

slow horses book series

Exploring the Slow Horses Book Series: A Deep Dive into Mick Herron's Spy Fiction

The **slow horses book series** has garnered a dedicated following among fans of espionage fiction, blending dark humor, sharp wit, and complex characters into compelling stories. Authored by British writer Mick Herron, this series offers a fresh take on the spy genre, focusing on the misfit agents of London's MI5 department rather than glamorous spies. With its unique tone and engaging plots, the series has become a standout in contemporary spy literature, captivating readers worldwide.

Overview of the Series

The **slow horses book series** revolves around a team of disgraced or underperforming intelligence officers who are relegated to Slough House, a rundown office in London. These agents, dubbed "slow horses," are considered the misfits of MI5—hence the name. Despite their reputation, they often find themselves embroiled in dangerous and high-stakes missions that reveal the true value of their skills and resilience.

Core Themes and Style

- Humor and Satire: Mick Herron infuses his narratives with wit, satire, and a tone that balances tension with comic relief.
- Complex Characters: The series features richly developed characters with flawed personalities and compelling backstories.
- Realistic Espionage: The stories emphasize authentic espionage tactics, office politics, and the moral ambiguities of intelligence work.
- Social Commentary: The series subtly critiques bureaucratic inefficiencies and societal issues, adding depth to the stories.

Books in the Series

Currently, the **slow horses book series** comprises multiple novels, each building on the previous, with interconnected characters and overarching themes.

List of Books in the Series

1. Slow Horses (2010)

The debut novel introduces Jackson Lamb and the misfit team at Slough House, setting the tone for the series. The story revolves around a kidnapped girl and the team's unconventional efforts to resolve the crisis.

2. Dead Lions (2013)

This installment explores Cold War secrets resurfacing, with the team investigating the death of a Soviet defector, revealing the dangerous world of espionage history.

3. Real Tigers (2016)

The agents face a kidnapping plot involving a wealthy family and uncovering deeper conspiracies within the intelligence community.

4. Spook Street (2017)

A murder investigation leads the team into the murky waters of political corruption and cyber espionage.

5. The Drop (2018)

The agents uncover a conspiracy involving stolen government secrets and a mysterious conspiracy that threatens national security.

6. Joe Country (2019)

Personal stakes escalate as Jackson Lamb's team confronts a dangerous criminal enterprise linked to their past.

7. Standing in the Shadows (2021)

The team faces a new threat as they investigate a series of murders connected to a secretive organization.

8. Bad Actors (2022)

The latest installment delves into international espionage, political intrigue, and the team's efforts to prevent a global crisis.

Upcoming Releases and Spin-offs

Mick Herron has announced additional titles and potential spin-offs, ensuring fans have more to look forward to in the **slow horses book series** universe.

Key Characters and Their Roles

The series' charm lies in its memorable characters, each with unique quirks and histories.

Main Characters

- Jackson Lamb

The gruff, no-nonsense leader of Slough House, known for his sharp wit and unorthodox methods.

- River Cartwright

A young, ambitious agent with a troubled past, often navigating the tension between ambition and loyalty.

- Louisa Guy

A dedicated officer with a background in undercover work, balancing professionalism with empathy.

- Catherine Standish

The office manager and confidante, providing emotional support and comic relief.

- Roderick "Rory" Finn

The tech-savvy analyst whose insights often prove crucial.

- Other Notable Characters

Including MI5 officials, foreign agents, and criminal elements, each adding layers to the narrative.

Why Read the Slow Horses Book Series

There are numerous reasons why readers are drawn to Mick Herron's series:

- Unique Perspective on Espionage

Unlike traditional spy stories focusing on elite agents, this series features flawed, ordinary individuals thrust into extraordinary circumstances.

- Humor and Darkness Balance

Herron masterfully balances dark themes with humor, making the series both entertaining and thought-provoking.

- Complex Plots with Twists

The books are known for layered storytelling, plot twists, and satisfying resolutions.

- Social and Political Relevance

The series subtly comments on modern societal issues, adding relevance and depth.

