



London's Glory

Christopher Fowler

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In every detective's life there are cases that can't be discussed, and throughout the Bryant & May novels there have been mentions of some of these such as the Deptford Demon or the Little Italy Whelk Smuggling Scandal.

Now Arthur Bryant has decided to open the files on eleven of these previously unseen investigations that required the collective genius and unique modus operandi of Arthur Bryant and John May and the Peculiar Crimes Unit - investigations that range from different times (London during the Great Smog) and a variety of places: a circus freak show, on board a London Tour Bus and even a yacht off the coast of Turkey.

And in addition to these eleven classic cases, readers are also given a privileged look inside the Peculiar Crimes Unit (literally, with a cut away drawing of their offices), a guide to the characters of the Peculiar Crimes Unit, and access to the contents of Arthur Bryant's highly individual library.

London's Glory Details

Date : Published November 5th 2015 by Transworld Digital

ISBN : 9781473526211

Author : Christopher Fowler

Format : ebook

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Short Stories

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From Reader Review London's Glory for online ebook

Susan says

I really enjoyed these eleven short stories, mostly set in London, of course, about the two detectives at the Peculiar Crimes Unit at different points in their career. However, I gave the book a four-star rating because the stories necessarily lack the complexity of the Bryant and May novels. There's one story exclusively from Janice Longbright's viewpoint, true, but there's a paucity of the other characters in the PCU, not to mention Bryant's crew of eccentric informers and experts. More significantly, the stakes seem to be lower in most of the stories--I missed the tension of the novels as dire consequences for the PCU and the city of London seem to be looming.

Pam Baddeley says

A collection of short stories featuring the quirky pair of detectives, Bryant and May. This book contains 2 stories previously issued as ebooks - Bryant & May and the Secret Santa, and B & May's Mystery Tour.

The others are (all Bryant and May ...) in the Field, on the Beat, in the Soup, and the Nameless Woman, and the Seven Points, on the Cards, Ahoy!, and the Blind Spot, and the Bells of Westminster.

Some are deliberate attempts to use or are homages to classic concepts from the golden age of detective fiction such as the locked room mystery.

Mostly enjoyable with some good twists here and there, and the introductory essay on the author's interest in classic crime fiction, plus the notes about the various stories are interesting. The potted summary of the books so far in the series should also not be skipped even by people who have read them, such as me, because there is a little note about each - where the author got the ideas from etc. So an interesting all round read.

LJ says

First Sentence from "About the Book": 'Do you remember that corpse we found in the snow with nobody else's footprints around it?' asked Arthur Bryant.

Eleven delightful stories from the case files of London's Peculiar Crimes Unit have been gathered together into an absolutely delightful, intriguing collection of clever mysteries.

This is one time when the introduction is as interesting as are the stories. Fowler writes about the history of crime novels, as well as the differences between fiction and reality in crime. He pays homage to the great, Golden Age writers, some of whom man he Lost Cases of Bryant & May and the Peculiar Crimes Unit y may never have heard or read; i.e., Kyril Bonfiglioli, Joyce Porter, Pamela Branch, R. Austin Freeman, and Gladys Mitchell as well, of course, Allingham, Christie, Doyle and others.

Including a "Dramitis Personae" is something one might wish more authors would do. Folwer goes a bit

beyond the ordinary in that he takes the time to describe a bit about each character—"He's a sturdy, decent sort, married with a son, although he gets a little overenthusiastic when it comes to discussing crimes scenes and can bore for England on the subject of inefficient internet service providers."

The eleven stories include diverse time settings and locales. Included are a trip to see Santa, a locked room murder in a park, as well as a true locked-room murder, a carnival, swimming pool, receipt of a credit card, a yacht, The motives and solutions are fascinating and surprising, and not ones one can anticipate.

"London's Glory: The Lost Cases of Bryant & May and the Peculiar Crimes Unit" is a wonderful collection. Each case and solution is as unique as are Bryant, May and the members of the Peculiar Crimes Unit. It's the perfect book for both followers of the series, and as an introduction to new readers.

