

slow horses mick herron

Slow Horses Mick Herron is a name that resonates deeply within the espionage and thriller literary communities. As the creator of the acclaimed "Slow Horses" series, Mick Herron has crafted a compelling universe of espionage fiction that combines wit, suspense, and sharp social commentary. This article explores the origins of the series, its main themes, characters, and why it has become a must-read for fans of modern spy novels.

Introduction to Mick Herron and the "Slow Horses" Series

Who is Mick Herron?

Mick Herron is a British author renowned for his espionage novels that blend dark humor with intricate plotting. With a background in journalism and a deep understanding of British intelligence, Herron brings authenticity and wit to his storytelling. His writing style is characterized by crisp dialogue, layered characters, and a keen eye for satirical commentary on bureaucracy and political power.

The Birth of "Slow Horses"

The "Slow Horses" series was first introduced to readers with the publication of *Slow Horses* in 2010. The series was initially a modest success but gained significant popularity over the years, especially after the release of subsequent installments. The series' name is a tongue-in-cheek reference to MI5 agents who are considered mediocre or underperforming – the "slow horses" who are assigned to the Department of Extraordinary Intelligence's (D.E.I.) slovenly backwaters.

Overview of the "Slow Horses" Series

Plot and Setting

Set predominantly within MI5, the UK's domestic counter-intelligence and security agency, the series follows a group of misfit agents relegated to Slough House, a nondescript office in London. These agents are often considered failures or outcasts, yet they find themselves embroiled in complex espionage plots, political intrigue, and dangerous missions.

The series' tone is a blend of gritty realism and dark comedy, highlighting

the ironic contrast between the agents' low status and the high-stakes world they operate within.

Main Themes

The series explores several recurring themes:

- **Failure and Redemption:** Many characters are marginalized or dismissed, but their skills and moral integrity often shine through in critical moments.
- **Corruption and Bureaucracy:** Herron satirizes government agencies, exposing inefficiencies and political games.
- **Morality in Espionage:** The books delve into the ethical dilemmas faced by spies, often questioning the true cost of national security.
- **Humor and Humanity:** Despite the serious subject matter, the series maintains a humorous tone, emphasizing human flaws and camaraderie.

Key Characters in the "Slow Horses"

Jackson Lamb

The gruff, seasoned leader of Slough House, Jackson Lamb is a former operative with a mysterious past. Known for his sarcastic wit and no-nonsense attitude, Lamb often acts as both mentor and protector to his team. His character embodies the paradox of a hardened spy with a surprising depth of care and loyalty.

River Cartwright

A young, ambitious agent who initially struggles with self-confidence, River is often at odds with the bureaucracy and expectations placed upon him. His character development is central to the series, reflecting themes of growth and resilience.

Other Notable Characters

- **Louisa Guy:** A competent and pragmatic agent often caught in the crossfire of office politics.
- **Min Harper:** An intelligent and resourceful operative who navigates the

treacherous waters of espionage with wit.

- **Roddy Ho:** An expert hacker and tech specialist, providing crucial support to the team.

Why "Slow Horses" Has Gained Popularity

Unique Blend of Humor and Suspense

One of the defining features of Herron's series is its ability to balance dark humor with tense, gripping plots. Readers appreciate the satirical edge that critiques bureaucracy while delivering compelling espionage stories.

Relatable Characters

Despite their roles as spies, the characters are flawed and human, making them relatable and engaging. Their vulnerabilities and quirks add depth and authenticity to the narrative.

Modern Relevance

Herron's stories often mirror contemporary political issues, including government corruption, surveillance, and international diplomacy. This relevance enhances the series' appeal to modern readers.

Critical Acclaim and Adaptations

The series has received high praise from critics and readers alike. Its popularity soared further with its adaptation into the successful Apple TV+ series *Slow Horses*, starring Gary Oldman as Jackson Lamb. The adaptation has introduced the series to a broader audience, further cementing its place in modern spy fiction.

