

death of a red heroine

Death of a Red Heroine: Exploring the Depths of a Chinese Crime Classic

death of a red heroine is not just a phrase but the title of a gripping crime novel that has fascinated readers worldwide. Written by Qiu Xiaolong, this novel delves into the complexities of modern Chinese society through the lens of a murder investigation. The story revolves around the death of Guan Hongying, a young woman from a privileged family, whose mysterious demise unravels layers of political, social, and cultural tension in Shanghai. If you're intrigued by crime fiction steeped in rich cultural context, the death of a red heroine is a compelling read that combines suspense with a thoughtful critique of contemporary China.

The Significance of the Title: Death of a Red Heroine

The title itself is loaded with symbolism and meaning. "Red" in the context of Chinese culture often refers to communism, revolution, and ideological purity, while "heroine" suggests a figure of admiration or idealism. Guan Hongying, the "red heroine," represents the embodiment of communist ideals and the promise of a new China. Her death is not merely a plot device but a metaphor for the fading dreams of the revolutionary generation and the moral ambiguities that arise in a rapidly changing society.

The death of a red heroine signifies a clash between old ideologies and new realities, making the novel an exploration of identity, loyalty, and transformation. It invites readers to question how political narratives shape individual lives and how corruption and human flaws undermine idealism.

Plot Overview: Unraveling the Mystery Behind the Death

At its core, the novel is a detective story featuring Chief Inspector Chen Cao, a thoughtful and poetic policeman who must navigate the murky waters of Shanghai's social hierarchy to solve the murder. The investigation is complicated by the victim's background—Guan Hongying was the daughter of a prominent party official, which means the case is politically sensitive.

Chen Cao's Investigation

Chen Cao's methodical approach to the case reveals more than just clues; it exposes the contradictions within the party bureaucracy and the personal struggles faced by those caught between duty and conscience. As Chen digs deeper, he encounters:

- Corruption in the police force and government offices
- Conflicting accounts from friends, family, and colleagues of the victim
- Tensions between traditional Chinese values and Western influences

This multifaceted investigation keeps readers engaged while providing insight into the challenges of law enforcement in a complex political environment.

The Role of Social Commentary

Unlike many crime novels, death of a red heroine uses its narrative to comment on broader societal issues. Guan Hongying's death becomes a symbol of the disillusionment with the communist dream and the erosion of moral certainty. Qiu Xiaolong weaves cultural critique seamlessly into the storyline, making the novel not only a mystery but also a reflection on the human cost of rapid modernization.

Understanding the Context: China in Transition

To fully appreciate the death of a red heroine, it helps to understand the socio-political backdrop of 1990s China. The country was in the midst of profound economic reforms and opening to the global market, which brought both prosperity and inequality.

Economic Reforms and Their Impact

The shift from a planned economy to a market-driven one created winners and losers. Guan Hongying's family, rooted in the old communist elite, represented the established order, while other characters in the novel embody the new capitalist aspirations. This tension is palpable throughout the story, reflecting the uncertainty many Chinese citizens felt during this era.

Political Sensitivities and Censorship

The investigation's political sensitivity mirrors the real-life constraints faced by officials and artists in China. Qiu Xiaolong's portrayal of censorship, bureaucratic red tape, and the suppression of dissent adds depth to the narrative, making the death of a red heroine a subtle critique of authoritarian governance.

The Literary Style and Its Appeal

One of the reasons the death of a red heroine resonates with readers is its distinctive literary style. Qiu Xiaolong's background as a poet and scholar of Chinese literature informs his descriptive and evocative prose.

Poetry and Detective Fiction

Chen Cao's character often reflects on poetry, using it as a lens to understand the world and his own emotions. This blend of literary elements enriches the crime genre, offering a more introspective and philosophical take on detective work.

Rich Cultural Details

The novel is sprinkled with authentic details about Shanghai's urban landscape, cuisine, and customs, immersing readers in the city's atmosphere. This cultural authenticity enhances the story's credibility and offers a window into a society that is often misunderstood or stereotyped.

