

# CATALOGUE

OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2024

SEVERN HOUSE

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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 Mary Winters (*Murder in Season*), Hilary Norman (*Prey*), and Adam Oyebanji (*Two Times Murder*).

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.

# Cor

## *New Releases*

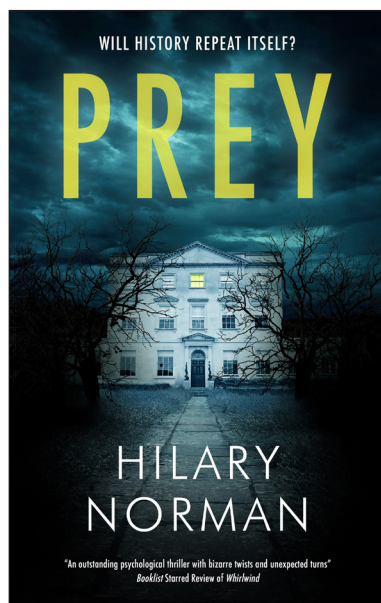
<i>Prey</i>	Hilary Norman	1
<i>Brew Unto Others</i>	Sandra Balzo	2
<i>Spoiler's Prey</i>	Robin Blake	3
<i>Santo Domingo Stakeout</i>	John Keyse-Walker	4
<i>Prophet of Blood</i>	Peter Tremayne	5
<i>The Troubling Death of Maddy Benson</i>	Terry Shames	6
<i>The Mermaid Mystery</i>	Tamar Myers	7
<i>Two Times Murder</i>	Adam Oyebanji	8
<i>Murder at the Hacienda</i>	Amanda Allen	9
<i>Mr Campion's Christmas</i>	Mike Ripley	10
<i>Antiques Slay Belles</i>	Barbara Allan	11
<i>Death and the Old Master</i>	G.M. Malliet	12
<i>The Loose End</i>	A.J. Cross	13
<i>The Conspiracies of the Empire</i>	Qiu Xiaolong	14
<i>The Coldest Case</i>	Tessa Wegert	15
<i>Murder's Snare</i>	Paul Doherty	16
<i>Past Redemption</i>	David Mark	17
<i>The Chrysanthemum Tiger</i>	Alys Clare	18
<i>Scotzilla</i>	Catriona McPherson	19
<i>Murder in Season</i>	Mary Winters	20
<i>Cold Bones</i>	Jane A. Adams	21
<i>Good Lieutenant</i>	E.J. Copperman	22
<i>A Snake in the Barley</i>	Candace Robb	23

# Contents

## *Now in Paperback*

<i>Murder of a Hermit</i>	Carol Miller	25
<i>The Night of the Wolf</i>	Cassandra Clark	26
<i>The Murderer Inside the Mirror</i>	Sarah Rayne	27
<i>Murder Most Owl</i>	Sarah Fox	28
<i>Molten Death</i>	Leslie Karst	29
<i>Bad Boy Beat</i>	Clea Simon	30
<i>To Seize a Queen</i>	Fiona Buckley	31
<i>An Intrigue of Witches</i>	Esme Addison	32
<i>Perilous Waters</i>	Terry Shames	33
<i>Murder at Tanton Towers</i>	Amy Myers	34
<i>Landscape of Murder</i>	Michael Jecks	35
<i>Stolen Pieces</i>	S.K. Golden	36
<i>The Hunting Dark</i>	Lynn Hightower	37
<i>Dodge and Burn</i>	Ellen Crosby	38
<i>Village Politics Can Be Murder</i>	Jeanne M. Dams	39
<i>The Burning Time</i>	David Mark	40
<i>Deep Beneath Us</i>	Catriona McPherson	41
<i>Hanging with Hugo</i>	Katherine Bolger Hyde	42





**Hilary Norman's** first novel, *In Love and Friendship*, was a *New York Times* best-seller, and her work has been published in many languages. She has travelled extensively throughout Europe and lived for a time in the US. She now lives in London. *Prey* is her twenty-sixth novel.

# Prey

HILARY NORMAN

Moving from a London deep in the terror of the Blitz to the seemingly safer London of 2019, two women have to fight for their lives to survive a ruthless killer in this dual timeline psychological thriller that will make your hair stand on end!

*London, 1941.* Amongst the air-raid sirens and horrors of bombings, artist Harriet Yorke manages Calla House: a small community of people from different backgrounds – but good friends who pull together in times of crisis.

Like most Londoners contending with the Blitz, Harriet has grown used to withstanding danger, but when she goes on a late-evening stroll with her Cairn Terrier, George, and finds herself face to face with a killer, she unleashes a series of events that will put more than just her own life on the line...

*London, 2019.* Libby lives amongst her grandmother's paintings in Calla House – works of art into which Harriet poured all the horror of her wartime experiences, culminating in that one terrifying night.

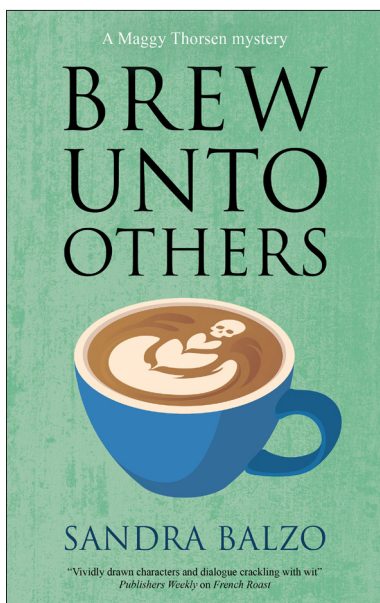
Libby's Calla House is a comfortable safe haven for her and its other residents – until, that is, a crumbling chimney pot sparks an alert. Libby calls in builders, but as her troubles magnify, she begins to wonder if the ghosts of Harriet's past aren't going to bring more than the house down around her ears...

**1 October 2024**

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**Sandra Balzo** built an impressive career as a public relations consultant before authoring the successful Maggy Thorsen coffeehouse mysteries, the first of which, *Uncommon Grounds*, was published to stellar reviews and nominated for an Anthony and Macavity Award. She is also the author of the *Main Street Murders* mystery series published by Severn House.

## Brew Unto Others

*A Maggy Thorsen Mystery #17*

SANDRA BALZO

When the sister of Maggy Thorsen's coffeehouse business partner Sarah is hospitalised on the day of their mother's funeral, Maggy is drawn into uncovering the family's darkest secrets...

The Kingston family has always been at odds, but Maggy Thorsen hopes that the passing of Edna Mayes Kingston, mother of Sarah Kingston, her *Uncommon Grounds* coffeehouse partner, might unite them. Alas, few tears are shed over the self-righteous Edna, and the wake is barely over when Edna's body is shuffled off unceremoniously for burial and Sarah's sister Ruth is found unconscious in the family home.

Did Ruth suffer accidental carbon monoxide poisoning or something more sinister? And could there have been more to Ruth's haste to bury Edna than meets the eye? Determined to find out, Maggy and Sarah join forces with Sarah's niece, Ariel. As questions mount and family tensions percolate, the presence of a mysterious stranger leads the trio into the past to uncover the darkest of family secrets.

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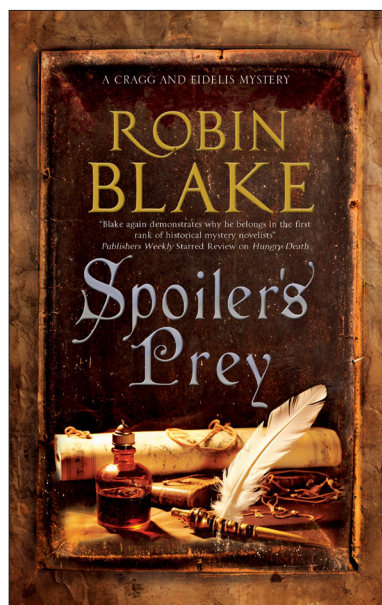
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**Robin Blake** is the author of eight previous Cragg & Fidelis mysteries, as well as acclaimed works on the artists Van Dyke and Stubbs. He has written, produced and presented extensively for radio, and is widely published as a critic. He lives in London.

## Spoiler's Prey

*A Cragg and Fidelis Mystery #9*

ROBIN BLAKE

"Blake again demonstrates why he belongs in the first rank of historical mystery novelists" – *Publishers Weekly Starred Review of Hungry Death*

Summer, 1748. County Coroner Titus Cragg is called to the usually sedate hamlet of Ingolside which is now in turmoil due to the King's plans for Enclosure. After tensions explode one evening, and a riot sweeps through the town, a body is found on the steps of the village square... the body of one John Lavenham, a commissioner from London brought in to implement the unpopular changes to the village.

Titus' responsibility is simple – carry out an inquest to determine if this was a mere accident or if, as he suspects, a murder has been committed. However, with a less-than-helpful local population, and a near-non-existent law enforcement, Titus must rely on a few loyal associates, including physician and friend of many years Dr Luke Fidelis, as well as his own experience to carry out this unpleasant task with as much decorum and officiality as he can.

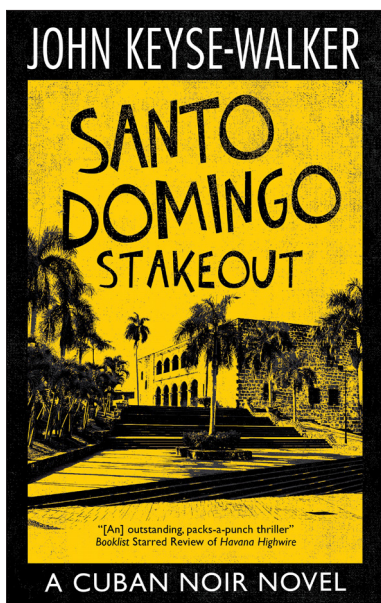
With gossip and suspicion rife, and the threat of further violence looming, Titus is stretched to the brink to bring order back to this troubled hamlet.

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## Santo Domingo Stakeout

*A Cuban Noir Novel #2*

JOHN KEYSE-WALKER

It's 1965, and cynical former private investigator Henry Gore just wants to drink his days away in corrupt, sun-soaked Santo Domingo – but life has other ideas in this novel of pitch-black noir, the sequel to the savage, gut-punch of a crime thriller, *Havana Highwire*.

**John Keyse-Walker** practiced law for thirty years, representing business and individual clients, educational institutions and government entities.

He is an avid salt- and freshwater angler, a tennis player, kayaker and an accomplished cook. He lives in Hawai'i with his wife. As well as the Cuban Noir novels, John is the author of the award-winning Teddy Creque traditional mystery series and historical cozy mystery *Bert and Mamie Take a Cruise*.

Thirty-five-year-old American expat Henry Gore used to be a private investigator, scratching a living in balmy, rum-soaked Havana. He might not have been someone, but he was something.

Now, exiled from Cuba and with a target on his back, he's nothing but a washed-up drifter, spending his days drinking with *gringos* he despises and his nights with women he doesn't love.

But one day he chooses the wrong bar to drink in – or maybe the wrong friends. Henry wakes up in hospital to find that someone blew up the building, and he's seemingly the sole survivor.