Exploring the Impact and Influence of Mick Herron's Work

Innovative Approach to Spy Fiction

Herron's "Slow Horses" stands out in the crowded spy genre by focusing on the less glamorous side of intelligence work. Instead of glamorous espionage, the

series emphasizes the mundane, bureaucratic, and often absurd aspects of spy agencies, providing a fresh perspective.

Influence on Modern Literature

The success of Herron's series has influenced other authors to explore themes of failure, bureaucracy, and moral ambiguity in espionage stories. It has also inspired adaptations that emphasize character-driven narratives over action-centric plots.

Community and Fandom

The series has cultivated a dedicated fanbase that appreciates its wit, realism, and social commentary. Online communities discuss theories, character arcs, and upcoming releases, fostering engagement with Herron's work.

Conclusion: Why You Should Read Mick Herron's "Slow Horses"

For fans of espionage fiction looking for a series that combines sharp wit, complex characters, and insightful social commentary, Mick Herron's "Slow Horses" is a must-read. Its unique approach to the spy genre, focusing on the overlooked and underestimated, offers a fresh and engaging perspective. Whether through the pages of the books or its adaptation on screen, "Slow Horses" continues to captivate audiences around the world, establishing Mick Herron as a master storyteller in the realm of modern espionage.

Further Reading and Recommendations

- **Books in the "Slow Horses" Series:** Start with *Slow Horses*, then proceed to *Dead Lions*, *Real Tigers*, *Spook Street*, and others for a comprehensive experience.
- **Related Works:** Explore other espionage novels that delve into bureaucratic and moral ambiguities, such as John le Carré's *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* or Charles McCarry's *The Miernik Dossier*.
- **TV Series:** Watch the *Slow Horses* adaptation on Apple TV+ for a visual interpretation of Herron's compelling characters and plots.

In summary, Mick Herron's "Slow Horses" offers a richly textured, humorous,

and insightful take on espionage, making it a standout series in contemporary spy fiction. Its focus on flawed but endearing characters, combined with sharp social critique, ensures its place as a significant work that continues to shape the genre.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Slow Horses' by Mick Herron about?

'Slow Horses' is a spy thriller series by Mick Herron that follows a team of British intelligence agents, often considered the 'slow horses' due to their failures or underperformance, as they handle complex covert operations.

Who are the main characters in 'Slow Horses'?

The main characters include Jackson Lamb, the cynical and experienced leader; River Cartwright, a young agent trying to prove himself; and other members of the Slough House team, each with their own quirks and backstories.

Is 'Slow Horses' part of a book series?

Yes, 'Slow Horses' is the first book in a series of novels by Mick Herron, which features multiple installments following the adventures and misadventures of the Slough House team.

Has 'Slow Horses' been adapted into a TV series?

Yes, 'Slow Horses' was adapted into a television series by Apple TV+ starring Gary Oldman as Jackson Lamb, and it has received positive reviews for its engaging storytelling and performances.

When was 'Slow Horses' published and released as a TV series?

The novel 'Slow Horses' was published in 2010, and the TV adaptation was released in 2022.

What themes are explored in 'Slow Horses'?

The series explores themes of failure, redemption, espionage, bureaucracy, and the often flawed human elements within intelligence agencies.

How is Mick Herron's writing style in 'Slow Horses'?

Mick Herron's writing style is characterized by sharp wit, dark humor, intricate plotting, and a keen insight into human nature and bureaucratic systems.

Are there any upcoming books in the 'Slow Horses' series?

Yes, Mick Herron continues to write new installments in the series, with upcoming titles expected to further develop the characters and storylines.

What makes 'Slow Horses' popular among readers and viewers?

Its compelling characters, clever plotting, blend of humor and suspense, and realistic portrayal of espionage make 'Slow Horses' popular among fans of spy fiction.

Where can I watch the 'Slow Horses' TV series?

The 'Slow Horses' TV series is available to stream on Apple TV+ with a subscription.

