

The Drowned Man: A Peter Cammon Mystery, , David Whellams, ECW Press, 2013, 1770410430, 9781770410435, 428 pages. In this second mystery featuring Chief Inspector Peter Cammon, the veteran detective is lured out of retirement once more. With a familiar cast of characters reacquainting themselves with readers of the series, the novel follows Peter as he embarks on his seemingly simple assignment: travel to Canada to retrieve the body of a murdered Scotland Yard colleague. But Peter can't resist delving into the oddities of the crime. His colleague was brutally attacked, run over by a car, and then dumped into a canalĐ²Đ,―all seemingly for the theft of three letters from the American Civil War era, one of which is signed by John Wilkes Booth. Meanwhile, Alice Nahri, the girlfriend of the dead man, looms over the investigation..

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Joyland, Emily Schultz, 2006, Fiction, 296 pages. Welcome to 1984 and the town of South Wakefield. Chris Lane is 14 and he's sure that he can see the future, or at least guess what's inside of Christie Brinkley's mind. But he

The Red Pole of Macau, Ian Hamilton, Aug 8, 2012, FICTION, 400 pages. The "cool and stylish heroine kicks it up a notch" (Terry Fallis, author ofBest Laid Plans), in the gripping fourth installment of Ian Hamilton's Ava Lee Series. InThe Red Pole

Dead Politician Society A Clare Vengel Undercover Novel, Robin Spano, Sep 1, 2010, Fiction, 240 pages. When the mayor keels over dead in the middle of a speech, a clandestine student society immediately takes credit for his demise. Their mission is to create a perfect political

Death Plays Poker A Clare Vengel Undercover Novel, Robin Spano, Oct 1, 2011, Fiction, 411 pages. "World class poker players are being strangled in their hotel rooms, and undercover cop Clare is given her second big assignment: to pose as a poker player in a major televised

Daaku , Ranj Dhaliwal, Oct 28, 2006, Fiction, 311 pages. In the violent and ruthless world of Indo-Canadian gangs, Ruby Pandher is on his way up. A self-described daaku (Punjabi for outlaw), Ruby learns young that might, in the form

Walking Into the Ocean, David Whellams, 2012, Fiction, 465 pages. Scotland Yard Chief Inspector Peter Cammon is sent to the Jurassic Coast to investigate the murder of a woman and her mechanic husband, which he soon learns is tied to a string

Cecilian Vespers A Mystery, Anne Emery, 2009, Fiction, 312 pages. When controversial German theologian's blood-stained body is found on the altar of a church during Vespers on Saint Cecelia's Day, lawyer and bluesman Monty Collins is called

Wild Thing An Eddie Dancer Mystery, Mike Harrison, May 19, 2006, Fiction, 287 pages. A psychologist accused of serial murder while on a book tour in England, calls Calgary PI Eddie Dancer to England to clear his name. Dancer discovers that Dr. Maurice had

Woman Chased by Crows An Orwell Brennan Mystery, Marc Strange, May 1, 2012, FICTION, 416 pages. Dockerty police chief Orwell Brennan has his hands full. The town's mayor keeps trying to use him for re-election while her slick, out-of-town challenger is smearing him every

The Night Detectives: A David Mapstone Mystery, Jon Talton, May 7, 2013, Fiction, 250 pages. The private-detective business starts out badly for former Phoenix Deputy David Mapstone, who has teamed up with his old friend and boss, Sheriff Mike Peralta. Their first

Bird Eat Bird, Katrina Best, Apr 1, 2010, FICTION, 166 pages. Bird Eat Bird, Katrina Best's first book of short stories, is a funny, smart, offbeat and insightful collection that explores themes that are equally poignant and hilarious. A

Cover Her Face An Adam Dalgliesh Mystery, P.D. James, May 1, 2001, Fiction, 256 pages. Dalgliesh searches for the person who killed the maid and left her body in a room with a bolted door..