Why Death of a Red Heroine Remains Relevant Today

Despite being set in the 1990s, the themes explored in the death of a red heroine continue to resonate. Issues such as corruption, moral ambiguity, and the struggle between tradition and modernity are universal and timeless.

Lessons for Modern Readers

For readers interested in crime fiction that goes beyond plot twists, this novel provides valuable insights into how politics and personal lives intertwine. It encourages critical thinking about the nature of justice and the impact of societal change on individuals.

Inspiration for Writers and Crime Enthusiasts

The seamless integration of cultural critique with a gripping detective story serves as a model for aspiring writers. It shows how genre fiction can be elevated through thoughtful themes and rich characterization.

Exploring Similar Works and Further Reading

If the death of a red heroine piqued your interest, there are other novels and authors that explore similar themes of crime, culture, and political tension in China and beyond. Consider exploring:

- Qiu Xiaolong's subsequent Inspector Chen series

- Works by other Asian crime writers like Keigo Higashino or Andrea Cheng
- Non-fiction books on China's economic reforms and social changes

These readings can deepen your understanding of the complexities introduced in the death of a red heroine and broaden your perspective on crime fiction with cultural depth.

The death of a red heroine is more than a murder mystery; it's a vivid portrait of a society in flux and a meditation on the costs of change. Through its compelling narrative and rich thematic layers, it invites readers to ponder the intricate dance between ideology, identity, and justice in a world that is constantly evolving.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of 'Death of a Red Heroine'?

The central theme of 'Death of a Red Heroine' revolves around political intrigue, corruption, and the clash between traditional values and modern reform in 1990s China.

Who is the author of 'Death of a Red Heroine' and what is their background?

The author of 'Death of a Red Heroine' is Qiu Xiaolong, a Chinese-American writer and poet known for his crime novels set in contemporary China, blending mystery with social commentary.

How does 'Death of a Red Heroine' reflect the social and political climate of China in the 1990s?

The novel reflects the 1990s China by portraying the tensions between Communist Party ideals and the emerging capitalist influences, highlighting issues like corruption, censorship, and ideological conflicts.

What role does the protagonist, Chief Inspector Chen Cao, play in 'Death of a Red Heroine'?

Chief Inspector Chen Cao is the main character who investigates the murder central to the plot, using his intelligence and moral compass to navigate the complex political environment of Shanghai.

Why is 'Death of a Red Heroine' considered significant in the genre of Chinese crime fiction?

It is significant because it combines a gripping detective story with insightful critiques of Chinese society, offering readers a unique perspective on contemporary China through the lens of crime fiction.

Additional Resources

Death of a Red Heroine: An Investigative Exploration of Qiu Xiaolong's Acclaimed Crime Novel

Death of a red heroine immediately evokes intrigue and poignancy, especially within the realm of contemporary Chinese crime fiction. This phrase is synonymous with Qiu Xiaolong's seminal work, "Death of a Red Heroine," a novel that has captivated readers worldwide with its compelling narrative, rich cultural context, and profound social commentary. Originally published in 2000, the book is not only a gripping detective story but also a nuanced examination of modern China's complexities during a period of rapid transformation.

Contextualizing "Death of a Red Heroine" in Modern Chinese Literature

The title itself, "Death of a Red Heroine," carries symbolic weight. The phrase "red heroine" alludes to the Communist Party's idealized revolutionary figures—stalwart women who embody political loyalty and moral rectitude. The novel's plot centers on the murder of Guan Hongying, a government official's daughter, whose mysterious death disrupts the veneer of order in Shanghai's politically charged environment. Through this narrative, Qiu Xiaolong deftly explores the tensions between old revolutionary ideals and the emerging realities of a capitalist-influenced China.

Unlike conventional Western detective novels, "Death of a Red Heroine" integrates cultural and political elements that deepen the reader's understanding of Chinese society. The book situates crime investigation within a framework of ideological contradictions, offering a rare glimpse into the interplay between justice, politics, and personal loyalties.

Plot and Narrative Structure

At its core, "Death of a Red Heroine" is a classic whodunit. Chief Inspector Chen Cao, the protagonist, is tasked with solving the high-profile murder. The narrative unfolds through Chen's perspective, blending procedural inquiry with introspective reflections on morality and societal change. The story's pacing balances suspense with thoughtful exploration of character motivations and systemic pressures.

