

# Pulp Fiction

## Crime & Mystery Bestsellers August 2023

### **Death of Jezebel**

British Library Crime Classics

**Christianna Brand**

Another fabulous British Library rediscovered gem!

'A very neat version of the "sealed room" mystery... provides [Miss Brand] with excellent opportunities to indulge her sense of character and her pleasantly malicious wit, as well as her gift for posing an ingenious problem.'

– *Times Literary Supplement*, 1949.

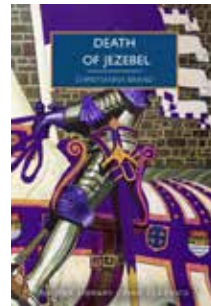
At Elysian Hall, a grand exhibition space in post-War London, a cast has been assembled for a medieval-themed pageant show replete with knights in coloured armour, real horses, and a damsel in a rickety tower on high.

With death threats discovered by members of the troupe before the show, the worst comes to pass when the leading lady is thrown from the tower before the eyes of the audience by an unknown assailant – with all doors backstage also under observation.

Faced with a seemingly impossible case, the wizened Inspector Cockrill and the fresh-faced Inspector Charlesworth begrudgingly join forces to uncover the killer hiding in plain sight.

First published in Britain in 1949, Brand's exuberant novel is still regarded as one of the great masterpieces of the classic mystery genre for its fiendishly-constructed puzzle, memorable setting, dumbfounding acts of misdirection and thrilling denouement.

**Classic mystery | TP | \$33.95**



1

### **Crook O' Lune: A Lancashire Mystery**

British Library Crime Classics

**E C R Lorac**

'Effortlessly atmospheric [with] a killer likely to take most readers by surprise.'

– *Kirkus Reviews*.

Renowned for its authentic characters and settings based partly on the author's own experiences of life in the Lune Valley, E C R Lorac's classic rural mystery returns to print for the first time since 1953. This edition includes an introduction by award-winning author Martin Edwards.

'I'm minded of the way a fire spreads in dry bracken when we burn it off the fellside: tongues of flame this way and that – tis human tongues and words that's creeping like flames in brushwood.'

It all began up at High Gimmerdale with the sheep-stealing, a hateful act in the shepherding fells above the bend in the Lune River – the Crook o' Lune. Then came the fire at Aikengill house and with the leaping of the flames, death, disorder, and dangerous gossip came to the quiet moorlands.

Visiting his friends, the Hoggetts, while searching for some farmland to buy up ahead of his retirement, Chief Inspector Robert Macdonald's trip becomes a busman's holiday when he is drawn to investigate the deadly blaze and the deep-rooted motives behind the rising spate of crimes.

More fabulous Golden Age crime from the British Library collections...

**Classic mystery | TP | \$33.95**



2

# Pulp Fiction

## Crime & Mystery Bestsellers August 2023 (continued)

### **Black River**

Rose Riley 01

#### **Matthew Spencer**

The elite neighbourhoods of Sydney are becoming a serial killer's hunting ground. But for a city – and a detective – on the edge, not everything is as it seems...

During a stifling summer in Sydney, the body of a chaplain's daughter is found wrapped in black plastic on the deserted grounds of an elite boarding school. Is it the work of the killer who's been stalking the privileged neighbourhoods along the Parramatta River? Gut instinct tells Detective Sergeant Rose Riley something even more devious might be at play.

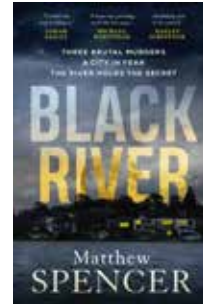
Eager to find the so-called Blue Moon Killer before he strikes again, Riley forms an uneasy alliance with Adam Bowman, a journalist with a valuable, and unsettling, link to the school's history. As Riley's investigation takes her deep into the secret lives of Sydney's prominent citizens, Bowman delves into the darkest places of his own childhood for answers.

When their paths converge, Riley must use every bit of her cunning to stop another murder. Excavating Bowman's past might just be the key to unlocking the case. Or it could prove to be Riley's undoing. Because, clue by clue, she's being pulled into the sights of a killer.

Much pressure was applied by our lovely A&U sales rep to a reluctant Ron to read this (thanks, Deb!). He just wasn't that fussed, based on the blurb. But he eventually did – and was completely won over. Really good Oz murder mystery – beautifully evokes Sydney, without all the usual Harbour/Bridge/Opera House clichés – and there are little echoes here of some great Oz mystery movies like *Heatwave* and *Lantana*.

A real cracker – and we want more! Customers agree. Recommended!

