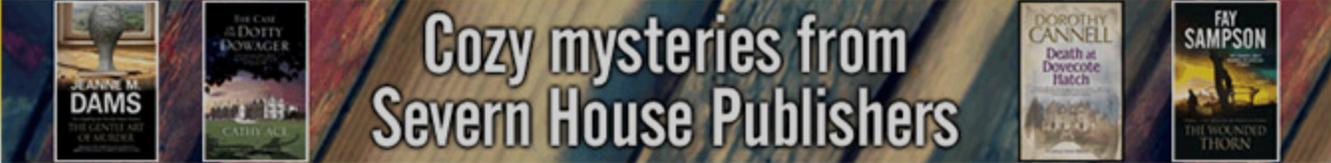


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NEWSLETTER #78 - MAY 8, 2015

Cozy mysteries from
Severn House Publishers



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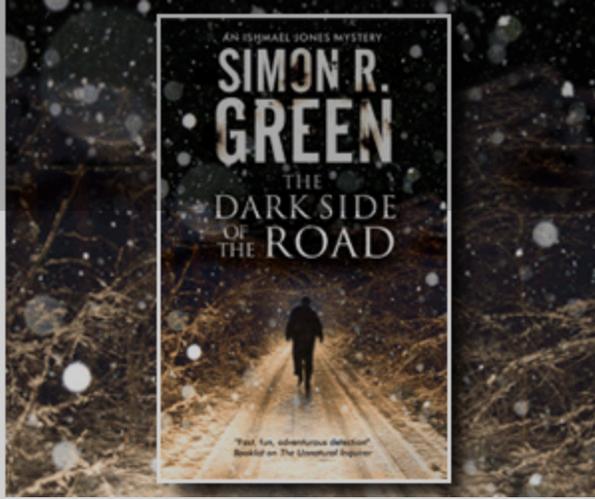
Adrian Magson: When Life Meets Art



Adrian Magson is a highly regarded author of espionage thrillers – but that doesn't mean that writing always comes easily. Following the critical and commercial success of the first in his new Marc Portman series, *The*

Watchman, Magson found that writing the sequel, [Close Quarters](#), was more fraught than he could have imagined.

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FEATURE ARTICLE

[Village Cozies](#), by Bill Ott

Cozy mysteries, like all the many subgenres in the crime-fiction world, are rarely purebred. Sometimes the setting may seem cuddly enough, but its effect is undercut by realistic action or characters riddled with ambiguity. Sometimes, too, the sleuth is a policeman, not the proprietor of a knitting shop, but the mood is far more Miss Marple than it is Harry Bosch (think M. C. Beaton's Hamish Macbeth). So what are the defining characteristics of a cozy? Mood, above all, but mood enhanced by setting. The streets, or the leaf-strewn paths, aren't mean, or at least don't look mean. The pace on those streets or paths is slow, relaxed, tranquil—until, inevitably, someone stubs the toe of her Welly on a dead body (killed off screen, of course).

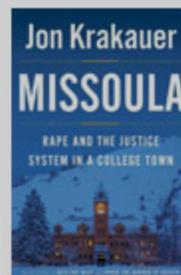


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TRUE CRIME NEWSMAKER

[Missoula](#), by Jon Krakauer

Missoula, Montana, a college town of 70,000 people in western Montana, has made headlines in recent years for rape, both on and off the University of Montana campus, and most notably for the number of cases involving players on the University of Montana Grizzlies football team. The notoriety has spawned everything from a viral blog post ("My Weekend in America's So-Called 'Rape Capital,'" *Jezebel*) to a Department of Justice investigation. Krakauer, who most recently wrote about another scandal with a Montana connection (*Three Cups of Deceit*, 2011, examines the misdeeds of *Three Cups of Tea* author Greg Mortenson, whose Central Asia Institute was headquartered in Bozeman), tackles several highly charged cases and reminds us that rape is often not an instance of "he said, she said" but "she said, he denied, and the community refused to listen."

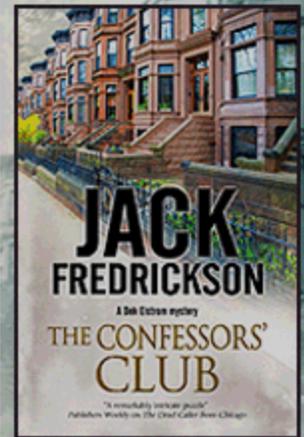


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Adult Books

[The Angel Court Affair](#), by Anne Perry

[Backstrom: He Who Kills the Dragon](#), by Leif GW Persson

"Backstrom is a great character, an unlikable guy you can't help liking, his seemingly lazy, offhand, insulting nature acting as a sort of cover for a razor-sharp intellect and an unstoppable determination to find justice at the end of the road."



[Believe No One](#), by A. D. Garrett

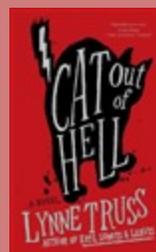
[Black-Eyed Susans](#), by Julia Heaberlin

[Blood Ties](#), by Nicholas Guild

[Burnt River](#), by Karin Salvalaggio

[Cat out of Hell](#), by Lynne Truss

"Retired librarian Alec is grieving over the sudden death of his wife, Mary, at a seaside cottage when he is drawn into a bizarre situation involving murder and evil cats. Stick with us here: Alec learns that Roger, a talking cat, seems to be involved in the death of a woman named Jo."