Country Living Simple Sustainable Style Ways to Make a House Your Home, Randy Florke, Nancy J. Becker, Nov 6, 2012, , 192 pages. Explains how to incorporate three crucial details of design--comfort, economy, and color--into one's personal decorating approach, helping readers transform their home with a

They Found Him Dead, Georgette Heyer, Nov 1, 2009, FICTION, 336 pages. The redoubtable Superintendent Hannasyde delves further into the "death by misadventure" case of one Silas Kane and the murder of Kane's nephew and heir, discovering that

Rules of Crime, L. J. Sellers, Feb 26, 2013, Fiction, 283 pages. When a call from his daughter, Katie, interrupts his much-needed vacation, Detective Wade Jackson knows itĐ²Đ,â,¢s bad news. His ex-wife, Renee, has disappeared and Jackson heads

The Raven Girl, Audrey Niffenegger, May 16, 2013, , 80 pages. Once there was a Postman who fell in love with a RavenĐ²Đ,Âl So begins the tale of a postman who encounters a fledgling raven while on the edge of his route and decides to take her

In this second mystery featuring Chief Inspector Peter Cammon, the veteran detective is lured out of retirement once more. With a familiar cast of characters reacquainting themselves with readers of the series, the novel follows Peter as he embarks on his seemingly simple assignment: travel to Canada to retrieve the body of a murdered Scotland Yard colleague. But Peter can't resist delving into the oddities of the crime. His colleague was brutally attacked, run over by a car, and then dumped into a canal—all seemingly for the theft of three letters from the American Civil War era, one of which is signed by John Wilkes Booth. Meanwhile, Alice Nahri, the girlfriend of the dead man, looms over the investigation.

Whellams follows Walking into the Ocean (2012) with a second mystery starring retired Scotland Yard chief inspector Peter Cammon. Retired is a bit of a misnomer, for Cammon can't seem to give up the life of a cop. Take, for example, his former boss' request to travel all the way to Montreal to escort home the body of a deceased Yard colleague. Cammon initially has no intention of taking the job—Why should someone of his professional stature take on such a menial assignment?—but when he discovers that the dead man was murdered and that his death seems to be connected to a trio of missing Civil War–era letters, one of which might have been written by Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth, Cammon's curiosity and sense of justice get the better of him. Tightly plotted and featuring a lead character who keeps us glued to the page, the book should definitely suit readers looking for an intriguing lead character and a solid mystery. --David Pitt

"Whellams's sophomore entry (after Walking into the Ocean) sweeps the reader away with its

elaborate plot, insightful observations about human character, and genuine spy adventure. This title can be read as a stand-alone, but take my word for it, this is a series to follow particularly for Louise Penny fans and the Masterpiece Mystery set." —Library Journal (March 2013, *Starred Review*)

" Author David Whellams fields crisp yet compassionate dialogue that puts the reader inside Cammon's struggle to adjust to a personal life again after a long career in which it went to seed. Whellams brilliantly captures volleys of danger and suspense that penetrate the fog hanging over the ex-detective's life. Detective Cammon's retirement makes for a book to enjoy. " — Don Graves, Hamilton Spectator

This is the second in a series, following "A Walk in the Ocean", featuring retired Chief Inspector Peter Cammon. As it opens, we find Peter struggling a bit. He's dealing with grief over the recent loss of his brother & trying to redefine himself, now that he is no longer a copper. His old boss calls with a job: go to Montreal to retrieve the body of Frank, a Scotland Yard colleague who was murdered there. Initially he intends to blow it off but as he digs a little deeper, something doesn't smell right.

His instincts prove correct. In Montreal, he learns Frank was there to mediate the purchase of three letters written between John Wilkes Booth & members of the British military in 1864. Instead, he ended up hit by a car & dumped in a canal. The letters are missing & so is Frank's girlfriend who secretly accompanied him.

Soon Peter is dealing with a crazy British Consul diplomat, a mafia-obsessed Quebec police inspector, a separatist history professor & Alice. Alice is the girlfriend but so much more. She's also a beautiful Indian seductress whose body bears the scars of her dangerous life of crime & getting close to her can be fatal. Men have used her for years but she's paid attention & now she will use them any way she can to get what she wants. The letters may have historians salivating but she sees them as a way to leave her life behind. So begins a complex game of cat & mouse with Peter dividing his time between England, Montreal, Washington & New York state.

