

1: Death Comes to Perigord.: [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com): John FERGUSON: Books

*Death Comes to Perigord has 3 ratings and 0 reviews. Set in the Channel Islands, this little known mystery is what Dickens would have written had he live.*

The sword and planet genre began with Edgar Rice Burroughs. Moore author of the Northwest Smith stories and Leigh Brackett. Brackett enjoyed even greater success as a screenwriter, in which connection she is best known for her contributions to some of the best movies of Howard Hawks including *The Big Sleep* and *Rio Bravo*. She was also the co-writer of *The Empire Strikes Back* or at least she wrote the first draft. Since the twelve stories included in this volume are mostly novella-length and a couple just about qualify as short novels a review is inevitably going to be rather lengthy. First up, her very early sword-and-planet stories from the period *The Sorcerer of Rhiannon* is a very early story, dating to He finds the wreck of a ship that sank aeons ago. At the time he finds the wreck he is in deep trouble, hopelessly lost and without food or water. But there are two people there. The ideas of mind control and possession seemed to have a good deal for attraction for Brackett, popping up in many of her early stories. The idea is handled competently enough in *The Sorcerer of Rhiannon*. It is obviously an early effort but it has a reasonably good blend of action and atmosphere. *The Jewel of Bas* dates from and mind control is again a central concern. The hero is a kind of gypsy, a wandering minstrel who, along with his wife, is captured by rather creepy grey beast-men. They live on a very strange planet on which even stranger things are starting to happen. The planet is experiencing moments of darkness, a frightening thing on a world that has never ever experienced a single moment of darkness. There are megalomaniacal androids, a hidden world inside a mountain and an immortal wizard who may or may not be able or willing to save them. *Terror Out of Space* takes us to Venus where a cop has been given an assignment that has turned into a nightmare. He has to take into custody an alien being about which little is known except that it is very female and she has the power to enslave men in a very complete way. She is also telepathic. Her voice can drive a man mad but if he looks into her eyes he is truly lost, even though she does not actually have eyes. This is a tale that veers into horror territory and can be considered as an early and very fine example of the mind vampire genre. Ray Bradbury completed the story, apparently without having any idea how Brackett had intended to end it. A race of man-like creatures lives beneath the Red Sea on Venus. Some of these aquatic men have left the sea to live on land, and have enslaved the humans living near the sea. Those who have left the sea and those who remain hate each other. This sea is not an ordinary sea. All this takes place in a more or less unknown land beyond the a mighty range on Venus. Hugh Starke, a daring thief, is on the run and his only hope of escape is to take his rocket aircraft over that mountain range where no-one will dare to pursue him. And he has a new body to get used to. There is another mind contesting his control. Also there are people trying to kill him for things that the previous owner of the body did. *The Moon That Vanished*, from , concerns the moon of Venus. Venus of course does not have a moon, but we learn that in the remote past it did have a moon. That moon may have been destroyed or it may have crashed into the surface of Venus, or perhaps it was the moon god that crashed into the planet. The legend is not clear on this point but it is clear about one thing - if a man can reach the Moonfire he can become a god. No-one knows what the Moonfire is and no-one knows where it is. In any case it is forbidden by the priests to seek the Moonfire. There is one man who knows where the Moonfire is to be found. David Heath is from Earth and he found the Moonfire. Actually many men have found the Moonfire but what makes David Heath unique is that he returned from his quest alive. Alive he certainly is but he is a wreck of a human being, haunted by the shadows in his mind and find temporary oblivion in drugs. And now someone wants him to take them to the Moonfire. This is a tale of adventure, with a plentiful supply of perilous obstacles to be overcome in order to reach the Moonfire. It becomes something much more interesting when David Heath and his two companions reach their destination to find that what they were seeking was not what they expected even if perhaps it was the fate for which they were destined. This story does not involve mind control as such but it does deal with the powers of the mind as well as the nature of dreams and reality. *The Moon That Vanished* is a very accomplished novella indeed. Brackett has a strong feel for atmosphere. Being a pulp writer she understands the necessity for keeping the

## DEATH COMES TO PERIGORD pdf

plot moving along at all times. More to follow in a later post.