What makes this novel stand out is its layered storytelling. The investigation reveals not only the culprit but also the underlying social forces that influence individual behavior. Readers are invited to consider how corruption, censorship, and political expediency shape the pursuit of truth in a state-controlled system.

Character Development and Symbolism

Chief Inspector Chen serves as a compelling lens through which the story's themes are investigated. He embodies the conflict between traditional Confucian values and the pragmatic realities of contemporary governance. Unlike the archetypal hard-boiled detective, Chen grapples with ethical dilemmas that reflect broader societal challenges in China.

Guan Hongying, the titular "red heroine," symbolizes more than just a victim; she represents the fading idealism of the Cultural Revolution era. Her death metaphorically signals the decline of revolutionary purity amidst economic reforms and political corruption. The novel's use of symbolism enriches the crime genre, transforming a murder mystery into a meditation on historical and cultural shifts.

Exploring Themes: Politics, Justice, and Social Change

"Death of a Red Heroine" transcends genre conventions by embedding its crime narrative within a broader socio-political critique. Several themes emerge prominently:

- **Political Intrigue and Censorship:** The novel highlights the limitations imposed on law enforcement by party loyalty and censorship, illustrating the challenges faced by officials like Chen Cao who seek justice.
- **Corruption and Economic Reform:** Set during China's transition to a market economy, the story reflects tensions between old socialist ideals and new capitalist realities, revealing how economic interests can undermine legal institutions.
- **Gender and Identity:** Through Guan Hongying's character, the book touches on the evolving role of women in Chinese society and the symbolic weight assigned to them as "red heroines."

These themes resonate beyond the plot, offering readers a window into the complexities of governance and morality in a rapidly changing China.

Comparative Analysis with Other Crime Novels

When compared to Western detective fiction, "Death of a Red Heroine" distinguishes itself by its deep integration of political context. While authors like Agatha Christie or Raymond Chandler focus primarily on plot and character, Qiu Xiaolong situates crime within the fabric of national identity and ideological struggle.

Furthermore, the novel's setting in Shanghai adds a unique dimension. The city's blend of tradition and modernity, East and West, serves as a microcosm for China's broader transformations. This geographical and cultural specificity enhances the story's authenticity and appeal.

Reception and Impact

Since its release, "Death of a Red Heroine" has garnered critical acclaim for its originality and insightful portrayal of Chinese society. It has been praised for introducing Western audiences to Chinese crime fiction and for its sophisticated treatment of political themes. The novel won the Anthony Award for Best First Novel in 2001, cementing Qiu Xiaolong's reputation as a significant voice in contemporary literature.

Academic and literary critics have noted the book's contribution to cross-cultural understanding, emphasizing how the "death of a red heroine" metaphor encapsulates the tensions between tradition and change, idealism and pragmatism.

Keywords and SEO Considerations

For readers and researchers interested in exploring "Death of a Red Heroine," several related keywords and phrases enhance discoverability across search engines. These include:

- Qiu Xiaolong detective novels
- Chinese crime fiction
- Shanghai mystery novels
- political crime novels China
- literature on Cultural Revolution aftermath
- Inspector Chen Cao series
- social commentary in crime fiction

Integrating these terms naturally within discussions of the novel's themes and significance helps position articles or reviews for optimal SEO performance while maintaining a professional and engaging tone.

Why "Death of a Red Heroine" Remains Relevant Today

More than two decades after its publication, the novel's exploration of justice under political constraints remains pertinent. Issues such as censorship, corruption, and the balance between individual conscience and state authority continue to be relevant not only in China but globally.

The enduring appeal of "Death of a Red Heroine" lies in its ability to combine the suspense of a murder mystery with incisive social critique. It invites readers to question the nature of truth and the price of ideals in a world where political and economic forces are constantly in flux.

Qiu Xiaolong's work is a testament to the power of literature to illuminate complex realities, making "Death of a Red Heroine" a vital read for those interested in crime fiction, Chinese culture, and the intersections of politics and justice.