Additional Resources

Slow Horses Mick Herron is a compelling and sharply written spy novel that has garnered widespread acclaim for its unique blend of dark humor, gritty realism, and complex characterizations. As the first book in Mick Herron's "Slough House" series, it introduces readers to a cast of disgraced MI5 agents relegated to a dead-end department, yet thrust into high-stakes espionage nonetheless. Herron's mastery lies in transforming what could have been a conventional spy story into a nuanced exploration of failure, resilience, and the flawed humanity of intelligence operatives. This review delves into the various facets that make Slow Horses a standout in contemporary spy fiction.

Overview of Slow Horses

Slow Horses was published in 2010 and serves as the foundation for Herron's acclaimed series. The novel centers around Jackson Lamb, a cynical and rough-around-the-edges intelligence officer who heads Slough House, a holding pen for MI5 agents whose careers have been derailed by mistakes or misconduct. The story kicks off with the kidnapping of a young woman, leading the "slow horses" into a perilous investigation that challenges their abilities and exposes their vulnerabilities.

Herron's narrative style is characterized by dry wit, sharp dialogue, and a keen sense of realism. Unlike many spy novels that glamorize espionage, Slow Horses offers a gritty, often humorous, look into the mundane and sometimes absurd world of bureaucratic intelligence work, juxtaposed with moments of genuine danger.

The Characters

One of the novel's strongest points is its richly developed characters. Herron crafts a diverse ensemble, each with their own flaws, secrets, and motives, making them relatable and compelling.

Jackson Lamb

- The gruff, irascible leader of Slough House.
- Former top spy, now a cynical figure who often displays a dry wit.
- Serves as a mentor (or sometimes a hindrance) to the team.
- Complex personality blending toughness with vulnerability.

River Cartwright

- A young, ambitious agent eager to prove himself.
- Faces the consequences of past mistakes.
- Represents the new generation of spies, grappling with legacy and expectations.

Other notable characters

- Catherine Standish: The intelligent and composed secretary.
- Shirley Dander: The sharp and pragmatic agent.
- Diana Taverner: MI5's deputy director, embodying the political and bureaucratic pressures of intelligence work.

Pros:

- Well-rounded, multi-dimensional characters.
- Flawed but sympathetic, making readers invested in their journeys.

Cons:

- Some secondary characters may feel underdeveloped compared to the leads.

The Themes and Tone

Herron explores themes of failure, redemption, bureaucracy, and the often absurd realities of intelligence work. The tone is darkly humorous, with a balance that balances seriousness and satire.

Themes include:

- The stigma of failure in high-stakes environments.
- The moral ambiguities faced by spies.
- The impact of past mistakes on present lives.
- Power dynamics within intelligence agencies.

Tone features:

- Deadpan humor that highlights the absurdity of bureaucratic procedures.
- A sense of realism that eschews glamorous spy clichés.
- A focus on character flaws and human vulnerabilities.

Plot and Pacing

The plot of *Slow Horses* is tightly woven, blending elements of mystery, action, and political intrigue. The kidnapping of the young woman acts as the catalyst, but the narrative also delves into the internal politics of MI5, the personal histories of the agents, and the broader geopolitical implications.

Strengths:

- Well-paced with a mix of suspense and character-driven moments.
- Keeps readers guessing with plot twists and revelations.
- Balances multiple storylines seamlessly.

Weaknesses:

- Some readers might find the plot slow at times due to the detailed character development.
- Occasional shifts in perspective may disrupt flow for some.

Writing Style

Mick Herron's prose is crisp, witty, and incisive. His writing style excels at capturing dialogue and internal monologue, bringing humor and tension to life simultaneously.

Features:

- Use of dry humor and sarcasm.
- Sharp, economical descriptions.
- Realistic dialogue that reveals character personality and social dynamics.

Pros:

- Engaging and accessible language.
- Effective at building atmosphere and mood.

Cons:

- The dry wit may not appeal to all readers.
- Some may prefer more fast-paced action over detailed character insights.

