

CATALOGUE

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2024

SEVERN HOUSE

the home of
great genre fiction
since 1974



The home of great genre fiction since 1974

Severn House began life in 1974 as an independent publisher of titles by authors popular with libraries, rediscovering and rejuvenating out-of-print authors and series.

Over the years, we've grown into one of the UK's foremost publishers of genre fiction, particularly crime and mysteries, with prestigious names from both sides of the Atlantic on our list.

We are proud to publish the likes of Simon Brett, the godfather of cosy crime; Qiu Xiaolong, honoured as one of the authors on *Time* magazine's 100 Best Mystery and Thriller Books of All Time list; multi award-winning author Catriona McPherson, who took home last year's Anthony Award for Best Humorous Novel; Cynthia Harrod-Eagles, whose bestselling DCI Bill Slider series has passed its 24th entry; and many other award-winning and bestselling writers.

We are also excited to welcome new names and voices to our list. In these pages, you'll find new-to-Severn House authors like Kathryn Lasky (*Mortal Radiance*), Erica Wright (*Hollow Bones*), Liz Alterman (*The House on Cold Creek Lane*), Elena Taylor (*A Cold, Cold World*) and

Ellen Byron (*French Quarter Fright Night*).

In 2017, we were acquired by fiercely independent publisher Canongate Books.

Fifty (we're told) is an age for looking back at where you've come from, but it's also a time of looking forward at what's yet to come. We're just as spry, feisty, and independent as we were in 1974, and we're just as dedicated now as then to publishing the books that you want to read.

So here's to another fifty years of publishing great genre fiction! Keep reading and come along for the ride with us.

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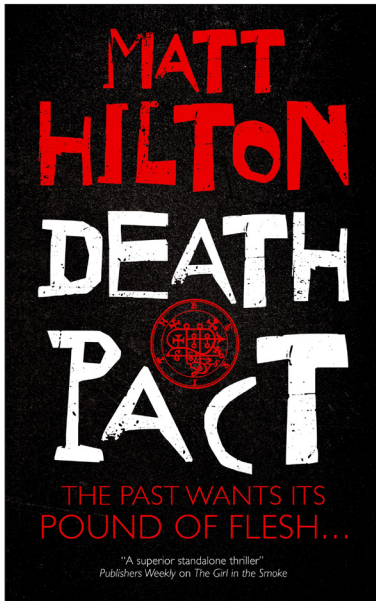
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NEW RELEASES



Matt Hilton worked for twenty-three years in private security and the police force in Cumbria. He is a 4th Dan blackbelt and coach in Ju-Jitsu. He is the author of thirteen novels in the Joe Hunter series, and ten Grey & Villere thrillers.

Death Pact

MATT HILTON

Two brothers saved from a cult as children, now grown up to become two very different adults. Both are being pursued by a serial killer hell bent on sacrificing them for their divine purpose...

All angels are not goodness and light. In fact... they're some of the most murderous creatures you'll ever come across

Former detective Nate Freeman just wants to be left alone as he recovers from the case that ended his career two years ago. As a child, he and his brother Will were saved from a religious fanatic compound in the US and brought to the UK. Now, as an adult, Nate has no idea where Will, or any of the other surviving 'Children of Hamor' are, until they suddenly start turning up dead – minus some skin...

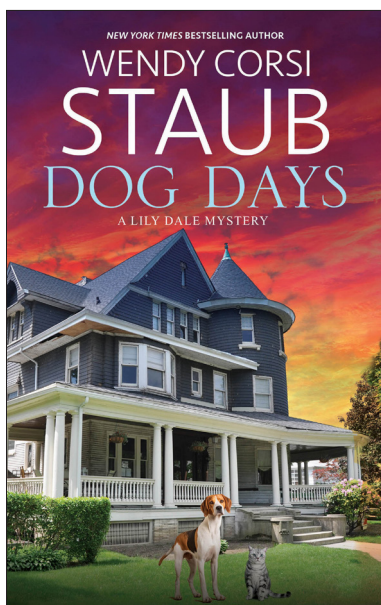
When his old boss DCI Openshaw asks him to assist in finding the serial killer who is hell bent on collecting the symbols so brutally branded onto the children's backs in the name of Berith – the Fallen Angel – Nate finds himself conflicted. As one of 'the promised' Nate is in mortal danger, and as the case builds momentum Will becomes the prime suspect. It's an intense race against time for Nate to uncover the identity of the 'angelic' serial killer and save his own skin in the process!

2 July 2024

Printed Paper Cased Fiction 240pp

Other (trim 216 x 138)
 Printed Paper Cased
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 9781448310845

Rights:
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New York Times and *USA Today*

bestseller **Wendy Corsi Staub** is the award-winning author of more than ninety novels, including young adult fiction, psychological suspense and traditional mysteries. She lives in the New York City suburbs with her husband, their sons, and a trio (give or take) of rescue kitties.

Dog Days

A Lily Dale Mystery #6

WENDY CORSI STAUB

Do you believe in spirits? A series of strange happenings force Valley View guesthouse manager – and sceptic – Bella Jordan to question her beliefs in the new instalment of *New York Times* bestseller Wendy Corsi Staub's heart-warming cozy mystery series set in Lily Dale, New York's Spiritualist home.

After attending a family wedding in Chicago, young widow Bella Jordan is returning to the guesthouse she runs in Lily Dale – the quirky upstate New York lakeside village famous for its spiritual mediums – when she catches a glimpse of the impossible at the airport: her late husband Sam.

A former science teacher, Bella is grounded in facts and logic. She doesn't believe in ghosts. But even when she's back home with the competing distractions of her quirky guests, small son Max, resident pet cats and a very unexpected litter of puppies, Bella can't find a good explanation for what she's seen.

The situation gets even stranger when her psychic friend Odelia tells her that she made contact with Sam's spirit and he shared a significant name: Kevin...Bacon!

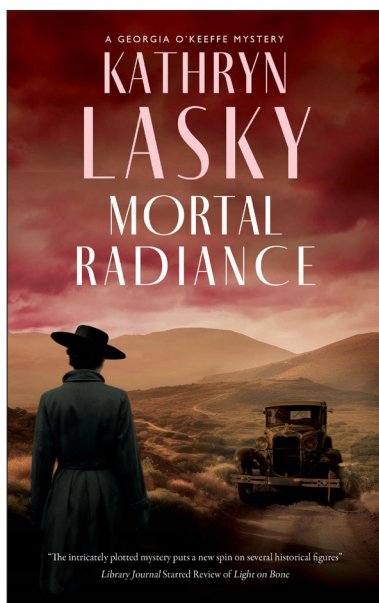
Bella doesn't know what to think, but when she glimpses Sam again and things start to vanish around her, she knows she has to get to the bottom of the strange happenings – even if that means letting go for good...

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Kathryn Lasky is the author of over one hundred books for children and young adults, including the Guardians of Ga'Hoole series, which has more than eight million copies in print, and was turned into a major motion picture, *Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole*. Her books have received numerous awards including a Newbery Honor, a Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, and a Washington Post-Children's Book Guild Nonfiction Award. She has twice won the National Jewish Book award. Her work has been translated into nineteen languages worldwide. She lives with her husband in Cambridge, MA.

Mortal Radiance

A Georgia O'Keeffe Mystery #2

KATHRYN LASKY

Painter and amateur sleuth Georgia O'Keeffe investigates a tragic death when she returns to Taos in the second instalment of this twisty historical mystery set in the 1930s by multi award-winning author Kathryn Lasky.

New Mexico, 1935. Painter Georgia O'Keeffe is at her friend Mabel Dodge Luhan's home, Los Gallos, a house inhabited by a colorful range of artists, authors and society figures, to attend the memorial service of the renowned writer D.H. Lawrence.

Georgia has been commissioned to design the stained-glass windows for the small memorial chapel in Lawrence's honor. But when she checks to see how the light comes through the glass, another much more horrible sight awaits her: beloved Navajo potter Flora Namingha is dead, her face smashed in with a stone...

With Flora's fiancé locked up as the obvious suspect and the local police negligent in its investigation, it seems like no one other than Georgia is capable of solving the murder and making sure justice is done.

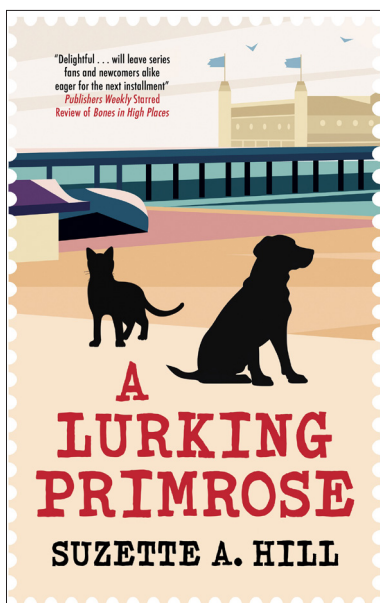
When Georgia's lover Sheriff Ryan McCaffrey comes to town unannounced, things get more complicated, and Georgia suddenly finds herself in a complex tangle of revenge, international espionage, Nazis and thugs that will require all her artistic sensibilities and amateur sleuthing skills to unravel!

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Suzette A. Hill is a graduate of the universities of Nottingham and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and for many years taught English literature for Adult Education at Reading College. She began writing novels when retiring to Herefordshire, where she now lives, but her childhood roots are in Sussex. Among her interests is the poetry of T.S. Eliot and John Donne, nineteenth- and twentieth century English and Irish political history and - when affordable - the consumption of French burgundy.

A Lurking Primrose

A Francis Oughterard Mystery #8

SUZETTE A. HILL

The peculiar death of an assistant matron at a distinguished boys' school draws amateur sleuth Primrose Oughterard into another delightfully quirky mystery.

Erasmus House, a prestigious prep school for boys in Lewes, is in uncharacteristic disarray over a looming visit from Her Majesty's inspectors. Convinced that inspectors dislike old-established schools, headmaster Mr Winchbrooke devises a cunning plan to drag Erasmus House into modernity - by replacing the rustic paintings of eccentric local artist and amateur sleuth, Primrose Oughterard, with more 'challenging' abstract works.

But Primrose's paintings are the least of Winchbrooke's worries when the school's assistant matron, Miss Memling, is found dead in a Brighton hotel room, clutching an empty gin bottle. Was there more to dull Aida Memling than met the eye? As one of the school's trustees, Primrose springs into action. With her late brother Francis's pets Maurice and Bouncer by her side, can Primrose solve the Memling mystery?