LONDON'S GLORY: The Lost Cases of Bryant & May and the Peculiar Crimes Unit (Pol. Proc/SS-Bryant and May-London-Contemp) – VG
Fowler, Christopher – Short Story Collection
Alibi, Mar 2016

Gram says

A great collection of short stories about the detectives Bryant & May, the subject of Christopher Fowler's wonderful series of books featuring the work of London's Peculiar Crimes Unit. These short stories are a great place for newcomers to the Bryant & May series to begin, especially as it includes brief biographies of all the staff of Britain's strangest police squad.

Heather Duff says

I will own up straight away, short stories sometimes fail miserably for me.

The problem I have is that you can have two good stories out of a book of twenty. A lot of wasted reading time that you can't get back, thankfully those charming figureheads of the Peculiar Crimes Unit, Detectives Bryant and May manage to fill an entire book with enjoyable stories.

I only read my first Bryant and May book this year but I fell very quickly for these two gents, their unique approach to policing is well....unique!

The collection covers stories from their years in the force and I don't mean recent years either! The stories have a great atmosphere around them, the snow and the fog that comes in to a lot of the stories really does make London the perfect setting for criminals, both deliberate and plain stupid to commit their crimes.

The best thing about Bryant and May's stories is that the outcome is not obvious, one especially for me which involved a woman being found dead in the snow with a cut throat but no footsteps nearby belonging to the killer, well the outcome of that was so clever.

Our gent's have proved that short stories can make for a cracking read and even though they are getting on in years, Bryant and May are sharp as tacks and a delight to read about.

I am looking forward to their next case!

Thank you to Doubleday for sending me a copy in exchange for an honest review

Tony says

It's odd being so familiar with characters and styled when confronted with something which is considerably different.

It's not a fault, but the structure of these short stories is understandably different to the full novels, it has to be that way in order to deliver a tale in fewer words.

But, I don't like fewer words, not with Bryant & May. I like lots of words, lots of background, lots of wild-goose-chases, lots of 'madness'. I like the flow of the full novels, the support from all the other characters.

There are some real laugh-out-loud moments in here though!

I did enjoy this, but for me there was so much missing. Back to the full ones for me!

Raluca says

Well, that was an interesting review copy. And by interesting I mean that I wish I wouldn't have to go to work and instead read the first 11 books in the Bryant & May series before breakfast. If you're a fan, you'll love this. If you're not, then you will be - it's as simple as that.

Milo (BOK) says

Read the Review Here

The *Bryant and May* series has turned into one of the most reliable crime reads for me and I'll always check out a new release whenever I can so it was great to see that Fowler had put out an anthology containing several short stories, with the number count coming to eleven in total.

Serving as a great introduction to the characters for readers who can find the backlog of books a bit daunting to catch up on *London's Glory* is an effective read that showcases why these characters are so great, containing some nice short stories that really work. There's a real nice element of humour when it comes with these books and it helps the stories feel all the more engaging because of it.

The stories are each briefly introduced by Fowler who gives us a background on how they came to be, and then we're thrust into the various cases of Arthur Bryant and John May's Career. The author has chosen to explore what they would have done in different time periods as well such as London during the Great Smog, but also cases that include a circus freak show and a tour bus are mentioned as well as Fowler puts the city to good use in some well balanced and nicely paced short stories that make for an engaging read, with plots that are never too easy to figure out and you'll probably end up discovering what happens at the same time the

characters do, which is something that can always throw me off a thriller normally.

It took me a while to get through *London's Glory* but that is in no way the anthology's fault, I prefer to have breaks between the short stories rather than read them all at once because if read together sometimes they can be jarring especially when they may be tonally different. Thankfully though in this case they weren't, and it allowed for a smoother read.

One of the strongest stories for me was the Tour Bus short, which really worked for me, with it being one of the more humorous shorts here. It was great seeing Arthur Bryant not getting along particularly well with the other occupants of the bus, and how the case was handled proved to be a refreshing experience as tourism is something that's rarely tackled in crime fiction especially in London, at least from what I've read of the genre.