This book reminded me of something by Agatha Christie, either Miss Marple or Poirot. It's smart, tightly scripted with red herrings everywhere you look & few people are whom they seem. The first part establishes Peter's background & lays out the preliminary aspects of the case. Then as it continues, the chapters alternate between Peter & Alice so we are privy to the thoughts & agendas of each. This is where the pace starts to pick up & the tension slowly builds. The city of Montreal with all it's history, complicated politics & mafia wars becomes another character of the novel. And it's a pleasure to read a book where the identity of the killer is not glaringly obvious by the third chapter.

To balance the historical aspect of the plot, the author also draws on current affairs such as the phone hacking scandal in London & the investigation into cricket match fixing. Many of the cast are recurring from the first book & they are well written, complete characters, not caricatures of their various professions. Dialogue is tight & each person has a distinct voice whether it's Peter's sidekick, his daughter in law Maddy or a cop with the Surete.

But Peter is the centre & heart of the story. He has a formidable ability to solve puzzles but also treasures his family & long walks with Jasper the dog. His retirement & brother's death cause him to reflect on all he missed on the home front during his long career but he can't deny how good it feels to be back in the hunt. He's complex, smart & fallible and you can't help but like him.

Dave Whellams worked as Counsel with the Government of Canada in the Department of Justice for several decades, with a focus on reform of the Criminal Code, addressing a wide range of issues, including high-risk offenders and anti-terrorism. His experience in criminal law and policing has contributed to his novel Walking into the Ocean, and informed Stories from the Criminal Code, a short story co...more Dave Whellams worked as Counsel with the Government of Canada in the Department of Justice for several decades, with a focus on reform of the Criminal Code, addressing

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In Whellams's busy second Peter Cammon mystery (after 2012's Walking into the Ocean), the apparently straightforward task of escorting a murdered colleague's body from Montreal to England proves anything but for the retired Scotland Yard inspector. The coroner's report asserts that John Carpenter drowned after he had already suffered fatal internal damage from being struck from behind by a car. The motive for the crime involves three letters of great historical value if authentic: one was allegedly written by John Wilkes Booth a few months before Lincoln's assassination; the others were written to Booth. These letters are missing, along with a beautiful woman with whom Carpenter was traveling. The cross-border action includes a brutal sexual assault (of questionable relevance), a suicide, the Quebec separatist movement, Montreal mobsters, the News of the World phone-hacking scandal, and cricket fixing. Whellams fails to tie these wide-ranging issues together satisfactorily. (May)

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Retired Scotland Yard Inspector Cammon wonders why he is needed to accompany a dead agent, John Carpenter, home from Montreal; any low-ranking individual could do the job. Quickly, he realizes that John's business in Canada doesn't quite fit into a suitable business model. John was working with people purportedly selling rare letters written by Abraham Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth. Someone stood to make quite a bit of money auctioning off the documents and somehow the dead agent ended up in the middle. Once Peter learns of John's elusive girlfriend, he realizes that more than rare documents are at stake. A dazzling game of cat and mouse carries him from Canada to England to Washington, DC, and beyond as a global plot unfolds. VERDICT Whellams's sophomore entry (after Walking into the Ocean) sweeps the reader away with its elaborate plot, insightful observations about human character, and genuine spy adventure. This title can be read as a stand-alone, but take my word for it, this is a series to follow particularly for Louise Penny fans and the Masterpiece Mystery set.

"Whellams has not just created an interesting detective; he has the ability to fashion many complex characters without resorting to outlandish eccentricities. Readers will be hard pressed to solve either crime before Cammon, though the opportunity is there." After Hitchcock "What's summer without a solid British thriller? . . . This is the first of a series: Peter Cammon could become another Detective Chief Inspector Alan Banks." The Globe and Mail "[T]he plot builds to a dramatic and suspenseful climax. The author's refreshingly clear-eyed portrayal of his hero ("Peter Cammon felt superior to psychology, in the way that many people do who have never studied it") is a plus." Publishers Weekly

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