Who set the bomb, and why? Henry's certain that whatever the answer, he's better off not knowing. But with the police on his tail, Henry – aided by a beautiful dame from the US embassy he's not sure he can trust – reluctantly investigates, soon finding himself up to his neck in corruption, revolution... and deadly conspiracy.

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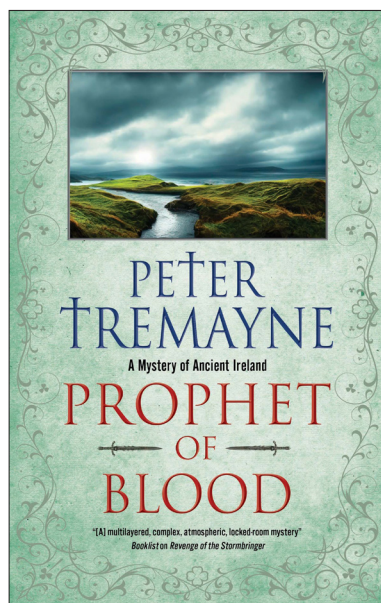
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**Peter Tremayne** is the fiction pseudonym of Peter Berresford Ellis, a well-known authority on the ancient Celts, who has utilised his knowledge of the Brehon law system and seventh-century Irish society to create a unique concept in detective fiction.

## Prophet of Blood

*A Sister Fidelma Mystery #35*

PETER TREMAYNE

Sister Fidelma returns in the thirty-fifth Celtic mystery by Peter Tremayne, acclaimed author of *Death of a Heretic*, *The House of Death*, and *The Shapeshifter's Lair*.

*Autumn, AD 672.* While out walking, Abbot Brocc was shocked to encounter the sinister apparition of a young woman, cloaked entirely in grey, who foretold his impending death. Dismissing the soothsayer's words, Brocc nevertheless felt concerned enough to ask for Sister Fidelma's advice on the matter.

But by the time Fidelma and her companions arrive at the remote abbey of Dair Inis, Brocc has been found dead in the abbey's sweat house – as the mysterious propheticess had predicted.

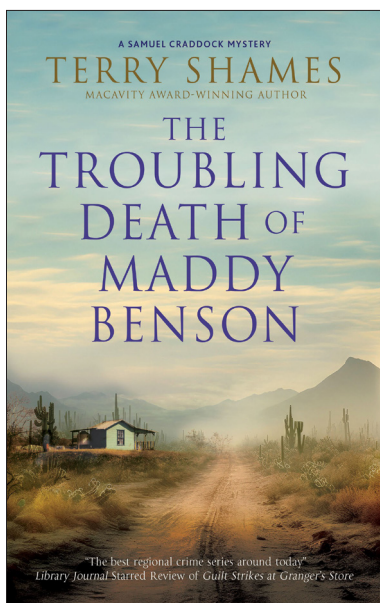
Plunged into a world of uncertainty, where believers of the Old and New Faiths are violently opposed, Fidelma, Eadulf and Dego embark on a journey fraught with danger, in a puzzling and perilous quest for the truth behind Brocc's murder...

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# The Troubling Death of Maddy Benson

*A Samuel Craddock Mystery #11*

TERRY SHAMES

## Was Maddy Benson asking for trouble?

Everyone knows everyone in a small town like Jarrett Creek. So Chief of Police Samuel Craddock is perplexed when he receives a call from a woman asking the police to rescue her sister. Who is Maddy Benson?

Maddy said she had to get away, but she didn't get far. When Craddock finds her just off the highway, she's already dead, shot in the head. And as he learns more about the mysterious Maddy and the real reason behind her recent move to Jarrett Creek, his career is plunged into jeopardy. Can he unravel a terrible knot of lies, threats, dangerous politics and shocking secrets to reveal the truth behind the troubling death of Maddy Benson?

Award-winning author **Terry Shames** is the author of ten previous Samuel Craddock mysteries. As well as winning the Macavity Award for Best First Novel, *A Killing at Cotton Hill* was also shortlisted for The Strand Critics Award. *The Necessary Murder of Nonie Blake* won the RT Critics Award for Best Mystery. Her books have also been shortlisted for Left Coast Crime Awards for Best Mystery.

Terry grew up in Texas, and her Samuel Craddock series is set in the fictitious town of Jarrett Creek, which is based on the fascinating people, landscape and culture of the small town where her grandparents lived. She is a member of Sisters in Crime and on the board of Mystery Writers of America.

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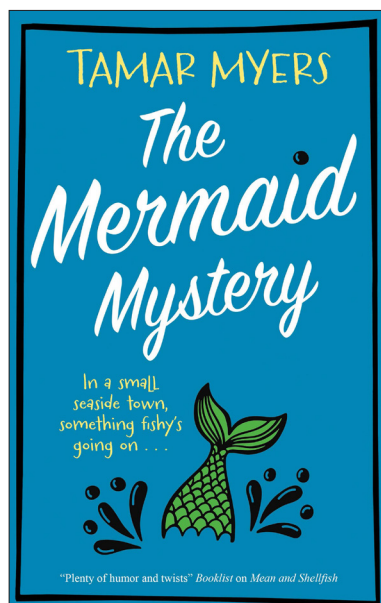
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**Tamar Myers** was born in what was then the Belgian Congo in 1948, where her parents were American-Mennonite missionaries to a tribe of headhunters. She moved to the USA at the age of fifteen. On her mother's side, Tamar is descended from one of the first Amish families to settle in America in 1738. She is the author of more than forty mysteries and many short stories.

## The Mermaid Mystery

TAMAR MYERS

---

**In a small seaside town, something fishy's going on...**

Tidal Shores, a small seaside town in South Carolina, has seen its fortunes nose-dive. But not for much longer! The 'Big Ten' on the town council have come up with a range of ingenious ideas to get tourists flocking back, from buried pirate treasure to beauty pageants, but it's handsome taxidermist Gunner Jones' plan to dupe the public into believing that his creation 'Miss Lucy' – combining the top half of an albino ape with a large goliath tigerfish – is a real mermaid that wins the day.

As Gunner's bizarre creature takes center stage, inquisitive reporter Zoe Porter isn't fooled by its supposed credibility, but with mermaid mania sweeping the country, will anyone believe her exposé? And when events take a sinister turn, Zoe is suddenly drawn into a much darker story...

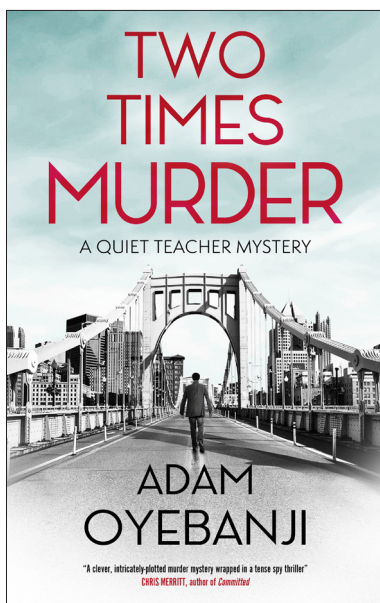
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## Two Times Murder

*A Quiet Teacher Mystery #2*

ADAM OYEBANJI

Meet Black British expat Greg Abimbola – a seemingly mild-mannered Russian language teacher with terrifying secrets – in this stunning mystery set in Pittsburgh, the City of Bridges: Agatha Christie meets John le Carré.

**Adam OyeBanji** was born in Coatbridge, North Lanarkshire. A graduate of Birmingham University and Harvard Law School, Adam works in the field of counter-terrorist financing, helping banks choke off the money supply to rogue states, narcotics empires, and human trafficking networks. He currently lives in Edinburgh.

He is the author of the SFF novel *Braking Day*, as well as the acclaimed mystery/spy novel *A Quiet Teacher*, featuring Black British expat Greg Abimbola, a seemingly mild-mannered Russian-language teacher with terrifying secrets. *Two Times Murder* is the second novel in the Quiet Teacher series.

Greg Abimbola is many things. He's Black, British and fluent in Russian. He's a snappy dresser, a reasonable teacher, and an unenthusiastic sports fan. But most of all, he's exceptional at keeping secrets. Like, who he really is, and the things he's done.

Determined to keep his head down after helping solve a murder in the school basement, Greg fears a trap when Sergeant Rachel Lev of the Pittsburgh police corners him in his apartment. Because his refusal to take credit isn't modesty, it's a survival tactic.

But Rachel is here on another matter entirely. She needs his help. She's lead detective on the homicide of an unidentified man fished from the Allegheny River. With clues scant, and surrounded by colleagues who'd love to see her side-lined, Greg is her final roll of the dice.

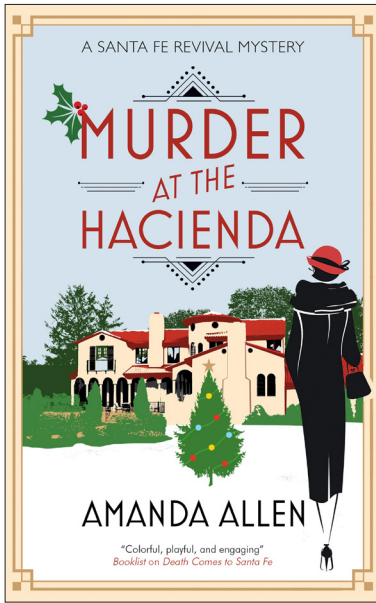
Greg has no choice. He knows more than he's saying about Rachel's mysterious corpse. To add to his troubles, a school trustee plunges to his demise after a heated board meeting. Both deaths come with potentially lethal consequences. If he doesn't find answers, and soon, Greg Abimbola might be the third man on the autopsy table.

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**Amanda Allen** wrote her first book at the age of sixteen – a vast historical epic starring all her friends as the characters, written secretly during algebra class. She's never since used algebra, but her books have been nominated for many awards, including the RITA Award, the Romantic Times Reviews Reviewers' Choice Award, the GDRW Bookseller's Best Award, the National Readers Choice Award and the Holt Medallion. She lives in Santa Fe with two rescue dogs, a wonderful husband and far too many books and royal memorabilia collections.

# Murder at the Hacienda

*A Santa Fe Revival Mystery #4*

AMANDA ALLEN

**Former New York darling turned amateur sleuth Madeline Vaughn-Alwin finds herself trapped in the beautiful hacienda of the Luhan family with a killer at Christmas!**

Newly engaged Maddie is hoping for a quiet Christmas filled with fun and festivity with her gorgeous husband-to-be Dr David Cole, but the moment she bumps into old friend Katrina Wilton, Maddie's Christmas plans are thoroughly destroyed. Katrina is now married to the dashing, yet troubled veteran Alfonso Luhan, son of the infamous local landowner, Don Victor Luhan, and is celebrating Christmas at the family hacienda, Los Pinos – Katrina insists that Maddie and David simply must join them.

However, Maddie and David quickly find that things in the Luhan family are far from merry... Don Victor casts a cruel and overbearing hand over his ailing wife Isabella and their four children – all with their own secrets and eccentricities. So when Maddie stumbles across Don Victor's brutally murdered body early one morning, snow turned crimson around the ghastly scene, she cannot believe she has once again been thrown into a murder mystery!