- Accessible Writing Style

Clear, engaging prose makes the series suitable for a wide audience.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The popularity of the **slow horses book series** has led to various adaptations:

Television Series

- The BBC and Apple TV+ collaborated to produce a television adaptation titled *Slow Horses*, starring Gary Oldman as Jackson Lamb.

- The show has received critical acclaim for its faithful adaptation, engaging performances, and dark humor.
- The series has increased the series' visibility, attracting new readers and expanding its fanbase.

Impact on Spy Fiction

- The series is praised for its realistic portrayal of espionage, contrasting with glamorized spy stories.
- It has influenced contemporary spy fiction, inspiring writers and filmmakers to explore flawed characters and moral ambiguity.

Where to Start with the Series

For newcomers, the best approach is to start with the first book, *Slow Horses*, to understand the characters and setting. The series' chronological order ensures a seamless reading experience, but each book also works well as a standalone.

Conclusion: Why the Slow Horses Book Series Should Be on Your Reading List

The **slow horses book series** stands out in the espionage genre for its clever blend of dark comedy, intricate plotting, and compelling characters. Mick Herron's storytelling offers a refreshing perspective on spy fiction, emphasizing the human side of intelligence work and the imperfections of its agents. Whether you're a seasoned fan of espionage stories or new to the genre, this series promises engaging reads filled with suspense, humor, and social commentary.

Embrace the misfits of MI5 and discover a world where flawed heroes navigate dangerous waters with wit and resilience. With new installments and adaptations on the horizon, now is the perfect time to dive into the **slow horses book series** and experience the brilliance of Mick Herron's storytelling.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main premise of the 'Slow Horses' book series?

The 'Slow Horses' series follows a group of disgraced British intelligence agents working at Slough House, a department for failed spies, as they navigate complex espionage missions and personal struggles.

Who is the author of the 'Slow Horses' series?

The series is written by Mick Herron, a British author known for his sharp wit and engaging spy fiction.

How many books are in the 'Slow Horses' series?

As of 2023, there are eight books in the series, with additional novellas and short stories expanding the universe.

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

Yes, the series has been adapted into a successful TV show titled 'Slow Horses,' produced by Apple TV+, starring Gary Oldman as Jackson Lamb.

What makes the 'Slow Horses' series stand out among spy fiction?

The series combines dark humor, flawed characters, and gritty realism, offering a fresh take on espionage stories by focusing on underdog agents rather than glamorous spies.

Are new readers recommended to start with the first book in the series?

Yes, starting with the first book, 'Slow Horses,' is recommended to understand the characters and overarching storylines, though each book can also be enjoyed as a standalone.

Additional Resources

Slow Horses Book Series: A Gripping Blend of Espionage, Wit, and Character Depth

The Slow Horses book series, penned by the acclaimed author Mick Herron, has cemented itself as a standout in the espionage genre. Combining sharp wit, complex characters, and intricate plots, the series offers a refreshing take on spy fiction, emphasizing the flawed humanity behind intelligence work. For fans of espionage novels that are as much about character development as they are about covert operations, the Slow Horses series provides a compelling and immersive experience.

Introduction to the Series

The Slow Horses series debuted with *Slow Horses* in 2010, introducing readers to a cast of disgraced MI5 agents relegated to a derelict department called "Slough House." These agents, branded as "slow horses" due to their fall from grace, are often seen as the misfits and the failures within British intelligence. However, beneath their battered exteriors lie sharp minds, resilience,

and a capacity for heroism that defies their reputation.

Mick Herron's series stands out because it shifts the focus from glamorous spy missions to the often overlooked, mundane, and sometimes humorous aspects of espionage. It's a series that combines satire, suspense, and emotional depth, making it distinct within the espionage genre.

Core Themes and Style

Humor and Satire

One of the defining features of the Slow Horses series is Herron's masterful use of dry humor and satire. The narrative often pokes fun at the bureaucracy, incompetence, and politics of intelligence agencies. The characters' witty banter and the absurdity of certain situations add a layer of humor that balances the darker aspects of espionage.

