case*. French achieves his results through dogged persistence.

Classic mystery | PBK | \$22.99



8

James Tarrant, Adventurer

Inspector French mysteries 21

Freeman Wills Crofts

Reissue, first published in 1941.

James Tarrant's position as an assistant chemist in a sleepy village backwater does not satisfy his craving for wealth. The infatuated Merle Weir, a nurse at a local convalescent home, agrees to help him in a not-quite-legal scheme to sell their own indigestion remedy on the back of another's reputation.

When Tarrant breaks his promise and becomes engaged to another, Merle talks of revenge. Could she really have murdered her partner in crime? Inspector French investigates.

Classic mystery | PBK | \$22.99



9

The Benevolent Society of Ill-Mannered Ladies

Alison Goodman

A high society amateur detective at the heart of Regency London uses her wits and invisibility as an 'old maid' to protect other women in a new and fiercely feminist historical mystery series from bestselling (Australian!) author Alison Goodman.

Lady Augusta Colebrook, 'Gus', is determinedly unmarried, bored by society life, and tired of being dismissed at the age of forty-two. She and her twin sister, Julia, who is grieving her dead betrothed, need a distraction. One soon presents itself: to rescue their friend's goddaughter, Caroline, from her violent husband.

The sisters set out to Caroline's country estate with a plan, but their carriage is accosted by a highwayman. In the scuffle, Gus accidentally shoots and injures the ruffian, only to discover he is Lord Evan Belford, an acquaintance from their past who was charged with murder and exiled to Australia, 20 years ago. What follows is a high adventure full of danger, clever improvisation, heart-racing near misses, and a little help from a revived and rather charming Lord Evan.

Back in London, Gus can't stop thinking about her unlikely (not to mention handsome) comrade-in-arms. She is convinced Lord Evan was falsely accused of murder, and she is going to prove it. She persuades Julia to join her in a quest to help Lord Evan, and others in need – society be damned! And, so begins, the beguiling secret life and adventures of the Colebrook twins.

Historical mystery | TP | \$32.99



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