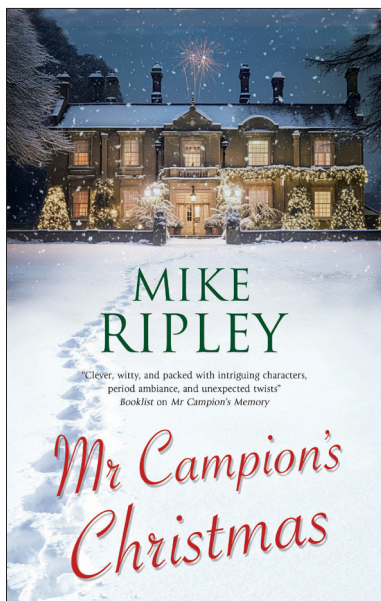
As a snowstorm rages, and everyone is trapped inside the idyllic manor house, Maddie must act fast to solve a very tricky family affair and bring the murderer to justice before Christmas.

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**Mike Ripley** is the author of more than thirty books, has written for radio and television and has reviewed almost 3,000 crime novels over the last three decades. His 'reader's history' of the heyday of British action and spy thrillers 1953-75, *Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang*, won the H.R.F. Keating Award for non-fiction in 2017.

## Mr Campion's Christmas

*An Albert Campion Mystery #12*

MIKE RIPLEY

---

The Campions are snowed in at Christmas, but just when they think it can't get any colder, their holidays take an even chillier turn.

1962, Norfolk. Boxing Day looks set to be a quiet affair for the Campions when they are snowed in at their remote farmhouse, Carterers – until a charabanc full of 'pilgrims' travelling from London to the Shrine of Our Lady in nearby Walsingham crashes into their imposing granite gateposts and the family unexpectedly find themselves playing host to the eccentric passengers.

But any lingering festive cheer is in short supply when a shocking discovery is made the following day, while a terrifying twist reveals that some of the guests are not who they seem. Which – if any – can they trust? Suddenly hostage to events, the Campions are drawn into a fiendish web of espionage as the Cold War comes chillingly close to home.

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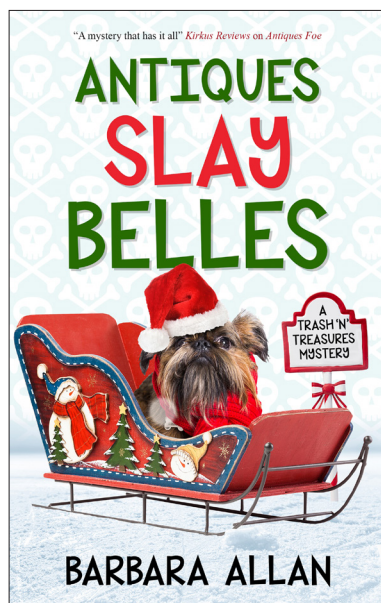
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## Antiques Slay Belles

*A Trash 'n' Treasures Mystery #18*

BARBARA ALLAN

Former sheriff, talented thespian and delightfully eccentric true-crime author Vivian Borne hunts down a Christmas killer in the 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.

It's five days before Christmas, and Vivian Borne – septuagenarian antiques dealer, true-crime writer and enthusiastic amateur sleuth – and her long-suffering daughter Brandy are preparing a presentation of holiday antiques at the local country club's annual Christmas luncheon.

Distracted by their secret Santa gifts, the ladies of the club, to Vivian's dismay, are *not* giving her and her antique sleigh bells the attention they deserve. But when Norma Crumley, socialite and world-class gossip, falls face first into her plum pudding, it seems Santa has also delivered the sleuthing mother and daughter a present: a cracker of a case!

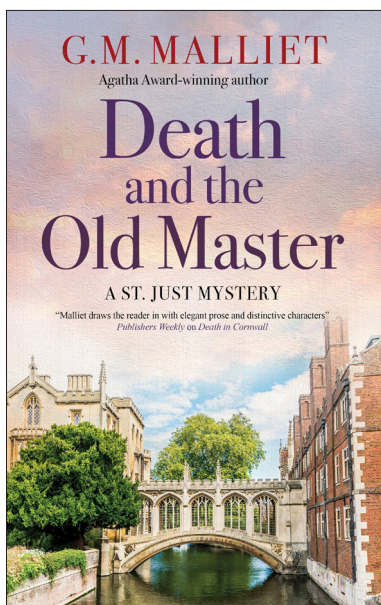
Christmas in small-town Serenity is (usually) a magical time. Can Vivian and Brandy – not forgetting Shih Tzu sidekick Sushi – make a killing from their holiday antiques, catch a devious murderer, and wrap up the case in time to eat their festive microwave turkey dinners?

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Agatha Award-winning **G.M. Malliet** is the acclaimed author of three traditional mystery series and a standalone novel set in England. The first entry in the DCI St. Just series, *Death of a Cozy Writer*, won the Agatha Award for Best First Novel and was nominated for Macavity and Anthony Awards. The Rev. Max Tudor series has been nominated for many awards as have several of her short stories appearing in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* and *The Strand*. She was a graduate student at the universities of Cambridge and Oxford and now lives in the US with her husband.

## Death and the Old Master

*St. Just Mystery #6*

G.M. MALLIET

Cambridge University master Sir Flyte Rascallian has little interest in the innocent-looking set of old paintings he inherits from his aunt Beatrice, until he takes a closer look... and ends up dead in this page-turning cozy.

Something is bothering Sir Flyte Rascallian, renowned art expert and Master of Hardwick College at the University of Cambridge. Are the grimy paintings he recently inherited from his aunt as worthless as he claims?

Curator Ambrose Nussknacker believes one of the paintings could be a genuine Rembrandt. Why is Sir Flyte so reluctant to get it authenticated, and so determined to avoid the tributes due to the discovery of one of the world's great lost treasures?

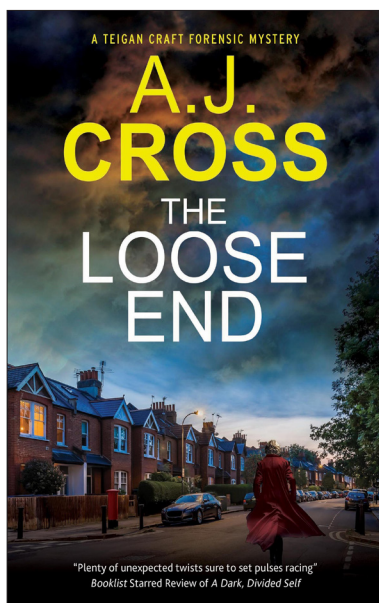
When Sir Flyte is found murdered in the Master's Lodge, Detective Chief Inspector Arthur St. Just must unravel his unusual actions to solve the death of the old master. College fellows, staff, and students all agree something was amiss. But as St. Just investigates, he quickly becomes entangled in a web of deception following the trail of priceless artwork people would kill to possess.

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**A.J. Cross** is both a court-appointed expert witness and a forensic psychologist with a Masters degree and PhD from the University of Birmingham and over twenty years' experience in the field. She lives in Birmingham with her jazz-musician husband and is the author of five Kate Hanson Cold Case mysteries and four Will Traynor mysteries. *The Loose End* is the first title in the Teigan Craft forensic mystery series.

## The Loose End

*A Teigan Craft Forensic Mystery #1*

A. J. CROSS

**Introducing Professor Teigan Craft, a neurodiverse forensic psychologist getting into the minds of Birmingham's most twisted killers.**

No one has seen reclusive Emma Matheson for years. But when her mummified remains are found in the cellar of a property in Birmingham during a renovation, the chilling discovery raises more questions than answers.

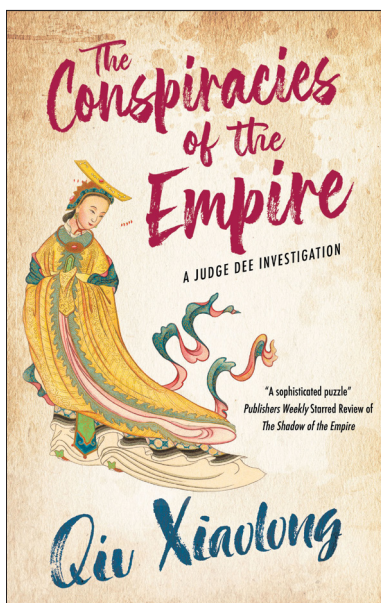
Forensic psychologist Professor Teigan 'Tig' Craft from Central University is called in to assist DCI Steve Thompson's team with the investigation, and her shrewd observations on her first police case quickly profile a ruthlessly efficient killer. So ruthless they have struck more than once? As Teigan uncovers a number of cold murder cases involving young women linked by geography and time to Emma's terrible fate, Thompson is unconvinced by her theories and unconventional style. Can they learn to work together to catch a serial killer before another tragedy strikes?

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Anthony Award-winning author **Qiu Xiaolong** was born in Shanghai and moved to Washington University in St Louis, US, to complete a PhD degree in comparative literature. After the Tiananmen tragedy in 1989 he stayed on in St Louis where he still lives with his wife. Qiu's sold over two million copies of his Inspector Chen mysteries worldwide and been published in twenty languages. He is also a prize-winning poet.

## The Conspiracies of the Empire

*A Judge Dee Investigation #2*

QIU XIAOLONG

---

The legendary Judge Dee Renjie returns, in this lyrical combination of mystery, history and ancient Chinese politics from the author of the renowned Inspector Chen mysteries.

In Tang dynasty China, Empress Wu – seductive, ambitious and vindictive – rules with an iron fist. Her premier minister, Judge Dee Renjie, is honored to be trusted by her. But when she orders him to carry out an urgent investigation into the disappearance of disgraced poet Luo Binwang, he can't see why the matter is of such vital importance.

Luo Binwang joined a doomed uprising against Her Majesty, and vanished after the final, bloody battle. Is he missing – or dead? Either way, now that the rebellion has been mercilessly quashed, what harm could a poor, elderly poet do?

Traveling out of the great capital of Chang'an, accompanied by his loyal manservant Yang, Judge Dee launches a painstaking investigation, in the hopes of achieving what the empress' secret police could not. But the journey is marred by ill omens, and with death and disaster following his every step, Judge Dee soon begins to wonder if the empress trusts him as much as he thought...

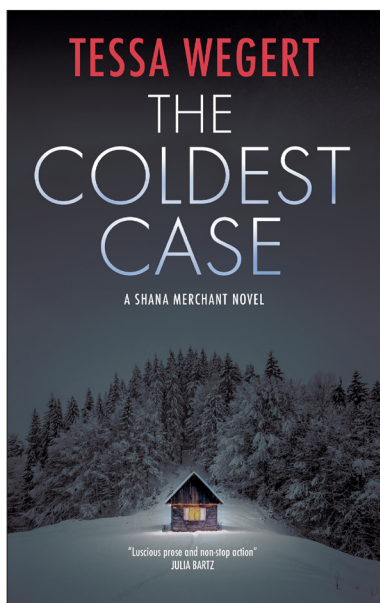
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**5 November 2024**

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**Tessa Wegert** is the author of the Shana Merchant series of mysteries. A former freelance journalist, Tessa has contributed to such publications as *Forbes*, *The Huffington Post*, *Adweek*, *The Economist* and *The Globe and Mail*. Tessa grew up in Québec and now lives with her husband and children in Connecticut, where she studies martial arts.

