



The Mammoth Book of Perfect Crimes & Impossible Mysteries

Mike Ashley (Editor)

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From the likes of Robert Randisi, Peter Crowther, and Max Rittenberg, these 30 stories of bizarre and impossible crimes will fascinate and intrigue the reader who grapples with their intricate puzzles. A man alone in an all-glass phone booth, visible on CCTV and with no one near him, is killed by an ice pick. A man sitting alone in a room is shot by a bullet fired only once—over 200 years ago. A man enters a cable-car alone, and is visible for the entire journey, only to be found dead when he reaches the bottom. A man receives mail in response to letters apparently written by him — after his death. The Mammoth Book of Perfect Crimes and Impossible Mysteries is a stunning collection of brand new and previously unpublished stories, as well as many stories from rare mystery journals appearing for the first time in book form.

The Mammoth Book of Perfect Crimes & Impossible Mysteries Details

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Author : Mike Ashley (Editor)

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From Reader Review The Mammoth Book of Perfect Crimes & Impossible Mysteries for online ebook

Mike says

Pulp fiction it seems, but suggest the stories you liked, if you've read this. I'm on a mystery/suspense/thriller kick. Here's what I've read so far:

"No Killer Has Wings" grade:C - A nice beach murder, but no great tension to the crime, just an unusual method. Could be improved through better character development or more at stake.

"Proof of Guilt" grade:B - Much better writing, more tension. I was intrigued about the mystery of this simple scenario murder, but the reveal at the end doesn't quite justify the rest of the story. The final sentence seems a little middle-school-ghost-storyish and seems a bit improbable.

"Eternally Yours" grade: - Working on this one.

Purple Osprey says

There are one or two good ones, but mostly these stories are touchingly naive, old fashioned and not aged well.

Not hugely entertaining.

Serena says

4 stars

An Almost Perfect Crime by William F. Smith ****
Banner] the X Street Murders by Joseph Commings ****
Inspector Dorj] Locked in Death by Mary Reed ****
Edward Ludlow] Wingless Pegasus by Gillian Linscott ****
Barnabas Hildreth] Duel of Shadows by Vincent Cornier ****
the 45 Steps by Peter Crowther ****
Paul Toft] Contrary to the Evidence by Douglas Newton ****
the Impossible Footprint by William Brittain ****
Three Blind Rats by Laird Long ****
Death and the Rope Trick by John Basye Price ****
Sam Hawthorne] the Problem of the Black Cloister by Edward D. Hoch ****
A Shower of Daggers by Edward D. Hoch ***
Bat Masterson] the Hook by Robert J. Randisi ****
Magnum] the Mystery of the Sevenoaks Tunnel by Max Rittenberg ****
the Red Ring by William Le Queux ****
Observable Justice by Will Murray ****

Jack Daniels] On the Rocks by J.A. Konrath ****
Eternally Yours by H. Edward Hunsburger ****
Murder in Monkeyland by Lois Gresh ****
No Killer Has Wings by Arthur Porges ****
Benning's School for Boys by Richard A. Lupoff ****
Michael Lord] the Episode of the Nail and the Requiem by C. Daly King ****
the Impossible Murder of Dr Satanus by William Krohn ****
the Stuart Sapphire by Peter Tremayne ****
Rolf le Roux] the Flung-back Lid by Peter Godfrey ****
the Poisoned Bowl by Forrest Rosaire ****
Proof of Guilt by Bill Pronzini ****
Slaughterhouse by Barry B. Longyear ****
the Birdman of Tonypandy by Bernard Knight ****

My Rating System:

* couldn't finish, ** wouldn't recommend, *** would recommend, **** would read again, ***** have read again.

Jill Hutchinson says

John Dickson Carr was the master of the "locked room" mystery and started a trend which continues to the present time. This anthology of 29 short stories, reprinted from the pulps and slicks, represents some of the best of the genre. Although some of the authors are almost unknown there are some real gems hidden in these pages. Granted, there are a few stories in which the solutions to what appear to be impossible crimes are just a bit too fantastic but for the most part, the stories are ingenious and entertaining. A great book to read as a diversion from more serious tomes.

Steve Gross says

Good collection of locked room type stories

Tim says

Outstanding.

LAWRENCE GILSDORF says

Every Tale is a good One

A brief biography of each author is a nice touch. This book highlights enjoyable puzzling tales rather than the hub bub of today's computer games.

LauraKaarina says

An uneven collection - more so than the first volume of impossible crimes collected by the same editor, *The Mammoth Book of Locked-Room Mysteries and Impossible Crimes*. Several gems, some dull stories, a few appallingly bad ones (one suspects written by personal friends of the editor). I wish someone would do a whole book of forgotten Golden Age impossible crimes and omit the contemporary Hochs and Pronzinis.

Sally Kilpatrick says

DNF: It really is Mammoth. I made it about 100 pages in, and it's just not what I'm looking for at the moment. Maybe I'll go back to it.

Lex says

Entertaining collection, great to dip in and out of on a commute. Some stories are markedly better than others, but overall an interesting mixture of old-fashioned and modern 'impossible' crimes.

Doug Lamoreux says

What more could you ask for? Thirty nearly perfect crimes by some of the great short fiction authors in all of mystery writing. You'll guess a few... but not many. Enjoy.

Rose says

Some good stories, some bad stories, some unnecessarily racist stories.

Alison C says

The Mammoth Book of Perfect Crimes and Impossible Mysteries, edited by Mike Ashley, includes both reprints of stories meeting the title's description and stories written specifically for this volume, which was published in 2007. The oldest stories are from 1910 ("The Red Ring," by William Le Queux) and 1913 ("The Mystery of the Sevenoaks Tunnel," by Max Rittenberg); there are a number of stories from the 1930s, by Vincent Cornier, C. Daly King, Forrest Rosaire and Douglas Newton; and from the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s in addition to the nine tales written especially for this anthology by the likes of Peter Crowther, Bernard Knight, Richard A. Lupoff and Peter Tremayne, among others. Interestingly, there are only three women included, and two of them are co-authors with men; I'm not sure if there's any reason for this discrepancy, but it has no effect on the stories themselves, which are all quite entertaining. I tended to like

the earlier ones simply because they describe a time and sensibility that is alien to me, but really the whole volume is worth reading. I did skip one story ("Murder in Monkeyland," by Lois Gresh and Robert Weinberg) because it involved lab animals, but otherwise I enjoyed these stories. If you're fond of impossible murders, this is a volume for you - recommended.

Nancy Oakes says

With any anthology, you're taking a chance that you're not going to like each and every story. So I was quite surprised and happy that so many of these crime stories were quite good. Some of the authors who've contributed to this volume may be familiar to mystery fans; if not, the editor has seen fit to give a little bit of biographical information about each writer prior to the beginning of his or her story.

There are 29 mysteries in this book, most by a different author, although Edward D. Hoch has two stories in here. Fans of Hoch will be happy to know that his wonderful character Dr. Sam Hawthorne makes an appearance.

I can't really do a summary of each of the 29 stories (way too much space required), but suffice it to say that for the most part, these were very well written, and that the editor chose well. I would definitely recommend this book to readers who enjoy the impossible-crime genre, or people who prefer their mysteries in small doses (short stories) rather than full-length novels.

Georgene says

An excellent collection of "locked room" short stories by some of the best writers of crime and mystery stories. It's a big book, but well worth the effort to read it.