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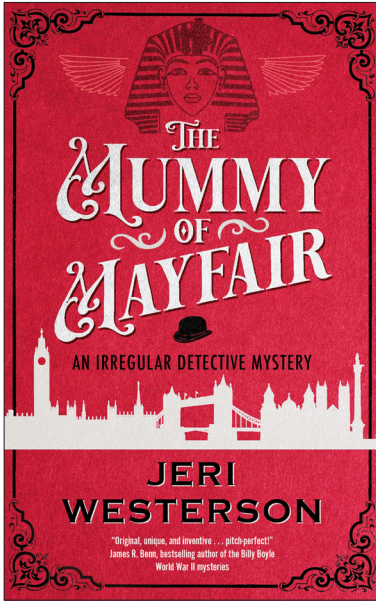
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Jeri Westerson was born and raised in Los Angeles. She is the author of the Crispin Guest medieval noir mysteries, the King's Fool Tudor mysteries featuring Will Somers, three paranormal series and several historical novels. Her books have been nominated for the Shamus, the Macavity and the Agatha awards.

The Mummy of Mayfair

An Irregular Detective Mystery #2

JERI WESTERSON

Private investigators Timothy Badger and Benjamin Watson take on another unusual and baffling case in Victorian London when a mummy unwrapping party takes a chilling turn.

London, 1895. Although their last high-profile case was a huge success, private detectives Tim Badger and Benjamin Watson know they can't afford to turn down any work, despite financial assistance from their mentor, Sherlock Holmes.

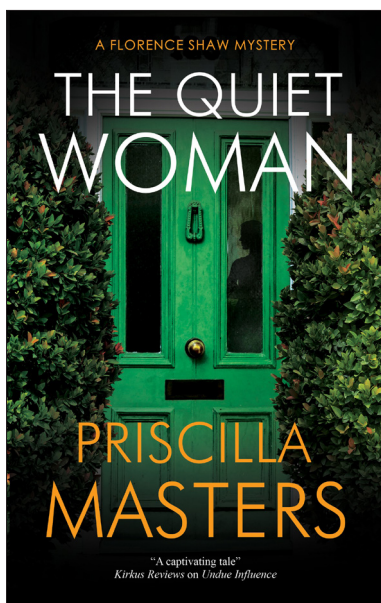
So when the eminent Doctor Enoch Sawyer of St Bart's Hospital asks Badger if the duo will provide security for a mummy unwrapping party he is hosting, Badger doesn't hesitate to take the job. After all, how hard can guarding the doctor's bizarre Egyptian artifacts be? But with Doctor Sawyer running late for his own party, the 'genuine' ancient sarcophagus of Runihura Saa is unravelled to reveal the remains of... Doctor Sawyer! Suddenly, the pair are drawn into a case that's stranger and twistier than they could ever have imagined.

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Priscilla Masters is the author of the popular DI Joanna Piercy series, as well as the successful Martha Gunn novels, a series of forensic psychiatrist mysteries featuring Dr Claire Roget and the Nurse Florence Shaw mysteries. She lives near the Shropshire/Staffordshire border. A retired respiratory nurse, Priscilla has two grown-up sons and two grandsons.

The Quiet Woman

A Florence Shaw Mystery #2

PRISCILLA MASTERS

Nurse Florence Shaw is baffled when a quiet patient dies in an apparent suicide pact with her husband. Can she uncover the truth behind this mysterious woman?

Richard and Christine Clay have been married for decades. Their relationship has stood the test of time despite Christine appearing passive while her husband is unmistakably dominant – at times bullying and controlling.

Nurse Florence Shaw has seen Christine at the surgery a number of times with minor complaints over the past year, none of which has led to a serious diagnosis. But when Florence hears that the couple appear to have entered into a suicide pact, she is shocked, though not surprised that Richard has survived. Was Christine's death really a suicide, or was there more to this quiet woman than meets the eye?

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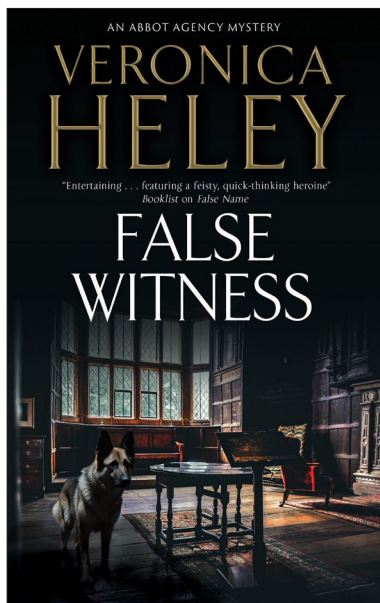
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Rights:

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Veronica Heley is actively involved in her local church and community affairs. She lives in Ealing, West London. Veronica is the creator of the ever-popular Ellie Quicke mysteries, as well as the Abbot Agency series. *False Witness* is the seventeenth Abbot Agency novel.

False Witness

An Abbot Agency Mystery #17

VERONICA HELEY

The restoration of a stately home takes a deadly turn in the gripping new Bea Abbot mystery.

No one had been more surprised than Julian to find he was the heir to Marston Hall, a stately home in the Home Counties. His hitherto unknown relatives had done their best to ensure he didn't live to inherit, but with his ill-wishers in jail, Julian and his wife Polly celebrated the birth of their son and heir and set about the uphill task of restoring the neglected Tudor mansion to its former glory.

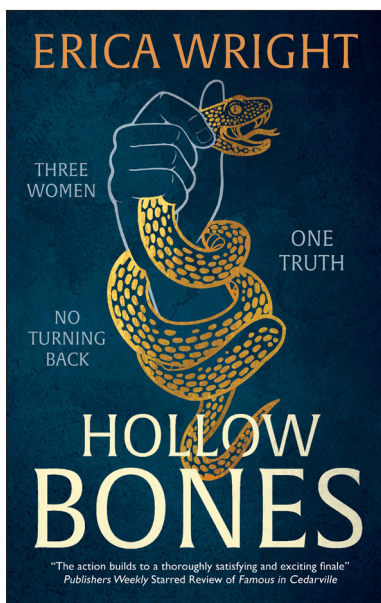
Bea Abbot is called in when yet another attempt is made on Julian's life and the corpse of a woman is found in the stables at the Hall. Could the relatives who targeted Julian before be behind this murder, and what is the link between the dead woman and the Marston-Lang family? Something wicked is afoot at Marston Hall, and Bea is determined to get to the bottom of it.

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Erica Wright is the author of seven books, including the essay collection *Snake* and the crime novel *Famous in Cedarville*. She is a former editorial board member of *Alice James Books* and was the Poetry Editor at *Guernica Magazine* for more than a decade. She currently lives in Knoxville, Tennessee with her family.

Hollow Bones

ERICA WRIGHT

An eerie Appalachian town. A fatal fire. Three women whose fates intertwine...

Essa Montgomery and her brother Clyde were brought up in New Hope, a serpent-handling church in Vintera, West Virginia, until the shocking deaths of both their parents closed the church down. Now twenty, reclusive Essa lives alone in her childhood home in the shadow of New Hope, which to her horror has been taken over by a new charismatic, unsettling pastor who continues the dangerous practice. So when the church burns down, she's glad – until she learns that two people died in the blaze, and her brother's the prime suspect...

Life has made Juliet Usher, who scratches a living as a psychic medium, both assertive and ruthless. With a baby on the way, it's the worst possible time for her partner Clyde to be arrested. She'll do anything to survive and keep him out of prison – no matter what it takes!

Merrit Callahan has always been ambitious. A striving news reporter, she's willing to go the extra mile and break the rules to get the big scoop. And in small-town Vintera, she thinks she might have found the story that will be the making of her career.

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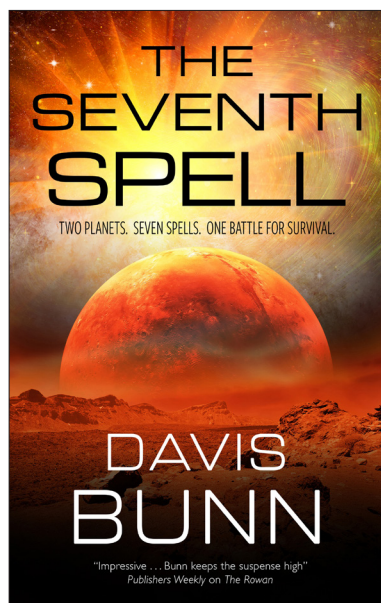
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Davis Bunn's novels have sold in excess of eight million copies in twenty-six languages. He has appeared on numerous national bestseller lists, and his novels have been Main or Featured Selections with every major US bookclub. Recent titles have been named Best Book of the Year by both *Library Journal* and *Suspense Magazine*, as well as earning Top Pick and Starred Reviews from *Publishers Weekly*, *RT Reviews*, *Kirkus Reviews* and *Booklist*. Currently Davis serves as Writer-In-Residence at Regent's Park College, Oxford University. He speaks around the world on aspects of creative writing. Davis also publishes under the pseudonym of Thomas Locke.

The Seventh Spell

DAVIS BUNN

Two planets. Seven spells. One battle for survival.

Adrian Capstan's dream of going to Mars and becoming a wizard is about to be realized when he travels to the red planet armed with seven ancient spells. By connecting to magical forces on Mars, he hopes he'll finally be able to bring the mysterious spells alive.

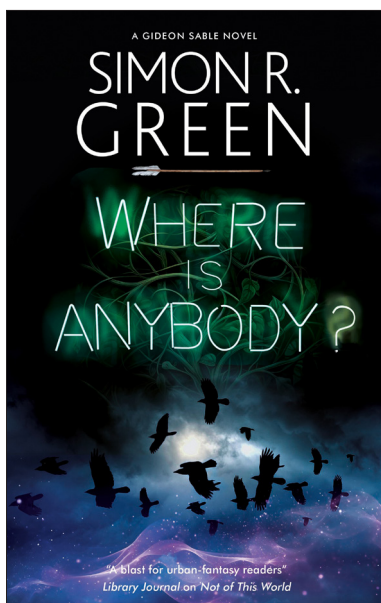
But when Adrian lands at the Mars spaceport, he discovers a scene of destruction. Revolt against Earth has led to a dangerous regime ruling the planet, and the wizards are under attack. As Adrian begins to unlock the spells, he is drawn into an epic fight for survival. And when he unleashes the seventh spell's true power, the stakes for the two planets couldn't be higher...