Comparison with Other Spy Novels

Slow Horses stands out among spy fiction for its focus on the “losers” of espionage agencies rather than glamorous agents or super-spies.

Compared to:

- Classic spy thrillers like John le Carré’s works, Herron’s novel shares a similar tone of realism and moral complexity but leans more into dark humor.
- Ian Fleming’s James Bond series, which is more glamorous and action-oriented, Slow Horses offers a grittier, more human perspective.
- Modern espionage thrillers that emphasize high-octane action, Herron’s approach is more subdued, emphasizing psychological depth.

Unique features:

- Emphasis on bureaucratic and institutional flaws.
- A cast of relatable, flawed characters.
- A satirical take on the espionage world.

Adaptations and Reception

Slow Horses has been well-received by critics and readers alike, praised for its originality, wit, and character depth. Its popularity led to a successful television adaptation, first aired in 2022, starring Gary Oldman as Jackson Lamb. The series has further expanded Herron’s readership and brought renewed attention to the novels.

Reception highlights:

- Critical acclaim for its sharp writing and compelling characters.
- Fans enjoy the blend of humor and suspense.
- The adaptation has been praised for its faithful representation and strong performances.

Pros and Cons Summary

Pros:

- Richly developed characters with depth and authenticity.
- Clever blend of humor, suspense, and social commentary.
- Realistic portrayal of the espionage world.
- Engaging plot with multiple layers and twists.
- Well-crafted dialogue and prose.

Cons:

- The slow-paced sections may deter readers seeking nonstop action.
- Some secondary characters lack depth.
- The tone’s dry humor might not appeal to everyone.

Final Verdict

Mick Herron's *Slow Horses* is a masterful entry into the spy genre that challenges conventional notions of heroism and glamour. Its focus on flawed, human characters navigating a bureaucratic and often absurd world makes it both entertaining and thought-provoking. The novel's sharp wit, combined with its authentic portrayal of espionage, makes it a must-read for fans of espionage fiction, dark humor, and character-driven stories. Whether you're a seasoned spy fiction aficionado or a newcomer looking for something different, *Slow Horses* offers a compelling and satisfying reading experience that sets the stage for a series of equally engaging books.

[Slow Horses Mick Herron](#)

slow horses mick herron: *Slow Horses* Mick Herron, 2010-06-01 A New York Times bestselling series THE BOOK BEHIND THE FIRST SEASON OF SLOW HORSES, THE APPLE ORIGINAL SERIES STARRING GARY OLDMAN IN HIS EMMY-NOMINATED ROLE AS JACKSON LAMB. Welcome to the thrilling and unnervingly prescient world of the slow horses. This team of MI5 agents is united by one common bond: They've screwed up royally and will do anything to redeem themselves. This deluxe edition of a modern classic includes a foreword by the author, discussion questions for book clubs, and an exclusive short story featuring the slow horses. London, England: Slough House is where washed-up MI5 spies go to while away what's left of their failed careers. The "slow horses," as they're called, have all disgraced themselves in some way to get relegated there. Maybe they botched an Op so badly they can't be trusted anymore. Maybe they got in the way of an ambitious colleague and had the rug yanked out from under them. Maybe they just got too dependent on the bottle—not unusual in this line of work. One thing they have in common, though, is they want to be back in the action. And most of them would do anything to get there—even if it means having to collaborate with one another. When a young man is abducted and his kidnappers threaten to broadcast his beheading live on the Internet, the slow horses see an opportunity to redeem themselves. But is the victim really who he appears to be?

