

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers July 2023

Murder at Aldwych Station

London Underground Station mysteries 01

Jim Eldridge

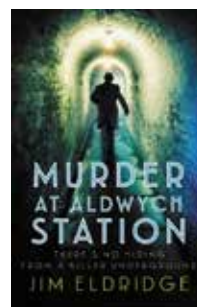
December 1940. With the Luftwaffe pounding the city nightly, Londoners seek refuge in underground stations.

Aldwych has been taken out of service to provide shelter for the British Museum's priceless Elgin Marbles, as well as civilians escaping the bombing. When the body of a young man is discovered on the tracks, wearing evening dress but barefoot, Detective Chief Inspector Coburg and Sergeant Lampson are on the case.

Before long, more bodies are discovered, and Coburg's wife Rosa becomes a target for the brutal killer. Caught up in a world of underground jazz clubs, abandoned tube stations and looters, Coburg and Lampson must track down the ruthless murderer before it's too late.

The first in a new, Blitz-set series from the popular historical mystery writer.

Historical mystery | PBK | \$22.99



1

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 42. She and her twin sister, Julia, who is grieving her dead betrothed, need a distraction. One soon presents itself: to rescue their friend's god-daughter, 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



2

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Crime & Mystery Bestsellers July 2023 (continued)

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

Hardboiled | PBK | \$19.99



3

Moscow Exile

Joe Wilderness series 05

John Lawton

In *Moscow Exile*, John Lawton departs from his usual stomping grounds of England and Germany to jump across the Atlantic to Washington, DC, in the fragile postwar period where the Red Scare is growing noisier, every day.

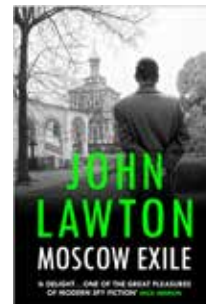
Charlotte is a British expatriate who has recently settled in the nation's capital with her second husband, a man who looks intriguingly like Clark Gable, but her enviable dinner parties and soirées aren't the only things she is planning. Meanwhile, Charlie Leigh-Hunt has been posted to Washington as a replacement for Guy Burgess, last seen disappearing around the corner and into the Soviet Union.

Charlie is soon shocked to cross paths with Charlotte, an old flame of his, who, thanks to all her gossipy parties, has a packed pocketbook full of secrets she is eager to share. Two decades or so later, in 1969, Joe Wilderness is stuck on the wrong side of the Iron Curtain, held captive by the KGB, a chip in a game way above his pay grade – but his old friends Frank and Eddie are going to try to spring him out of the toughest prison in the world. All roads lead back to Berlin, and to the famous Bridge of Spies...

From 'quite possibly the best historical novelist we have' (*Philadelphia Inquirer*), the fourth Joe Wilderness spy thriller, moving from Red Scare-era Washington, DC to a KGB prison near Moscow's Kremlin.

These really are stand alone, but the first Joe Wilderness book is *Then We Take Berlin* (PBK, \$22.99).

Historical suspense | TP | \$32.99



4

A Losing Game

Inspector French mysteries, Collins Crime Club

Freeman Wills Crofts

A classic crime novel by Freeman Wills Crofts, 'The King of Detective Story Writers', featuring Inspector French, coming soon to television (*allegedly!*).

Moneylender Albert Reeve has added blackmail to his activities. When his cottage burns down and he perishes within the flames, his death comes as a shock to one of his victims; and Tony Meadows finds himself accused of murder.

Luckily for him, his sister remembers Inspector French and asks him to help.

French fears a miscarriage of justice and agrees to commence one of his most challenging investigations.

Reissue of one of the long-running series, first published in 1941 – Golden Age goodness!

Classic mystery | PBK | \$22.99



5

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Crime & Mystery Bestsellers July 2023 (continued)

The Alarm of the Black Cat

American Mystery Classics

Dolores Hitchens

First published in 1942, this classic mystery features a family feud, feline intervention, and the spirited septuagenarian sleuth from *The Cat Saw Murder*.