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Simon R. Green was born in Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, where he still lives. He is the *New York Times* bestselling author of more than seventy science fiction and fantasy novels, including the *Nightside*, *Secret Histories* and *Ghost Finders* series, the *Ishmael Jones* mysteries, the *Gideon Sable* novels and the brand-new *Holy Terrors* mysteries.

Where is Anybody?

A Gideon Sable Novel #5

SIMON R. GREEN

Legendary master thief and conman Gideon Sable must pull off an impossible heist to save his partner's life in this fast-paced supernatural thriller from *New York Times* bestselling British fantasy author Simon R. Green.

Gideon Sable specializes in stealing the kind of things that can't usually be stolen. But these days the legendary master thief is officially retired from the caper game. Now, instead of pulling off elaborate heists with his crew of supernatural specialists, he runs a magical shop in the heart of London with his partner Annie Anybody. Still, he can't resist occasionally going out in the night to steal things when Annie's not looking. For old times' sake – and for the joy of the con.

But after one of his late-night illicit jaunts, Gideon returns to the shop to find that while he's been stealing, someone else has been hard at work... stealing from him. *I have taken Annie Anybody*, reads the note on the countertop. *If you ever want to see her again, you must find and steal Time's Arrow. You have forty-eight hours.*

Stealing the legendary Arrow isn't a challenge; it's certain death. But Gideon will stop at nothing to save Annie from their unknown enemy – with or without the help of his talented, terrifying former crew...

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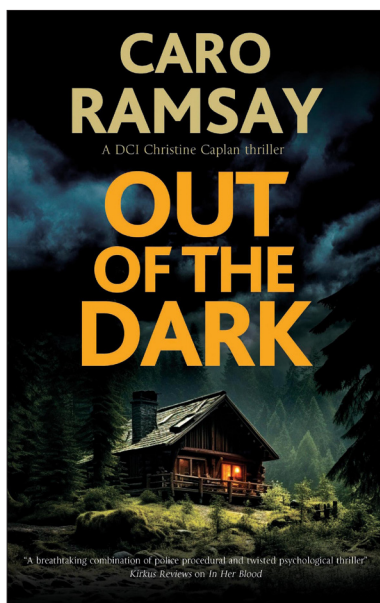
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Caro Ramsay was born and brought up in Glasgow, and now lives in a village on the west coast of Scotland. She is an osteopath, acupuncturist and former marathon runner, who devotes much of her time to the complementary treatment of injured wildlife at a local rescue centre. She is the author of thirteen Anderson & Costello thrillers, one standalone novel of psychological suspense and the DCI Christine Caplan thriller series.

Out of the Dark

A DCI Christine Caplan Thriller #3

CARO RAMSAY

A young woman is missing, but has she run away – or been captured?

A dying cop asks DCI Christine Caplan to fulfil her last wish: to investigate a cold case that's still preying on her mind. The naked body of a young man that was found in a lonely wood, dismissed as a down and out by her superiors. Caplan connects the case to other victims left to die in the bleak Scottish forests, injured and unable to escape. As the scent grows stronger, the cold cases suddenly seem dangerously hot.

In this thrilling hunt for the missing girl, Caplan must trace where love and control get out of hand, and question where power lies in any relationship. Meanwhile, the dark nights of Scotland conceal a terrifying game of cat and mouse...

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Liz Alterman is the author of *The Perfect Neighborhood*, *He'll Be Waiting*, and *Sad Sacked*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *McSweeney's*, and other outlets. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and three sons where she spends most days microwaving the same cup of coffee and looking up synonyms. When Liz isn't writing, she's reading.

The House on Cold Creek Lane

LIZ ALTERMAN

An unflinching examination of motherhood and the dark side of domesticity set against a suburban backdrop that's anything but blissful.

*Who was I? What had I become?
Breathe, I commanded. You're doing this for your family.*

When Laurel and Rob West move into their new home in New Jersey, it seems too good to be true. But Laurel can't shake off her old feelings of anxiety. The neighbor who pays far too much attention to the Wests' two young children... Rob watching her every misstep... and there's something people aren't telling her about this house...

*I promised myself I wouldn't go to that neighborhood again.
Not that street. Not so soon.*

Corey Sutton is trying to outrun her past. Recently divorced and reeling from a devastating loss, she moves into her widowed mother's retirement condo in Florida. Everyone says she just needs some time to recover and rebuild... but is Corey beyond saving? She wants answers. And there's very little she won't do to get them.

Though Laurel and Corey have never met, the women have something in common, and if they're not careful, it may just destroy them both...

6 August 2024

Printed Paper Cased Fiction 272pp

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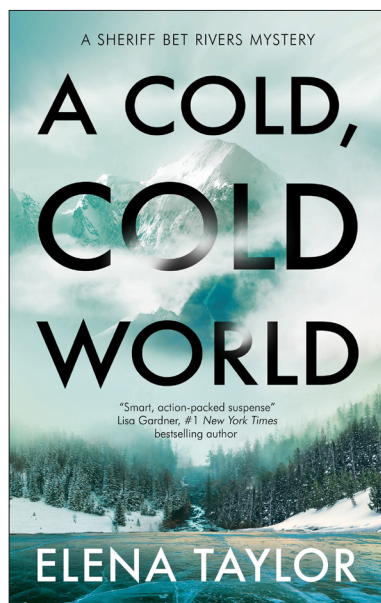
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Elena Taylor worked in theater before turning her storytelling skills to novels. The Sheriff Bet Rivers series draws on her dramatic roots. As Elena Hartwell, she writes the quirky Eddie Shoes mysteries. Elena is a developmental editor with Allegory Editing, where she works one-on-one with writers to shape and polish their manuscripts. She also writes the Wait, Wait, Don't Query (Yet!) series. Her favorite place to be is home at Paradise, near Spokane, Washington. She lives with her hubby, three horses, two dogs, and two cats. Elena holds degrees from the University of San Diego, the University of Washington, and the University of Georgia.

A Cold, Cold World

A Sheriff Bet Rivers Mystery #2

ELENA TAYLOR

An amateur female sheriff tries to fill her late father's boots and be the sheriff her small Washington State mountain town needs as a deadly snow storm engulfs the town, in this dark, twisty mystery.

The world felt pure. Nature made the location pristine again, hiding the scene from prying eyes. As if no one had died there at all.

In the months since Bet Rivers solved her first murder investigation and secured the sheriff's seat in Collier, she's remained determined to keep her town safe. With a massive snowstorm looming, it's more important than ever that she stays vigilant.

When Bet gets a call that a family of tourists has stumbled across a teen injured in a snowmobile accident on a mountain ridge, she braves the storm to investigate. However, once she arrives at the scene of the accident it's clear to Bet that the teen is not injured; he's dead. And has been for some time...

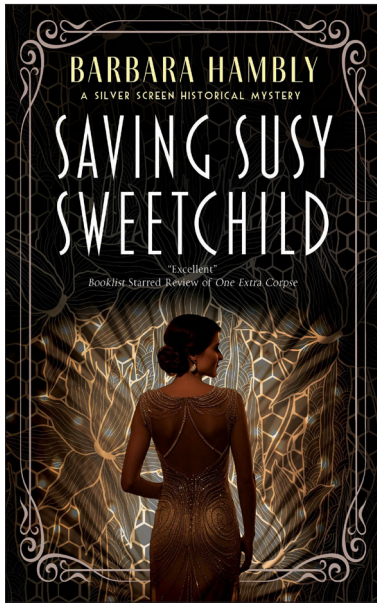
Investigating a possible homicide is hard enough, but with the worst snowstorm the valley has seen in years threatening the safety of her town, not to mention the integrity of her crime scenes – as they seem to be mounting up as well – Bet has to move fast to uncover the complicated truth and prove that she's worthy of keeping her father's badge.

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Barbara Hambly, though a native of Southern California, lived in New Orleans for a number of years while married to the late science fiction writer George Alec Effinger. Hambly holds a degree in medieval history from the University of California and has written novels in numerous genres.

Saving Susy Sweetchild

An Silver Screen Historical Mystery #3

BARBARA HAMBLY

Welcome to Hollywood of the 1920s: a world filled with glamour, fake names... and the occasional felony!

July, 1924. After nine months of living in Hollywood and working as a companion to her beautiful silent-movie star sister-in-law, young British widow Emma Blackstone is settling into her new role: doctoring film scenarios whenever the regular scenarist is overwhelmed with work, which seems to be most of the time.

Shoots for the Western movie *Our Tiny Miracle* are in full swing, with little seven-year-old Susy Sweetchild playing the lead and acting most professionally. Maybe too professionally, Emma thinks, shocked to the core when the child star is nearly killed in a stunt scene and her mother – former screen siren Selina Sutton – seems only to care that Susy gets the job done.

But Emma's concerns only worsen when news reaches her that Susy and her mother have been kidnapped. The ransom note says to keep the cops out of it, so it's up to Emma and Kitty to find them before the unthinkable happens and Emma is forced to rewrite *Our Tiny Miracle* with a far more tragic ending...

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9781448311057

Rights:

W/E



Nick Oldham is a retired police inspector who served in the force from the age of nineteen. He is the author of the acclaimed Henry Christie novels and the Steve Flynn series.

Death at Dead Man's Stake

A Jessica Raker Thriller #1

NICK OLDHAM

A life or death decision leads Sergeant Jessica Raker to swap the Metropolitan Police for trouble up north, but old enemies are on her tail...

A split-second decision has life-changing consequences for Metropolitan Police firearms officer Jessica Raker when she fatally wounds the son of a notorious organized crime chief during a robbery in Greenwich – and discovers her husband has been having an affair.

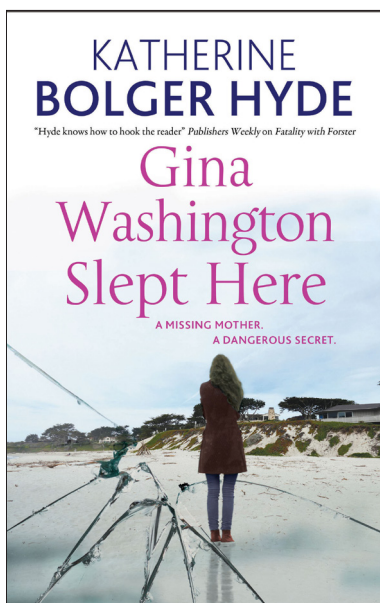
With her career, her marriage and her life in danger, Jess is sent back to her home town of Clitheroe in the Ribble Valley to take up a sergeant role in Lancashire police. But as she throws herself into dealing with a hostage situation up on Dead Man's Stake Farm and a body discovered in a reservoir on her first day, her enemies are plotting their revenge – and they're closer than she thinks...