In sum, the death of a red heroine is not merely a plot device but a profound symbol reflecting the tumultuous journey of a nation and its people. Through meticulous storytelling and rich contextualization, the novel challenges readers to look beyond the surface and consider the deeper implications of crime and punishment in a society grappling with its past and future.

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death of a red heroine: Death of a Red Heroine Xiaolong Qiu, 2006

death of a red heroine: The Inspector Chen Collection 1-3 Qiu Xiaolong, 2015-05-21 Chief Inspector Chen wanted to be a poet, but the authorities gave him a job in the Shanghai Police Department. He is an excellent detective, but he can never escape the struggle between what the Party wants and what justice demands. The first three novels in Qiu Xiaolong's awardwinning series offer a glimpse into a fascinating country on the rise and an honourable man making his way in a world that does not always reward honesty.

death of a red heroine: Encyclopedia of Asian-American Literature Seiwoong Oh, 2015-04-22 Presents a reference on Asian-American literature providing profiles of Asian-American writers and their works.

death of a red heroine: Years of Red Dust Qiu Xiaolong, 2025-06-25 Published originally in the pages of Le Monde, this collection of linked short stories by Qiu Xiaolong has already been a major bestseller in France (Cite de la Poussiere Rouge) and Germany (Das Tor zur Roten Gasse), where it and the author was the subject of a major television documentary. The stories in Years of Red Dust trace the changes in modern China over fifty years—from the early days of the Communist revolution in 1949 to the modernization movement of the late nineties—all from the perspective of

one small street in Shanghai, Red Dust Lane. From the early optimism at the end of the Chinese Civil War, through the brutality and upheaval of the Cultural Revolution, to the death of Mao, the pro-democracy movement and the riots in Tiananmen Square—history, on both an epic and personal scale, unfolds through the bulletins posted and the lives lived in this one lane, this one corner of Shanghai.

death of a red heroine: Xenotropism and the Awakening of Literary Expatriatism through Writing Memoirs Christine Velde, 2016-08-03 Although there have been many discussions about challenges faced by individuals going through East to West migrations, there are few literary accounts about those moving from the West to the East. Yet these migrations are becoming more frequent now due to advances in technology and the fact that a writer's work can now involve an increasingly global audience. One way of expressing these challenges is through writing memoirs. Xenotropism and the Awakening of Literary Expatriatism through Writing Memoirs exemplifies the craft of memoirs written while living in a foreign country and explains how this is different from writing from home. The book is a theoretical analysis of xenotropism based on the work of three prominent writers in China's history: Emily Hahn, Nien Cheng and Qiu Xiaolong. The author explores the relationship between xenotropism (turning towards foreign ideals and practices), its complexities and challenges, and the writing of a memoir and its impact on mental health. This discourse will contribute to new knowledge in the field of creative writing and Asian studies by illustrating how xenotropism or 'turning towards foreign ideals and practices' results in both personal and artistic development and builds an understanding and acceptance of different cultures within an individual. These processes of change and understanding, in turn, facilitate the writing of a memoir, which is a cathartic process having a positive effect on one's mental state. Readers interested in creative writing or Asian literary studies will be able to understand the creative process behind writing memoirs from a combination of personal, research-based, literary and theoretical perspectives.

death of a red heroine: The Singer from Memphis Gary Corby, 2016-05-17 This "witty" mystery set in ancient Greece is "sure to amuse Lindsey Davis and Elizabeth Peters fans" (Booklist, starred review). In this historical murder mystery that "blends humor with fascinating details about the ancient world," Nicolaos, the only private investigator in Athens, discovers that helping a writer with his book research can be very dangerous (Library Journal). Would-be author Herodotus has hired Nico and his priestess wife, Diotima, to accompany him to Egypt to research that ancient country's history. Unfortunately, Egypt happens to be in the throes of a rebellion against its overlords, the Persian Empire. Pirates infest the sea route. Three different armies roam the Egyptian countryside. The river is full of crocodiles. Everywhere Nico turns, there's a secret agent ready to kill him, and possibly worse, he can't find a decent cup of wine anywhere. A simple investigation is about to turn into a dangerous adventure of international espionage, in a novel that is "recommended for lovers of historical mystery and all things ancient Greek (and Egyptian and Persian and Libyan)" (Historical Novel Society).

