

# Partners in crime

It's 100 years since Agatha Christie published her first novel – and crime fiction is still booming...

**REVIEW A BOOK FOR TOWNSWOMAN**



- We give you a list of the featured books to choose from.
  - You get about a month to read your chosen book.
  - You email or post us your thoughts.
- Interested? Let Rhiannon at TGHQ know.

**THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB**  
**BY RICHARD OSMAN**  
 Viking, £14.99

**THE BOOK**

Described as 'a big-hearted crime novel with four unlikely heroes all pushing 80 at its heart', this is the fiction debut of the presenter known for his star turns on BBC One's *Pointless*.

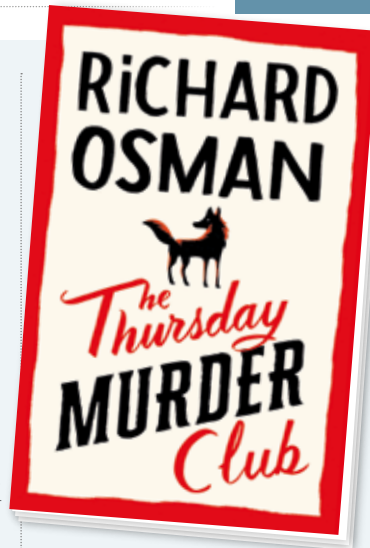
**THE REVIEW**

Some celebrity books fail to engage, and fall short of expectations. This one doesn't. Not by a long way. Watching Richard on television, I see someone who is quick, witty and smart – and that is how he writes.



The story is an original idea, pensioners detecting crimes, and yet it seems quite reasonable in Richard's able hands. He draws characters who are believable and well rounded. His dialogue is kept realistic and interesting. There are plenty of red herrings and it's easy to get led up the wrong path – and yet, come the end, when all is revealed, you can see it's all there if you'd looked, just like all the best murder mysteries.

He is a master of throwaway lines, right from the beginning, and I laughed out loud a few times at the humour. But don't think that this is a funny book – it isn't. It's sad, entertaining, emotional, gentle yet strong in equal measures.



I read this in one day, with a short gap to prepare and eat a meal. I honestly couldn't put it down. For a first book it's excellent and it sounded as if it might be the start of a series. I do hope so.

**THE WHISPERING HOUSE**  
**BY ELIZABETH BROOKS**  
 Doubleday, £14.99



Five years ago, Freya Lyell's troubled older sister, Stella, was

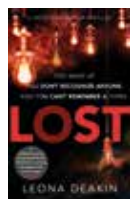
discovered dead at the bottom of cliffs in Devon. But why is there a portrait of Stella in the nearby mansion, with its beautiful façade that conceals a decaying interior? And will Freya be drawn into danger by the same man?

**ONE BY ONE**  
**BY RUTH WARE**  
 Harvill Secker, £12.99



High in the French Alps, a group of colleagues have gathered for a corporate retreat. While fighting over the future of their firm, an avalanche cuts them off from the outside world and one of their number goes missing. This chilling crime thriller, from the writer described as the modern-day heir to Agatha Christie, is out in November.

**LOST**  
**BY LEONA DEAKIN**  
 Black Swan, £8.99



In this twisty thriller, a bomb explodes at a military ball, and one casualty, Captain Harry Peterson, disappears on his way to hospital. Three days later he turns up, but remembers absolutely nothing. Cue psychologist and private detective Augusta Bloom – but how will she be able to discover what happened? Out late October.

**THE WEIGHT OF SMALL THINGS**  
**BY JULIE LANCASTER**  
 Mirror Books, £8.99



When nine-year-old Frankie finds her mum hanging in her bedroom, the police say it was suicide. But Frankie – sent to live with her grandmother – is sure it is murder. How, though, can she prove it? Written from Frankie's point of view, this novel is perfect for those who loved Joanna Cannon's *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep*.

**MORTMAIN HALL**  
**BY MARTIN EDWARDS**  
 Head of Zeus, £18.99



Rachel Savernake is the sleuth in this crime mystery set in 1930 by multi-award-winning Martin Edwards. Opening with a funeral train on London's Necropolis Railway, we have multiple murders, many red herrings and a house party at Mortmain Hall on the remote North Yorkshire coast. The cheaper paperback is out in December.