There are no weak stories here and chances are you'll enjoy the majority of them even if you haven't read a single book of the Bryant and May series. It's a good place to start and gives you a nice introduction to their work, and will provide the perfect breather for the returning fans who want to read something different to a full length novel.

Andrew says

Ever since I lived just outside London and spent nearly 2 years exploring and adventuring with friends far and wide across the city I have always had a love for stories based across the city.

The works of Christopher Fowler for me cover such a huge spectrum of work - from horror to fantasy and even auto-biography. He has such a way with words involving such images powerful and vivid and yet does not have to stoop to cheap tricks and long words.

Now couple these two together and you have the world of Bryant and May two members of London's Peculiar Crime Squad.

Now what can I say about the two - well for once far too much - but basically you have two amazingly strong and charismatic individuals who are starting to feel the weight of time on their shoulders. I could go on and on about these two but they also have an incredible support cast in the rest of the members of the Peculiar Crime Squad.

But for me it's the city which is the star - now I love a well researched story either by determination and investigation or familiarity (as in the case of Mr Fowler) it allows the author such subtle and clever little in-jokes only those who really understand their material will get - and for me a simple throw away line in one of these stories sums it up - when the smog was so thick in the city... he realised it was too thick when he tried to post a letter in a Chelsea Pensioner.

Now I suspect few outside of the UK would get that reference but to me that shows the level of detail that is just thrown in these stories and for it makes them all the more special. If you want to read crime stories with a fun and twisted sense of humour - where huge amounts of work have been spent of the most simply of context. These books (and there are plenty to choose from in the Bryant and May series) are well worth the time and effort.

Diane S ? says

A book of short cases featuring my favorite pair of unorthodox detectives and their Peculiar crime unit. As shorts one doesn't get the full flavor of their personalities and peccadilloes, but for long time fans like myself, this was a treat. What made this an even better read was the author's comments before each story on how and why the story came into being, as well as his introduction where he mentions so many mystery writers he admires and those he don't. Also he explains what mysteries are supposed to accomplish and what the reader expects. Also loved the section on the strange books Arthur Bryant has in his library. Anyway, now have a list of new writer, or should I say past mystery writers which I will seek out sooner or later.

So thanks Christopher Fowler for continuing this wonderful series and thanks Netgalley for the ARC.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

'Do you remember that corpse we found in the snow with nobody else's footprints around it? And the department Santa Claus whose gift caused a death? I thought I'd write up some of our more curious cases.'

This was a fun read! I enjoy Mr Fowler's tongue-in-cheek sense of humour: 'On your left! No, your other left.'; and 'Everything comes with a warning about containing nuts these days. Except the general population.'

This is a collection of short stories which starts with an outline of why this book was written. In effect it mostly fleshes out and explains cases that are referred to in other Bryant and May books, but which have never actually been documented.

We also have thumb-nail sketches of all the main players in the stories, a cut-away diagram of the PCU offices, And (I am still not quite sure why) a list of the books in Arthur Bryant's rather eclectic library.

This is an amusing and entertaining read. And I am glad I have another Bryant and May title on my shelf to be read.

I received an ARC of London's Glory via Netgalley and Random House UK, Transworld Publishers, Doubleday in exchange for an honest and unbiased review.

Linda Strong says

What a fun read! I've had my eye on this particular series for awhile, but never got around to actually take a look.

Arthur Bryant and John May are London's most well-known detectives. The author has put together 10 mystery short stories for our reading enjoyment.

While the stories were good, the best part, to me, was the author's ramblings before, between, and after the stories. It's really insightful as he shares where his ideas came from.

I particularly like the characters. These are not the young, hotshot detectives that we mostly see. They are up there in age .. complete with balding heads, dentures, hearing aids, and walking canes. They're a little on the bad-tempered side ... cantankerous as my mama would say.