## The Coldest Case

*A Shana Merchant Novel #6*

TESSA WEGERT

News of a missing Instagram celebrity brings Senior Investigator Shana Merchant to a frozen island community of just eight people. When the visit turns deadly, her hunt for a killer collides with a cold case she'll never forget...

It's February in the Thousand Islands and, cut off from civilization by endless ice, eight people are overwintering on tiny, remote Running Pine. Six year-rounders, used to the hard work, isolation and freezing temperatures... and two newcomers: social media stars Cary and Sylvie, whose account documenting their year on the island is garnering thousands of followers, and thousands of dollars' worth of luxury gifts.

The long-term islanders will tell you Running Pine can be perilous – especially for city slickers who'll do anything to get the perfect shot. So when Cary doesn't return from ice fishing one morning, his neighbors fear the worst.

With the clock ticking, a police team is dispatched to take the dangerous journey to the island... but Sylvie, will only talk to one person: Senior Investigator Shana Merchant.

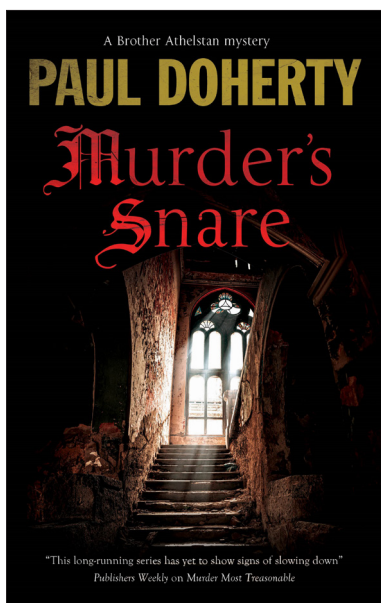
Where is Cary – and what is it that Sylvie's not sharing? With aspects of the case reminding Shana of an unsolved homicide from her past, she risks her own safety to help. But little does she know that a storm is coming – and if she doesn't solve both crimes soon, she may become the island's next victim...

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**Paul Doherty** studied History at Liverpool and Oxford Universities and is now a head teacher in Essex. He is the author of more than one hundred historical mysteries including the Brother Athelstan, Hugh Corbett and Canterbury Tales medieval mystery series.

## Murder's Snare

*A Brother Athelstan Mystery #23*

PAUL DOHERTY

**Friar-sleuth Brother Athelstan is caught in a politically charged race against time! He must uncover the truth behind numerous gruesome murders in this tense historical mystery set in medieval London.**

*Normandy, 1358:* The Free Company of the 'Via Crucis – the Way of the Cross' sweeps into the peaceful village of Avranches, like the riders from the Apocalypse, leaving nothing but death and hellish destruction in their wake.

*London, 1382:* Brother Athelstan is summoned to unpick the ugly truth behind a number of killings afflicting the great city. Some carried out like clean, efficient assassinations, all bearing the message 'Justitia Fiat – let there be justice', others inflicting torture and humiliation upon the bodies. But the victims all have one thing in common – they were all once members of Via Crucis.

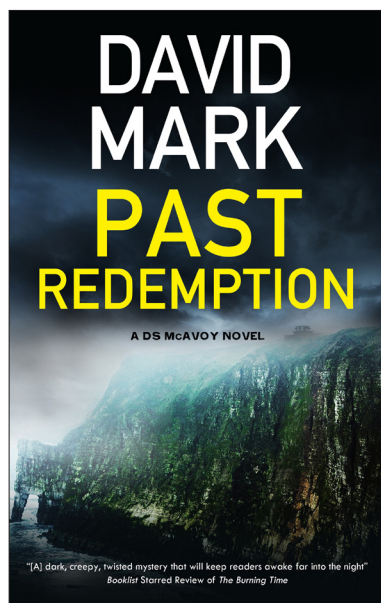
With every new gruesome discovery, Brother Athelstan, with the help of Coroner Cranston, uncovers more clues which make up a most complicated riddle – but can he put together the last piece before the fate of the whole country is decided?

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**David Mark** spent seven years as crime reporter for the *Yorkshire Post* and now writes full-time. A former *Richard & Judy* pick, and a *Sunday Times* bestseller, he is the author of the DS Aector McAvoy series, a number of standalone thrillers and the Sal Delaney police procedurals. He lives in Northumberland with his family.

## Past Redemption

*A DS McAvoy Novel #13*

DAVID MARK

---

**DI McAvoy must prevent a dangerous convict from being released on parole in the latest instalment of this acclaimed gritty police procedural series.**

Declan Parfitt, one of Northumberland's most dangerous criminals, is about to be released after fourteen years in prison. It's up to DCS Trish Pharaoh and DI Aector McAvoy to prevent this from happening.

Parfitt's foster daughter Ruby doesn't believe her father is guilty of some of the worst crimes imaginable and is appealing to the parole board for him. McAvoy has to try and convince Ruby to see the real predator in Parfitt.

Meanwhile, Trish has her own investigation which could lead to more answers: tracking down a mysterious, extremely violent vigilante.

But will the duo and their team be able to stop Parfitt's release and what does a body in the middle of a deserted road have to do with their investigation? Are there even darker forces at play that will make McAvoy question his own sanity?

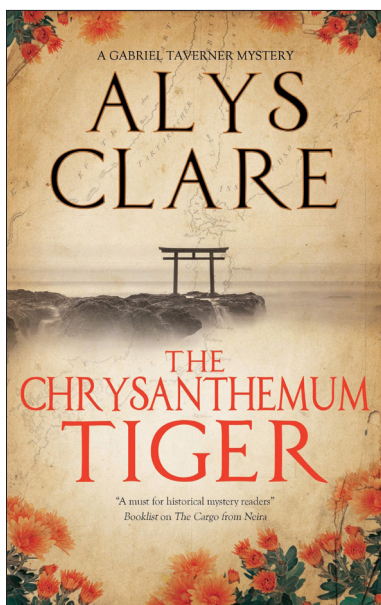
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**Alys Clare** lives in the English countryside where her novels are set. She went to school in Tonbridge and later studied English and psychology at the University of Keele and archaeology at the University of Kent. She is the author of the Aelf Fen,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

# The Chrysanthemum Tiger

*A Gabriel Taverner Mystery #6*

ALYS CLARE

**Physician-sleuth Dr Gabriel Taverner has to face his greatest challenge yet – a serious danger from the East threatens not just his life, but everyone he loves!**

March, 1605. Country doctor and former ship's surgeon Gabriel Taverner has embarked on his next adventure. Since discovering that the debilitating injury he sustained years ago has lost its power to induce chronic seasickness, he has been impatient to leave Devon once more, and now it is in the service of Walter Haverleigh, a wealthy and successful merchant, who has engaged Gabriel to tend the crew of the *Luipaard* on her voyage to the Eastern seas.

As the months and years of Gabriel's absence continue, his family and friends are struggling with the replacement physician he engaged before his hasty departure. Doctor Maudsley Cheverell has turned out to be incompetent, arrogant and self-serving. When one morning his dead body is found in a ditch, it seems that nobody will mourn him or regret his untimely death.

However, when the body is examined, it is apparent that Cheverell was tortured by the application of a specific method from the East... Is there a connection to Gabriel and his time in Asia? And where is Gabriel? Why has the quiet peace of England's Tavy Valley been disrupted by a sinister plot and, most crucially, will everyone come out of it alive?

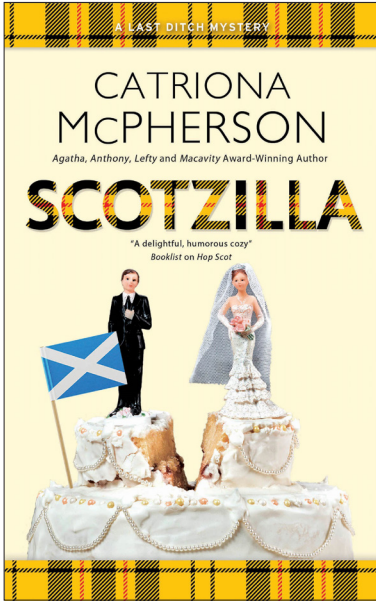
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Born and raised in West Lothian, **Catriona McPherson** left Edinburgh University with a PhD in Linguistics and worked in academia, as well as banking and public libraries, before taking up full-time writing in 2001. For the last ten years she has lived in Northern California with frequent visits home. Among numerous prizes, she has won two of Left Coast Crime's coveted Humorous Lefty Awards for the Last Ditch comedies.

## Scotzilla

*A Last Ditch Mystery #7*

CATRIONA MCPHERSON

**Lexy's wedding becomes a crime scene when a murderer dares to strike on her big day in this superbly plotted and wickedly funny cozy.**

Lexy Campbell is getting married! But in the six months of planning it took to arrive at the big day, she has become... a challenge. Friendships are strained to breaking point, Lexy's parents are tiptoeing around her, and even Taylor, her intended, must be having second thoughts. Turns out it's moot. Before the happy couple can exchange vows, Sister Sunshine, the wedding celebrant, is discovered dead behind the cake, strangled with the fairy lights.

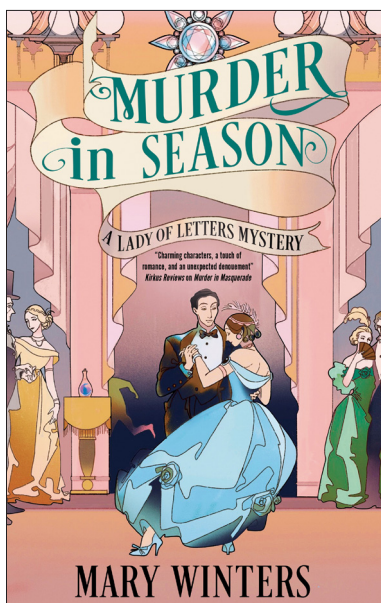
Lexy's dream wedding is now not just a nightmare: it's a crime scene. She vows not to get drawn into the case, but the rest of the Last Ditch crew are investigating a bizarre series of goings-on in Cuento's cemetery, and every clue about the graveyard pranks seems to link them back to Lexy's wedding day. Will the Ditchers solve the case? Will Sister Sunshine's killer be found? Will Lexy ever get her happy ever after? Not even Bridezilla deserves this...

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**Mary Winters** is the Edgar Award nominee author of the *Lady of Letters* historical mystery series and several short stories. A long-time reader of historical fiction, Mary set her latest work in Victorian England after being inspired by a trip to London. Since then, she's been busily planning her next mystery – and another trip! Find out more about Mary and her writing, reading, and teaching at [marywintersauthor.com](http://marywintersauthor.com).