death of a red heroine: His Right Hand Mette Ivie Harrison, 2015-12-01 Author of The Bishop's Wife: A Utah housewife looks into the murder of a prominent Mormon—with a surprising secret—in this "fast-moving" novel (Anne Perry). In Draper, Utah, a tight-knit Latter-day Saints community is thrown into upheaval when their ward's second counselor—one of the bishop's right-hand men—is found dead in an elaborately staged murder on church property. Carl Ashby was known as a devout Mormon, a pillar of the community, and a loving husband and father. Who would want him dead? Linda Wallheim, the wife of the bishop, can't rest as long as the ward is suffering. She is particularly worried about Carl's grieving family. But the entire case is turned upside down by the autopsy report—which reveals that Carl was biologically female. In the Mormon church, where gender is considered part of a person's soul, some people regard transgenderism as one of the worst possible sins. Church officials seem to be more upset by Carl's gender than his murder, and more concerned with hushing up the story than solving the crime. Linda realizes that if the police are to catch the killer, they're going to need an ally on the inside. Carl was living a life of secrecy for

twenty years. What else was he hiding—and can Linda ferret out the key to his death before the rumors tear her community apart? From the author of *The Bishop's Wife*, this is both a compelling crime novel and “a heartfelt story that opens outsiders to a fascinating world” (*The Boston Globe*).

death of a red heroine: Memory, Fluid Identity, and the Politics of Remembering Li Li, 2016-06-21 The Chinese Cultural Revolution is the single most important internal social event in contemporary Chinese history. The plethora of history, literary, and artistic representations inspired by this event are critical to our understanding of the diversified, often contested, interpretations of contemporary China. Li Li's critical examination of autobiographic, filmic and fictional presentations in *Memory, Fluid Identity, and the Politics of Remembering: The Representations of the Chinese Cultural Revolution in English-speaking Countries* demonstrates that “memory works” not only reflect memories of those who lived through that period, but memories about their past, and, more importantly, about their identity remapping and artistic negotiation in a cross-cultural environment.

death of a red heroine: China Mysteries Jeffrey C. Kinkley, 2023-12-31 With the 1989 Beijing massacre fading from popular memory in the West, China from the mid-1990s to a few years ago felt more open than ever to global trade, communication, travel, and cultural and educational exchanges. There was even talk in the mainstream press that China was heading toward a more democratic future. It was during this second Sino-Western honeymoon that authors in the US, Canada, France, the UK, and elsewhere began writing mystery fiction set in contemporary China in their regional languages. These “China mysteries”—crime, detective, and mystery thriller novels that take place in China but were not written or published there—formed a new genre of popular fiction that highlighted the world's hopes and fears after Tiananmen. The multinational and multicultural writers of China mysteries, among them ex-PRC nationals like Qiu Xiaolong, Zhang Xinxin, and Diane Wei Liang, converged on the China Mainland to negotiate political and cultural complexities through crime fiction plotlines. Their books emerged from Western lineages of the modern novel and popular genre fiction—with Chinese contributions—and depended on Western commercial publishing models shaped by cultural, national, political, and economic factors. This work examines more than a hundred China mysteries—many describing and analyzing social and economic changes at the center of modern life in China—to provide a brief history of the genre and analyze the formulaic and original elements of the mysteries, including their attention to matters of location, social content, characterization, history, and biography. It also highlights the role of “information” acquisition as a motivation for readers and authors of popular fiction, which has become a topic of discussion in Chinese literature studies. With its timely commentary on Sino-Western relations as presented through crime fiction, *China Mysteries* will appeal to students and scholars of contemporary Chinese literature and culture, as well as fans of crime novels and others who are curious about the global dimensions of the genre and how it complicates our understanding of “world literature.”