May is a bit of a ladies man, a bit more charming than Bryant. Bryant is an academic and an eccentric one at that. Because of their differences they usually disagree on how to work their cases .. leading a lot of times to somewhat heated arguments .. and to wrong results.

The stories themselves are quite entertaining. Lots of twists and turns. Unusual places for murder and mayhem. There just wasn't anything I didn't like.

If you've been reading the series, you will definitely like this one. If you haven't read the series, you will want to after taking a look at these short offerings.

Includes a preview of Christopher Fowler's new Peculiar Crimes Unit mystery, *Bryant & May and the Burning Man!*

Many thanks to the author / Random House Publishing Group - Alibi / NetGalley who provided a digital copy in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

Paromjit says

Unusually I listened to this collection of short stories featuring Bryant and May on audio. This format worked well for me as I found myself absorbed and entertained with their diverse outings. It begins with Fowler regaling us with his critical overview of the state of crime fiction, where much is seen as wanting. I found myself horrified by a freak show circus with the macabre behaviour of a Russian dwarf and John May's obsession with the colourful clothes of the 1960s, which sets the scene nicely with the latest addition to this series, *Hall of Mirrors*. Fowler gives us a round up of the history of the Peculiar Crimes Unit, including when Bryant burns down the Mornington Crescent office. Adored the stories, so much that I felt a real sense of loss when it all came to an end. Highly recommended!

Judy Lesley says

This collection of short stories and additional information provided by Christopher Fowler will be a great reading experience for fans of the Bryant & May series as well as someone just becoming acquainted with these quirky characters. There are eleven stories here and I had only read one of them previously as a stand-alone e-short story. The assortment is varied with some taking Arthur Bryant and John May far back into the past and one story being told from the viewpoint of the Peculiar Crime Unit's own Detective Sergeant Janice Longbright. Each story begins with a short introduction from the author letting us in on what inspired that particular story.

I enjoyed reading the Introduction to the book by Fowler where he gives us insights into his background of

reading crime novels and tells about some of his favorite mystery writers. His explanation for why he believes this style of novel is still so popular even though they don't even vaguely resemble true crime investigations is insightful for explaining why he continues to write this type of novel. Of great interest to me was the section which follows after the short stories end where Fowler comments on each of the twelve novels he has written in the series thus far. Having an author give the synopsis of his own creation plus providing the backstory for what caused him to write it was enjoyable and greatly appreciated. Several times in this collection Fowler mentions his intention - or desire - to write more short stories. He also explains why he has taken Arthur Bryant down the path disclosed in THE BURNING MAN. I understand his reasoning, but I still wish he had not gone in that direction. And if you have ever been curious or (as I am) in awe of Bryant's strange (?), incredible (?) library of books, there is a list of titles with Fowler letting us decide for ourselves which are real books and which are from his own imagination.

Also included with this other treasure trove of stories and information is an excerpt from the latest book, BRYANT & MAY AND THE BURNING MAN. If you haven't taken advantage of other opportunities to see what that volume is about, you have another chance here. This collection of stories presents Bryant & May from many different angles. It was a hit for me and I recommend the collection highly.

I received an e-ARC of this short story collection through NetGalley and Random House/Alibi.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

I had only read a short Bryant & May story before I read this collection and one of the reasons I wanted to read this collection was because I thought this would give me some insight into the life and work of Bryant and May if I in the future read any of the books. Which I probably will.

This collection consists of eleven previously unseen investigations and it is everything from murder in a locked room, a suspicious case of poisoning on a boat and a killer on a Tourist bus in London. Some cases were more interesting than the others, most of them good. And, even a case or rather two cases connected that they couldn't solve. Bryant&May and the Secret Santa was the story I had read before so I skipped that one.

All and all I found most cases interesting, albeit I found some cases a bit tedious I must admit especially the one about the freak show. I just couldn't get into that one and it felt a bit long.

But I've come to like Bryant & May very much. Especially Bryant. Btw there is an excellent characters list in the beginning of this book. Perfect if you are a new reader, like me, to the series.

I want to thank the publisher and NetGalley for providing me with a free copy for an honest review!