3 September 2024

Printed Paper Cased Fiction 224pp

Other (trim 216 x 138)
Printed Paper Cased
£21.99 | \$29.99
9781448314416

Rights:
W/E



Katherine Bolger Hyde has lived her life surrounded by books, from teaching herself to read at the age of four to majoring in Russian literature to making her career as an editor. She lives in California with her husband and is the author of six Crime with the Classics mysteries.

Gina Washington Slept Here

KATHERINE BOLGER HYDE

What happened to Gina Washington? Twelve-year-old Erin's world was turned upside down twenty years ago when her mother suddenly vanished and never returned.

Don't give up, Erin. I'm waiting for you. Find me.

Arriving at the Seafarer's Rest B&B in the coastal resort of Pacific Grove in California for a much-needed vacation, Erin is stunned to learn that her mother stayed at the inn shortly after disappearing all those years ago, and makes a disturbing discovery in the grounds. Did Gina lay clues in the hope that Erin would one day try to find her? Drawn into a life-changing quest to unravel the truth, Erin uncovers deception, conspiracy and passion. But as she finally starts to find answers to the many questions around her mother's disappearance, Erin's own life is in grave danger.

3 September 2024

Printed Paper CaséD Fiction 256pp

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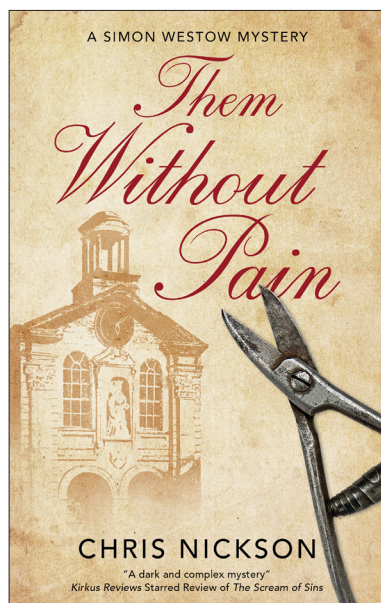
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9781448311873

Rights:

W/E



Chris Nickson is the author of eleven Tom Harper mysteries, seven highly acclaimed novels in the Richard Nottingham series and seven Simon Westow books. Born and raised in Leeds, he returned to live there a decade ago.

Them Without Pain

A Simon Westow Mystery #7

CHRIS NICKSON

Simon Westow, the city's unwavering thief-taker, must confront betrayal, history and murder in this gritty page-turner set in nineteenth-century Leeds.

Leeds, May 1825. Thief-taker Simon Westow is hired by Sir Robert Foley to find four silver cups stolen by his servant. The cups are a family treasure, crafted by local silversmith Arthur Mangey over a century before.

Meanwhile, Simon has also been invited to witness the demolition of Middle Row, where Mangey reputedly had a secret workshop for coin clipping, the very crime he was hanged for in 1696. Is it a coincidence or a terrible omen? Simon's curiosity swiftly turns to horror when he discovers Foley's servant lying dead in the clandestine room.

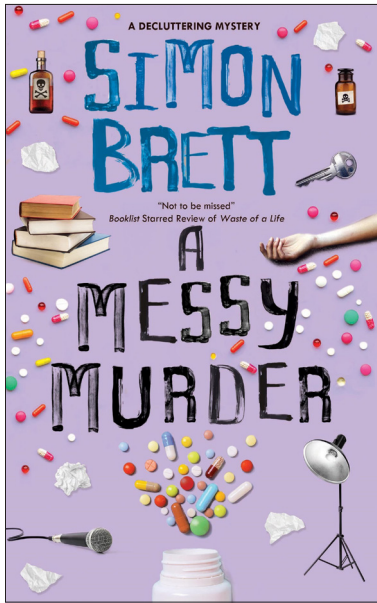
How can a long-dead criminal be involved in the servant's demise? Simon needs all the help he can get from his assistant Jane and deadly protégé Sally to navigate the twisted path from history to the present amidst the growing number of dead bodies. But is the truth worth dying for?

3 September 2024

Printed Paper Cased Fiction 224pp

Other (trim 216 x 138)
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9781448314409

Rights:
W/E



Simon Brett worked as a producer in radio and television before taking up writing full-time. He is the author of more than 100 books, including the much-loved Fethering mysteries, the Mrs Pargeter novels and the Charles Paris detective series, as well as the Decluttering mysteries. In 2014, he was awarded the Crime Writers' Association's prestigious Diamond Dagger for sustained excellence and contribution to crime writing, and in the 2016 New Year's Honours he was awarded an OBE 'for services to literature'. Married with three grown-up children, six grandchildren and a ginger cat called Douglas, he lives in an Agatha Christie-style village on the South Downs.

A Messy Murder

A Decluttering Mystery #4

SIMON BRETT

Ellen Curtis – professional declutterer, amateur sleuth and woman of a certain age – investigates the puzzling death of a TV personality who's past his prime.

Professional declutterer Ellen Curtis doesn't need to like her clients to help them sort their homes out. Aging TV personality and curmudgeon Humphrey Carter might have a chip on his shoulder the size of England about the decline of his career, but a job's a job.

But when Ellen arrives the morning after Humph's eightieth birthday party, primed and ready to tackle his study – no matter his protests – she gets the shock of her life. Humph's dead... and all signs point to him having taken his own life.

Did the egotistical chat show host really die by suicide? His wife is adamant he's been murdered, and the more Ellen looks, the more dirt on Humph she digs up... and the more suspects she uncovers.

Can she track down a killer – if there even is one? And, just as importantly, can she keep herself from killing not only her own infuriating mother, but also her two grown-up children, who all seem determined to destroy her peace of mind?

3 September 2024

Printed Paper Cased Fiction 192pp

Other (trim 216 x 138)

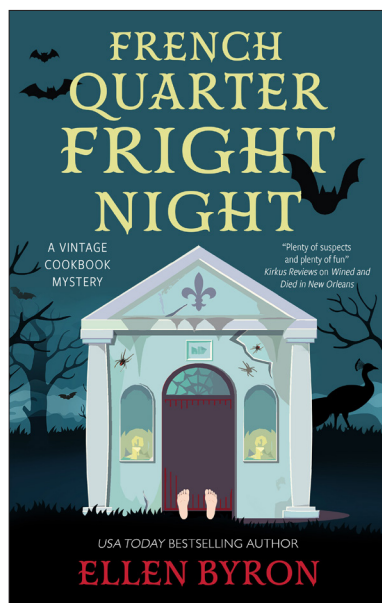
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9781448311033

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Ellen Byron is an Anthony Award nominee, bestselling author and recipient of multiple Agatha and Lefty awards for her Cajun Country mysteries, Vintage Cookbook mysteries, and Catering Hall mysteries (as Maria DiRico). She is also an award-winning playwright and non-award-winning writer of TV hits like *Wings*, *Just Shoot Me*, and *Fairly OddParents*. Ellen was the 2023 Left Coast Crime Toastmaster but considers her most impressive achievement working as a cater-waiter for Martha Stewart. A native New Yorker, Ellen is a graduate of Tulane University and lives in the Los Angeles area with her husband, daughter, and a rotating crew of rescue pups.

French Quarter Fright Night

An Vintage Cookbook Mystery #3

ELLEN BYRON

The third in the fabulous cozy mystery series with a vintage flair from *USA Today* bestselling and Agatha Award-winning author Ellen Byron.

Welcome to the Bon Veevil Festival of Fear! Prepare for the spookiest night of your life...

It's Halloween in New Orleans, and the staff of Bon Vee Culinary House Museum is setting up a fantastic haunted house tour for their visitors. But when flashy movie star Blaine Taggart and his entourage move into the mansion next door, gift shop proprietor Ricki James-Diaz gets a fright of her own.

While Ricki is excited about the potential business the tours will bring to her vintage cookbook shop, she's less thrilled by former friend Blaine's arrival in town. Then Bon Vee's prop tomb becomes a real tomb for Blaine's nasty assistant, and suddenly everyone at Bon Vee is a murder suspect. There isn't a ghost of a chance one of them committed the crime, but with NOPD busy tackling the mischief and mayhem generated by the spooky holiday, it falls on Ricki and her friends to catch the killer.

As the Big Easy gears up for the Big Scary, it seems everyone has skeletons in their closets. Can Ricki reveal the shadowy killer before someone else becomes part of the Halloween horror show?

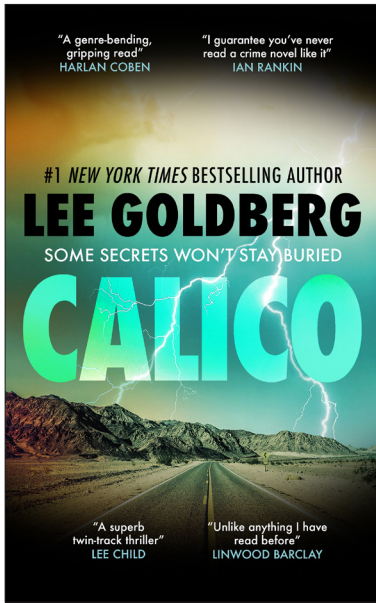
3 September 2024

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NOW
IN
PAPERBACK



Calico

LEE GOLDBERG

From #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Lee Goldberg, comes an explosive, page-turning investigative thriller – with a mind-blowing twist.

There's a saying in Barstow, California, a decaying city in the scorching Mojave desert...

The Interstate here only goes in one direction: Away.

But it's the only place where ex-LAPD detective Beth McDade, after a staggering fall from grace, could get another badge... and a shot at redemption.

Over a century ago, and just a few miles further into the bleak landscape, a desperate stranger ended up in Calico, a struggling mining town, also hoping for a second chance.

His fate, all those years ago, and hers today are linked when Beth investigates an old skeleton dug up in a shallow, sandy grave... and also tries to identify a vagrant run-over by a distracted motorhome driver during a lightning storm.

Every disturbing clue she finds, every shocking discovery she makes, force Beth to confront her own troubled past... and a past that's not her own... until it all smashes together in a revelation that could change the world.