Complex Characters and Humanity

Unlike many spy series that focus solely on action and plot twists, Herron invests heavily in character development. The protagonists are deeply flawed—alcoholics, exiles, and misfits—yet they display resilience, intelligence, and moral complexity. This focus makes the series emotionally engaging and provides a nuanced view of humans behind the spy masks.

Realism and Grounded Plotlines

Herron's background as a journalist and his meticulous research lend an authentic feel to the stories. While some plots are thrilling and high-stakes, they are rooted in realistic scenarios, making the series relatable and credible.

Overview of the Main Characters

Jackson Lamb: The gruff, no-nonsense leader of Slough House, Lamb is a former MI5 operative with a mysterious past. His cynical exterior masks a sharp mind and a compassionate streak. He's both a mentor and a formidable presence.

River Cartwright: A young, talented agent whose career was derailed after a botched training exercise. He's eager to prove himself but often finds himself in complex, morally ambiguous situations.

Catherine Standish: The head of security at Slough House, often the voice of reason amidst chaos. She's resourceful, sharp, and emotionally resilient.

Other recurring characters: The series features a rich cast of supporting characters, including other disgraced agents, bureaucrats, and foreign operatives, each adding layers to the narrative fabric.

Book-by-Book Breakdown

1. Slow Horses (2010)

- Introduces the misfit agents of Slough House.
- Focuses on a plot involving a kidnapping that threatens national security.
- Sets the tone of satire mixed with suspense.
- Establishes Jackson Lamb as a compelling anti-hero.

2. Dead Lions (2013)

- Explores Cold War history and espionage.
- Features the discovery of a long-lost agent's body.
- Delves into the past and its impact on present-day characters.

3. Real Tigers (2016)

- Centers around a potentially dangerous arms deal.
- Sees the team navigating international threats.
- Highlights internal agency politics and personal loyalties.

4. Spook Street (2017)

- Addresses cyber espionage and covert surveillance.
- Features a plot involving a murdered journalist.
- Deepens character arcs, especially River's development.

5. London Rules (2018)

- Set amidst political unrest and terrorism threats.
- Examines the chaos within government institutions.
- Continues the theme of flawed heroes confronting global dangers.

6. Joe Country (2019)

- Focuses on River's personal struggles and a kidnapping case.
- Explores themes of trauma and redemption.
- Shows the team confronting their pasts.

7. The List (2021) (Short story collection)

- Features standalone stories expanding on minor characters.**
- Offers deeper insights into the broader Slough House universe.**

8. Slough House (2021)

- Serves as a sequel and culmination of ongoing storylines.**
- Continues to explore characters' relationships amid escalating threats.**
- Incorporates contemporary political themes.**

Strengths of the Series

- Rich Characterization:** The series excels at creating memorable, multi-dimensional characters that evolve across books.
- Sharp Dialogue and Wit:** Herron's prose is crisp, witty, and often humorous, providing levity amid tense situations.
- Realistic Espionage:** The plots are rooted in plausible scenarios, making the stories believable.
- Social and Political Commentary:** The series subtly critiques bureaucracy, government corruption, and the nature of power.
- Diverse Perspectives:** The inclusion of characters from different backgrounds enriches the narrative.

Weaknesses and Criticisms

While the series is highly praised, some criticisms include:

- Pacing Variations:** Some readers find certain books slower, especially when character development takes precedence over action.
- Complexity of Characters:** The depth and number of characters can be overwhelming for new readers.
- Dark Humor:** The satirical tone may not appeal to everyone, especially those expecting traditional spy thrillers.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The Slow Horses series has garnered significant attention beyond books. Notably:

- Apple TV+ Series:** The adaptation starring Gary Oldman as Jackson Lamb has been highly praised for its performances and faithfulness to the source material.
- Influence on Spy Fiction:** The series' focus on flawed heroes and bureaucratic satire has inspired other writers and creators.
- Fandom and Community:** The series has cultivated a dedicated fanbase that discusses themes, characters, and future storylines enthusiastically.

