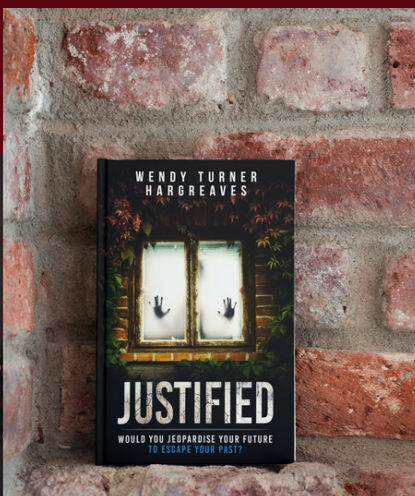


Crime Fiction Addiction

Issue 02 - September 2023

In this issue:

- Why do we get book blues?
- The evolution of crime fiction: from classic whodunits to modern thrillers
- Recent releases
- Signed book giveaway



Justified

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signed copy



Crime Fiction

Through the eras - how
crime fiction's evolved



Reading

Why do we get book
blues ?



Welcome

Dear Fellow Crime Enthusiast!

Welcome to issue #2 of the "Crime Fiction Addiction" newsletter, dedicated to all things crime and crime fiction.

From the classic whodunits of yesteryears to the cutting-edge modern thrillers of today, there's a look at how crime fiction has morphed and adapted, captivating generations of readers. Plus - ever wondered why finishing a gripping novel leaves you with a sense of loss? Explore the enigma of post-book melancholy and uncover the emotions that linger long after the final page.

I'd love to hear from you. If you'd like to contribute, do get in touch and don't forget to enter to win a free signed copy of 'Justified'. Send me your pics, something you're writing or your thoughts on anything discussed in this newsletter.

Most of all, thank you for being here.



Wendy

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The Evolution of Crime Fiction: From Sherlock Holmes to Cyber Sleuths

Crime fiction, a genre that has captivated us for centuries, has seen a remarkable evolution over the years. From the brilliant deductive reasoning of Sherlock Holmes to the high-tech investigations of modern cyber sleuths, this genre has continuously adapted to reflect the changing times and the complexities of the human condition.

The Birth of Detective Fiction:

The roots of crime fiction can be traced back to the early 19th century when writers like Edgar Allan Poe introduced readers to the world of detective stories. Poe's iconic character, C. Auguste Dupin, used logical reasoning to solve perplexing mysteries, setting the stage for the genre's development.

Sherlock Holmes and the Golden Age:

The late 19th and early 20th centuries marked the "Golden Age" of detective fiction, with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes leading the way. Holmes's brilliant deductive skills and iconic pipe captured the imagination of readers, laying the foundation for the modern detective archetype. During this era, authors like Agatha Christie and her famous detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple also thrived, shaping the genre's conventions.

Hard-Boiled Detectives:

The 1920s and 1930s brought about a new breed of detective fiction with hard-boiled detectives like Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe and Dashiell Hammett's Sam Spade. These gritty, morally ambiguous protagonists navigated a world filled with crime and corruption, reflecting the darker side of society.

The Cosy Mystery and Psychological Thrillers:

In contrast to hard-boiled detective stories, the cosy mystery emerged in the mid-20th century. Authors like Agatha Christie excelled in creating puzzles set in idyllic English villages, with amateur sleuths uncovering secrets. Simultaneously, the psychological thriller gained popularity, delving into the minds of criminals and exploring the psychological aspects of crime.

Modern Crime Fiction:

Crime fiction continued to evolve in the late 20th century and beyond. The advent of forensic science and technology added new layers to detective work. Writers like Patricia Cornwell introduced forensic experts like Kay Scarpetta, while Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch navigated the complexities of modern policing.

The Digital Age and Cyber Sleuths:

With the rise of the digital age, crime fiction has embraced technology as a central theme. Authors like Stieg Larsson with "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" and Jeffery Deaver with Lincoln Rhyme have explored cybercrime, hacking, and the complexities of the internet in their novels. These cyber sleuths use modern tools and digital clues to solve crimes, reflecting contemporary issues.

Crime fiction has continuously adapted to reflect the changing world. Whether you prefer the foggy streets of Victorian London or the high-tech world of cyber investigations, crime fiction offers something for everyone, making it a genre that will forever hold a place in the literary landscape.

What are your thoughts? What's your favourite era? Get in touch and share your views – I'd love to hear from you.