[A Catered Mother's Day](#), by Isis Crawford

[The Dismantling](#), by Brian DeLeeuw

[Doctor Death](#), by Lene Kaaberøl

"Combining good historical atmosphere with realistic characters and (for its time) cutting-edge science, the novel will draw historical-mystery fans and those fascinated by the antecedents of the modern CSI era."



Duet in Beirut, by Mishka Ben-David

The Edge of Dreams, by Rhys Bowen

"Bowen skillfully weaves one of the popular interests of the day —Freud's dream-analysis theories—into a well-plotted and thrilling-to-the-end mystery."



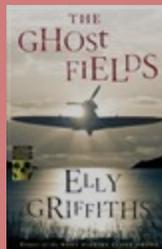
The Evidence Room, by Cameron Harvey

Fallout, by Paul Thomas

False Tongues, by Kate Charles

The Ghost Fields, by Elly Griffiths

"A construction worker digs up the remains of a WWII plane, with a skeletal pilot still gripping the wheel, in a field in Norfolk, England. Enter the North Norfolk Serious Crimes Unit and Ruth Galloway, a forensic archaeologist."



The Ghost Network, by Catie Disabato

A Good Killing, by Allison Leotta

"In her second romantic thriller featuring Anna Curtis (after *Speak of the Devil*, 2013), former prosecutor Leotta, who clearly knows her way around a courtroom, explores the bonds between women in this suspenseful tale with surprising twists and an ultimately satisfying conclusion."



Hard Latitudes, by Baron R. Birtcher

"Fans of the prolific Stuart Woods and Randy Wayne White will hope that Birtcher's engaging series has an equally long life."



Her Majesty's Mischief, by Peg Herring

The Ice Twins, by S. K. Tremayne

"Tremayne (a pseudonym) does a terrific job of building suspense until events reach their climax in the midst of a violent storm."



[Innocent Blood](#), by Michael Lister

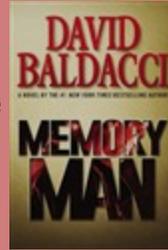
[Lamentation](#), by C. J. Sansom

[Lash-Up](#), by Larry Bond

[Love Is Red](#), by Sophie Jaff

[Memory Man](#), by David Baldacci

"Meet Amos Decker: former college football star, NFL player for one brief moment, police officer, and now a down-and-out private investigator. He sounds like a bit of a stereotype, and he probably would be, if it weren't for something that sets him apart: due to a violent accident on the playing field, Decker now has hyperthymesia, a psychological condition that makes him unable to forget anything."

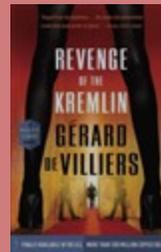


[MirrorWorld](#), by Jeremy Robinson

[Poison Ivy](#), by Cynthia Riggs

[Revenge of the Kremlin](#), by Gerard de Villiers

"This is a very fast-moving tale, with de Villiers using to good effect the spy novel's convention of quick jumps from scene to scene and character to character."



[Ruins of War](#), by John A. Connell

[See Also Murder](#), by Larry D. Sweazy

[The Snow Kimono](#), by Mark Henshaw

[Stone Cold Dead](#), by James W. Ziskin

[Thieves Fall Out](#), by Gore Vidal

[Tin Sky](#), by Ben Pastor

[Traitor's Gate](#), by Charlie Newton

[Under the Channel](#), by Gilles Pétel

"This is the first of author Pétel's popular noir tales to be published in English, and it is certain to attract readers who like noir that is focused on character as much as crime."



[Wicked Stitch](#), by Amanda Lee

Books for Youth

[The Case of the Stolen Sculpture](#), by Steve Brezenoff and illustrated by Lisa K. Weber

"Full-color, full-page illustrations suggest graphic-novel or even cartoon art, and back matter includes a glossary, discussion questions, writing prompts, and information about actual museums and notable artists."



[Charlie, Presumed Dead](#), by Anne Heltzel

[Deadfall](#), by Anna Carey

[The Escape](#), by Hannah Jayne

[The Friendship Riddle](#), by Megan Frazer Blakemore

[Gargoyles Gone AWOL](#), by Clementine Beauvais and illustrated by Sarah Horne

[The Mystery of the Scarlet Rose](#), by Irene Adler and illustrated by Iacopo Bruno

"Young Irene Adler again joins her friends Sherlock Holmes and Arséne Lupin in a caper involving codes, disguises, cryptic clues, murder, revenge, and nighttime rendezvous in seedy neighborhoods."



[Our Brothers at the Bottom of the Bottom of the Sea](#), by Jonathan David Kranz

[Out of Control](#), by Sarah Alderson

"Alderson's kinetic but sometimes fluffy thriller will be entertaining for readers looking for an action fix, whether they find the plot twist involving her father's job conspicuous or not."



[Platypus Police Squad: Last Panda Standing](#), written and illustrated by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

[Six](#), by M. M. Vaughan

[The Third Twin](#), by C. J. Omololu

[Vanished](#), by E. E. Cooper

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