death of a red heroine: Reading China Against the Grain Carlos Rojas, Mei-hwa Sung, 2020-10-28 Through an analysis of a wide array of contemporary Chinese literature from inside and outside of China, this volume considers some of the ways in which China and Chineseness are understood and imagined. Using the central theme of the way in which literature has the potential to both reinforce and to undermine a national imaginary, the volume contains chapters offering new perspectives on well-known authors, from Jin Yucheng to Nobel Prize winning Mo Yan, as well as chapters focusing on authors rarely included in discussions of contemporary Chinese literature, such as the expatriate authors Larissa Lai and Xiaolu Guo. The volume is complemented by chapters covering more marginalized literary figures throughout history, such as Macau-born poet Yiling, the Malaysian-born novelist Zhang Guixing, and the ethnically Korean author Kim Hak-ch'öl. Invested in issues ranging from identity and representation, to translation and grammar, it is one of the few publications of its kind devoting comparable attention to authors from Mainland China, authors from Manchuria, Macau, and Taiwan, and throughout the global Chinese diaspora. *Reading China Against the Grain: Imagining Communities* is a rich resource of literary criticism for students and scholars of Chinese studies, sinophone studies, and comparative literature

death of a red heroine: The Amateur Robert Littell, 2025-03-11 A spy thriller classic, soon to be a major motion picture starring Rami Malek, Rachel Brosnahan, Caitriona Balfe, and Laurence Fishburne. "A taut, chilling plot and a protagonist as memorable as one of Len Deighton's, or le Carré's Smiley."—The New York Times Book Review Charlie Heller is an ace cryptographer for the CIA, a quiet man in a quiet back-office job. But when his fiancée, Sarah Diamond, is murdered by terrorists at the American Embassy in West Germany and the Company refuses to pursue her killers, Heller takes matters into his own hands. Tracking down Sarah's killers behind the Iron Curtain in Czechoslovakia, Heller becomes both the hunter and the hunted—an amateur facing off against the world's deadliest assassins and spies. But nothing will stop him from getting revenge. Expertly plotted with shocking twists and pulse-pounding suspense, *The Amateur* is a sleek and stunning novel that belongs on the shelves of every espionage fan.

death of a red heroine: Keystone Peter Lovesey, 2025-06-17 In this witty standalone masterpiece set during the golden age of silent cinema, a British vaudeville performer turned movie cop finds himself in a real-life crime story. It's 1916, and Warwick Easton's traveling show has landed him in California. Out of money and about to return to England, Easton gets lucky when silent movie star and "King of Comedy" Mack Sennett offers him a job performing slapstick comedy stunts as a Keystone Cop. At Keystone Film Studios, he runs into silent-era comedy legends, including Mabel Normand and Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle, but the laughs turn sour as things quickly start to go awry. Known in his new role only as "Keystone," Easton finds the line between cop and comedian starts to blur, especially when a series of tragedies strikes the studio. The gory death of a stunt actor on a roller coaster seems like an accident, but then a bludgeoned body is discovered in a bungalow and Amber Honeybee, the beautiful but troubled actress Easton has befriended, vanishes. Easton has no choice but to step into the role of a real detective. Does he have what it takes to unravel the mystery in time and save the girl?

death of a red heroine: Beats: Book Reviews 2014 Manuel Augusto Antão, 2015-03-06 What it means to me to be a critic/reviewer? For a lot of readers, a reviewer or critic is an embittered failed novelist or worse, a barely restrained serial rapist. Book critics may take the form of a dilettante, theorist, essayist, or even historian, but almost never reviewers, who sometimes lack the distancing from the text required by the demands of academia synthesis.

death of a red heroine: Village of the Ghost Bears Stan Jones, 2009-12-01 Alaska State Trooper Nathan Active must figure out what connects a dead hunter on a remote Arctic lake with a year-old fatal plane crash in the Brooks Range and a fire that killed eight people.