slow horses mick herron: [Slow Horses \(Deluxe Edition\)](#) Mick Herron, 2020-11-24 THE BOOK BEHIND THE FIRST SEASON OF SLOW HORSES, THE APPLE ORIGINAL SERIES STARRING GARY OLDMAN IN HIS EMMY-NOMINATED ROLE AS JACKSON LAMB. Welcome to the thrilling and unnervingly prescient world of the slow horses. This team of MI5 agents is united by one common bond: They've screwed up royally and will do anything to redeem themselves. This deluxe edition of a modern classic includes a foreword by the author, discussion questions for book clubs, and an exclusive short story featuring the slow horses. London, England: Slough House is where washed-up MI5 spies go to while away what's left of their failed careers. The "slow horses," as they're called, have all disgraced themselves in some way to get relegated there. Maybe they botched an Op so badly they can't be trusted anymore. Maybe they got in the way of an ambitious colleague and had the rug yanked out from under them. Maybe they just got too dependent on the bottle—not unusual in this line of work. One thing they have in common, though, is they want to be back in the action. And most of them would do anything to get there—even if it means having to collaborate with one another. When a young man is abducted and his kidnappers threaten to broadcast his beheading live on the Internet, the slow horses see an opportunity to redeem themselves. But is the victim really who he appears to be?

slow horses mick herron: [Slow Horses Jackson Lamb Thriller 1](#) Mick Herron, 2016-08-11

Slough House is a dumping ground for British intelligence agents who've screwed up a case - say by leaving a secret file on a train, or blowing a surveillance. River Carter, one such slow horse, is bitter about his failure and about his tedious assignment transcribing cell phone conversations. When a young man is abducted and his kidnappers threaten to broadcast his beheading live on the Internet, River sees an opportunity to redeem himself. But is the victim who he first appears to be? And what is the kidnapper's connection with a disgraced journalist? As the clock ticks on the execution, River finds that everyone has his own agenda.

slow horses mick herron: Slough House Mick Herron, 2021-02-09 In his best and most ambitious novel yet, Mick Herron, "the le Carré of the future" (BBC), offers an unsparing look at the corrupt web of media, global finance, spycraft, and politics that power our modern world. "This is a darker, scarier Herron. The gags are still there but the satire's more biting. The privatization of a secret service op and the manipulation of news is relevant and horribly credible."—Ann Cleeves, author of the Vera Stanhope series At Slough House—MI5's London depository for demoted spies—Brexit has taken a toll. The "slow horses" have been pushed further into the cold, Slough House has been erased from official records, and its members are dying in unusual circumstances, at an unusual clip. No wonder Jackson Lamb's crew is feeling paranoid. But are they actually targets? With a new populist movement taking hold of London's streets and the old order ensuring that everything's for sale to the highest bidder, the world's a dangerous place for those deemed surplus. Jackson Lamb and the slow horses are in a fight for their lives as they navigate dizzying layers of lies, power, and death.

slow horses mick herron: Spook Street Mick Herron, 2017 What happens when an old spook starts to lose his mind? Do the Services have a retirement home for people who know too many secrets but don't remember their secrets? Or does someone come to take care of the senile spy for good? These are the questions River Cartwright must ask himself as his grandfather--David Cartwright, a Cold War-era operative--starts to forget to wear pants, and starts believing everyone in his life is someone sent by Services to watch him. However, River has other things to worry about. A bomb goes off in the middle of a flash mob performance in a busy shopping center and kills forty innocent civilians. The agents of Slough House have to figure out who is behind this act of terror before the situation escalates--

slow horses mick herron: Slow Horses Mick Herron, 2015-10-08 *Pre-order Clown Town, the ninth novel in Mick Herron's Slough House series, now* *Now an award-winning Apple TV+ series starring Gary Oldman, Kristin Scott Thomas and Jack Lowden* 'The most exciting development in spy fiction since the Cold War' The Times Slough House is the outpost where disgraced spies are banished to see out the rest of their derailed careers. Known as the 'slow horses' these misfits have committed crimes of drugs and drunkenness, lechery and failure, politics and betrayal while on duty. In this drab and mildewed office these highly trained spies don't run ops, they push paper. Not one of them joined the Intelligence Service to be a slow horse and the one thing they have in common is they want to be back in the action. When a boy is kidnapped and held hostage, his beheading is scheduled for live broadcast on the net. And whatever the instructions of their masters at the Intelligence Service headquarters, the slow horses aren't going to just sit quiet and watch. 'Captivating' Christopher Brookmyre 'Wonderfully cynical' Bernard Cornwell