## Murder in Season

*A Lady of Letters Mystery #3*

MARY WINTERS

Join Countess turned advice columnist Amelia Amesbury as she tries to juggle a new Season and a new murder in this charmingly deadly historical mystery.

Countess by day, secret advice columnist by night, Amelia Amesbury has life balanced on a quill's edge... until her sister Margaret shows up in London under a blanket of scandal and Amelia is catapulted out of mourning and into the ton's unforgiving Season.

However Madge's Season debut is marred by a rather inconvenient death at the dining table as the infamous Mr Radcliffe takes ill and is later confirmed dead by poisoning. With Madge being the last person to have cross words with the soon-to-be baron, the ton's gossip mill – and the police – are looking to pin the murder on her.

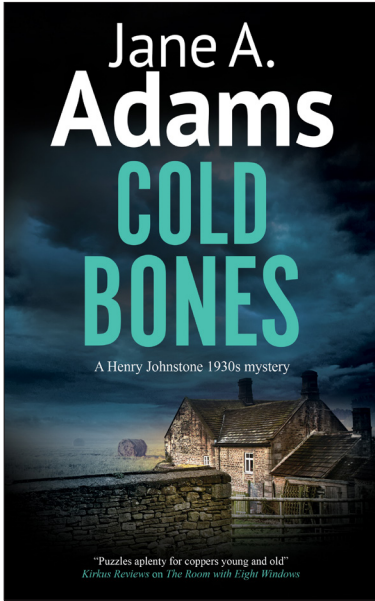
Adding to the ton's troubles is a jewellery thief targeting the most lavish of Society's houses. Is the murderer and the thief one in the same? It falls to Amelia once again to uncover the secrets buried deep within the pages before her sister goes down for the crimes.

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**Jane A. Adams** was born in Leicestershire and still lives there – even though it is too far from the sea. In addition to writing, she has taught creative writing and writing skills for various arts organizations and universities and enjoyed a number of years as a Royal Literary Fund Fellow. Her first book, *The Greenway*, was shortlisted for the CWA John Creasey Award and for the Author's Club Best First Novel Award. When not writing she can often be found drawing racing dodos and armoured hares and the occasional octopus. As well as the Henry Johnstone series, Adams is the author of the highly acclaimed Naomi Blake and Rina Martin mystery series.

## Cold Bones

*A Henry Johnstone 1930s Mystery #10*

JANE A. ADAMS

---

Henry Johnstone has retired from his role as detective chief inspector, but is drawn back to an old case in Lincolnshire by an astonishing development in this page-turning mystery.

1931, Lincolnshire. Everyone thought that the young man who attacked Robert Hanson in a field three years ago before fleeing the scene was responsible for his death, including Detective Chief Inspector Henry Johnstone.

Now retired from Scotland Yard and working as a private investigator, a shocking confession draws Henry back to the case. But is it worth stirring up old passions and bitter rivalries to right the wrongs of the past?

Meanwhile, Inspector Mickey Hitchens is investigating a chilling case of arson and murder – and his old boss and mentor Henry's assistance could be the key to unlocking the case...

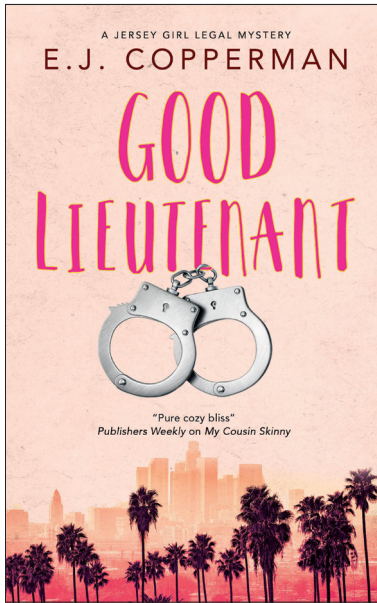
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**E.J. Copperman** is the nom de plume for Jeff Cohen, writer of intentionally funny murder mysteries. As E.J., he is the author of the *Haunted Guesthouse* series, the *Agent to the Paws* series and the *Jersey Girl Legal* mysteries, as well as the *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.

## Good Lieutenant

*A Jersey Girl Legal Mystery #6*

E.J. COPPERMAN

LA lawyer Sandy Moss comes to falsely accused lieutenant Trench's aid in this final instalment of the critically acclaimed legal cozy mystery series.

While settling into her new home in Los Angeles together with her boyfriend and TV star Patrick McNabb, attorney Sandy Moss receives a phone call from the LA Men's Detention Center. It's a new client accused of murder: the near-stoic Lt. K.C. Trench!

Being good at his job but not well-liked in his department, Trench is accused of killing a fellow LA police officer whom he openly despised and threatened. With the odds against her, Sandy takes on the case of her sometime nemesis/sometime ally. She is certain that Trench can't be the killer. It seems like someone is trying to pin the murder on him, but who and why? And what isn't Trench telling her?

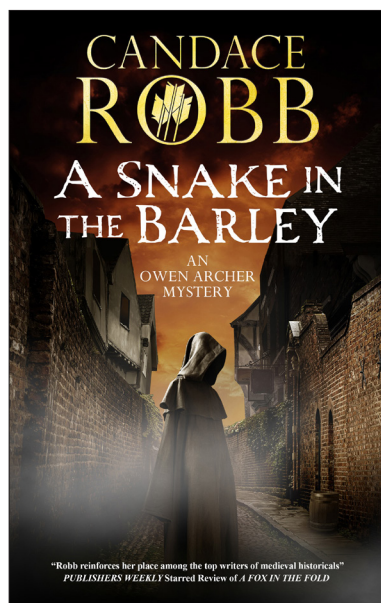
Sandy has a tricky case on her hands with all the evidence pointing at Trench as the murderer, but one thing is clear, she will help the stoic lieutenant, even if it puts her in unimaginable danger...

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**Candace Robb** has read and researched medieval history for many years, having studied for a Ph.D. in Medieval & Anglo-Saxon Literature. She divides her time between Seattle and the UK, frequently visiting York to research the series. She is the author of fourteen previous Owen Archer mysteries, three Kate Clifford medieval mysteries, and the Margaret Kerr trilogy.

## A Snake in the Barley

*An Owen Archer Mystery #15*

CANDACE ROBB

Where is taverner Tom Merchet? Owen Archer unearths a series of troubling secrets and a dangerous foe intent on retribution when his good friend goes missing.

March, 1377. Captain Owen Archer is determined to find his friend, York Tavern owner Tom Merchet, who has been missing for five days, leaving his wife, Bess, frantic with worry.

Who is the elusive Widow Cobb that Tom was seen visiting? And who is the man spotted following Tom before he vanished? As Owen hunts for clues, Bess decides to visit the widow's lodgings and makes a terrifying discovery.

Owen digs up past sins and long-buried secrets that answer some of the questions surrounding Tom's disappearance. But who is the sly and malevolent figure intent on destroying his friend, and why? A shocking confession will rock Owen to his core...

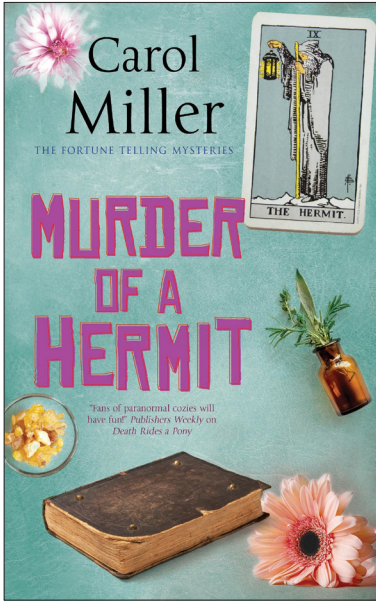
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**Carol Miller** is the author of three Moonshine Mystery novels, including *Murder and Moonshine*, which was named an Amazon Best Book of the Month and a *Library Journal* Starred Debut of the Month upon release. *The Fool Dies Last* was Carol's first novel with Severn House and the first entry in The Fortune Telling Mysteries series. Carol is an attorney and lives in Virginia.

## Murder of a Hermit

*The Fortune Telling Mysteries #3*

CAROL MILLER

---

Hope and Summer Bailey have their work cut out for them when a man who seems to be The Hermit from their Tarot card readings is found dead in their back yard!

An impromptu Tarot reading reveals the stranger who has been watching Hope and Summer over the last few days to be the Hermit – a seeker of knowledge and wisdom. The sisters discover that he has been hired to steal a valuable and potentially dangerous book from them, but only after he's found drowned in their back garden!

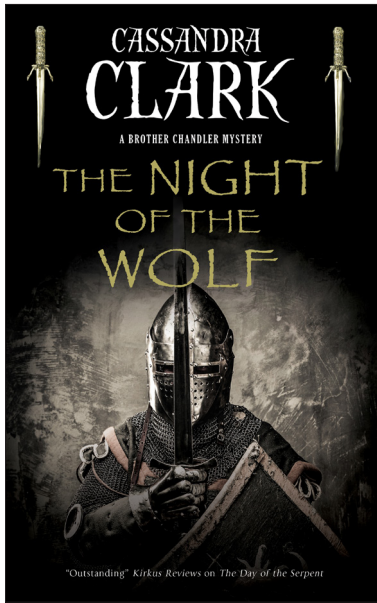
Was he killed to hide the mastermind behind the theft? When a rival fortune teller holds a séance to determine the identity of the Hermit's murderer, Hope and Summer find themselves accused of the crime. Can they clear their name and figure out who the real culprit is before the book falls into the wrong hands?

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**24 December 2024 (USA)**  
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**Cassandra Clark** is an award-winning scriptwriter for theatre, radio and television. She is the author of the highly-acclaimed Hildegard of Meaux medieval mysteries, as well as this series featuring Brother Rodric Chandler.

## The Night of the Wolf

*A Brother Chandler Mystery #3*

CASSANDRA CLARK

The ruthless reign of Henry IV and the clerical tyranny of Archbishop Arundel keep Brother Chandler and his friends under constant threat in this gripping medieval mystery featuring friar-sleuth Rodric Chandler.

Chester, 1400. Riding for his life, with a copy of Chaucer's heretical Canterbury Tales in his possession, friar-sleuth Brother Chandler is ambushed on the road and wakes up in a stranger's house.

Is his 'rescuer', wool merchant John Willoughby, friend... or foe? Willoughby declares that he, like Chandler, has renounced the self-crowned King Henry IV and will help Chandler get his dangerous belongings to safety. He seems trustworthy, but Chandler knows that if he's caught by the King's merciless censors together with the Tales, he'll be burned at the stake.

But then Willoughby's young wife perishes in a terrible accident at their house – or so it seems... Willoughby asks Chandler to help investigate if it was indeed an accident or if someone had a hidden agenda.

All Chandler wants to do is find safe haven for Chaucer's Tales and return to London, but he accepts the case. Little does he know that it will lead to secrets being uncovered which will put not only Chandler but also those around him in unimaginable peril.

