

CRIME CHRONICLE

"WHERE A GOOD CRIME CAN BE HAD BY ALL"

ISSUE #216 JANUARY 2004

ABBEY'S BESTSELLERS FOR 2003

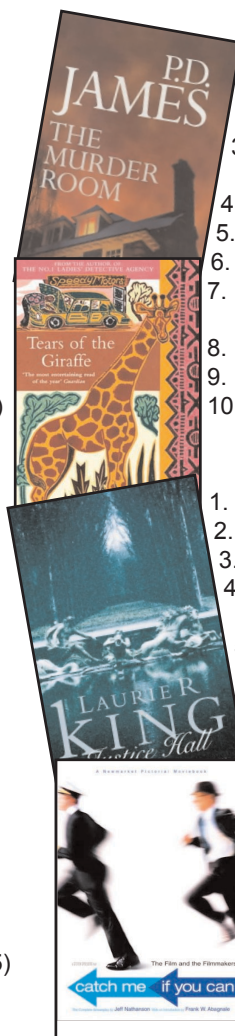
Did you miss any of these?

MODERN CRIME

1. **The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency** by Alexander McCall Smith (Pb 22.95)
2. **The Murder Room** by P D by James (Tp 29.95)
3. **The Full Cupboard of Life (#5)** by Alexander McCall Smith (Tp 26.95)
4. **Tears of the Giraffe (#2)** by Alexander McCall Smith (Pb 22.95)
5. **Morality for Beautiful Girls (#3)** by Alexander McCall Smith (Tp 26.95)
6. **The Cat Who Brought Down the House (#25)** by Lilian Jackson Braun (Pb 18.95)
7. **The Da Vinci Code** by Dan Brown (Tp 29.95)
8. **The Wailing Wind** by Tony Hillerman (Pb 19.95)
9. **Presumption of Death** by Sayers & Walsh (Pb 19.95)
10. **Uniform Justice (#12)** by Donna Leon (Tp 29.95)

HISTORICAL CRIME

1. **Golden One (#14)** by Elizabeth Peters (Pb 21.95)
2. **Justice Hall (#6)** by Laurie King (Pb 18.95)
3. **Accusers (#15)** by Lindsey Davis (Tp 29.95)
4. **Athenian Murders** by Jose Carlos Somoza (Pb 22.95)
5. **Haunted Abbot (#12)** by Peter Tremayne (Pb 18.95)
6. **Mist of Prophecies (#9)** by Steven Saylor (Pb 21.95)
7. **Death of a Stranger (Monk #13)** by Anne Perry (Pb 18.95)
8. **Jupiter Myth (#14)** by Lindsey Davis (Pb 21.95)
9. **Clerk's Tale (#11)** by Margaret Frazer (Pb 17.95)
10. **Mad Monk of Gidleigh (#14)** by Michael Jecks (Pb 18.95)



CRIME AUSTRALIAN

1. **Castlemaine Murders (#13)** by Kerry Greenwood (Pb 19.95)
2. **Ice Station** by Matthew Reilly (Pb 19.95)
3. **Death Before Wicket (#10)** by Kerry Greenwood (Pb 19.95)
4. **Urn Burial (#8)** by Kerry Greenwood (Pb 19.95)
5. **Masters Mates** by Peter Corris (Pb 19.95)
6. **Verge Practice** by Barry Maitland (Tp 29.95)
7. **Murder in Montparnasse (#12)** by Kerry Greenwood (Pb 19.95)
8. **Kittyhawk Down (#2)** by Garry Disher (Pb 19.95)
9. **Blood Redemption** by Alex Palmer (Pb 18.95)
10. **Raisins & Almonds (#9)** by Kerry Greenwood (Pb 19.95)

CRIME NON-FICTION

1. **Marching Powder** by Rusty Young (Tp 30.00)
2. **Catch Me If You Can** by Frank Abagnale (Pb 22.95)
3. **Last Dance Last Chance** by Ann Rule (Pb 19.95)
4. **Amelia Peabody's Egypt** by Elizabeth Peters (Hb 59.95)
5. **Fire Lover** by Joseph Wambaugh (Pb 24.95)
6. **Cold Case** by Philip Gourevitch (Pb 22.00)
7. **Wicked Beyond Belief** by Michael Bilton (Hb 24.95)
8. **Killing Pablo** by Mark Bowden (Pb 19.95)
9. **Autofocus: The Murder of Bob Crane** by Robert Graysmith (Pb 17.95)
10. **Doubt & Conviction: The Kalajich Inquiry** by Pippa Kay (Tp 27.00)

AUSTRALIA DAY
MONDAY 26 JANUARY
WE ARE OPEN
10AM - 5PM

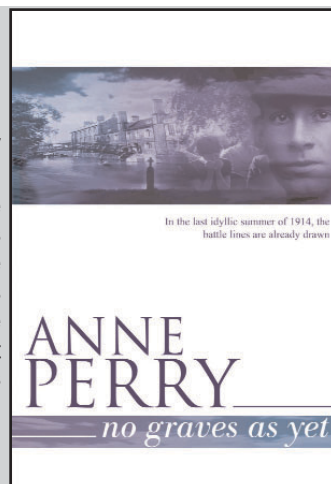
ANNE PERRY NO GRAVES AS YET

Tp 314pp \$32.95

This is an utterly compelling first of a five novel sequence that is a searing, ambitious and masterly portrait of England through the First World War.

In Cambridge in 1914, the golden days seem timeless. But for Joseph Reavley, a university don, the idyllic summer is shattered by his parents' death in a car accident. Bringing the terrible news, his brother reveals that their father, a retired MP, had been travelling to see him about a sinister plot he had discovered. Matthew's job in the secret service means that he would understand the mysterious document their father possessed, but when the brothers hunt for it, the document is nowhere to be found. Returning after the funeral with their two sisters, Joseph and Matthew become convinced that their parent's house has been searched. Does someone else know of the missing document? As their suspicions grow, they visit the scene of the crash and examine their parent's ruined car, and find subtle evidence that their deaths may not have been accidental after all. Brilliantly presented, ingeniously developed and packed with political implications – not to be missed.