slow horses mick herron: Slow Horses (Apple Series Tie-in Edition) Mick Herron, 2024-11-12 Now an Apple Original series streaming on Apple TV+ starring Gary Oldman and Kristin Scott Thomas. Welcome to the thrilling and unnervingly prescient world of the slow horses. This team of MI5 agents is united by one common bond: They've screwed up royally and will do anything to redeem themselves. London, England: Slough House is where washed-up MI5 spies go to while away what's left of their failed careers. The "slow horses," as they're called, have all disgraced themselves in some way to get relegated there. Maybe they botched an Op so badly they can't be trusted anymore. Maybe they got in the way of an ambitious colleague and had the rug yanked out from under them. Maybe they just got too dependent on the bottle—not unusual in this line of work. One thing they have in common, though, is they want to be back in the action. And most of them

would do anything to get there—even if it means having to collaborate with one another. When a young man is abducted and his kidnappers threaten to broadcast his beheading live on the Internet, the slow horses see an opportunity to redeem themselves. But is the victim really who he appears to be?

slow horses mick herron: Dead Lions Mick Herron, 2013-05-07 A New York Times bestselling series THE BOOK BEHIND THE SECOND SEASON OF SLOW HORSES, THE APPLE ORIGINAL SERIES STARRING GARY OLDMAN IN HIS EMMY-NOMINATED ROLE AS JACKSON LAMB. The CWA Gold Dagger Award-winning British espionage novel about disgraced MI5 agents who inadvertently uncover a deadly Cold War-era legacy of sleeper cells and mythic super spies. The disgruntled agents of Slough House, the MI5 branch where washed-up spies are sent to finish their failed careers on desk duty, are called into action to protect a visiting Russian oligarch whom MI5 hopes to recruit to British intelligence. While two agents are dispatched on that babysitting job, though, an old Cold War-era spy named Dickie Bow is found dead, ostensibly of a heart attack, on a bus outside of Oxford, far from his usual haunts. But the head of Slough House, the irascible Jackson Lamb, is convinced Dickie Bow was murdered. As the agents dig into their fallen comrade's circumstances, they uncover a shadowy tangle of ancient Cold War secrets that seem to lead back to a man named Alexander Popov, who is either a Soviet bogeyman or the most dangerous man in the world. How many more people will have to die to keep those secrets buried?

slow horses mick herron: London Rules Mick Herron, 2018-06-05 THE FIFTH BOOK IN THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING SERIES BEHIND SLOW HORSES, AN APPLE ORIGINAL SERIES NOW STREAMING ON APPLE TV+ Ian Fleming. John le Carré. Len Deighton. Mick Herron. The brilliant plotting of Herron's twice CWA Dagger Award-winning Slough House series of spy novels is matched only by his storytelling gift and an ear for viciously funny political satire. "Mick Herron is the John le Carré of our generation."—Val McDermid At MI5 headquarters Regent's Park, First Desk Claude Whelan is learning the ropes the hard way. Tasked with protecting a beleaguered prime minister, he's facing attack from all directions: from the showboating MP who orchestrated the Brexit vote, and now has his sights set on Number Ten; from the showboat's wife, a tabloid columnist, who's crucifying Whelan in print; from the PM's favorite Muslim, who's about to be elected mayor of the West Midlands, despite the dark secret he's hiding; and especially from his own deputy, Lady Di Taverner, who's alert for Claude's every stumble. Meanwhile, the country's being rocked by an apparently random string of terror attacks. Over at Slough House, the MI5 satellite office for outcast and demoted spies, the agents are struggling with personal problems: repressed grief, various addictions, retail paralysis, and the nagging suspicion that their newest colleague is a psychopath. Plus someone is trying to kill Roddy Ho. But collectively, they're about to rediscover their greatest strength—that of making a bad situation much, much worse. It's a good thing Jackson Lamb knows the rules. Because those things aren't going to break themselves.