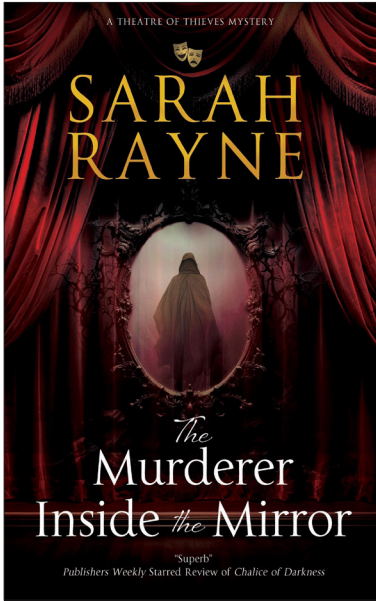
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**Sarah Rayne** is the author of many novels of psychological and supernatural suspense, including the Nell West & Michael Flint series, the Phineas Fox mysteries and the Theatre of Thieves mysteries.

## The Murderer Inside the Mirror

*A Theatre of Thieves Mystery #2*

SARAH RAYNE

Another day, another grand scheme! The thieving Fitzglen family are back in this second instalment of the spellbinding Theatre of Thieves gothic mystery series set in Victorian England.

London, 1908. The Fitzglens, one of London's leading theatre families and part-time thieves, are plotting their next scheme when they receive terrible news about Great Uncle Montague. He's been killed in a tragic accident at his Notting Hill home.

Montague will be much missed, not just for his talent in art forgery, but his death provides an unlooked-for opportunity: the chance to search for his infamous iron box. No one knows what it contains – if, that is, it even exists – but Jack Fitzglen is certain it has to be something highly valuable... or extremely dangerous. Why else would the grand master of storytelling have refused to even drop a hint?

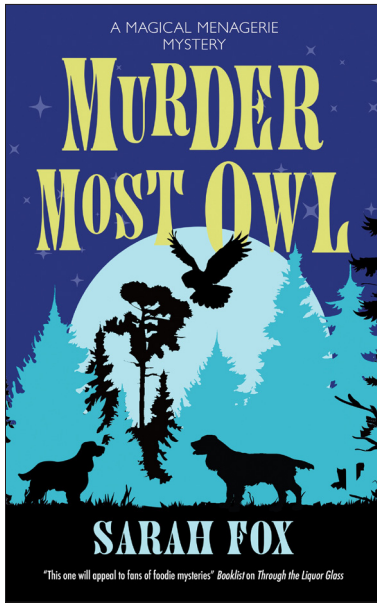
Jack is amazed when he finds the box – and even more amazed by its contents. An unknown play by one of Ireland's leading playwrights, entitled *The Murderer Inside the Mirror*. Jack reads the first few pages, and is struck by a nameless feeling of dread. But even he has no idea what kind of dangerous adventure the manuscript will take him on – one which will tangle him in revenge, madness... and murder.

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**Sarah Fox** was born and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia, where she developed a love for mysteries at a young age. When not writing novels, she is often reading her way through a stack of books or spending time outdoors with her English springer spaniel.

# Murder Most Owl

*A Magical Menagerie Mystery #1*

SARAH FOX

The first in the enchanting new **Magical Menagerie** mystery series where things are not always what they seem. **Georgie Johansen** returns to the charming, coastal town of **Twilight Cove** and quickly finds herself in a whirlwind of romance, magic and murder!

It's been years since screenwriter Georgie Johansen last visited her Aunt Olivia's farm in the coastal town of Twilight Cove and things have certainly changed. First of all it's now an animal sanctuary, and then there's the new farmhand who's as mysterious as he is handsome. Her first day on the farm, Georgie encounters the eccentric Dorothy Shale, an older woman who lives in a cabin in the woods. There are rumours that Dorothy's a witch, but Georgie doesn't believe that. Although, Dorothy does have an unusual magical presence around her...

When Dorothy ends up murdered, suspicion falls on Georgie – she was the one who found the poor woman's body, and being new in town doesn't help with the suspicion. Things only get worse when it turns out that Dorothy left her valuable plot of land to Auntie O!

Georgie must act fast to clear her and her aunt's names by finding the real killer. But as bodies start to mount up, the pressure rises. With the help of the unusual powers of Dorothy's two dogs and great-horned owl, can Georgie uncover the truth before she becomes the killer's next target?

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**Leslie Karst** is the author of the Lefty Award-nominated Sally Solari culinary mysteries, as well as the memoir, *Justice is Served: A Tale of Scallops, the Law, and Cooking for RBG*. In addition to writing, Leslie spends her days cooking (and eating!), gardening, cycling, and observing cocktail hour promptly at five o'clock. She and her wife and their Jack Russell mix split their time between Hilo, Hawai'i and Santa Cruz, California.

# Molten Death

*An Orchid Isle Mystery #1*

LESLIE KARST

The first Orchid Isle cozy mystery, set in tropical Hilo, Hawai'i, introduces a fun and feisty LGBTQ+ couple who swap surfing lessons for sleuthing sessions!

Retired caterer Valerie Corbin and her wife Kristen have come to the Big Island of Hawai'i to treat themselves to a well-earned tropical vacation. After the recent loss of her brother, Valerie is in sore need of a distraction from her troubles and is looking forward to enjoying the delicious food and vibrant culture the state has to offer.

Early one morning, the couple and their friend – tattooed local boy, Isaac – set out to see an active lava flow, and Valerie is mesmerized by the shape-shifting mass of orange and red creeping over the field of black rock. Spying a boot in the distance, she strides off alone, pondering how it could have gotten there, only to realize to her horror that the boot is still attached to a leg – a leg which is slowly being engulfed by the hot lava.

Valerie's convinced a murder has been committed – but as she's the only witness to the now-vanished corpse, who's going to believe her?

Determined to prove what she saw, and get justice for the unknown victim, Valerie launches her own investigation. But, thrown into a Hawaiian culture far from the luaus and tiki bars of glossy tourist magazines, she soon begins to fear she may be the next one to end up entombed in shiny black rock...

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**Clea Simon** grew up in New York, before moving to Cambridge, Massachusetts to attend Harvard. She fell in love with the area and lives in nearby Somerville with her husband and their cat, Thisbe. She is the author of the Dulcie Schwartz, Theda Krakow, Pru Marlowe, Blackie and Care and, most recently, *Witch Cats of Cambridge* mystery series as well as a number of grittier standalone mysteries.

## Bad Boy Beat

CLEA SIMON

A page-turning journalistic thriller starring a rookie female reporter for the *Boston Standard* who's determined to chase down a big story... with potentially deadly consequences.

*Boston Standard* journalist Emily – Em – Kelton is desperate for a big story. As a new reporter Em covers the police beat, which has her responding to every crime that comes across the newsroom scanner. Despite the drudgery and the largely nocturnal hours, it's a beat that suits her – especially with her affinity for the low-level criminals she regularly interacts with and what she considers a healthy scepticism for the rules.

But she's sick of filing short news briefs about random street murders that barely merit a byline, and when she sets out to cover yet another shooting of a low-level dealer, she begins to wonder if these crimes are somehow connected.

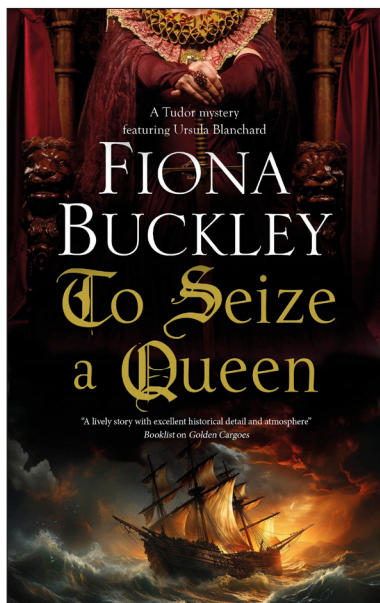
With not much to go on but her instincts, Em sets out to uncover the truth behind these sordid crimes. But the more she investigates and uncovers a pattern, the more she digs herself into a hole from which she might not come out of alive...

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**28 January 2025 (USA)**

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**Fiona Buckley** is the author of twenty-two previous Ursula Blanchard mysteries. Under her real name, Valerie Anand, she is the author of numerous historical novels including the much-loved *Bridges Over Time* series.

## To Seize a Queen

*A Tudor Mystery featuring Ursula Blanchard #23*

FIONA BUCKLEY

---

**Queen Elizabeth's half-sister and secret agent Ursula Stannard takes on a dangerous new mission involving mysterious disappearances and murder in Cornwall in this gripping Tudor mystery.**

1594. Ursula Stannard is attending on her half-sister, Queen Elizabeth, when she receives an urgent summons from Sir Robert Cecil. Cornishman Master Roskilly was fished out of the sea by Sir Francis Godolphin, and has a shocking tale of being snatched by pirates and put on a slave vessel to Constantinople before his audacious escape. And he's not the only one... Folk in Cornwall are mysteriously disappearing. But why are only exceptional or unusual individuals being kidnapped, and could there be a link to two recent murders?

With the queen's annual progress stalled, Ursula agrees to go undercover to unmask those responsible, knowing that Queen Elizabeth would be the most prized captive of all...

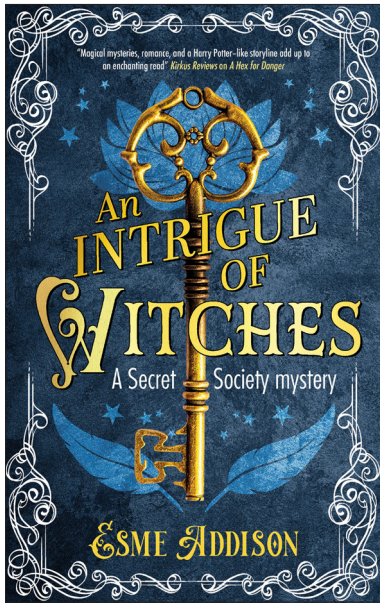
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**Esme Addison** is the bestselling author of the Enchanted Bay mysteries, the first of which was nominated for an Agatha Award, and the brand-new Secret Society mysteries.

Esme lives in Raleigh, NC with her family and is a member of Sisters In Crime, International Thriller Writers, Mystery Writers of America and Crime Writers of Color. When she's not writing, you can find her reading, traveling, and indulging her love of history at museums and historical sites.

# An Intrigue of Witches

## *A Secret Society Mystery #1*

ESME ADDISON

**Introducing the Secret Society mystery series, and kick-ass red-headed heroine Sidney, a Black historian poised on the brink of discovering her true past... and her hidden witchy powers!**

Thirty-year-old Black woman Sidney Taylor is a talented early American historian, working in fast-paced Washington DC, with her eyes on promotion. She's also currently persona non grata. Who knew that making an inconvenient historical discovery would see her stuck at her desk, shuffling paper?

So when she receives an anonymous and very cryptic invitation to visit historic small-town Robbinsville, North Carolina and hunt for a missing archaeological treasure – with a million-dollar pay out at stake – it's one she can't refuse. Besides, her beloved grandmother lives in Robbinsville, and it's been too long since she's paid her a visit.