Peter





MODERN CRIME

Claire ABBOTT

Cut and Run

403pp Pb 17.95

In Abbott's third electrifying thriller featuring Whit Mosley, the Texas judge investigates his own past in a harrowing search for the mother who abandoned his family years ago. What he finds is a nightmare of double-crosses, vicious schemers, murder and a conniving woman who may be plotting the cruellest betrayal of all. (American)

Alina ADAMS

Murder on Ice 299pp Pb 15.95

A Figure Skating mystery series #1. Figure skating is a cutthroat world. Just ask Rebecca Levy, figure skating researcher for the 24/7 skating network, and *Prime Crime's* newest sleuth. (American)



ADAMS ROUND TABLE

Murder Amongst Friends

269pp Pb 17.95

This provocative collection explores the bonds and boundaries of friendship. The 11 writers included here are Lawrence Block, Mary Higgins Clark, Stanley Cohen, Dorothy Salisbury Davis, Mickey Friedman, Susan Isaacs, Judith Kelman, Warren Murphy, Justin Scott, Peter Straub and Whitley Strieber. (Various)

Lilian Jackson BRAUN

The Private Life of the Cat

Who... 123pp Hb 28.00

Tales of Koko and Yum Yum (from the journal of James Macintosh Qwilleran). What could be more purrfect for fans of the *Cat Who* series than an intimate look at the private lives of those amazing felines Koko and Yum Yum? (American)

Rita Mae BROWN

Hotspur

341pp Pb 17.95

When Nola and Guy disappeared on the Hunt's ceremonial first day more than two decades ago, everyone assumed one of two things: Guy and Nola eloped to escape her family's disapproval; or Guy killed Nola in a jealous rage and vanished. But Sister Jane had never bought either of those theories. This novel brings all of Rita Mae Brown's storytelling gifts to the fore. It is a tale of Southern small-town manners and rituals, a compelling and intricate murder mystery and a look at the human/animal relationship in all its complexity and charm. (American)

Sinclair BROWNING

Traggedy Ann 390pp Pb 15.95

Trade Ellis's high-country Vaca Grande ranch is just a car ride away from a world that could not be more different; a city of flash and glitter, poverty and hurt. Trade is happy making her living with Brahman cattle, but an occasional PI case in Tucson offers her good cash, a little adventure and sometimes a date or two. Now an artist (whose specialty is creepy paintings of wounded dolls) has hired her. And this case will offer a little too much of everything: too much sex, secrecy and murder. (American)

Don BRUNS

Jamaica Blue 321pp Pb 17.95

When successful and charming rock journalist Mick Sever goes to Jamaica to see the 'next big thing', a reggae/rap band with a flare for hypnotic beats and violent lyrics, he finds that there is more than just sun, sand and music on the island of Jamaica. Danger, lies, sex and murder blend with hot Caribbean music and steamy Miami nights to make this a smouldering debut. (American)



Joe BUFF

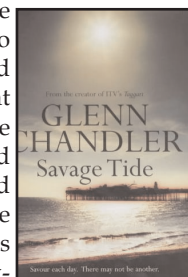
Crush Depth 499pp Pb 19.95

Reactionary enemy regimes have brutally taken command in South Africa and Germany. US and European shipping lanes are suddenly under attack. World war is at hand and for the ruthless Berlin-Boer Axis, the devastating weapons of choice will be tactical nukes used at sea. (American)

Glenn CHANDLER

Savage Tide 311pp Pb 18.95

For Steve Madden, Brighton is no longer beaches, fish and chips and amusement arcades. It is also a place of murder. Estranged from his son and grappling with the jealousy that comes from watching your ex-wife getting closer to another man, his world is thrown into turmoil when he is called to investigate a particularly savage murder. Dragged into the twilight world of nightclubs, drugs and prostitution, Steve is about to realise that being a DI in a seaside town is far more dangerous than he could ever have imagined. (English)



Lincoln CHILD

Utopia 514pp Pb 19.95

Fasten your seat belts! The white-knuckle thrills at Utopia, the world's most fantastic theme park, escalate to nightmare proportions in this intricately imagined techno-thriller. Like *Jurassic Park*, this novel sweeps readers into a make-believe world of riveting suspense, technology and adventure. (American)

Barbara CLEVERLY

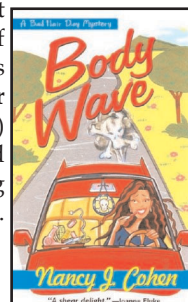
Ragtime 287pp Pb 21.95

Commander Joe Sandilands is looking forward to spending a month in Simla, the summer capital of the British Raj. But behind the sparkling facade of social life in Simla he finds a trail of murder, vice and blackmail. (English)

Nancy COHEN

Body Wave 285pp Pb 15.95

A *Bad Hair Day* mystery. Series sleuth Marla Shore assists her ex-husband, who has been accused of murdering his third wife. Marla's work involves disguising herself as a nurse's aide to investigate the dead woman's wealthy family in East Fort Lauderdale, where someone will get the victim's share of grandpa's estate. This follow-up to *Murder by Manicure* (Pb 16.95) moves right along and will make good reading for the holidays. (American)



KEY

ACADEMIC



BANKING



CANINE DETECTIVES



CLERICAL



COSY/MALICE DOMESTIC



CULINARY/FOOD



FBI



FELINE DETECTIVES



FORENSIC



HORSE RACING MYSTERY



MEDICAL



MILITARY



NATIVE AMERICAN



POLICE PROCEDURAL



POLITICAL/LEGAL



PSYCHOLOGICAL



PRIVATE EYE



ROMANTIC SUSPENSE



SPORT



SPY




SUSPENSE/THRILLER




AUTHOR'S NATIONALITY AT END OF BLURB


**Curt COLBERT**

 **Sayonaraville** 288pp Tp 27.50
A Jake Rossiter and Miss Jenkins mystery. Who chopped off insurance agent Henry Jamison's head with a Samurai sword, and why? While trying to figure this out, Seattle PI Jake Rossiter also has to deal with his recently promoted junior partner, Miss Jenkins, who is about to take on the Hashimoto family as clients for her first official case. Rossiter, an ex-marine who finished out WWII in the Pacific just a few years ago, could not care less about the Hashimotos. He has got more pressing business, especially considering that Eddie Valhalla, a notorious free-lance hit man, has just blown into town with his Hungarian bombshell of a gun-moll, ZaZu Pinsky, who once used her seductive ways to doublecross Rossiter on Eddie's behalf. (American)