slow horses mick herron: Clown Town Mick Herron, 2025-09-09 THE NINTH BOOK IN THE SERIES BEHIND SLOW HORSES, AN APPLE ORIGINAL SERIES NOW STREAMING ON APPLE TV+ Jackson Lamb and the bad spies of Slough House are caught in a deadly battle between MI5's secret past and its murky future in this gripping, hilarious, and heartbreaking thriller by Mick Herron, "the le Carré of the future" (BBC). "Old spies grow ridiculous, River. Old spies aren't much better than clowns." Or so David Cartwright, the late retired head of MI5, used to tell his grandson. He forgot to add that old spies can be dangerous, too, especially if they've fallen on hard times—as River Cartwright is about to learn the hard way. David Cartwright, long buried, has left his library to the Spooks' College in Oxford, and now one of the books is missing. Or perhaps it never existed. River, once a "slow horse" of Slough House, MI5's outpost for demoted and disgraced spies, has some time to kill while awaiting medical clearance to return to work, and starts investigating the secrets of his grandfather's library. Over at the Park, MI5 First Desk Diana Taverner is in a pickle. An operation carried out during the height of the Troubles laid bare the ugly side of state security, and those involved are threatening to expose details. But every threat hides an opportunity, and Taverner has come up with a scheme. All she needs is the right dupe to get caught holding the bag. Jackson Lamb,

the enigmatic and odiferous head of Slough House, has no plans to send in the clowns. On the other hand, if the clowns ignore his instructions, any harm that befalls them is hardly his fault. But they're his clowns. And if they don't all make it home, there'll be a reckoning.

slow horses mick herron: Joe Country Mick Herron, 2019 If Spook Street is where spies live, Joe Country is where they go to die. In Slough House, the London outpost for disgraced MI5 spies, memories are stirring, all of them bad. Catherine Standish is buying booze again, Louisa Guy is raking over the ashes of lost love, and new recruit Lech Wicinski, whose sins make him an outcast even among the slow horses, is determined to discover who destroyed his career, even if he tears his life apart in the process. Meanwhile, in Regent's Park, Diana Taverner's tenure as First Desk is running into difficulties. If she's going to make the Service fit for purpose, she might have to make deals with a familiar old devil . . . And with winter taking its grip, Jackson Lamb would sooner be left brooding in peace, but even he can't ignore the dried blood on his carpets. So when the man responsible for killing a slow horse breaks cover at last, Lamb sends the slow horses out to even the score.

slow horses mick herron: Standing by the Wall Mick Herron, 2022-11-03 *A Slough House Christmas short story from the Sunday Times number one bestseller of BAD ACTORS.* Here in Slough House, the intelligence service's home for inept spies, it's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas. Roddy Ho is used to being the one the slow horses turn to when they need miracles performed, and he's always been Jackson Lamb's Number Two. So when Lamb has a photograph that needs doctoring, it's Ho he entrusts with the task. Christmas is a time for memories, but Lamb doesn't do memories - or so he says. But what is it about the photo that makes him want to alter it? How would the slow horses cope if Roddy Ho didn't exist? And most importantly of all, are the team having Christmas drinks, and if so, where? Standing by the Wall offers a glimpse into the kind of seasonal merriment you might expect at Slough House, where the boss generally marks the festive season with an increase in hostilities. But then, this is the secret service, not Secret Santa. And the slow horses aren't here to enjoy themselves. Roddy Roddy Roddy? Ho Ho Ho!