Ink & Intrigue: Memorable Quotes & Gripping Reads

Quote



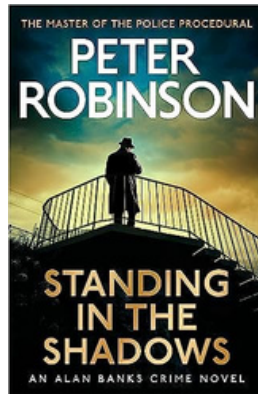
Do you know someone who flatly refuses to be open minded? The one person at work who won't listen to new ideas, the friend who won't try new experiences?

Our minds have incredible potential, but it's up to us to unlock it. When we approach life with an open mind, amazing things can happen.

When we close ourselves off from new experiences or cling tightly to our preconceived notions, we limit our potential for growth and miss out on valuable opportunities. This quote sums it up perfectly for me.

Sometimes it's scary, but by embracing the unknown, we expand our horizons and invite positive change.

Recent Releases

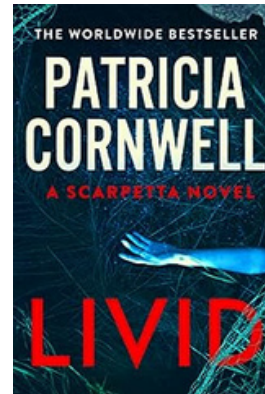


Alan Banks returns in *Standing in the Shadows*, Peter Robinson's final novel before sadly passing in 2022.

As always, you're in a safe pair of hands with Peter Robinson. His ability to pull readers in with his immaculately structured, beautifully detailed plots is second to none.

Standing in the Shadows was released in June, so not exactly a new release but it's worthy of a mention for its craftsmanship. The dovetailing of two plots in one is masterful and illustrates why Robinson will always be an icon of UK crime fiction.

It's an understatement to say he will be sadly missed by his readers.

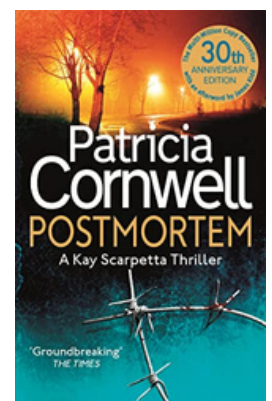


Kay Scarpetta, created by author Patricia Cornwell, is a beloved character in the world of crime fiction and she's back as the star witness in a high profile murder trial.

Patricia Cornwell's meticulous research and attention to detail in her novels make Scarpetta's work and the forensic science elements of the stories super authentic.

She's a character who cares deeply about the victims and seeks justice on their behalf. Her empathy and determination resonate with readers who value the pursuit of truth and justice.

This is another thrilling read from Cornwell, although the ending seemed abrupt to me. If you're not familiar with this series, start at the beginning and read *Postmortem*. It's genius!



The Book Blues: Exploring the Emotions After the Final Page



You've just finished the last page of a captivating novel, and instead of the expected satisfaction, you're greeted by a peculiar feeling of melancholy. If you've ever experienced this post-book sadness, you're not alone. Many avid readers encounter what's colloquially known as the "book blues" after completing a particularly engrossing read.

The Emotional Connection:

One of the primary reasons readers experience book blues is the deep emotional connection forged with the characters and the story. Throughout the pages, readers become invested in the lives, struggles, and triumphs of the characters. When the book ends, it can feel like saying goodbye to cherished friends.

Escaping Reality:

Books offer an escape from the real world. They transport us to different times, places, and even dimensions. The book blues often stem from the abrupt return to reality, leaving behind the enchanting world created by the author.

Loss of Purpose:

While engrossed in a book, readers often have a clear sense of purpose: to finish the story. The conclusion can lead to a sense of aimlessness, as the purpose-driven reading experience comes to an end. This transition can be disorienting.

Anticipation and Build-Up:

The excitement of starting a new book, especially after hearing rave reviews or recommendations, can create high expectations. When the book meets or even exceeds those expectations, the sense of loss when it's finished can be particularly acute.

The Desire for More:

A beautifully written book often leaves readers hungry for more – more of the author's writing, more about the characters' lives, or more from the same fictional universe. When that craving isn't immediately satisfied, it can lead to a sense of longing.

Do you have book blues right now?

Here are my top tips to get you through it!

Take a breather: Allow yourself a moment to reflect on the book and appreciate the emotions it stirred. It's okay to mourn the end of a great story.