Why Read the Slow Horses Series?

- For readers seeking espionage stories that combine suspense with humor and emotional depth.**
- Those interested in character-driven narratives where protagonists are anti-heroes rather than flawless agents.**
- Fans of social critique embedded within genre fiction.**
- Readers who appreciate meticulous research and realistic portrayals of intelligence work.**
- Anyone looking for a series that balances thrilling plots with insightful commentary on human nature and bureaucracy.**

Conclusion

The Slow Horses book series stands as a remarkable achievement within the espionage genre, distinguished by its blend of satire, realism, and compelling character arcs. Mick Herron's deft storytelling invites readers into a world where failures, flaws, and humanity take center stage, challenging traditional notions of heroism. Whether you're a die-hard spy fiction aficionado or a newcomer seeking a fresh perspective on espionage, the Slow Horses series offers a richly rewarding journey filled with wit, suspense, and profound insights into the complexities of human nature and intelligence work.

In sum, the Slow Horses series is a must-read for anyone who

appreciates intelligent, character-driven thrillers that don't shy away from the messiness of real life. Its blend of humor, grit, and social commentary makes it both timely and timeless—an essential addition to the modern espionage canon.

Slow Horses Book Series

slow horses book series: 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 book series: *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 book series: **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 book series: 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 find that everyone has his own agenda.

slow horses book series: 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 book series: 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 book series: 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 book series: 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 book series: 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 book series: 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 book series: Joe Country Mick Herron, 2019-06-20 *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 SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER* 'Sets a new bar for spy fiction' Financial Times **** In Slough House, the backwater

for failed 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 outcast even among the slow horses, is determined to discover who destroyed his career, even if he tears his life apart in the process. 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 his crew out to even the score. This time, they're heading into joe country. And they're not all coming home. 'The go-to author for British espionage' Guardian 'Bitingly intelligent, light of touch and frequently hilarious' Observer

slow horses book series: 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 book series: 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 book series: 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 book series: *The Dark Wives* Ann Cleeves, 2024-08-27 As New York Times bestseller Ann Cleeves's beloved Vera series explodes in popularity in print and on TV, this stunning eleventh book explores the web of secrets surrounding a young man's death. The man's body is found in the early morning light by a local dog walker in the park outside Rosebank, a home for troubled teens in the coastal village of Longwater. The victim is Josh, a staff member, who was due to work the previous night but never showed up. DI Vera Stanhope is called out to investigate the death, with her only clue being the disappearance of one of the home's residents, fourteen-year-old Chloe Spence. Vera can't bring herself to believe that a teenager is responsible for the murder, but even she can't dismiss the possibility. Vera, Joe and new team member Rosie Bell, are soon embroiled in the case, and when a second connected body is found near the Three Dark Wives monument in the wilds of the Northumberland countryside, superstition and folklore begin to collide with fact. Vera knows she has to find Chloe to get to the truth, and the dark secrets in their community that may be far more dangerous than she could have ever believed possible.

slow horses book series: *The Life of a Cowboy: Complete 5 Book Collection* Andy Adams, 2017-10-06 The Log of a Cowboy is an account of a five-month drive of 3,000 cattle from Brownsville, Texas, to Montana during 1882 along the Great Western Cattle Trail. Although the book is fiction, it is based on Adams's own experiences, and it is considered by many to be literature's best account of cowboy life. Adams was disgusted by the unrealistic cowboy fiction being published in his time; The Log of a Cowboy was his response. The Chicago Herald has said: As a narrative of cowboy life, Andy Adams' book is clearly the real thing. It carries its own certificate of authentic first-hand experience on every page. This edition also includes Adams other famous western novels like The Outlet, A Texas Matchmaker, Reed Anthony, Cowman and The Wells Brothers. Andy Adams (1859-1935) was an American writer of western fiction and was born in Indiana. Since childhood Andy used to help his parents with the cattle and horses on the family farm. Due to this Andy's works have been lauded widely for his first hand and authentic portrayal of the life of a cowboy unlike his contemporaries like Owen Wister who romanticized it.

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