Agatha CHRISTIE

 **Poirot: The French Collection** 551pp Tp 27.95
 This volume contains *Death in the Clouds* (1935), *The Mystery of the Blue Train* (1928) and *The Murder on the Links* (1923). (English)


Sean DOOLITTLE

 **Dirt** 364pp Tp 27.50
 After Quince Bishop gets into a fistfight with eco-activists who disrupt his best friend's funeral, his journalist ex-girlfriend covers the story and a beautiful funeral-rights advocate gets involved, upending poor Quince's lackadaisical life. But that is nothing compared to the funeral-biz scams he unearths in this uproarious first novel. (American)


Peter DUCHIN & John WILSON

 **Blue Moon** 305pp Pb 17.95
 1963: When he arrives in San Francisco with his orchestra, Philip Damon is still mourning his wife, who was mysteriously murdered. The elegant charity ball where he is performing sets the stage for another killing, this one involving a dead ringer for his late wife. (American)


Carola DUNN

 **The Case of the Murdered Muckraker** 250pp Pb 15.95
A Daisy Dalrymple mystery #10. Daisy and her husband DCI Alec Fletcher of Scotland Yard, come to America for a honeymoon visit. In the midst of a pleasure trip, however, both work in a bit of business. Daisy accompanies her editor to lunch but as they are leaving the offices, they hear a gun shot and see a man plummeting down an elevator shaft. The man was one of her fellow residents at the Chelsea Hotel, a journalist with no end of enemies. Again in the midst of a murder investigation, Daisy's search for the killer takes her to all levels of society and even a mad dash across the country itself. (American)


Lynn ERICKSON

 **Without a Trace** 294pp Pb 17.95
 Four words and suddenly Jane Russo can no longer hide from her duty. A killer rapist is preying upon young girls in Western ski towns. The FBI needs sketch artist Jane's help and sends Agent Ray Vanover to lure her back into the game. Now, with Ray's support, Jane must confront the demon from her past, to give this new madman a face of his own. (American)


Tom FASSBENDER & Jim PASCOE

 **By the Balls by Dashiell Loveless** (1998) 215pp Pb 10.95
A Bowling Alley murder mystery. Set in the fictional town of Testacy City, the story follows the exploits of Ben Drake, a pulp-style detective with a passion for small cigars and a weakness for women in trouble. Drake is employed by the Always Reddy Detective Agency, and his latest assignment is to investigate the bizarre murder of Gentleman Joe Biggs, a well-loved local bowling hero. Designed in the fashion of a 1940s pulp detective novel. (American)


Five Shots and a Funeral (1999)

 277pp Pb 12.95
The short fiction of Dashiell Loveless. Follow cigar-smoking, bourbon-drinking detective Drake as he returns in this collection of murder-packed mystery capers. Includes *The Silent Ventriloquist*, *Death Plays a Foul Game*, *A Cold-Blooded Kidnapping*, *Midnight Train to Nowhere*, and the highly anticipated case of *Raspberry Jack*. (American)


Tony FLETCHER

 **Hedonism** 393pp Tp 26.00
 In New York in the early 90s, Hedonism is the city's top dance club. When DJ Skippy winds up in hospital in a coma, the victim of a mugging, his best friend Holy decides to solve the crime himself. This novel is a fast action trip through a hardcore underworld of hip dance music, S&M sex and mountains of illegal drugs. It is a world at odds with normality, where no one sleeps and everyone is a suspect. (American)


Frances FYFIELD

 **Perfectly Pure and Good** 314pp Pb 19.95
 When Sarah Fortune, with her impeccable qualifications and chequered history, is sent to a small town in Norfolk, to sort out the inheritance problems of the Pardoes, Merton-on-Sea's premier family, but she soon discovers that guilt, insecurity, unrequited love and a touch of insanity afflict the Pardoes and the town - the legacy of a suicide which took place two years before, when a beautiful woman with an uncanny resemblance to Sarah herself, walked into the sea and never came back. (English)


Joshua GILDER

 **Ghost Image** 452pp Pb 19.95
 When plastic surgery resident Jackson Maebry sees his girlfriend, Allie, carried into the ER beaten and burned almost beyond recognition, the shock is almost too much to bear. Wanting to aid in her recovery, Jackson keeps their relationship hidden from both the police and his superiors, a decision that will cost him dearly. For when the truth comes out, Jackson becomes the prime suspect. (American)


Victor GISCHLER

 **Gun Monkeys** 283pp Tp 27.50
 Charlie Swift is an old school kind of guy. Runs a tight ship. Respects his boss. Takes care of his mom and kid brother. And, he's a stone cold killer. When a fancy new-wave hood, hungry for the primo Orlando territory Charlie enforces, offs most of Charlie's boys in a bloody mob takeover, our man steps in to make things right. Shot up, boozed up and beaten up, Charlie finds the toughest challenge he has ever had to face isn't snuffing out life, but preserving it. (American)

Robert GODDARD

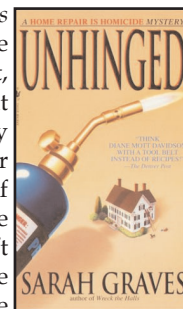
 **Days Without Number** 457pp Pb 19.95
 Nick's father is a retired archaeologist who is a supposed descendant of the emperors of Byzantium. When someone puts in a ridiculously high offer for the family's home in Cornwall, the old man refuses to sell, to the fury of his family. Only after his death does Nick discover why. (English)