### 2: Top shelves for Death Comes to Perigord

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Crime, Supernatural and Adventure fiction. Obscure, Forgotten and Well Worth Reading. Friday, September 14, FFB: Ann is disturbed by such odd incidents like her father repeatedly checking his shoes carefully and shaking them out before putting them on. He is also often seen staring out the windows of their home nervously scanning the horizon for something -- or someone. Before McNab has chance to even interview Cardew the man drops dead on his front lawn under mysterious circumstances. But there is no sign of foul play at all. Friend is a bit inaccurate, they are more rivals. Chance confesses he has been trying to scoop McNab on a juicy crime case for his newspaper. But Chance is petulant, humorless, impatient and intolerant. Qualities that do not serve him well in his journalism career. McNab on the other hand is engaging, eccentric and fascinating. He also has taste for imaginative writing like Lewis Carroll which Chance disdains. Of course only a man who is an imaginative thinker himself could admire such ingenious nonsense like Alice in Wonderland and therefore is able to penetrate the unusual motive and highly baroque murder method used to dispatch James Cardew. If only Godfrey Chance could grasp that concept, indulge in creative thinking, and tap into his burgeoning inner sleuth, he might become a better reporter and writer. The suspects are the usual myriad of shifty relatives, arrogant rivals and gossipy servants. Sergeant Strood with his inherent curiosity and avid policing skills is a minor standout in the large cast of characters. But for the most part this is a typical traditional detective novel with stock characters; an eccentric, overly intellectual detective who dominates the story; and his one-step-behind-everyone Watson griping and complaining throughout the story. The detection is everything here. Ferguson, at least in this one mystery novel, reminds me of Rhode, Connington and Crofts in their most persnickety, overly-analytic modes. This analysis went on for pages. Some may find this kind of thing fascinating, but I no longer have the patience for intensely detailed translation: I begin to sympathize with Julian Symons dubbing this kind of detective fiction "the humdrum school. His favorite, by the way, is "Innisbuie! As the story progresses it becomes a bit too obvious who the culprit is, but the manner in which clues are laid out from the beginning and the odd pieces of evidence like the blue ribbon with the piece of elastic attached and the cigarette case found at the murder scene are very well done. One of the suspects describes someone picking up Ann Cardew on a motor scooter and "taking her home pillion. In fact, I thought it was a typo. Assiduous Googling led me to discover it was not a printing error at all. Originally, the word "pillion" was the name of a cushion placed behind a saddle for a woman to ride more comfortably as a passenger on horseback. I learned something else, but I am going to have trouble telling you about it. I imagine that anyone trying to find out more about this thing will have difficulty locating the word Ferguson uses in any reference book on the subject matter. The modern and now accepted spelling is very different. Luckily, the word he invented resembles the modern spelling. In any case, the facts unearthed about this particular thing were gruesomely fascinating. To accuse McNab, the logician, of perversity, was equivalent to accusing a bishop of bigamy. It is most helpful. You force me to clarify and purge my thinking processes. Bastin, remarks on the amazing way in which that type of murder which he classifies as a crime of deliberation goes frequently to pieces. That a murder, deliberately planned, should baffle and perplex at first is inevitable. The murderer selects his moment, place and method; he makes at leisure the arrangements he judges necessary to cover all traces, and not till the murder is a fait accompli do the police know anything about it. Then only the intellectual battle begins -- the battle, as McNab put it, of insight against foresight. Born in Callander, Perthshire in John Ferguson began his life as a railroad clerk and then was ordained an Episcopal minister which became his primary profession. Bertie his ministry brought him to Dundee, Guernsey, Glasgow, Drumtochy. He was chaplain at Eversley School, Kent, from , then at Culross, In his writing career he was better known for his plays than his detective fiction. Ferguson wrote ten crime novels, a mix of suspense thrillers, espionage and detective fiction, between and Ferguson died in in Lymington. Take a wild guess. I lucked out in finding my relatively cheap reading copy. Only four copies are currently offered for

sale from online dealers, one is a translated German edition. Astonishingly all four copies were sold within three days after I posted this essay. I had no luck turning up a digitized version either free online or for sale. Hundreds of copies of that book are out there. He certainly fits the bill for the kind of traditional mystery novel they like to reprint. In many instances I found this one much more engaging, livelier, and more innovative than most of what you find in the BLCC reissues. Murder on the Marsh, probably most importantly, has a satisfyingly baffling murder to figure out. Determining the method itself and how the murder was done is perhaps the only reason a mystery addict would want to read this book. Dodsley Posted by.