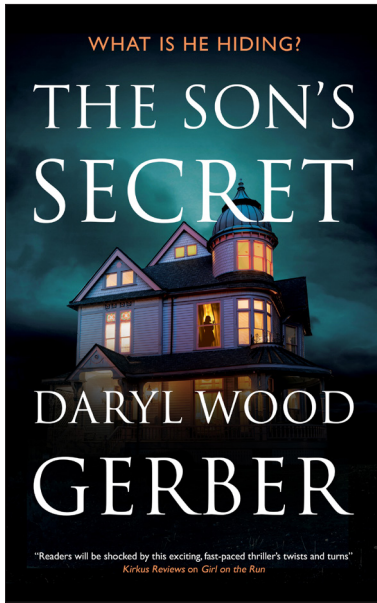
Lee Goldberg is a two-time Edgar Award and two-time Shamus Award nominee and the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of more than thirty novels, including *Lost Hills*, the Ian Ludlow trilogy, fifteen Monk mysteries, and five internationally bestselling Fox & O'Hare books co-written with Janet Evanovich. He has also written and/or produced many TV shows, including *Diagnosis Murder*, *SeaQuest*, and *Monk*, and is the co-creator of the hit Hallmark movie series *Mystery 101*.

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3 September 2024 (USA)

Paperback Fiction 320pp

B format Paperback
£9.99 | \$16.99
9781448314560

Rights:
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Daryl Wood Gerber is the Agatha Award-winning, nationally bestselling author of the Aspen Adams novels of suspense and a number of standalones, as well as the Fairy Garden mysteries, the French Bistro mysteries, and the Cookbook Nook mysteries. Under the pen name Avery Aames, Daryl writes the Cheese Shop mysteries. Daryl loves to cook, read, golf, swim, and garden. She also likes adventure and has been known to jump out of a perfectly good airplane.

The Son's Secret

DARYL WOOD GERBER

What if you're the only one who believes your son is missing? A chilling, twisty psychological suspense novel, perfect for fans of Laura Dave and Gillian Flynn.

Maggie Lawson is the smart, capable dean of a boutique college, but even the most confident mother has a weakness – her child. When Maggie can't reach her college senior son, Aiden, to tell him that his father has been shot, she starts to panic. She texts. She calls.

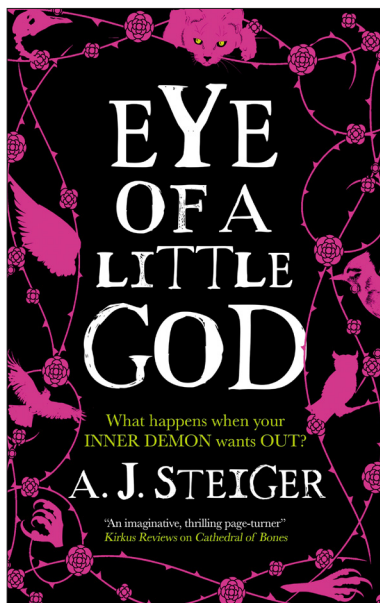
Is Aiden ghosting her, or have the dangerous stories Aiden's father, her investigative journalist ex-husband, pursues finally brought trouble to her door? Maggie is sure that something is very wrong, but no one believes her. As dark events unfold, she must rely on her own investigative instincts to find Aiden. But when Maggie uncovers a devastating secret, she faces a race against time to save him.

25 July 2024 (UK)
24 September 2024 (USA)

Trade Paperback Fiction 256pp

Trade Paperback (US)
Trade Paperback
£13.99 | \$18.99
9781448314348

Rights:
W/E



A.J. Steiger was born in Burbank, Illinois and grew up in the Chicago area, graduating from Columbia College in Chicago where she majored in Fiction Writing. Her previous novels include the Young Adult books *Mindwalker* and *Mindstormer*, *When My Heart Joins the Thousand*, and *Cathedral of Bones*. *Eye of a Little God* is her first adult fiction book.

Eye of a Little God

A. J. STEIGER

*A twisted, creepy fever dream of a novel, **Eye of a Little God** is a surreal horror story that explores loneliness, trauma, and demons both inside and out.*

The Painted Man is here. I feel him in the darkness. He says, "If you let me in, I'll make the pain stop." God help me, I want to let him.

After losing his delivery job – the last thing binding him to an empty life – Eddie Luther, veteran and drifter, drives into the snowy woods with a bottle of sleeping pills. But instead of eternal silence, Eddie hears a whisper inside his damaged ear.

Help me.

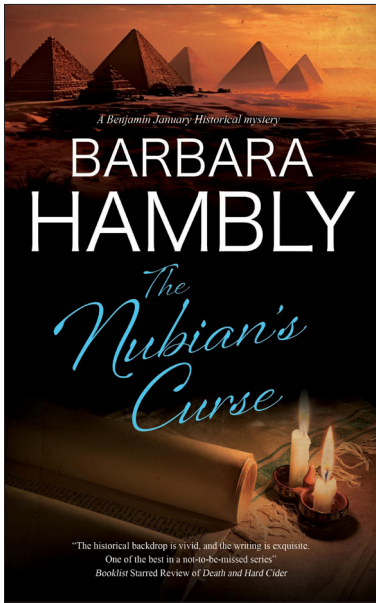
He follows the call and finds a cryptic journal filled with loneliness and longing, a journal whose words seem written for *him* alone. Guided by the clues in its pages, he embarks on a journey into a shadowy world beneath the small town of Devil's Fork, Nebraska – a world where girls become cats, televisions whisper prophecies, and only those cast out of society can see and use magic...

Or maybe Eddie's sanity is slipping. All he knows for sure is that he's falling in love with someone he's never seen, someone who may be more than human – and who will change everything he thinks he knows about the world and his place in it.

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24 September 2024 (USA)

Trade Paperback Fiction 288pp

Trade Paperback (US) Rights:
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£13.99 | \$18.99
9781448314324



Barbara Hambly, though a native of Southern California, lived in New Orleans for many years while married to the late science fiction writer George Alec Effinger. Hambly holds a degree in medieval history from the University of California and has written novels in numerous genres.

The Nubian's Curse

A Benjamin January Historical Mystery
#20

BARBARA HAMBLY

A cursed statue... A haunted house... A seemingly supernatural death... The unexpected arrival of a friend from his past plunges musician, sleuth and free man of color Benjamin January into an old, unsolved case in this historical mystery set in New Orleans.

December 1840. Surgeon turned piano-player Benjamin January is looking forward to a peaceful holiday with his family. But the arrival of an old friend brings unexpected news – and unexpected danger.

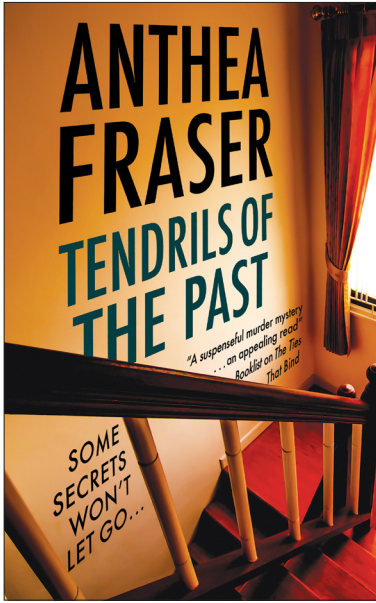
Persephone Jondrette has found Arithmus: a Sudanese man with extraordinary mental abilities who January last saw in France, nearly fifteen years ago, during a ghost-hunting expedition to a haunted chateau. January and his friends survived the experience... but Arithmus' benefactor, the British explorer Deverel Wishart, did not. He was discovered dead one morning, his face twisted in horror, and shortly afterwards Arithmus vanished, never to be seen again.

Did Deverel succumb to the chateau's ghosts – or did Arithmus murder him and run away? January is determined to uncover the truth about the tragic incident from his past, and clear his old friend's name – but even he isn't prepared for what happens next...

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Trade Paperback Fiction 256pp

Trade Paperback (US) Rights:
Trade Paperback W/E
£13.99 | \$18.99
9781448314331



Anthea Fraser has now written a number of books ranging from suspense to the paranormal and crime fiction. *Tendrils of the Past* is her fifty-sixth book.

Tendrils of the Past

ANTHEA FRASER

Some secrets won't let go... Is the truth about a devastating family tragedy about to be unveiled?

Tragedy strikes a quiet Dorset town when the bodies of Sarah and Charles Drummond are discovered in their home one morning while their two young children, Abby and Mia, sleep upstairs. The police seem certain that Charles killed his wife before taking his own life, and the girls' grandmother, Cicely Fairfax, makes sure that they are shielded from the horrific truth.

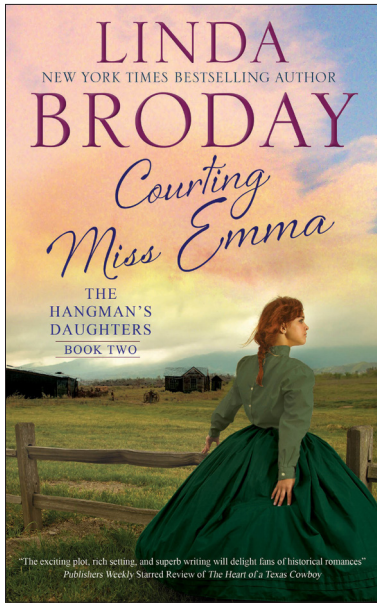
Until now. Sixteen years later, an accident at work leads Mia to have disturbing flashbacks to the night her parents met their untimely deaths. What did she see? What really happened that fateful evening? When Mia and Abby eventually share painful memories from the night that changed their lives forever, they get closer to uncovering the truth, and a dark secret from the past is finally revealed...

25 July 2024 (UK)
24 September 2024 (USA)

Trade Paperback Fiction 192pp

Trade Paperback (US)
Trade Paperback
£13.99 | \$18.99
9781448309917

Rights:
W/E



Courting Miss Emma

The Hangman's Daughters: Book Two

LINDA BRODAY

“One day I intend to court you, lady. That's a promise. Hangman's daughter or not.”

Texas, 1868. Emma Taggart has finally found a place to belong – setting up Heaven's Door orphanage with her sister Maura was a new beginning for her – and one she will do anything to protect.

When guarded ex-army man Stone Landry buys the neighbouring land and moves in – camels and all – Emma's world changes forever. He is an infuriating man who instantly gets under her skin – in ways she never dreamed possible, and despite herself, Emma starts to wonder if, just maybe, he is man enough to take on a Hangman's daughter... But their newfound connection is quickly tested by violent night raids, kidnappings, and underhand tricks by powerful rancher Zeke Parker, who is intent on running them out of town and taking the land he deems to be his. Can Emma find enough courage to trust in Stone and help him give her the life she's always dreamed of?