Ann GRANGER

 **Watching Out** 311pp Pb 19.95
A Fran Varady novel. The paint is not even dry on the sign in Fran Varady's new office before she is called to investigate the grisly murder of a man pushed under a train at Camden Station. The pursuit soon takes her through the murkiest backstreets of London but is Fran way out of her depth? (English)

Sarah GRAVES

 **Unhinged** 332pp Pb 17.95
A Home Repair is Homicide mystery. Once a Wall Street hotshot, Jake Tiptree chucked it all for a charmingly dilapidated fixer-upper in the tiny town of Eastport, Maine. She was certain she had left the dangers of city life behind until she discovered that no place, no matter how idyllic and peaceful it might appear, is safe from murder. (American)

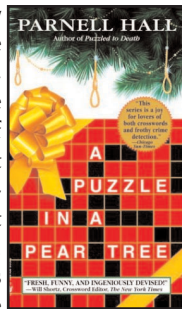


**John GRISHAM****The King of Torts****486pp Pb 19.95**

When Clay Carter reluctantly takes the case of a young man charged with a random street killing, he assumes it is just another of the many senseless murders that hit Washington DC every week. As he digs into the background of his client, Clay stumbles on a conspiracy too horrible to believe. He suddenly finds himself in the middle of a complex case against one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, looking at the kind of enormous settlement that would totally change his life, that would make him, almost overnight, the legal profession's newest king of torts. (American)

Parnell HALL**A Puzzle in a Pear Tree****349pp Pb 17.95**

A Puzzle Lady mystery #4. 'Tis the season to be jolly, but Cora Felton, shanghaied into The Twelve Days of Christmas as a most reluctant maid-a-milking, has every right to feel like a grinch. When someone steals the partridge from the pear tree and replaces it with a cryptic puzzle she has no hope of solving, it is almost more than the Puzzle Lady can bear. But then smug crossword creator Harvey Beerbaum solves the acrostic, and it turns out to be a poem promising the death of an actress. This is more like it! Could the threat be aimed at Cora and her thespian debut? Or at Sherry, one of the ladies-dancing? Or at Sherry's nemesis, the pageant's predatory lead, Becky Baldwin? (American)

**Joan HESS****Out on a Limb 303pp Pb 17.95**

A Claire Malloy mystery. Faberville bookstore owner Claire Malloy is ruminating over the state of her love life when she gets disturbing news. Elderly Miss Emily Parchester is up a tree. Chained to an old oak, packing a thermos of tea and a gun, the retired schoolteacher is ready to go down with the tree, before she will let another historic piece of Faberville be bulldozed in the name of progress, meaning developer Anthony Armstrong's condominiums. (American)

Thomas HOOVER**Syndrome 380pp Pb 17.95**

People who are part of a bizarre secret experiment that reverses the aging process find the experiment is out of control. To stop the madness, one woman must enter a nightmare world where scientists control your body and your mind! Where living makes you beg for death... (American)

Claire JOHNSON**Beat Until Stiff 203pp Pb 17.95**

A Poisoned Pen Press mystery. Experienced pastry chef Claire Johnson whips up an insiders look at San Francisco's cutthroat restaurant trade. Cranky Mary Ryan steps on a laundry bag stuffed with the dead body of one of her employees. The investigation soon exposes all the dirty secrets that the food business would like to keep secret: the philandering chefs, the silly whims of the dining public, the hiring and firing of illegal aliens and the subsistence-living pay scale. (American)

Jeannine KADOW**Dead Tide 389pp Pb 19.95**

When Washington anchorwoman Lacie Wagner discovers the body of a female diver washed ashore in Nantucket, the most explosive investigation of her career swiftly turns into a nightmare because the secret killer has engaged Lacie in a chilling life-and-death game with his latest living captive. (American)

Diana KILLIAN**High Rhymes and Misdemeanours 321pp Pb 15.95**

A Poetic Death mystery. While visiting her favourite poets' old haunts in England's Lake District, Grace Hollister, an American schoolteacher and literary scholar, stumbles upon the body of Peter Fox face down in a stream. Thankfully, the dashing local antiques dealer is not dead, but Grace soon finds herself pursued by two menacing thugs who are after the gewgaws Peter is hiding. (American)

Rochelle KRICH**Blues in the Night****335pp Pb 17.95**

The image of the young woman in her nightgown stumbling along a dark, winding road is one Molly, a freelance true-crime writer, cannot shake. In fact, it draws her to a bedside in intensive care, where the victim whispers to her three names: Robbie, Max and Nina. It is not a smoking gun, but is sufficient to reinforce Molly's gut instinct that there are sinister circumstances behind the assault on Lenore Saunders. (American)

Mike LESTER**The Occasional Dream****167pp Pb 24.95**

Boyd's a small-town hood trying to survive, but his obsession with money keeps him held down. Still, he is able to maintain balance, at least until the local crime boss, gives Boyd a simple snatch-and-dash job. The job is no problem for Boyd, but when he catches a glimpse of the mysterious dark-haired Missy, his world begins to unravel. As the nature of his crimes grows more severe, Boyd's inner turmoil grows too, threatening to smother him and destroy all that he has managed to hold onto. (American)

John LUCIEW**Fatal Dead Lines 326pp Pb 15.95**

In a gripping debut novel that combines power, politics and the press, Luciew introduces a rogue reporter whose new lease on life may be the end of him. Obituary writer Lenny Holcomb has reached a dead end. Burned-out and uninspired, he knows life in Harrisburg has nothing left to offer. Until the secrets of the dead begin to reveal themselves in his work, sending Lenny back into the streets armed with a shrewd mind and a recharged sense of purpose. (American)

Robert LUDLUM**The Tristan Betrayal****520pp Tp 32.95**

The Nazis are at the height of their power: France is occupied, Britain is enduring the Blitz and is under the threat of invasion, America is neutral and Russia is in an uneasy alliance with Germany. Stephen Metcalfe is a well-known man about town in occupied Paris. He is also a minor asset in the USA's secret intelligence forces in Europe. Through a wild twist of fate, it falls to Metcalfe to instigate a bold plan that may be the only hope for what remains of the free world. (American)