### 3: Pretty Sinister Books: FFB: Murder on the Marsh - John Ferguson

*Death Comes to Perigord [John Ferguson] on [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com) \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Young Dr. Dunn is acting as locum for Dr. Wright, whose practice is on Guernsey, in the Channel Islands.*

Yeah, Mitchell tends to be love or hate. I like her earlier books, which actually do have detection in them and are I think quite funny. The two later ones are enjoyable mysteries that are also novels about her childhood. Vineyard October 8th, at 1: They do a good deal of classical genre fiction. Vineyard October 8th, at 7: Innes just barely starts pre war and most of his early works are war related adventures. Nevil Shute began before the war too in the Buchan vein with several thrillers. The spy novel as such is fairly rare in American fiction until after the war. Moto were about as serious as the American version of the spy novel got in the between the wars period. Almost everything is in the Buchan vein save for Eric Ambler and Graham Greene, and even they are influenced by Buchan. Valentine Williams, Francis Beeding, L. Hay, George Goodchild, Operator , Rupert Grayson, and almost anyone else you can think of are operating in the Buchan vein. The British publishers as well as the American publishers seemed to fear the impact of war content in mysteries. Most of the fictional sleuths did a stint in intelligence though one or two were RAF pilots and Bulldog Drummond between missions was confined to the Home Guard. The same for most of the American detectives, who mostly avoid the war entirely or else fight it off screen so to speak like Donald Lam and Doug Selby. Even Rex Stout, who was deeply involved in the war effort, mostly sidesteps the issue with Archie assigned to Wolfe by military intelligence. Vivian Butler points out the gentleman adventurers are even worse. The Saint takes on a few cases here in the States for intelligence, but most of them do their soldiering offstage like the Toff. The Baron is a sgt. Palfrey are all busy in war work, but then they were into that before the war. But for the most part even those involved in war work seemed to avoid the war in popular fiction. But I think the fear was less isolationism in general than the recognition that the war was real and people were really dying, and somehow trivializing that in books that would likely be read by soldiers in combat and people at home who had loved ones in the war was somehow wrong. Escapism was the order of the day, and for the most part the model followed on both sides of the Atlantic. We forget now that much of the savagery of the Spillane school comes with the men returning from the war suddenly writing about their actual experience and no longer satisfied with the more bloodless or at least realistic popular fiction of the pre war era. It was all right to do something heroic and uplifting like MRS. There may be more people around in uniform, and an occasional blackout gets mentioned, in British books once in a while the Blitz or an air raid features in a plot, but for the most part there seems a plot to ignore the war is going on. In the early war years you really could escape any hint of the war in mystery fiction – if you were careful they might not even mention ration books or the draft. It is hard to imagine such a conspiracy of silence today.

### 4: Vintage Penguins: Green Penguins

*Death Comes to Perigord*, published in , falls more into the detective story category. Ferguson lived for a time in Guernsey and the island provides the setting for *Death Comes to Perigord*. And a very effective setting it proves to be.