death of a red heroine: The First Wave James R. Benn, 2007-09-01 Praise for the Billy Boyle series: "A meaty, old-fashioned and thoroughly enjoyable tale of WWII-era murder and espionage."—The Seattle Times "The World War II atmosphere and history are expertly handled."—Denver Post "Great fun. Benn knows his war history. . . . The novel introduces a batch of intriguing characters who seem destined to make another appearance."—The Globe and Mail (Toronto) "A memorable debut."—BookPage "A must for history buffs and mystery fans."—Connecticut Post "If you enjoy World War II mysteries . . . you'll love this book. . . . One of the best books I've read this year."—Mystery Scene "Benn crafts a crackling good adventure, with much flavorsome period color."—Kirkus Reviews "I'll look for another book about Billy Boyle, with pleasure."—Deadly Pleasures Lieutenant Billy Boyle reluctantly accompanies Major Samuel Harding, his boss, in the first boat to land on the shores of Algeria during the Allied invasion. Their task is to arrange the surrender of the Vichy French forces. But there is dissension between the regular army, the local militia, and De Gaulle's Free French. American black marketeers in league with the enemy divert medical supplies to the Casbah, leading to multiple murders that Billy must solve while trying to rescue the girl he loves, a captured British spy.

death of a red heroine: Murder in the Sentier Cara Black, 2003-07-01 The third Aimée Leduc Investigation set in Paris When Parisian private investigator Aimée Leduc picks up the phone one hot July afternoon, the call turns her life upside-down. The voice on the other end, with its heavy German accent, belongs to a woman named Jutta Hald. Jutta claims to have shared a jail cell with

Aimée's long-lost mother, a suspected terrorist on Interpol's most wanted list. If Aimée wants to learn the truth about her mother, she is to meet Jutta at a rendezvous point in an ancient tower in the Sentier. But when Aimée arrives, Jutta is dead, shot in the head at close range. Aimée realizes she has stumbled into something bigger than Jutta let on, and that her own life is in danger. She has a lot of unsolved mysteries in front of her: Jutta Hald's murder, resurfaced materials from Sydney Leduc's terrorist activities in the 1970s, police suppression of important information. The question is, can Aimée put the pieces together before someone else ends up dead?

death of a red heroine: Murder at the Lanterne Rouge Cara Black, 2012-03-06 The twelfth Aimée Leduc investigation set in Paris Lost secrets of the Parisian Knights Templar, dangerous Chinatown sweatshops, dirty policemen, and botched affairs of the heart—the 12th Aimée Leduc mystery is the most exciting yet! Aimée Leduc is happy her longtime business partner René has found a girlfriend. It's not her fault if she can't suppress her doubts about the relationship. And her misgivings may not be far off the mark: Meizi disappears during a Chinatown dinner to take a phone call and never returns to the restaurant. Minutes later, the body of a young man, a science prodigy and volunteer at the nearby Musée, is found shrink-wrapped in an alleyway—with Meizi's photo in his wallet. Aimée does not like this scenario one bit, but she can't figure out how the murder is connected to Meizi's disappearance. The dead genius was sitting on a discovery that has France's secret service keeping tabs on him. Now they're keeping tabs on Aimée. What has she gotten herself into? And can she get herself—and her friends—back out of it alive?

death of a red heroine: Murder in the Palais Royal Cara Black, 2010-03-01 Just as Aimée is about to leave for New York City to follow up on a lead about a possible younger brother, her partner in Leduc Detective, René Friant, is wounded by a near-fatal gun shot. Eyewitnesses identify Aimée as the culprit. The police have pegged her as the guilty party. Aimée is distraught over René's condition and horrified to be under suspicion. At the same time, a large, mysterious sum appears in their firm's bank account, and the tax authorities descend upon Aimée. She has no idea who would have sent this money. It seems that someone is impersonating Aimée, someone who wants revenge. But for what? Two murders ensue. How do they relate to the youth whom Aimée's testimony sent to jail in the very first Aimée Leduc investigation, Murder in the Marais?

death of a red heroine: The List: A Novella Mick Herron, 2015-01-27 Dieter Hess, an aged spy, is dead, and John Bachelor, his MI5 handler, is in deep, deep trouble. Death has revealed that the deceased had been keeping a secret second bank account—and there's only ever one reason a spy has a secret second bank account. The question of whether he was a double agent must be resolved, and its answer may undo an entire career's worth of spy secrets.

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