John LUTZ**The Night Spider****410pp Pb 17.95**

Each woman slept in her Manhattan high-rise, behind securely locked doors. Sealed in their night sheets and stabbed, each bled to a slow end. Mouths frozen in silent screams reveal little to NYPD Captain Thomas Horn and his detectives! (American)

Patricia MacDONALD**Stranger in the House****372pp Pb 17.95**

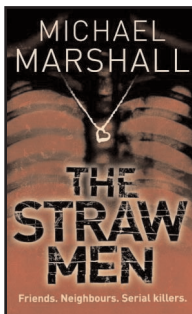
11 years ago, Anna Lange's life was shattered when her young son Paul disappeared, though she never gave up hope that he might be alive. Now her son has been returned. The joyful family reunion is short-lived, however, as the nervous, withdrawn Paul begins to behave strangely. Anna's husband and daughter grow fearful living in the same house with him. But Anna believes that Paul is still recovering from the extreme psychological trauma he experienced the night he disappeared, though he claims he has no memory of that time. Now Anna will have to contend with a nightmare from the past that will either tear her family apart, or destroy them altogether. (American)

Michael MALONE**First Lady 350pp Pb 21.95**

A woman's body has been found. It is mutilated, tagged and addressed to Lt Justin Saville and Police Chief Mangum. Dubbed the 'Guess Who Killer' by a voracious press, Hillstown in North Carolina has a serial killer on its hands but the cops have no leads. (American)

**Michael MARSHALL** **The Straw Men** 484pp Pb 18.95

Marshall's unique voice adds a chilling intensity to the serial-killer plot, combining dazzling narrative, a white-hot pace and a deeply disturbing backdrop of conspiracy. In fact, Stephen King has this to say about it: "Just when you think there's nothing new under the sun in the world of the suspense novel, along comes one hell of a nasty spider called *The Straw Men*. It's brilliantly written and scary as hell. Be the first on your block to stay up all night with this one; it's a masterpiece." (English)

**Sandy McCUTCHEON** **The Ha Ha Man** 406pp Tp 29.95

In a marketplace in Afghanistan a young man sees his father die at the hands of the Taliban. He races home to protect his wife and children, but it is too late. Devastated by grief, Karim Mazari must flee his homeland if he is to have any chance of survival, but at a time of international uncertainty and terror, compassion can be hard to find. Until he discovers that a passport and a ticket to Australia can be bought. In Australia anger is growing about the plight of asylum seekers imprisoned in detention centres. Layla, an Afghan migrant, begins an underground campaign to help those behind the razor wire, and is surprised to discover how many Australians are ready to risk everything to support her. Meanwhile, there are reports of an increasing number of deaths from a mysterious virus. Is Australia deliberately being targeted for its involvement in world affairs? (Australian)

Harold NICOLSON **Sweet Waters (1921)** 275pp Tp 42.95

An Istanbul thriller. This is a gripping novel set on the banks of the Bosphorus in old Istanbul. Beneath the surface sparkle of the waters there are deep and dangerous currents at play. These are the last years of the intrigue-ridden capital of the Ottoman Empire. Political intrigue and blackmail, love, friendship and ambition. All are tested as Balkan troops close in on the beleaguered city. This novel contains magical descriptions of Istanbul before it was transformed into the bustling metropolis of today. It is a political thriller, a love story and a travel book all in one. This is a facsimile reprint with an introduction by the author's grandson. (English)

Carol Anne O'MARIE **Murder Makes a Pilgrimage** 276pp Pb 17.95

A *Sister Mary Helen* mystery. Vivacious and outgoing, Lisa Springer was the most unlikely member of the free pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, the birthplace of Christianity in Spain. And Sister Mary soon had reason to suspect the auburn-haired knockout knew the other members of the tour group and some of their ugliest secrets all too well. So when Lisa was discovered strangled to death in a saint's crypt, Sister Mary faced no end of likely suspects. She and Sister Eileen must race to uncover Lisa's past and expose a clever killer hell bent on prematurely sending one sleuthing nun to her heavenly reward. (American)

Barbara PARKER **Suspicion of Madness** 401pp Pb 19.95

Gail Connor and Anthony Quintana's vacation in the secluded Florida Keys is interrupted by a bizarre local murder with explosive and unexpected ramifications. Now, as a tropical storm threatens to unleash its fury, they find themselves trapped among the strange and secretive islanders, and plunged into an escalating nightmare of unknown terrors, unexpected twists, and deepening madness. (American)

Robert B PARKER **Stone Cold** 323pp Tp 32.95

Investigating a serial killer in an affluent suburban town is difficult and dangerous, and with the added pressures from the town selectmen and the media, the heat is turned up on Police Chief Jesse Stone. He is spending too much time with the bottle (and with his ex-wife), neither of which helps him, or the case. And the harder these outside forces push against him, the more he retreats into himself, convinced that it is up to him alone to stop the killing. As tough, clear-eyed and sardonic as Jesse Stone himself, this is the Grand Master working at the peak of his powers. (American)

Gary PHILLIPS **The Perpetrators** 173pp Pb 24.95

With the clock ticking, the story jumps off in the border town of Tijuana, Mexico. A smooth cat who labels himself an expeditor must survive a gauntlet of hitters and freaks to deliver his client alive to their destination. She is a high maintenance drug queen who has made a deal with the top cop in Sacramento. By all means of transportation, the two make their way north, while behind-the-scenes machinations go down. Battered but not out, our man completes his assignment only to find out all ain't what it seems. But then, he's not getting two million dollars just to look good. (American)

Carmen POSADAS **Little Indiscretions** 305pp Pb 22.95

When renowned pastry cook Nestor Chaffinch hears the freezer door shut behind him, he knows he is doomed to a slow and frosty death. There is no shortage of suspects, because serving up delectable desserts for generations, Nestor is privy to his customer's secrets. (Uruguayan)

Zane RADCLIFFE **Big Jesse** 370pp Pb 22.95

Scarlet plucks her 12-string guitar with nails the colour of cocktail cherries and Belfast music hack Jessie Black is smitten. But then, almost as suddenly, Jay feels the heat of a sniper's bullet. Who wants him dead? Or rather, who doesn't want him dead? Then Scarlet goes missing and things start getting serious. (Irish)