Find a new literary friend: Start a new book or explore a different genre. Dive back into your TBR pile or head for the book shop. If you need an excuse, beating the blues is a perfect one!

Engage with other readers: Join book clubs or online forums to discuss the book with others who share your passion. It can be therapeutic to dissect the story and its impact with like-minded individuals.

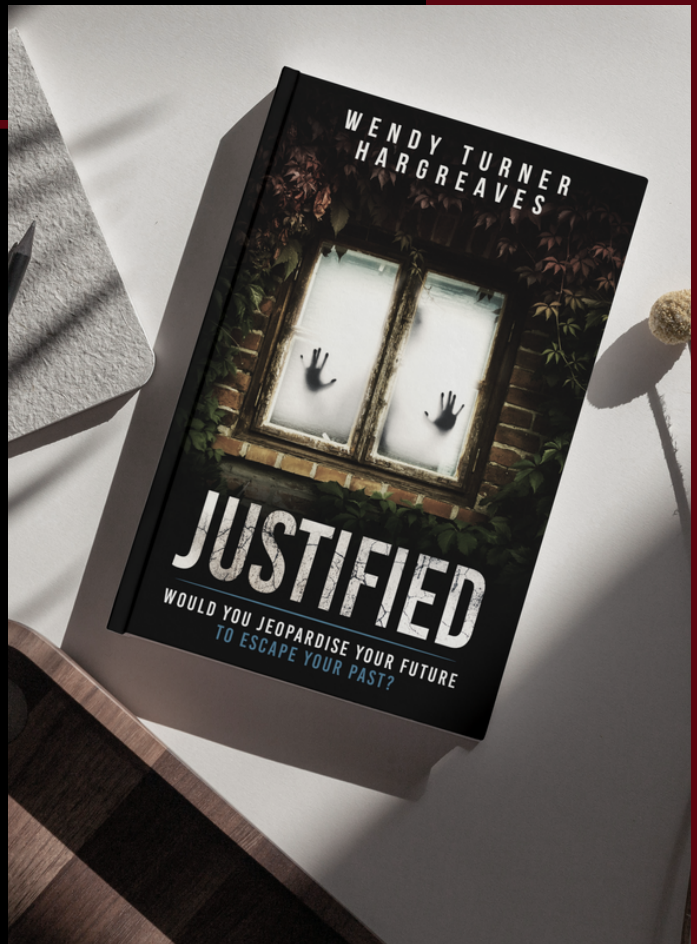
Revisit old favourites: Sometimes, rereading a beloved book can rekindle the magic.

Express yourself: Write a review, create fan art, or even try your hand at fanfiction. Creative outlets can help channel your book blues into something productive.

Embrace the melancholy! Let it fuel your anticipation for the next captivating read.

Get in touch 
wendy@retroriver.co.uk

Win a FREE Signed Copy of "Justified"



Fancy a Freebie?

If you enjoy a twisty crime thriller, here's your chance to win a signed copy of "Justified."

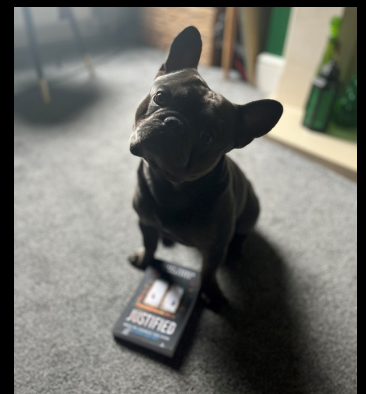
Simply comment on the page where you're reading this newsletter or post, or pop me an email to wendy@retroriver.co.uk

The winner will be announced in next month's issue, so don't forget to subscribe if you haven't already.

Good luck!

Wendy

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Ernie, guarding the giveaway

NEXT MONTH

- **Unsolved mysteries - true crime stories**
- **From Femme Fatales to Sleuths: Tracing the History of Women in Crime Fiction**
- **Writing: The Art of Crafting Engaging Story Arcs**
- **News, quotes and recommendations from your favourite genre**



Did you enjoy the opening of 'Justified' last month? If you'd like to carry on reading, here's the [link to buy](#) on Amazon. If you missed it, you can read it on my website.

Go to <https://wendyturnerhargreaves.com/newsletter>

Would you like to contribute?

Please get in touch if you'd like to contribute in any way - I love hearing from readers and other authors. You can also get in touch via one of my social media channels.



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