Soon, Sidney's on an exciting treasure hunt, following two-hundred-year-old clues that lead her ever closer to the artefact she's searching for. But what is the artefact? And why is Sidney starting to feel like she's at the heart of a terrifying conspiracy she doesn't understand?

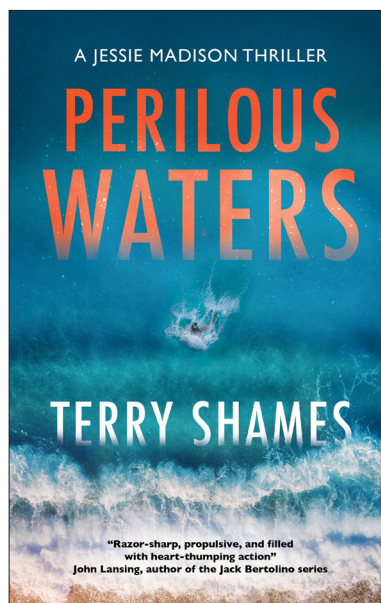
The answer blows Sidney's world apart, plunging her into a dark, glittering world of secret societies, ancient bloodlines, witches and magic, linked to an ages-old conspiracy that could destroy the very principles upon which America was founded.

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Award-winning author **Terry Shames** is the author of the Samuel Craddock mysteries. As well as winning the Macavity Award for Best First Novel, *A Killing at Cotton Hill* was also shortlisted for The Strand Critics Award. *The Necessary Murder of Nonie Blake* won the RT Critics Award for Best Mystery. Her books have also been shortlisted for Left Coast Crime Awards for Best Mystery. *Perilous Waters* is her first thriller.

## Perilous Waters

*A Jessie Madison Thriller #1*

TERRY SHAMES

FBI dive instructor Jessie Madison's survival skills are stretched to breaking point when she is plunged into danger in this exhilarating thriller – the first in a pulsating new series.

Jessie Madison escaped to the Bahamas when she made a terrifying discovery at home and a bad decision got her dismissed from the FBI training program. Three months later, Jessie is ready to return to Virginia to pick up the pieces of her shattered life – until she and a friend are attacked during a boat ride and thrown overboard, with devastating consequences.

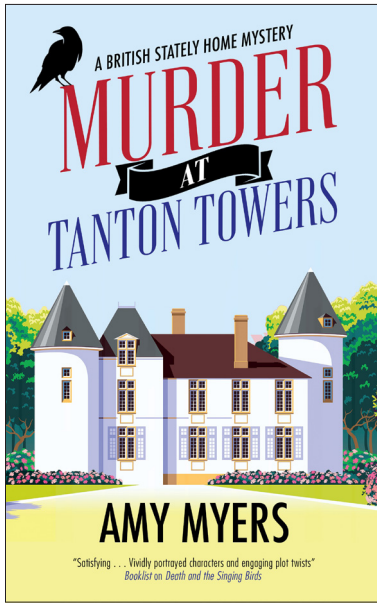
Jessie is determined to bring their attackers to justice. Who are they? What were they looking for on the boat? And can she trust Nick, the handsome but enigmatic stranger who claims he wants to help her? Jessie must draw on all her survival and investigative skills if she is to stay alive long enough to get answers...

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**Amy Myers** has written a wide range of novels, from crime to historical sagas to contemporary romance. Her traditional and cozy mystery series include the Jack Colby, car detective mysteries, co-written with her husband, American-born car buff James Myers; the Auguste Didier series; the Tom Wasp, Victorian chimney sweep novels; the Marsh and Daughter mysteries; and the Nell Drury mysteries.

# Murder at Tanton Towers

*A British Stately Home Mystery #1*

AMY MYERS

Welcome to Tanton Towers! Explore the eccentric, history-filled house, take tea in the café... and visit the site of a recent murder?! First in a delightful new traditional British cozy mystery series.

Everyone told Cara Shelly that she was crazy to set up a café in the shadow of eccentric Kentish stately home Tanton Towers. But now, three years later, the forty-something single mother can't believe her good luck. The Happy Huffkin café is thriving, and Cara considers the Tanton Towers staff – and its equally eccentric owners, Max and Alison – to be more like family than colleagues. Three cheers for Tanton Towers!

But one beautiful summer evening, when Cara's hard at work clearing up after closing time, Alison comes hurtling down to the café to beg her for help. It's trouble – and of the worst kind. Daphne Hanson, queen of the Towers' costume-clad dancing troupe – and the greatest nosy parker in Kent – is lying dead in the orangery. Strangled! But by whom? And why?

Determined that the culprit should *not* be one of her friends, and suspicious of the detective assigned the case – the deeply annoying, and annoyingly attractive DCI Andrew Mitchem – Cara launches her own investigation. But the more secrets she uncovers, the more she's forced to consider the unthinkable: that one of her dear friends could be the killer...

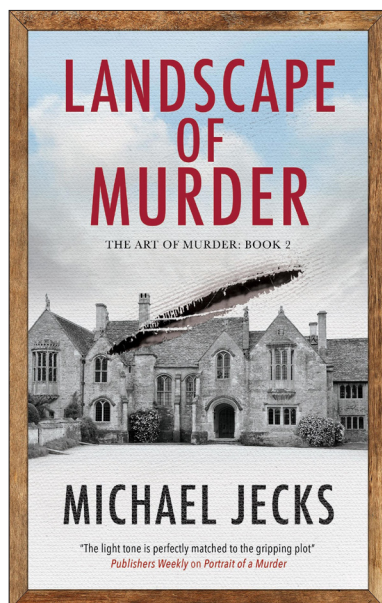
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**Michael Jecks** is the author of forty-seven novels, including the acclaimed *Last Templar* medieval mystery series, modern spy thriller *Act of Vengeance*, eight *Bloody Mary* mysteries and now *The Art of Murder* series. A former Chairman of the Crime Writers' Association, and founder of *Medieval Murderers*, he lives in northern Dartmoor.

# Landscape of Murder

*The Art of Murder #2*

MICHAEL JECKS

Join accidental sleuth, Nick Morris, in his second mystery in *The Art of Murder* series.

When an offer to paint a beautiful Georgian house in the Peak District falls into Nick Morris' lap he jumps at the commission. Businessman Derek Swann is selling up and wants a landscape to remember. But Nick's plans for a quiet stay in the countryside are scuppered when he and his chalet neighbour Megan Lamplighter find a body in the woods surrounding the holiday park.

Rick Parrow seemed to be a troubled young adult, with a dark cloud following him around in recent days, so when it turns out he was murdered, Nick feels compelled to seek out the truth. What was bothering Rick in the days before his death? What exactly was his connection to the bear-like figure of Jez Cooper, who was staying in a chalet up from Nick? And who could possibly have wanted the boy dead?

Nick's attention is pulled in every direction – from his work at the manor house, and its captivating housekeeper Adela – to the many unsavoury characters now circling the holiday park and paying a little too much attention to Nick's movements. Nick must act fast if he wants to get out of this in one piece!

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**S.K. Golden** is the author of the Pinnacle Hotel cozy mystery series. Born and raised in the Florida Keys, she married a commercial fisherman. The two of them still live on the islands with their five kids (one boy, four girls – including identical twins!), two cats, and a corgi named Goku. She's worked as a bank teller, a pharmacy technician, and an executive assistant at her father's church. Sarah is delighted to be doing none of those things now.

## Stolen Pieces

S. K. GOLDEN

*Ocean's 8* meets Janet Evanovich, this fast-paced crime caper features one badass mother, with a certain set of skills who is forced to come out of retirement to protect her son, and teach a few men a few lessons!

Ex-con artist Bee Cardello is going legit. Divorced from her mafia boss husband, she is determined to stay on the straight and narrow. So, when ex-hubby Charlie steals \$37.5 million from a dangerous kingpin, who puts out a hit on Bee and her ten-year-old son Oliver, she finds herself pulled back into the life she's worked so hard to escape.

Part of that old life being one Adam Gage – an old flame and all-round sexy badass who Charlie's now employed to keep her and Oliver safe... well, that's what he tells her. Bee has been in this game long enough to know that everyone is in it for themselves, and she'd be stupid to trust Adam... again.

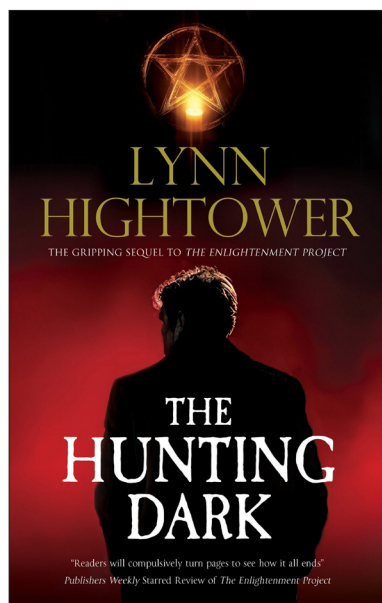
When Oliver is snatched from right under their noses, rather than risk losing him forever, Bee gathers her old team, dusts off all her old grifting tricks, and comes out of retirement to get her son back!

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**Lynn Hightower** is the internationally bestselling author of numerous thrillers including the Sonora Blair and Lena Padget detective series. She has previously won the Shamus Award for Best First Private Eye novel and a WHSmith Fresh Talent Award. Lynn lives in Kentucky, in a small Victorian cottage with a writing parlor.

## The Hunting Dark

*An Enlightenment Project Novel #2*

LYNN HIGHTOWER

The gripping sequel to *The Enlightenment Project* from bestselling author Lynn Hightower: a chilling modern haunted house tale that will keep you turning the pages late into the night!

In the Amish countryside of Kentucky, there is a house. Everyone knows about it. They whisper about the things that happen there. Creepy things. Terrible things. It would be better if they shouted: *Run*.

Six weeks ago, fragile mother of two Pammie LaRue moved in with her beloved partner Conor. They ignored the knocks on the walls. Whispering voices. Water pooling, with no obvious leak.

Eight days ago, Conor went missing, without a trace. Unless you count the drag marks in the crawl space under the house...

Neurosurgeon Noah Archer doesn't believe in ghosts and demons and haunted houses – he knows from terrible experience just how real they are. But despite his work with the Enlightenment Project, which pits cutting-edge scientific research against the darkness, he's no exorcist.

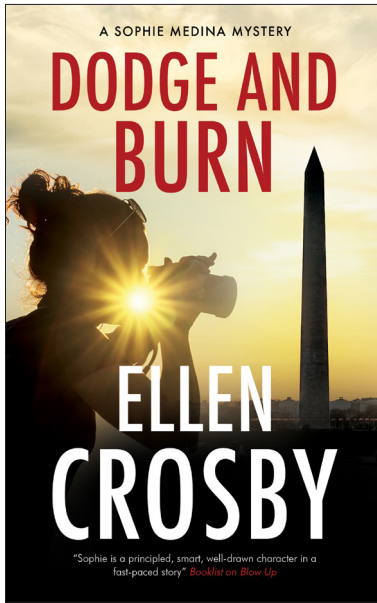
Still, when Pammie pitches up on his doorstep late one night, children in tow, Noah helps. He enters the house. But in doing so, he's made a terrible mistake. Because once the darkness has its claws in you, it won't let go...