**Mystery/suspense | PBK | \$22.99**



# 3

### **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**



# 4

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## Crime & Mystery Bestsellers August 2023 (continued)

### Flags on the Bayou

James Lee Burke

In the fall of 1863, the Union Army controls the Mississippi River and much of Louisiana, as the Civil War rolls on.

Wade Lufkin is a man without a country or a cause – an idle spectator since New Orleans surrendered, he now paints at his uncle’s plantation. That is, until he finds an intriguing new subject...

Hannah Laveau is an enslaved woman who stands accused of everything from adultery to insurrection, from magic to murder. But all she wants is to find her missing son – and she will risk her life for it.

When Hannah goes on the run, she must dodge the calculating and merciless local constable and the slavecatchers that prowl the bayou as she flees through Louisiana, from the cottonmouth snakes and tree-lined swamps to the dingy saloons of New Orleans.

From ‘the king of Southern noir’ (*Daily Mirror*) comes a powerful and deeply moving Civil War thriller – a story of tragic acts of war, lost and desperate people, and love enduring through it all.

‘James Lee Burke is the heavyweight champ, a great American novelist whose work, taken individually or as a whole, is unsurpassed’ – *Michael Connelly*.

Historical thriller | TP | \$32.99



5

### SS-GB

Penguin Classics

Len Deighton

Penguin is now reissuing a bunch of classic crime too! Including this – which is also kind of SF/alternate history – an old favourite!

It is 1941 and Germany has won the war. Britain is occupied, Churchill executed, and the King imprisoned in the Tower of London. At Scotland Yard, Detective Inspector Archer tries to do his job and keep his head down.

But when a body is found in a Mayfair flat, what at first appears to be a routine murder investigation sends him into a world of espionage, deceit, and betrayal.

Recommended!

Classic mystery | PBK | \$22.99



6

### 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



7

# Pulp Fiction

## Crime & Mystery Bestsellers August 2023 (continued)

### **Death of a Lesser God**

Inspector Wadia 04

**Vaseem Khan**

In the fourth rip-roaring thriller in the award-winning Malabar House series, Persis and Archie travel to the old colonial capital of Calcutta, where they collide, head on, with the prejudices and bloody politics of an era engulfed in flame.

Can a white man receive justice in post-colonial India?

*Bombay, 1950.*

James Whitby, sentenced to death for the murder of prominent lawyer and former Quit India activist Fareed Mazumdar, is less than two weeks from a date with the gallows. In a last-ditch attempt to save his son, Whitby's father forces a new investigation into the killing.

The investigation leads Inspector Persis Wadia of the Bombay Police to the old colonial capital of Calcutta – where, with the help of Scotland Yard criminalist Archie Blackfinch, she uncovers a possible link to a second case, the brutal murder of an African-American GI, during the Calcutta Killings of 1946.

Are the cases connected? And if Whitby didn't murder Mazumdar, then who did?

'Beautifully written and a fascinating insight into the turbulence of post-independence India' – *Peter May*.

'Another exuberant thriller in his award-winning Malabar House series... as usual with Khan, an entire era and community are conjured with quiet panache' – *Financial Times*.

'A sumptuous, brutal, heart-stopping thriller. Vaseem Khan writes with charm and wit, and an eye for detail that transports the reader entirely. I couldn't love this series more' – *Chris Whitaker*.

Series is recommended – more and more regulars are taking to it! Starts with *Midnight at Malabar House* (PBK, \$22.99).

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



8

### **Beast in the Shadows**

Penguin Classics

**Edogawa Rampo**

Another Penguin classic reissue – this time from 1928...

A reclusive writer of detective stories, Oe Shundeji, has gone missing, leaving behind a suspicious trail of blackmailing letters to a former lover. Another detective novelist, his rival, is the only one who can find him. A sequence of macabre and appalling events follows...

To be honest – this had not been on our radar, at all. Snaps to Penguin for going above and beyond the expected in their selection of material for this (beautifully jacketed!) series.

**Classic mystery | PBK | \$22.99**



9

### **Maigret and the Headless Corpse**

Penguin Classics

**Georges Simenon**

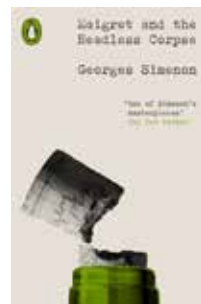
And... another Penguin reissue! From 1955 this time...

*One of Inspector Maigret's strangest and most compelling cases...*

The discovery of a dismembered body in the Canal Saint Martin leads Maigret into a tangled, baffling case involving a taciturn bistro-owner and a mysterious inheritance. This is a matchless description of a harsh, grim part of Paris a long way from the tourist trail, and a perfect example of Maigret's forensic police work.

Recommended!

**Classic mystery | PBK | \$22.99**



10