

BOOKS | FICTION

The best crime books of 2022 so far

The year's finest novels for armchair detectives, chosen by the Sunday Times's Joan Smith

[Joan Smith](#)

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The Sunday Times's Joan Smith has been picking the best new crime novels for readers of the newspaper for over a decade.

In the course of 2022, we will be bringing together all her monthly choices of the most gripping new reads here in one place.

Every four weeks, Joan will add to this with her new book of the month and other selections.

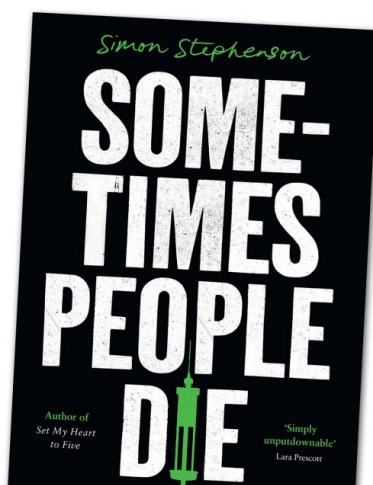
And if you want to look beyond her 2022 choices, you can also read our 2019 *Sunday Times* selection of the [100 best crime novels and thrillers since 1945](#).

All in all, we hope this will build into a comprehensive collection of recommendations, that should help you find the perfect crime read, whatever your tastes.

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And check back every month for Joan's latest picks.

September Book of the month

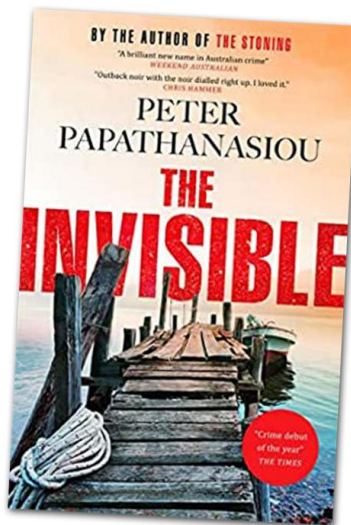


Sometimes People Die by Simon Stephenson

Borough Press £14.99

The UK's most prolific serial killer, Harold Shipman, was a GP who murdered at least 250 of his patients. Procedures have been tightened since then, but there are few better places for a homicidal doctor to operate than a hospital; as the title of Simon Stephenson's scary new novel reminds us, *Sometimes People Die* in the best of medical establishments. Stephenson trained as a doctor and his book is set in an overstretched hospital in the East End of London where grieving relatives are too much in awe of the doctors to question their loved ones' cause of death. That all changes when a barrister demands an investigation into the sudden demise of her mother. The cause turns out to be a deliberate overdose.

The suggestion that a clever killer could operate in a busy hospital is all too believable and the novel is a riveting read, interspersed with intelligent reflections on what might drive a physician to kill.



The Invisible by Peter Papathanasiou

MacLehose Press £16.99

The story of a stolen generation of Aboriginal children, taken from their parents and given to white families in Australia, is well-known. Peter Papathanasiou's fine second crime novel, *The Invisible*, sends his Greek-Australian detective back to Greece,