William RELLING **The Criminalist** 353pp Pb 17.95

Detective Rachel Siegel is a 12-year veteran of the San Patricio Sheriff's Department. But she has never seen anything like the handiwork of the Pied Piper, the vicious serial killer who has been terrifying that part of California for months. Kenneth Bennett works for the Department of Neuropsychiatry at St Louis's Washington University. There is something special about the Pied Piper case that draws Bennett almost against his will to the west coast. He has no choice but to help Siegel in her frantic search, even if it gets both of them killed in the process. (American)

Peter ROBINSON **Playing with Fire** 375pp Tp 30.00

The new *Inspector Banks* novel #14. In the early hours of the morning, a man reports a fire on two old canal boats. One of the fire fighters notices the use of accelerant at the scene and calls the police, but by the time Banks arrives, the fire brigade have put out the flames and only the smouldering wreckage remains. Banks must begin to delve into the lives of the victims to discover who could have wanted them out of the way forever. (English)

Meryl SAWYER **Tempting Fate** 428pp Pb 17.95

Kelly Taylor's heart shattered when her husband died in a plane crash. Only then did she learn that he had a child, abandoned in a Venezuelan orphanage. Determined to rescue the boy, she turns to undercover agent Logan McCord for help. Soon, Kelly and Logan begin a perilous liaison, joined in a sham marriage that arouses an irresistible desire. And together, they confront a maelstrom of secrets and danger, where an innocent child and a cruel killer are waiting. (American)

**Hubert SELBY****Waiting Period (2003) 197pp Tp 29.95** **The Demon (1976) 312pp Tp 27.95**

Hubert Selby Jr was born in Brooklyn New York in 1928. After a career in the merchant marine, cut short by illness, he achieved international recognition for **Last Exit to Brooklyn** (Pb 21.00) in 1964. His latest novel has received rave reviews in the USA and UK. **Waiting Period** is about a man who pulls back from the brink of suicide when his application to buy a gun with which to shoot himself is delayed. Instead of throwing his life away, he decides to spend all his time and effort disposing of those who he feels deserve to die. With a renewed zest for living, he embarks on a joyful killing spree, having found the true purpose of his existence! (American)

Maggie SHAYNE **Thicker than Water****393pp Pb 19.95**

It was called a haven for runaway teens. In truth, it was a nightmare, one that ended in fiery violence 16 years ago. Syracuse news anchor Julie Jones is afraid. Her long-dead past was resurrected when a blackmailer threatened to expose secrets that could destroy her. Then the man was found dead, his throat cut with a knife from Julie's own kitchen. Now a new, faceless enemy wants more than money. This time Julie stands to lose the most precious thing of all, her teenage daughter Dawn. Julie finds herself with one unlikely ally, journalist Sean MacKenzie. (American)

Michael SLADE **Bed of Nails 435pp Pb 19.95**

Isolated in the Riverside Insane Asylum is the Ripper. Well, he believes he is the notorious butcher who terrorised Whitechapel more than a century ago. In the black hole of his imagination he re-enacts the crimes. In the darkness of his heart he still craves the thrill of the kill. Thank God he can't escape. Unfortunately, in Riverside, there is no God! (American)

Susan SLATER **Flash Flood 305pp Pb 17.95**

A Poisoned Pen Press mystery. Dan Mahoney, insurance investigator, lands in Tatum, New Mexico where several prize cattle on the famed Double Horseshoe Ranch have mysteriously died. The claims put a lot of money at stake for Dan's company but that just scratches the surface of the high jinks afoot in Tatum. A surprised Dan had not counted on witnessing a murder, falling in love or becoming a pawn of federal agents. Sucked into small town duplicity, he struggles with truth and learns that dead men do haunt. (American)

Peter SPIEGELMAN **Black Maps 285pp Tp 32.95**

The stronghold of white-collar crime in the rarefied world of high finance, this is the setting for this edgy, suspenseful, sharply honed debut novel. At the centre: John March, who walked away from his family's merchant bank for the life of a rural deputy sheriff, a life that would explode in personal tragedy and professional disaster. Three years later, he is back in Manhattan, working as a PI and running from his grief and the expectations of his wealthy family. (American)

Richard STARK **Breakout 299pp Pb 32.00**

A Parker novel. Parker's back in gaol, but not just any old gaol; it is the correctional centre, where people without bail wait before and during their trial. So Parker's first order of business is to build a network among these cons and break on through to the other side. Once out, he gets involved in a heist set up by one of his co-conspirators, but the deal heads south, and Parker and his fellow escapees are running for their lives. A cast of cops, busybodies, snitches and weak links quickly have the walls closing in on him. For Parker, the ultimate jailbreak is about to begin. (American)

Cristina SUMNERS **Crooked Heart 323pp Pb 17.95**

A Divine mystery. From a new voice in suspense fiction comes this wise, witty and uplifting novel, a mystery with heart that will illuminate more than just whodunit and why. An Episcopalian priest brings to life an unforgettable town, a less-than-perfect crime and two flawed souls hoping to solve the mysteries of life, death and possibly even love. (American)

Denise SWANSON **Murder of a Barbie and Ken 261pp Pb 15.95**

A Scumble River mystery. Skye joins Scumble River's social club and ends up at a party at the home of socialites Barbie and Ken Addison. But not long after, Skye gets caught in a murder mystery when she finds the perfect couple, perfectly dead... (American)

James THAYER **The Gold Swan 440pp Pb 19.95**

To mark 5,000 years of civilization, China has commissioned master architect John Llewellyn to construct a building like no other, a 3,000-foot-tall crescent of bronze, steel and concrete, towering above the Hong Kong skyline. Its official name is the Fifth Millennium, but the city's citizens have dubbed it the Gold Swan. It will be the eighth wonder of the world, a testament to China's glory. And it may hold a fatal flaw that could bring it crashing to the ground before it is completed. (American)