Linda Broday is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of over thirty historical western romance novels and short stories. A third generation Texan, she finds lots of inspiration for her fictional cowboys on the West Texas short grass plains.

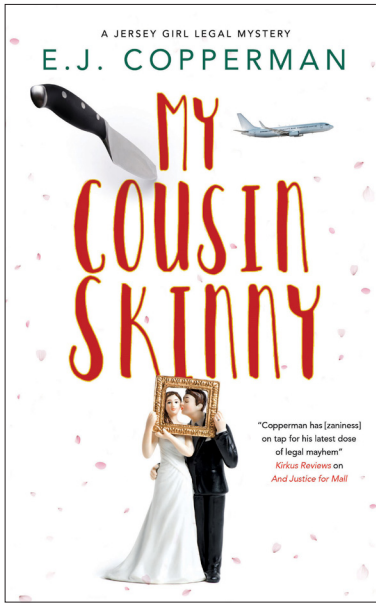
Writing is her passion and drives her to keep penning stories that focus heavily on children and family. In her family, she's the storyteller, the one who records ancestral history. Linda comes from a long line of poor but prideful people and she's happy with that. It's her legacy.

25 July 2024 (UK)
24 September 2024 (USA)

Trade Paperback Fiction 256pp

Other (trim 216 x 138)
Trade Paperback
£13.99 | 18.99
9781448314355

Rights:
W/E



My Cousin Skinny

A Jersey Girl Legal Mystery #5

E.J. COPPERMAN

A dream of a wedding turns into a bloody nightmare for LA family lawyer Sandy Moss's cousin Skinny in the latest instalment of the critically acclaimed Jersey Girl Legal mystery series. Sandy might have to take on her trickiest case yet!

E.J. Copperman is the nom de plume for Jeff Cohen, writer of intentionally funny murder mysteries. As E.J., he is the author of the Haunted Guest house series, the Agent to the Paws series and the Jersey Girl Legal mysteries, as well as the Fran and Ken Stein mysteries. As Jeff, he is the author of the Double Feature and Aaron Tucker series; and he collaborates with himself on the Samuel Hoenig Asperger's mysteries.

A New Jersey native, E.J. worked as a newspaper reporter, teacher, magazine editor and screenwriter, before his first book was published to critical acclaim in 2002. In his spare time, Jeff is an extremely amateur guitar player, a fan of Major League Baseball, a couch potato and a crossword addict.

An uncomfortable weekend awaits LA family lawyer Sandy Moss when she makes her way to her hometown in New Jersey for the wedding of her cousin Stephanie, sweetly nicknamed Skinny. Uncomfortable, because Sandy is not really looking forward to seeing her family, but at least her boyfriend, Hollywood movie star Patrick McNabb, is by her side.

However, if Sandy thought a weekend with her criticising mother and aggravating sister was bad, she definitely wasn't prepared for the rehearsal event at the wedding venue! When Skinny enters the room, all eyes are on her and her beautiful party dress... covered in blood, with a knife in her hand.

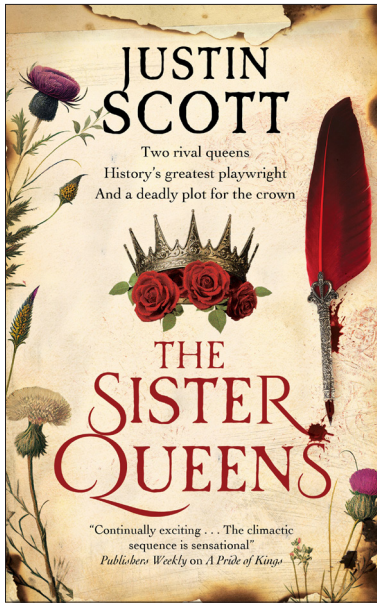
Skinny says she didn't do it. But with dozens of wedding guests witnessing her dramatic entrance, the question of who killed the corpse in the kitchen seems an easy one to answer – and an equally easy court case to lose.

25 July 2024 (UK)
24 September 2024 (USA)

Trade Paperback Fiction 240pp

Trade Paperback (US)
Trade Paperback
£13.99 | \$18.99
9781448314362

Rights:
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The Sister Queens

JUSTIN SCOTT

Two rival queens. History's greatest playwright. And a deadly plot for the crown.

London, 1600. With no legitimate heir to Queen Elizabeth's throne, and no clear successor, England finds itself in a supremely perilous moment.

When spymaster Anthony Bacon commands esteemed playwright William Shakespeare to write a play on the poisonous history of Queen Elizabeth and the rival monarch she executed, Catholic Mary Queen of Scots, Will knows that Elizabeth's one-time favorite, the powerful Earl of Essex, will use the play to try to seize her throne.

Must Will be ensnared in a ruthless plot fated to tumble his country into civil war? Or can he navigate a treacherous path through the dark warrens of London and the tortuous world of Elizabethan politics to save his family, his country, and his Queen?

Justin Scott has earned his living writing historical suspense novels, thrillers, and sea stories for fifty years. He is the author of *The Shipkiller*, the Benjamin Abbott New England mystery series, and collaborated with Clive Cussler on the Isaac Bell historical detective series. *The Sister Queens* is his thirty-seventh published novel.

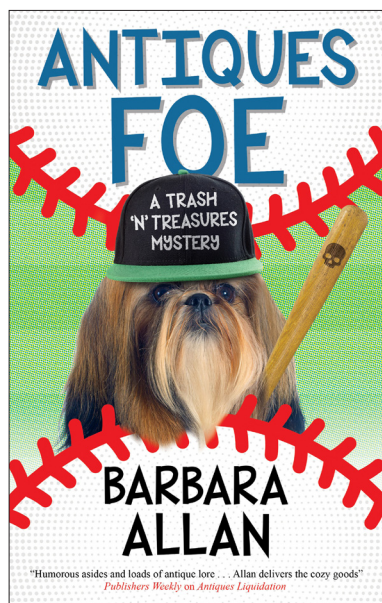
Born in Manhattan, he grew up on Long Island's Great South Bay in a family of professional writers. Justin holds BA and MA degrees in history, and before becoming a writer, drove boats and trucks, helped build Fire Island beach houses, edited an electronic engineering journal, and tended bar in a Hell's Kitchen saloon. He lives in Connecticut with his wife, filmmaker Amber Edwards.

29 August 2024 (UK)
29 October 2024 (USA)

Trade Paperback Fiction 288pp

Trade Paperback (US)
Trade Paperback
£13.99 | \$18.99
9781448314263

Rights:
W/E



Antiques Foe

A Trash 'n' Treasures Mystery #17

BARBARA ALLAN

Eccentric antiques dealer and amateur sleuth Vivian Borne finds herself in jail – again! – when a podcast star is found dead in her hotel room in this new Trash 'n' Treasures cozy mystery – “one of the funniest cozy series going” (*Ellery Queen Magazine*)

Barbara Allan is the joint pseudonym of husband-and-wife mystery writers, Barbara and Max Allan Collins. Barbara is an acclaimed short-story writer, and Max is a multi-award-winning *New York Times* bestselling novelist and Mystery Writers of America Grand Master. Their previous collaborations have included one son, several short story collections, and twenty novels. They live in Muscatine, Iowa – their Serenity-esque hometown – in a house filled with trash and treasures.

When popular podcaster Nicole Chatterton wants an interview for *Killers Caught*, true-crime author Vivian Borne is overjoyed. Finally, some recognition for the sleuthing skills the septuagenarian antiques dealer and her daughter Brandy have demonstrated, solving countless crimes in their small hometown of Serenity, Iowa!

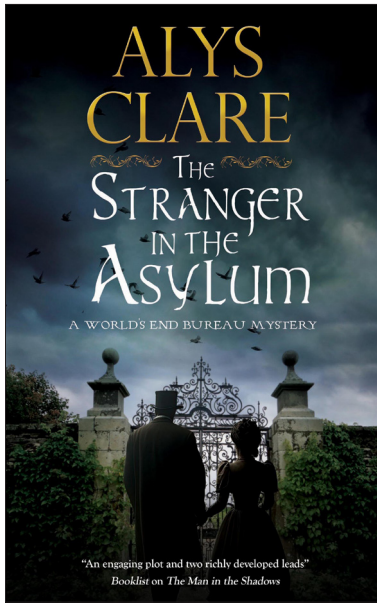
Dolled up and dressed to the nines, Vivian figures the interview is going swimmingly... until Nicole turns the tables, accusing the mother/daughter duo of committing the very crimes they solved. Shocked and affronted – and with a spiteful tirade captured by the cameras – Vivian breaks off the interview, ejecting the rude podcaster from the premises of the Trash 'n' Treasures shop. How *dare* the woman?

Later, when Vivian pays the podcaster a follow-up visit at the woman's hotel – hoping to smooth things out and set the record straight – a very dead Nicole is waiting. Caught as the killer (true to the podcast's title) by producer Clare Shields, Vivian finds herself behind bars. Now it's up to Brandy to determine who really did the dire deed before their fiendish foe can strike again!

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29 October 2024 (USA)

Trade Paperback Fiction 208pp

Trade Paperback (US) Rights:
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£13.99 | \$18.99
9781448314317



Alys Clare lives in the English countryside where her novels are set. She went to school in Tonbridge and later studied archaeology at the University of Kent. She is the author of the Aelf Fen, Hawkenlye, World's End Bureau and Gabriel Taverner historical mystery series.

The Stranger in the Asylum

A World's End Bureau Mystery #4

ALYS CLARE

Private investigators Lily Raynor and Felix Wilbraham have to hunt down an escapee from a French asylum, in this new, gripping World's End Bureau Victorian mystery from critically-acclaimed author Alys Clare.

London, April 1882. When cool-headed Phyllida visits the World's End Investigation Bureau to offer a curious case concerning her fiancé, proprietor Lily Raynor is intrigued – and privately excited. For accepting the case means taking an unexpected trip abroad, to France.

Phyllida's fiancé, Wilberforce, is currently in an asylum in Brittany, after a tragic incident which resulted in the death of his father. Did he kill him on purpose – or was it an accident?