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**Ellen Crosby** is a former reporter for the *Washington Post*, foreign correspondent for *ABC News Radio* and economist at the U.S. Senate. She has spent many years overseas in Europe, but now lives in Virginia with her husband. She is the author of the *Wine Country* mysteries and the *Sophie Medina* mysteries.

## Dodge and Burn

*A Sophie Medina Mystery #4*

ELLEN CROSBY

Washington, D.C.-based photojournalist Sophie Medina is not a murderer – but someone is determined to make sure she goes down for a crime she did not commit in this gripping mystery.

When billionaire philanthropist and art collector Robson Blake hires Sophie Medina to take photographs for him, she doesn't expect to show up and find her client dead. It seems he was the victim of a burglary gone wrong. But why was his state-of-the-art security system turned off... and why, in a house full of priceless Old Masters, is the only thing missing a beautiful but insignificant Ukrainian religious icon?

Before long, Sophie finds herself in the crosshairs of a D.C. homicide detective who suspects she knows more than she is saying about Blake's murder – and he's not wrong. To Sophie's mixed delight and horror, she's recently learned she has a half-brother... who might also be an international art thief, with eyes on Blake's collection.

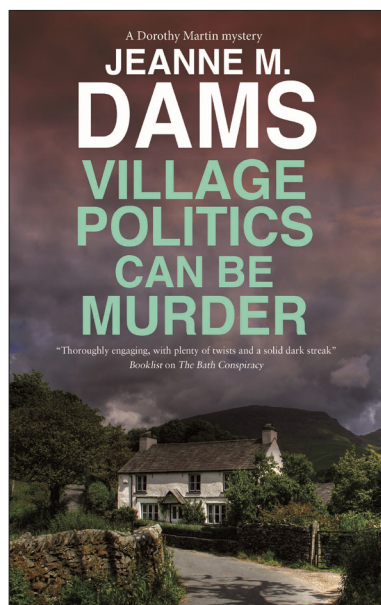
As the police get closer to finding Blake's killer, Sophie is certain someone is trying to frame her for his murder. Can she find the real killer in time – even if it means turning in her own brother to prove her innocence?

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**Jeanne M. Dams**, an American, is a devout Anglophile who has wished she could live in England ever since her first visit in 1963. Fortunately, her alter ego, Dorothy Martin, can do just that. Jeanne lives in South Bend, Indiana, with a varying population of cats.

## Village Politics Can Be Murder

*A Dorothy Martin Mystery #26*

JEANNE M. DAMS

**A trip to the Lake District proves to be anything but idyllic when Dorothy and Alan investigate a mysterious death.**

Dorothy Martin and her husband, retired chief constable Alan Nesbitt, jump at the chance to holiday in the beautiful Lake District when Alan's old friend, Christopher Prideaux, invites them to visit him in Grasmere.

A party at Christopher's cottage is the perfect way to meet the locals, but one stands out – accountant Donald Atkinson, an egoist hoping to become a politician, clearly isn't popular among his fellow villagers. When he's found mysteriously dead during the Fell Race, could his demise be due to a sudden, fatal medical emergency, or was it murder? Dorothy and Alan find themselves catapulted into a disturbing case that will lead them back in time, and to a terrible, scandalous secret that someone is determined to keep hidden.

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**David Mark** spent seven years as crime reporter for the *Yorkshire Post* and now writes full-time. A former Richard & Judy pick, and a *Sunday Times* bestseller, he is the author of the DS Aector McAvoy series, the Sal Delaney police procedurals and a number of standalone thrillers. He lives in Northumberland with his family.

## The Burning Time

*A DS McAvoy Novel #12*

DAVID MARK

A quiet town. A horrible incident. Things that don't add up. The highly-anticipated latest instalment of the DS McAvoy series from the *Sunday Times* best-selling, Kindle chart-topping author.

An unexpected invite to his estranged mother's surprise birthday party at a fancy Durham hotel gives DI Aector McAvoy and his wife Roisin a chance for a well-deserved holiday. Off-duty, and still recovering from his previous injuries, McAvoy is determined to take advantage of the all-expenses-paid break, despite the old grudges and thick tension between himself and his step-family.

However, what should have been a relaxing, if awkward, getaway weekend turns out to be a full-on nightmare, when McAvoy finds himself in the middle of a town drama that involves the tragic demise of Ishmael Piper, a rock star's millionaire son... and best friend of McAvoy's charming, bullying step-brother.

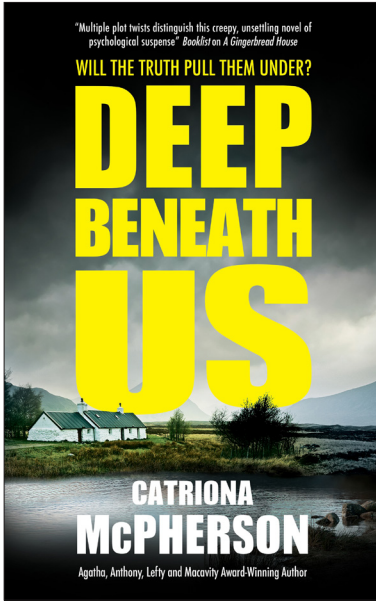
With dark secrets slowly unravelling, McAvoy needs to put his personal issues aside to unmask the evil forces behind Ishmael's mysterious death before he becomes a victim of them himself...

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Born and raised in West Lothian, **Catriona McPherson** left Edinburgh University with a PhD in Linguistics and worked in academia, as well as banking and public libraries, before taking up full-time writing in 2001. For the last ten years she has lived in Northern California with frequent visits home. Among numerous prizes, she has won two of Left Coast Crime's coveted Humorous Lefty Awards for the Last Ditch comedies.

# Deep Beneath Us

CATRIONA MCPHERSON

**Will the truth pull them under? A twisty, gripping mystery from a multi-award-winning master of suspense that you won't be able to put down...**

Tabitha Muir returns to her childhood home in the remote hills of Hiskith in Scotland after twenty years away. She's lost her job, her house, and custody of her son after a divorce, and thinks this must be rock bottom – but worse is to come. An unplanned explosion at the dam on the loch and the suspicious death of her beloved cousin Davey force Tabitha to confront her past demons.

Is Davey's death just another dark episode in the Muir family's scandalous history? As Davey's closest friends, Gordo and Barrett, help Tabitha try to answer the many questions around Davey's demise, Tabitha discovers that nothing she thought she knew about herself and those around her is true...

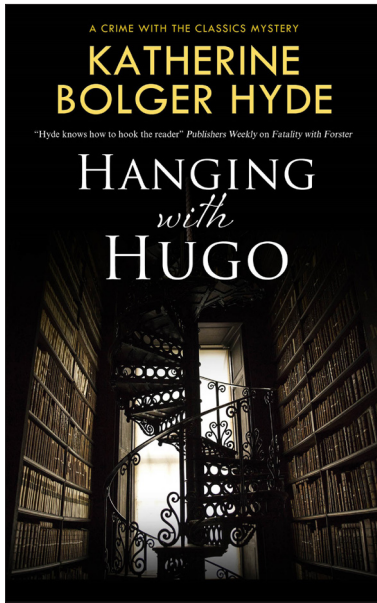
The trio are about to bring Hiskith's darkest secrets to the surface, but will the truth destroy them?

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**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 five previous *Crime with the Classics* mysteries.

## Hanging with Hugo

*Crime with the Classics* #6

KATHERINE BOLGER HYDE

**Writer's retreat Windy Corner becomes a sanctuary of a different kind when a man and his foster daughter are harassed by a social worker, with tragic consequences.**

Emily and Luke Richards are back from their honeymoon and plunged into a whirlwind of activity. Emily's half-brother, Oscar, and his fiancée want to be married at St. Bede's Church with a reception at Windy Corner. But they're not the only guests arriving at Emily's home.

Emily unexpectedly finds herself playing host to the family of the artist repairing the church's stained-glass window, as well as Moses Valory and his young ward, Charlotte, who are seeking sanctuary from social worker Janine Vertue's harassment.

When Janine appears at Emily's door and is later discovered hanged in her hotel room, it becomes apparent that Moses and Charlotte are not the only people in the house with reason to hate her. Could one of the guests Emily and Luke have come to trust turn out to be a murderer?

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# Genre Index

New Release

Paperback

## Amateur Sleuth

<i>Antiques Slay Belles</i>	11
<i>Bad Boy Beat</i>	30
<i>Brew Unto Others</i>	2
<i>Dodge and Burn</i>	38
<i>Landscape of Murder</i>	35
<i>Molten Death</i>	29
<i>Mr Champion's Christmas</i>	10
<i>Murder at the Hacienda</i>	9
<i>Murder of a Hermit</i>	25
<i>Murder in Season</i>	20
<i>Scotzilla</i>	19
<i>Two Times Murder</i>	8
<i>Village Politics Can Be Murder</i>	39

## Cozy Mystery

<i>Antiques Slay Belles</i>	11
<i>Brew Unto Others</i>	2
<i>Death and the Old Master</i>	12
<i>Good Lieutenant</i>	22
<i>The Mermaid Mystery</i>	7
<i>Molten Death</i>	29
<i>Murder at the Hacienda</i>	9
<i>Murder at Tanton Towers</i>	34
<i>Murder in Season</i>	20
<i>Murder of a Hermit</i>	25
<i>Murder Most Owl</i>	28
<i>Scotzilla</i>	19
<i>Village Politics Can Be Murder</i>	39

## Historical Mystery

<i>The Chrysanthemum Tiger</i>	18
<i>Cold Bones</i>	21
<i>The Conspiracies of the Empire</i>	14
<i>Mr Champion's Christmas</i>	10
<i>The Murderer Inside the Mirror</i>	27
<i>The Night of the Wolf</i>	26
<i>Murder in Season</i>	20
<i>Murder's Snare</i>	16
<i>Prey</i>	1
<i>Santo Domingo Stakeout</i>	4
<i>A Snake in the Barley</i>	23
<i>Spoiler's Prey</i>	3
<i>To Seize a Queen</i>	31

## Horror

<i>The Hunting Dark</i>	37
-------------------------	----

## Police Procedural

<i>The Burning Time</i>	40
<i>The Coldest Case</i>	15
<i>The Loose End</i>	13
<i>Past Redemption</i>	17
<i>The Troubling Death of Maddy Benson</i>	6

## Sci-Fi & Fantasy

<i>An Intrigue of Witches</i>	32
-------------------------------	----

## Thriller & Suspense

<i>Bad Boy Beat</i>	30
<i>The Burning Time</i>	40
<i>The Coldest Case</i>	15
<i>Deep Beneath Us</i>	41
<i>Dodge and Burn</i>	38
<i>Past Redemption</i>	17
<i>Perilous Waters</i>	33
<i>Prey</i>	1
<i>Santo Domingo Stakeout</i>	4
<i>Stolen Pieces</i>	36
<i>Two Times Murder</i>	8

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