Peter TURNBULL **Treasure Trove 170pp Hb 54.95**

A retired academic makes the grim discovery of four murdered corpses, all of the same family. Suspicion falls on the one surviving member but the case soon unravels the story of a family that has fallen from grace with the peerage, and a village, which is keeping its own secrets. (English)

Andrew VACHSS **Only Child 275pp Tp 32.00**

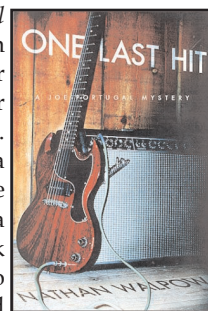
A Burke novel. It has been years since Burke has been home, years since he has seen his 'family' and worked in the underbelly of NYC. Although his appearance has changed, his reputation grown dusty and his wallet thin, his skills and his crew remain razor sharp. So when a mob boss needs someone to investigate the murder of his illegitimate daughter Vonni, Burke takes the job and begins searching for an unspeakably brutal killer. Posing as a casting director looking for tomorrow's stars, Burke reaches out to the high school students who knew Vonni, and may know the identity of the killer. Before long he unearths a perverse enterprise, a young director pursuing a brutal new type of cinema verité. (American)

Laura VAN WORMER **The Bad Witness****441pp Pb 17.95**

A Sally Harrington novel. Called to testify in the sensational Mafia Boss Murder trial unfolding in sunny California, journalist Sally Harrington is a key witness for the defense. Unfortunately, she knows more than she would like to about the accused. After all, the East Coast mobster once tried to have her killed. But it is not until her life is threatened once again that things really get interesting. That is when the defense counsel accuses Sally, his own witness, of being more interested in the attractive police officer who is now protecting her than in being a witness. (American)

Nathan WALPOW **One Last Hit 371pp Tp 27.50**

A Joe Portugal mystery #3. Back in 1968, they made killer music, but now their music is killing them. Joe stumbles upon a chance to put the band he was in as a teenager back together; all he has to do is find the lead guitarist, who has not been seen since the 1970s! But when he starts to look, it is quickly clear that someone does not want to see a reunion tour, someone who is very handy with a gun. (American)




**Jess WALTER**

 **The Land of the Blind**
399pp Pb 18.95

Working the weekend shift, Caroline Mabry is confronted with a confession of murder from a charming derelict. At first sceptical, when she realises he is the former politician Charles Mason, Caroline finds herself scrambling to investigate his long and progressively darker tale. (American)

Margaret YORKE

 **Criminal Damage (1992)**
341pp Pb 19.95

Something murderous is about to happen in Middle Bardolph. Unknown to Mrs Newton, an ex-convict and some unsavoury associates are as near as next door while her recently jilted daughter is going murderously mad with grief, and her middle-aged son is so desperate for his inheritance he just may try to collect it prematurely. Any of the above could endanger an elderly lady's life, but there is something more. A most sinister secret belongs to Mrs Newton herself... (English)

HISTORICAL CRIME

**Bruce ALEXANDER**

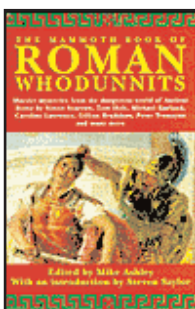
An Experiment in Treason
324pp Pb 17.95


A Sir John Fielding mystery #9. 1760s, America. Fielding has trailed a packet of stolen and controversial letters from London to the colony of Massachusetts, but when the suspect is found dead, he turns his eye on the possible involvement of Benjamin Franklin. (American)

Mike ASHLEY (editor)

The Mammoth Book of Roman Whodunits
526pp Pb 21.95

Mystery and murder in Ancient Rome. The greatest characters from the Roman era march through these pages: Hannibal, Scipio Africanus, Spartacus, Julius Caesar, Cicero, Nero, Vespasian, Cleopatra, Pliny the Younger, et cetera. From the famed Julius Caesar to the Fall of Rome, here are 20 stories, firmly founded in fiction, to enthrall and enchant. The anthology boasts a collection of new stories and rare reprints from the likes of Steven Saylor, Simon Scarrow, Tom Holt, Michael Jecks, John Maddox Roberts, Marilyn Todd, Philip Boast, Michael Kurland, Peter Tremayne, Caroline Lawrence and many more. (Various)

**Fiona BUCKLEY**

 **A Pawn for a Queen**
359pp Pb 17.95

An Ursula Blanchard mystery at Queen Elizabeth I's court. 16th century England. Ursula's relatives enlist her help when her cousin, Edward Faldene, heads to Scotland carrying a dangerous weapon: a secret list of families loyal to Elizabeth's rival, Mary, Queen of Scots. Desperate to stop the treasonous mission, Ursula rides north in haste to intercept her cousin. It is a journey made without royal permission, and one made in vain. She arrives in Edinburgh too late and finds herself tracking a killer inside the Scottish queen's court. (American)

Anna Katharine GREEN

**That Affair Next Door (1897),
Lost Man's Lane (1898)**
445pp Tp 52.00

Amelia Butterworth series. 1890s, USA. Green was the most famous and prolific writer of detective fiction in the USA prior to Dashiell Hammett. Her first novel, *The Leavenworth Case*, was the bestseller of 1878. Green is credited with a number of firsts within the mystery genre, including the gentleman murdered as he makes out his will and the icicle as murder weapon. She created the first female detectives in American fiction and her amateur spinster sleuth, Amelia Butterworth, became the prototype for numerous women detectives to follow. Nosey, opinionated and tenacious, Amelia Butterworth engages in a sustained rivalry with Ebenezer Gryce, a police detective. In the interaction between these characters, Green developed two more conventions adopted by future generations of mystery writers: the investigation as battle between the sexes and between the professional and the unexpectedly sharp, observant amateur. (American)