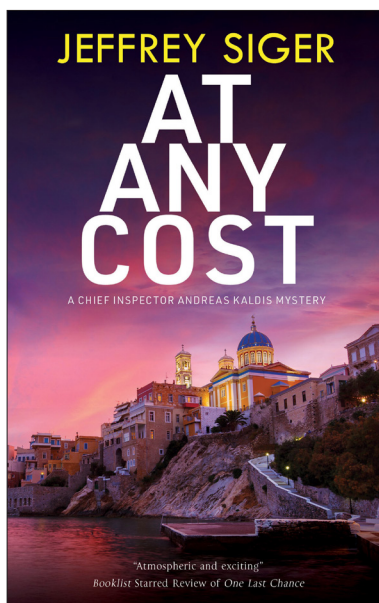
Wilberforce's innocence looks increasingly in doubt when another murder happens at the asylum – and the evidence points to Wilberforce being the culprit. Phyllida fears for Wilberforce's wellbeing, but she can't marry a murderer! With the engagement hanging in the balance, Phyllida wants to know the truth before it's too late.

Lily and her assistant, Felix Wilbraham, journey to rural France to uncover the truth, but the case takes an unexpected turn when they discover that the accused man has escaped the asylum and is nowhere to be found. Soon the intrepid investigators are in over their heads with much greater and unexpected powers at play...

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29 October 2024 (USA)

Trade Paperback Fiction 256pp

Trade Paperback (US) Rights:
Trade Paperback W/E
£13.99 | \$18.99
9781448314294



At Any Cost

*A Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis
Mystery #13*

JEFFREY SIGER

Greece is burning... and Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis is determined to save his country from disaster in the new novel in Jeffrey Siger's critically acclaimed, internationally bestselling mystery series.

Jeffrey Siger is an American living on the Aegean Greek island of Mykonos. A former Wall Street lawyer, he gave up his career as a name partner in his own New York City law firm to write the international best-selling, award recognized Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis series.

The New York Times have named him as Greece's thriller novelist of record, and the Greek government selected him as the only American author writing novels that serve as a guide to Greece.

Chief Inspector Kaldis is initially dismayed to be asked to investigate a series of suspicious forest fires that took place last summer. In Greece, forest fires are an inevitability, and he fears he and his team are being set up to take the political blame for this year's blazes.

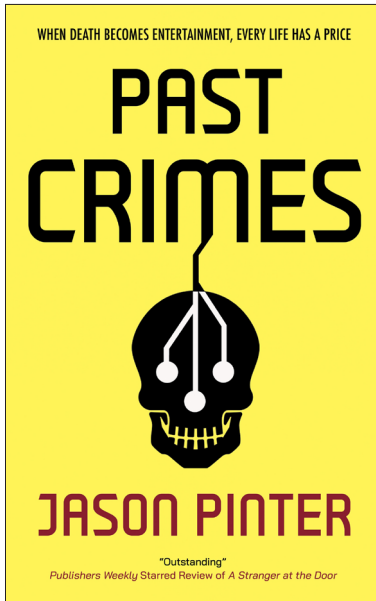
He quickly becomes suspicious, though, that the forests were torched for profit – and for a project on a far grander scale than the usual low-level business corruption. There are whispers on the wind that shadowy foreign powers intend to establish a surreptitious mega-internet presence on the island of Syros, with the intent to weaponize the digital world to their own dark ends.

Can Kaldis and his team stop the hostile foreign takeover of the idyllic island – or will the rise of the metaverse set not just Greece, but the whole world, on fire?

29 August 2024 (UK)
29 October 2024 (USA)

Trade Paperback Fiction 256pp

Trade Paperback (US) Rights:
Trade Paperback W/E
£13.99 | \$18.99
9781448314256



Jason Pinter is the internationally bestselling author of the Henry Parker and Rachel Marin series, and the standalone thriller *The Castle*. He has been nominated for the Thriller Award, Strand Critics Award, Barry Award, and Shamus Award. Jason was also the Founder and Publisher of the independent publisher Polis Books.

Past Crimes

JASON PINTER

When death becomes entertainment, every life has a price. And Cassie West is about to find out how much hers is worth... *Ready Player One* meets *Black Mirror*.

Welcome to Earth+. The year is 2037, and nearly all human interactions have migrated to the virtual world. Now, true crime fans don't just listen to podcasts or watch documentaries – they participate in hyper-realistic simulations and hunt for clues to solve the most famous and gruesome crimes in history. Criminal entertainment is a multibillion-dollar industry, and at the forefront is *Past Crimes*: known by its millions of fans as the Disneyland of Death.

Cassie West licenses crimes for V.I.C.E., spending long hours convincing grieving families to allow her to sell their tragedies to the highest bidder. Life is hard, and the cost of living high, but she and her husband Harris have never been happier. After years of trying, Cassie is finally pregnant.

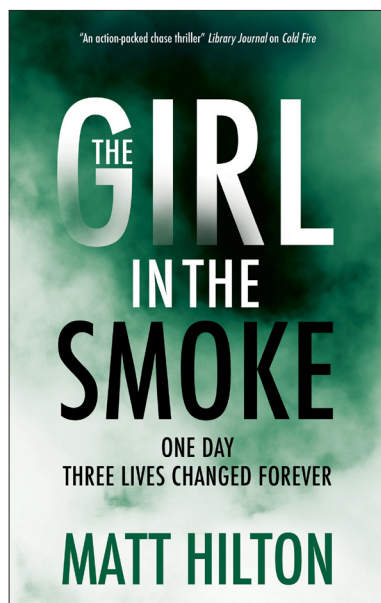
But leaving work late one evening, Cassie starts to worry. Harris isn't responding to texts or calls. Even worse, dozens of emergency drones seem to be heading in the same direction as she is: straight to their home.

What she finds there changes everything. Soon, Cassie finds herself in a fight for survival, becoming a target in both the real and virtual worlds. But it's not just her own life at stake. If Cassie can't uncover the truth of what happened to her husband, thousands more may die...

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Matt Hilton worked for twenty-three years in private security and the police force in Cumbria. He is a 4th Dan blackbelt and coach in Ju-Jitsu. He is the author of thirteen novels in the Joe Hunter series, and ten Grey & Villere thrillers.

The Girl in the Smoke

MATT HILTON

One day. Three lives changed forever...

Danni has seen more in her eight years on this planet than most people see in a lifetime. The sole survivor of a motorway pile-up which took her mother's life, she is now safe and thriving with her adoptive family. Until the day the bad people come knocking. Forcing Danni to face the memories she has done such a good job forgetting...

Josie's quiet life is dismantled with a knock at the door. When she and her daughter are violently kidnapped, Josie must act fast to survive. Danni has very little memory of the day her mother died, but these people are hell-bent on finding the money her mother stole before her death, and they think Danni knows more than she's letting on.

Grace arrives at her big sister's house to find her partner Pete beaten and tied up and her sister and niece taken. Josie has been her protector her entire life – but now she needs to be the strong one. Enlisting the help of a friend with the combat experience and skills she needs, Grace will stop at nothing to get her family back home...

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Davis Bunn's novels have sold in excess of eight million copies in twenty-six languages. He has appeared on numerous national bestseller lists, and his novels have been Main or Featured Selections with every major US bookclub. Recent titles have been named Best Book of the Year by both *Library Journal* and *Suspense Magazine*, as well as earning Top Pick and Starred Reviews from *Publishers Weekly*, *RT Reviews*, *Kirkus Reviews* and *Booklist*. Currently Davis serves as Writer-In-Residence at Regent's Park College, Oxford University. He speaks around the world on aspects of creative writing. Davis also publishes under the pseudonym of Thomas Locke.

No Man's Land

A Rowan Novel #2

DAVIS BUNN

CIA field agent Kelly Kaiser is drawn into a dangerous, top-secret mission to stop the number of people affected by the rowan tree's mysterious forces getting out of control.

Junior CIA field agent Kelly Kaiser jumps at the chance to lead a risky mission to enter Mexico and gather refugees from under the nose of the notorious drug lord who murdered her fiancé.

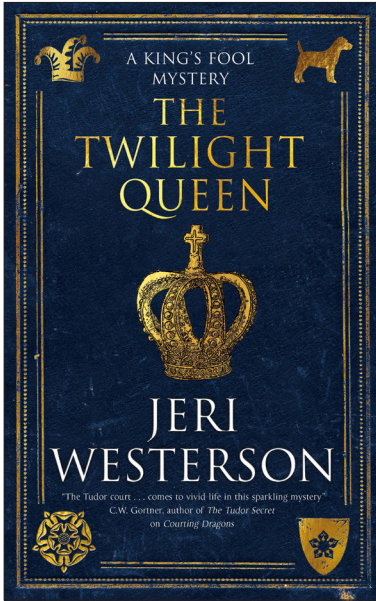
When the mission takes a revenge-fuelled twist, Kelly finds herself facing dismissal, but Agnes Pentalon, the CIA's chief 'spook' lady, has other ideas. Kelly must lead a new, top-secret team to hunt down everyone infected by a magical, mysterious rowan tree's supernatural forces, and stop the outbreaks getting out of control. Facing an enemy she cannot see or define, Kelly is pulled into a war between alien forces and humanity, and soon discovers that there is more to her fiancé's death than meets the eye...

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Jeri Westerson was born and raised in Los Angeles. She is the author of the Crispin Guest medieval noir mysteries, the King's Fool Tudor mysteries featuring Will Somers, three paranormal series and several historical novels. Her books have been nominated for the Shamus, the Macavity and the Agatha awards.

The Twilight Queen

A King's Fool Mystery #2

JERI WESTERSON

Court jester Will Somers is drawn into another gripping and entertaining mystery when malevolent forces strike again at the court of Henry VIII – and Anne Boleyn is the target.

1536, London. Anne Boleyn, Queen of England, is in peril. In the mid of night, court jester Will Somers is summoned to an urgent assignation when she discovers a body in her chamber. The queen wants Will to find out who the man is and how he ended up there. Is someone trying to frame her for his murder?

Queen Anne has many enemies at court, and to make matters worse, Henry VIII is lining up his next conquest and suspects his queen of treason. Has the formidable Thomas Cromwell been whispering vile lies in the king's ears, and could the queen be the target of a Catholic conspiracy? As further attacks plague the court, Will is determined to uncover the truth behind the plotting and devilry, but he will need to keep hold of all his wits to do so!