slow horses mick herron: The Secret Hours Mick Herron, 2023-09-12 A gripping spy thriller from the bestselling author of Slow Horses, about a disastrous MI5 mission in Cold War Berlin—an absolute must-read for Slough House fans. Set in the MI5 world of Slow Horses, now an Apple Original series from Apple TV+ starring Gary Oldman and Kristin Scott Thomas. Two years ago, a hostile prime minister launched the Monochrome inquiry, investigating “historical over-reaching” by the British Secret Service. Monochrome’s mission was to ferret out any hint of misconduct by any MI5 officer—and allowed Griselda Fleet and Malcolm Kyle, the two civil servants seconded to the project, unfettered access to any and all confidential information in the Service archives in order to do so. But MI5’s formidable First Desk did not become Britain’s top spy by accident, and she has successfully thwarted the inquiry at every turn. Now the administration that created Monochrome has been ousted, the investigation is a total bust—and Griselda and Malcolm are stuck watching as their career prospects are washed away by the pounding London rain. Until the eve of Monochrome’s shuttering, when an MI5 case file appears without explanation. It is the buried history of a classified operation in 1994 Berlin—an operation that ended in tragedy and scandal, whose cover-up has rewritten thirty years of Service history. The Secret Hours is a dazzling entry point into Mick Herron’s body of work, a standalone spy thriller that is at once unnerving, poignant, and laugh-out-loud funny. It is also the breathtaking secret history that Slough House fans have been waiting for.

slow horses mick herron: Real Tigers Mick Herron, 2016-01-19 A New York Times bestselling series THE BOOK BEHIND THE THIRD SEASON OF SLOW HORSES, THE APPLE ORIGINAL SERIES STARRING GARY OLDMAN IN HIS EMMY-NOMINATED ROLE AS JACKSON LAMB. When one of their own is kidnapped, the washed-up MI5 operatives of Slough House—the Slow Horses, as they're known—outwit rogue agents at the very highest levels of British Intelligence, and even to Downing Street itself. London: Slough House is the MI5 branch where disgraced operatives are reassigned after they've messed up too badly to be trusted with real intelligence work. The “Slow

Horses,” as the failed spies of Slough House are called, are doomed to spend the rest of their careers pushing paper, but they all want back in on the action. When one of their own is kidnapped and held for ransom, the agents of Slough House must defeat the odds, overturning all expectations of their competence, to breach the top-notch security of MI5’s intelligence headquarters, Regent’s Park, and steal valuable intel in exchange for their comrade’s safety. The kidnapping is only the tip of the iceberg, however—the agents uncover a larger web of intrigue that involves not only a group of private mercenaries but the highest authorities in the Secret Service. After years spent as the lowest on the totem pole, the Slow Horses suddenly find themselves caught in the midst of a conspiracy that threatens not only the future of Slough House, but of MI5 itself.

slow horses mick herron: *The Last Voice You Hear* Mick Herron, 2009 Oxford private investigator Zoë Boehm struggles with the aftereffects of her violent past as she hunts for a killer—or has she become the hunted? Zoë Boehm has harbored a distinct aversion to death ever since she shot the man intent on killing her. So when Caroline Daniels takes a deadly fall in front of a train and her lover fails to turn up at the funeral, Zoë wants nothing to do with the case. But Caroline's boss is persistent, and as Zoë attempts to unlock the secrets of a woman she's never met while in search of a man who could be anywhere, she starts to wonder if he's found her first. And if he has, will that make her the next victim, or prove to be her salvation from a paralyzing fear?

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slow horses mick herron: *Why We Die* Mick Herron, 2015-05-19 By the New York Times bestselling author of Slow Horses A straightforward jewelry store robbery turns out to be anything but in the third installment in the Zoë Boehm thrillers—from the author of *Down Cemetery Road*, now an Apple Original series. Oxford Private Investigator Zoë Boehm has creditors on her tail and debts to pay—which is why she agrees to solve a simple local robbery in exchange for a big reward. As she tracks down the thieves on behalf of the shop’s owner, her investigation leads her to a strange cast of characters—including a suicidal widower, a disgraced cop, and an abused wife—and

she begins to suspect that the case goes much deeper than the jewelry shop's proprietor led her to believe. As the case turns lethal, and Zoë faces a web of dangerous criminals and deadlier secrets, she will learn firsthand that some debts can only be paid in blood.

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