Ross KING

Ex Libris (1998)
392pp Pb 22.95

1660s, London. London bookseller Isaac Inchbold finds himself responsible for restoring a magnificent library pillaged during the English Civil War, and in the process slipping into an underworld of spies and smugglers, ciphers and forgeries. As he assembles the fragments of a complex historical mystery, Inchbold learns how Sir Ambrose Plessington, founder of the library, escaped from Bohemia with plunder from the Imperial Library. Inchbold's hunt for one of these stolen volumes soon casts him into an elaborate intrigue, but his search reveals that the elusive volume is not what it seems and that he has been made an unwitting player in a treacherous game. Following the huge success of **Brunelleschi's Dome** (Tp 35.00), Vintage have re-issued King's two historical crime novels, **Ex Libris** and **Domino** (Pb 22.95), with a sumptuous new jacket treatment. Irresistible. (Canadian)

Kate KINGSBURY

No Clue at the Inn
309pp Tp 32.00

A special Pennyfoot Hotel mystery. 1912, England. Cecily Baxter and her husband, Hugh, have not been back to Badgers End in two years; not since they sold the Pennyfoot Hotel and the new owner turned it into a country club. But when Cecily receives a letter asking her to manage the place during the Christmas season, she is delighted to accept. Hugh, however, is not quite so enthusiastic, especially when he discovers that the previous manager met a mysterious end... (American)

Clyde LINSLEY

Saving Louisa
264pp Pb 15.95

A Josiah Beede mystery. 1830s, New Orleans. Beede insists on helping his friend find his wife (a runaway slave accused of murder) before the law does, and uncover the identity of the real killer. (American)

Anne PERRY

A Christmas Journey
177pp Hb 39.95

Victorian England. Readers of Perry's novels revel in a world that is all their own, sharing the privileged existence of Britain's wealthy and powerful elite in West End mansions and great country houses. It is also a world in which danger bides in unsuspected places and the line between good and evil can be razor thin. This new novel features Lady Vespasia Cumming-Gould (one of the most memorable characters from the Thomas Pitt series) who appears here as a lively young woman, the ultimate aristocrat who can trace her blood to half the royal houses of Europe. (American)

Anne PERRY

Seven Dials
375pp Pb 19.95

An Inspector Pitt novel. Victorian London. Pitt is summoned to a Connaught Square mansion where the body of a junior diplomat lies huddled in a wheelbarrow. Nearby stands the tenant of the house, the beautiful and notorious Egyptian woman Ayesha Zakhari, who falls under the shadow of suspicion. Pitt's orders are to protect at all costs the good name of the third person in the garden: senior cabinet minister Saville Ryerson. Pitt's journey to uncover the truth takes him from Egyptian cotton fields to the insidious London slum called Seven Dials, to a packed London courtroom where shocking secrets will at last be revealed. (American)

Caroline ROE

A Draught for a Dead Man
322pp Pb 17.95

The Chronicles of Isaac of Girona #6. Blind Jewish physician Isaac travels to northern Catalonia to heal an injured man, but the real cure requires uncovering the danger that surrounds him. (Canadian)



CRIME NON-FICTION

Michael BIGGS

The Biggs Time

213pp Tp 29.95

Ronnie and Michael, Man and Boy. This book chronicles Ronnie's life, his version of the train robbery, what happened to the money and his life on the loose, including how he was kidnapped twice! It is also the story of Michael Biggs and how he saved his father's life on at least four occasions, and how he has battled against the British Government to secure his ailing father's release from prison. The bond that exists between Ronnie and Michael is special. They are more than father and son, they are the closest and best of friends. (English)

Gary DELSOHN

The Prosecutors

368pp Hb 59.95

A year in the life of a District Attorney's Office. Depicting American justice at its best and worst, this book lifts the lid off today's legal system with details that are more shocking and graphic than any television show or novel. Allowed unprecedented access to spend a year inside an urban prosecutors' office, Delsohn provides a riveting, behind-the-scenes look at how America's increasingly overburdened judicial system really functions. Seen through the eyes of the main characters in this true-life drama, this book shows dedicated public servants at work. The cases they encounter within this one year are as shocking as they are indelible. (American)

John DUNNING

Murderous Women (1985)

249pp Pb 14.95

The 18 true stories in this collection certainly support the claim that the female of the species is deadlier than the male. (English)

Lyn RIDDLE

Family Blood

284pp Pb 17.95

The murder that shattered an all-American home. On 25 November 1997, Earl and Terry Robertson, both 49, were found brutally slaughtered inside their home in North Carolina. They were family people, churchgoing and law-abiding. Suspicion swiftly fell on their eldest son, Jimmy Robertson, 21, who had recently moved home. When his own grandmother talked to a newspaper reporter, she said, "He'd be better off put to sleep." (American)

Lawrence SCHILLER

Cape May Court House

368pp Pb 19.95

A Death in the Night. No one in Cape May Court House, New Jersey, was surprised when Eric Thomas, a popular young doctor, sued the Ford Motor Company for the wrongful death of his pregnant wife, Tracy, after a minor accident involving their powerful Explorer. Backed by the medical examiner's findings, the lawsuit claimed that the Explorer's air bag inflated improperly, causing injuries that resulted in Tracy's suffocation. But this seemingly simple product-liability case soon evolved into something far darker and more complete. After an exhaustive investigation, Ford turned the tables, alleging that Tracy Thomas did not die from injuries resulting from a defective air bag. She died because of manual strangulation, with Eric Thomas accused of murdering his wife. (American)

John SILVESTER & Andrew RULE

Underbelly 7

232pp Pb 16.95

It takes balls to become Australia's oldest stick-up man. In a 60-year criminal career Aubrey Broughill had what it took, right to the end. But when his bloated body was found in a flooded quarry, his testicles were missing. Turtles were blamed, but there are doubts. (Australian)

Joseph WAMBAUGH

Fire Lover

383pp Tp 24.95

Winner of the 2003 Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Fact Crime. On an October evening in South Pasadena, a horrifying wave of flame swept through a large home improvement centre, snuffing out the lives of four innocent people, including a toddler. Fire fighters rushed to the scene, even as a pair of equally suspicious fires broke out in two nearby stores. Silently watching the raging inferno in the midst of the heat, smoke and chaos was a man respected as one of California's foremost arson investigators, a captain in the Glendale Fire Department! (American)

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