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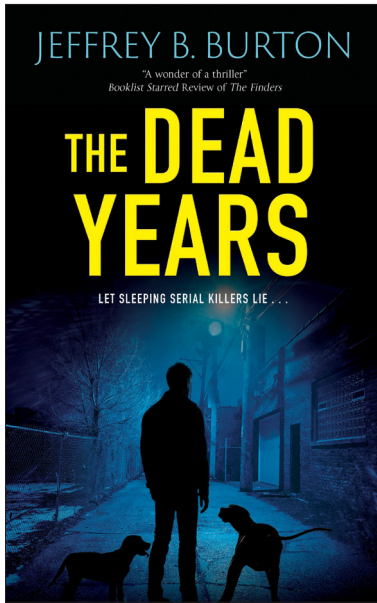
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Novels in **Jeffrey B. Burton's** critically-acclaimed Mace Reid K-9 mystery series include *The Finders*, *The Keepers*, and *The Lost*. His Agent Drew Cady thrillers include *The Chessman*, *The Lynchpin*, and *The Eulogist*. Jeff lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, with his wife, Cindy, an irate Pomeranian named Lucy, and a happy Pomeranian named Lucy, and a happy galoot of a Beagle named Milo.

The Dead Years

A Chicago K-9 Thriller #1

JEFFREY B. BURTON

A serial killer, dormant for years, reawakens after viewing a Netflix docuseries depicting his string of homicides. The killer is not happy with his portrayal and no one in the cast and crew is safe! The first instalment of a gripping new thriller series set in Chicago and featuring a young sibling sleuth-duo and their working dogs.

Siblings Cory and Crystal Pratt are still trying to get their lives together after a tragic accident which killed their parents years ago. The only thing that distracts them now is their jobs. With Crystal working as a newly minted detective at the Chicago Police Department and Cory owning a dog training academy with two human remains detection dogs of his own, their professional paths cross every now and then.

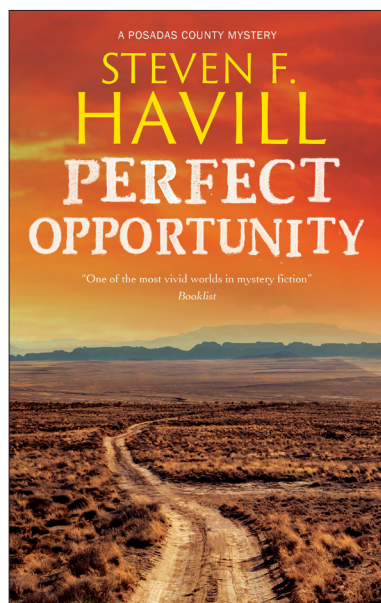
Crime, and especially murder, in Chicago is nothing new, but when a string of killings happen that seem to be connected to a Netflix docuseries and its cast and crew, Cory and Crystal are called in to stop the number of bodies from piling any higher.

But when the siblings start poking around the killer's business, the killer sets their sights on the pair... and particularly on Cory and his dogs! Will they be able to escape the fury of the serial killer or become the newest victims?

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Steven F. Havill lives with his wife of more than half a century, Kathleen, in Datil, New Mexico. He is the author of more than thirty novels, including the Dr. Thomas Parks historical mystery series, the long-running Posadas County police procedurals, and several standalones.

Perfect Opportunity

A Posadas County Mystery #26

STEVEN F. HAVILL

Octogenarian former sheriff Bill Gastner and Undersheriff Estelle Reyes-Guzman investigate a puzzling double murder in this twisty, page-turning instalment in the critically acclaimed Posadas County mystery series.

The morning after his eighty-seventh birthday bash, former Posadas County sheriff Bill Gastner drives past a couple of vehicles stopped on the highway shoulder. It's not an unusual sight: a sheriff's patrol unit, emergency lights ablaze, pulled in behind a pickup truck. The female deputy hasn't radioed for backup. But there's something about the scene that makes him feel uneasy.

The next day, Undersheriff Estelle Reyes-Guzman is called to a rather more dramatic and disturbing roadside scene, with the same truck the star of the show. But this time, its occupant is in no fit state to talk – his dead body stabbed through the chest with a Ka-Bar, a second corpse in the ditch beside the car.

What happened to the two men? And what were the dead man and the deputy discussing in the quiet of pre-dawn the previous day?

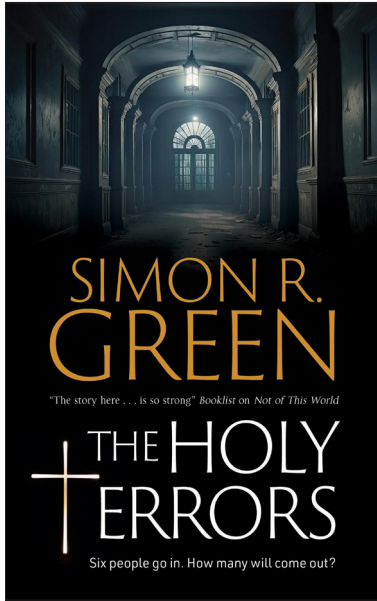
The truth is more twisty and complex than even Estelle and her long-standing friend and former colleague Bill are ready for, and it will take all their combined years of experience to untangle the sorry tale and ensure justice is served.

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Simon R. Green was born in Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, where he still lives. He is the *New York Times* bestselling author of more than seventy science fiction and fantasy novels, including the *Nightside*, *Secret Histories* and *Ghost Finders* series, the *Ishmael Jones* mysteries, the *Gideon Sable* series and his brand-new *Holy Terrors* mystery series.

The Holy Terrors

A Holy Terrors Mystery #1

SIMON R. GREEN

Six people locked in a haunted hall... Cameras watching their every move...And then someone dies...This first in a spine-tingling new paranormal mystery series from *New York Times* bestselling British fantasy author Simon R. Green will make you doubt your judgement - and believe in ghosts!

Welcome to *Spooky Time*, the hit TV ghost-hunting show where the horror is scripted... and the ratings are declining rapidly. What better way to up the stakes - and boost the viewership - than by locking a select group of Z-list celebrities up for the night in The Most Haunted Hall in England™ and live-streaming the 'terrifying' results?

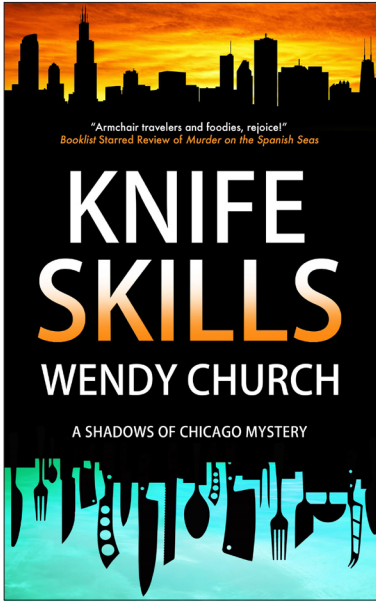
Soon Alistair, a newly appointed Bishop, actress Diana, medium Leslie, comedian Toby and celebrity chef Indira are trapped inside Stonehaven town hall, along with June, the host and producer of the show. The group tries to settle in and put on a good show, but then strange things start happening in their hall of horrors.

What is it about this place - and why is the TV crew outside not responding? Are they even on air? Logical Alistair and intuitive Diana attempt to keep the group's fears at bay and rationalize the odd events, but there are things that just can't be explained within reason... Can the pair stop a cold-blooded would-be killer - even if it's come from beyond the grave?

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Wendy Church, PhD, is the author of the Jesse O'Hara mysteries, the first of which, *Murder on the Spanish Seas*, was named by *Booklist* as a Top 10 Debut Mystery & Thriller of 2023. She lives in Seattle, Washington with her partner and several animals.

Knife Skills

A Shadows of Chicago Mystery #1

WENDY CHURCH

Down-on-her-luck chef Sagarine Pfister gets drawn into the dangerous underworld of Chicago in the first in the brand-new Shadows of Chicago mystery series.

Sagarine Pfister is a great cook but has been blacklisted by almost every restaurant in Chicago. She gets her chance at Louie's, a below-average restaurant, the only place that will give her a job.

Things change when she finds head chef Louie Ferrar dead in the walk-in freezer of his restaurant. But instead of closing the place down, the owner, Russian gang boss Anatoly Morzov, not only offers her Louie's job, but also the position as his personal chef. Sagarine agrees, and while she knows she's playing with fire, the chance to turn out extraordinary food at both the restaurant and for Morzov's extravagant private parties is just too tempting.

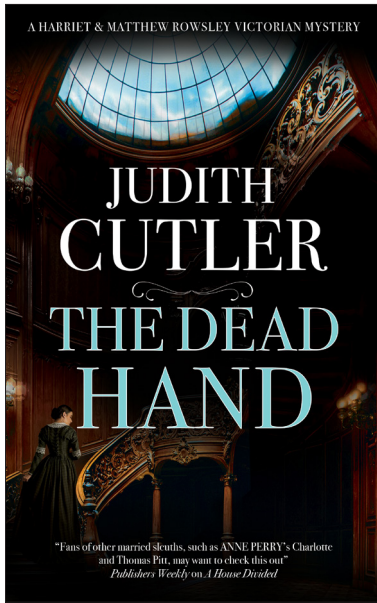
While the Chicago P.D. searches for Louie's killer, the FBI pressures Sagarine to inform on the gang. She has no choice, but things take another dangerous turn when she falls for one of Morzov's lieutenants. As Sagarine becomes more deeply involved with the gang and with her lover, the FBI's demands put her at increased risk of discovery. She has to make a decision about where her loyalties lie as she finds herself running for her life.

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Judith Cutler has been shortlisted for the CWA Dagger and the Barry Award. Her prize-winning short stories appear regularly in anthologies and leading crime fiction magazines. Known as Birmingham's Queen of Crime, she is married to fellow crime-writer Edward Marston.

The Dead Hand

*A Harriet & Matthew Rowsley
Victorian Mystery #5*

JUDITH CUTLER

While hosting a group of academics at Thorncroft House, Harriet and Matthew Rowsley find themselves confronted with bigger – and bloodier! – issues than unruly guests...

June 1861, Victorian England. A house full of academics should imply calm and quiet, but much to housekeeper Harriet Rowsley's dismay some of the guests seem to have problems with the estate's unconventional practices and aren't afraid of voicing their concerns. Having Harriet and her husband and interim estate manager Matthew as the hosts of Thorncroft House, while his lordship is ill and the trustees are seeking for his heir, is obviously not to everyone's taste!

But Harriet won't let their patronising opinions get in the way of running the household as it was entrusted to her. She and her husband seem to have things under control until a series of unusual accidents occur around them. To make matters worse and more pressing, one of these accidents proves fatal...

With a house now full of suspects, Harriet and Matthew have to find out who is causing chaos and why. While everyone is focused on drawing out the culprit and searching for a motive, Harriet has her own theory as to why these incidents happen and decides to follow her hunch – after all, every aspect should be considered, just in case!

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