A strange encounter with a little girl named Claudia and a dead toad sparks Rachel Murdock's obsessive curiosity, and she winds up renting the house next door, just to see how things play out. But soon after she and her cat Samantha move in, Rachel realises they've landed right in the middle of a deadly love triangle that's created animosity among the three families who now surround her.

When Rachel finds Claudia's great-grandmother dead in her basement, she reaches out to a friend in the LAPD to solve the crime. They soon learn the three households have been torn apart by one husband's infidelity and a complicated will that could lead to a fortune. In a house plagued by forbidden love, regret, and greed, Rachel will have to trust her intuition, as well as Samantha's instincts, to survive – and keep Claudia out of the hands of a killer whose work has just begun...

'You will never regret having made the acquaintance of Miss Rachel Murdock.' – *The New York Times*.

The first in the series is also available, *The Cat Saw Murder* (TP, \$28.95).

Classic mystery | TP | \$28.95



6

The White Lady

Elinor White series 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!

Historical mystery/suspense | TP | \$32.99



7

The Last Dance

Miller mysteries 01

Mark Billingham

'Readers rejoice! A captivating new series from Mark Billingham, the very best in the business' – *Richard Osman*.

Meet Detective Miller: unique, unconventional, and criminally underestimated...

He's a detective, a dancer, he has no respect for authority – and he's the best hope Blackpool has for keeping criminals off the streets. Meet Detective Declan Miller.

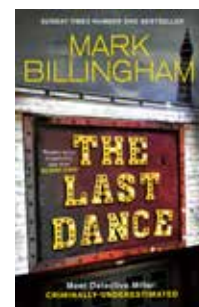
A double murder in a seaside hotel sees a grieving Miller return to work to solve what appears to be a case of mistaken identity. Just why were two completely unconnected men taken out?

Despite a somewhat dubious relationship with both reality and his new partner, can the eccentric, offbeat Miller find answers where his colleagues have found only an impossible puzzle?

'Funny, moving, and full of surprises... an absolute treat' – *Mick Herron*.

'Billingham blends caustic humour, raw emotion, and roller-coaster thrills. His new series is bursting with wit, charm, and intriguing, complex characters' – *Janice Hallett*.

Mystery | TP | \$32.99



8

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Bestsellers July 2023 (continued)

The Mansion for Murder

Kate Shackleton mysteries 13

Frances Brody

Old bones speak from the grave as a curse descends on Saltaire, in acclaimed author Frances Brody's 13th Kate Shackleton mystery, perfect for fans of Rhys Bowen and Jacqueline Winspear.

When Kate Shackleton disembarks at Saltaire station, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, she has no idea what to expect. A stranger, Ronnie Creswell, has written to say that he has urgent information about the past that will interest her, and he persuades her to make the journey to Milner Field, the grand house that is said to be cursed.

But, moments after Kate arrives at the lodge, a messenger brings devastating news to Ronnie's parents: he has been found drowned in the mill reservoir.

Ronnie's father suspects that this was no accident, and the post-mortem proves him right. Ronnie was murdered. Terrified and distraught, Mrs. Creswell refuses to stay at the Lodge a moment longer. But events take an even more shocking turn when 10-year-old Nancy Creswell, eyes and ears for her blind Uncle Nick, goes missing.

An account of the fateful Saturday of Ronnie's death arouses Kate's suspicions, and further investigations could prove her right. But truth is never so straightforward at Milner Field. Uncle Nick spins an old story that could hold the key to finding Nancy alive – though, the fabled curse may not have claimed its last victim yet. And only a set of old bones buried on the grounds will finally reveal the horrifying truth.

Historical mystery | PBK | \$24.99



9

The Seat of the Scornful: A Devon Mystery

British Library Crime Classics

John Dickson Carr

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.

'[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.

Another fantastic Golden Age reissue from the British Library.

Classic mystery | TP | \$33.95



10