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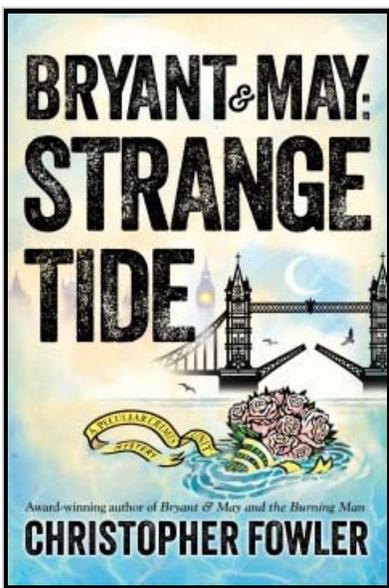


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Bryant & May: Strange Tide

by Christopher Fowler

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From the Publisher: London's most brilliant but unconventional detectives, Arthur Bryant and John May, must plumb the depths of a particularly murky mystery. The Peculiar Crimes Unit faces its most baffling case yet—and if Bryant and May can't rise to the challenge, the entire unit may go under. Near the Tower of London, along the River Thames, the body of a woman has been discovered chained to a stone post and left to drown. Curiously, only one set of footprints leads to the tragic spot. "The Bride in the Tide," as the London press gleefully dubs her, has the PCU stumped. Why wouldn't the killer simply dump her body in the river—as so many do? Arthur Bryant wonders if the answer lies in the mythology of the Thames itself. Unfortunately, the normally wobbly funhouse corridors of Bryant's mind have become, of late, even more labyrinthine. The venerable...

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About The Author

Christopher Fowler

Christopher Fowler is the acclaimed author of the award-winning *Full Dark House* and twelve other Peculiar Crimes Unit mysteries: *The Water Room*, *Seventy-Seven Clocks*, *Ten Second Staircase*, *White Corridor*, *The Victoria Vanishes*, *Bryant & May on the Loose*, *Bryant & May off the...* and *Bryant & May: Strange Tide*, as well as the PCU story collection *London's Glory*. In 2015, Fowler won the coveted Crime Writers' Association Dagger in the Library Award in recognition for his body of work. He lives in London, where he is at work on his next Peculiar Crimes Unit novel, *Wild Chamber*.

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What We Say

This is lucky number 13 in a long-running series about a detective duo of a certain age who are the heart and soul of London's Peculiar Crimes Unit. Before reading one of their tales, I had the mistaken impression that Peculiar Crimes implied some sort of fantastical element. Then when I realized the books were firmly lodged in the real world, I leapt to the idea that Peculiar meant the sort of crimes they tackled or maybe the way they solved crimes. I was getting closer but in reality I now feel it's the people in the PCU who are genuinely peculiar in the most delightful way. John May is the more sober-minded of the pair and Arthur Bryant is the eccentric genius over-brimming with tidbits about London's history while liable

to pull a min-easel out of one pocket and a blow torch out of the other from his voluminous, ancient coat. They are a treat, as are the vivid other characters on their team, including oddballs like the two Daves (two blokes constantly doing mysterious repairs) and others who are fiercely loyal to the two dear old men, not least because they have a remarkable track record of success. Author Christopher Fowler insists each novel can be read on its own but clearly long-time fans will enjoy this the most and newcomers will feel the pull of going back and starting at the start. In "Stranger Tides," Fowler continues the rather poignant sight of Bryant suffering increasing signs of dementia, which naturally isn't about to keep him from doing his job, even if he does occasionally seem to slip back in time to the earlier London of history that is his true love, only to "wake up" in the most embarrassing situations. A city investigator is making life difficult, thanks to being simply agog and perhaps a little impressed at the sheer number of infractions and irregularities of the PCU. And their hapless, long-suffering if harmless superior stands by looking daft, as always. There's a clever case involving immigrants who have come to London on the down low and now find a talent for cons like televangelism and New Age rackets, dead bodies piling up in the Thames and curious threads of knowledge Fowler weaves in here and there for buffs of arcana. It's all good fun, a solid entry in the series that shows every sign of continuing, a happy prospect since I had the mistaken impression their last tale was a swan song. Now where's the TV series this practically begs for? -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

Praise for Christopher Fowler's ingenious novels featuring the Peculiar Crimes Unit

"Fowler, like his crime-solvers, is deadpan, sly, and always unexpectedly inventive."—*Entertainment Weekly*

"An imaginative funhouse of a world where sage minds go to expand their vistas and sharpen their wits."—Marilyn Stasio, *The New York Times Book Review*

"[Fowler] takes delight in stuffing his books with esoteric facts; together with a cast of splendidly eccentric characters [and] corkscrew plots, wit, verve and some apposite social commentary, they make for unbeatable fun."—*The Guardian*

"Mr. Fowler's small but ardent American following deserves to get much larger."—Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*

"The most delightfully, wickedly entertaining duo in crime fiction."—*The Plain Dealer*

"Captivating."—*The Seattle Times*

"Dazzling."—*The Denver Post*

"Thrilling."—*Chicago Tribune*

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