His mysteries mostly feature Scottish private detective Francis McNab. His ten books in the genre apparently vary quite a bit with some being pretty much pure thrillers and others being true detective stories in the golden age mould. *Death Comes to Perigord*, published in , falls more into the detective story category. Ferguson lived for a time in Guernsey and the island provides the setting for *Death Comes to Perigord*. And a very effective setting it proves to be. The smallness of the island allows the local police to be quite sure that certain key players in the mystery either did not leave the island, or did not enter it, at a critical time period and this provides very important clues. The novel is narrated by Dr Dunn, a young Englishman serving as locum tenens for a local doctor. The fact that Dr Dunn is not a Guernsey native will also have some importance. The man seems in perfectly sound health for a man in late middle age and Dr Dunn is rather puzzled as to why Le Marinel was keen to have de Quettville checked up on. Now things start to get a bit strange. This is interpreted by de Quettville as either a mortal insult or possibly even a threat. And then de Quettville simply disappears. Dr Dunn would probably have given the affair little thought but the fact that he was called in to attend de Quettville means that the vanished man is his patient and he therefore has a certain responsibility. Guernsey has turned out to be a place in which odd things happen and a place inhabited by people with surprisingly strong and unpredictable passions. At this point he makes a rather wise decision - he asks his friend McNab to join him on the island as soon as possible. Francis McNab is a private detective and Dunn has assisted him in a number of his investigations. Maybe McNab can make sense of things. And McNab notices a couple of very important points that the Chief Constable has overlooked. Not only has there been a crime, the crime is almost certainly murder. Murder has been committed but both the method and the identity of the killer remain mysterious. The most promising suspects have unbreakable alibis. The medical evidence had at first seemed to be ambiguous. When the ambiguities are resolved it just makes things worse since it makes those alibis absolutely unbreakable. The medical evidence also raises perplexing questions about how the murder was done. To cap it all off there are completely unexplained elements - there can be no possible rational motive for the attempt to kill Dr Dunn. This is a plot with the complexities that are so beloved by devotees of this kind of mystery, and Ferguson resolves those complexities convincingly enough. The trick to pulling off a successful golden age detection story is to ensure that while various plot elements might be unlikely or even outlandish the reader will accept them as being within the bounds of the possible. Ferguson succeeds in doing this. Is it fair play? And is it enjoyable? Again the answer is yes.

### 5: Books set in Guernsey (15 books)

*Mineola, NY, U.S.A.: Dover Publications, Incorporated, pages. Reprint of the edition published by William Collins, London, Set in the Channel Islands the clamor is raised by Mere Trouteaud, an old woman who believes herself wronged by Hilaire de Quettville, a wealthy neighbor.*

The Body in the Woodland Book Three: Police at Pemberley Book Four: The Inquest Book Five: The Trial Book Six: Denny shouts to the driver to stop, and gets out. He runs into the woods, followed by Wickham, trying to stop him. Distraught, Lydia demands to be driven up to the house. The coachman, hearing shots, raises the alarm and Darcy and his cousin Colonel Fitzwilliam, Viscount Hartlep, hurry to the wood minutes later. They discover Denny, a bloodstained corpse. Despite the shots, Denny had received the mortal blows from a blunt instrument. Wickham, still not sober, is beside him, and is heard to say that the death of Denny is his fault. In addition he thought that my plan to leave Mrs Wickham at Pemberley to spend the night there and to attend the ball the next day was both inconsiderate and would be inconvenient for Mrs Darcy. I believe that it was his increasing impatience with my conduct that made my company intolerable to him, and that it was this reason that led him to stop the chaise and run into the woodland. There is much about police and judicial procedures. Darcy, although he is a magistrate, stands aside in various ways from the investigation of a death on his land. Then, like a deus ex machina, a written deposition arrives from a sick man, William Bidwell, who has one week to live. He left his sickbed, seized a poker, and struck Denny, whom he took for the soldier who had interfered with his sister Louisa. After he knocked him down he saw him fall backwards, striking his head fatally on a stone. The deposition arrives after the jury has returned a verdict of guilty. Wickham receives a royal pardon. In the sixth and final section, the backstory is told, after we have been given the outcome of the trial. Wickham had fathered an illegitimate child by Louisa Bidwell. Louisa, however, has only lately discovered that the father of her love child, Georgie, is in fact Wickham. Mrs Martin had been Harriet Smith before her marriage. They arrange his baptism, and give him the name of John. Reviews[ edit ] Newspaper reviews are generally favourable, many enthusiastically so, with the New York Times foremost in the United States. Death Comes to Pemberley. Death comes to Pemberley large print ed. Death comes to Pemberley. Retrieved 20 March

### 6: Vintage Pop Fictions: John Ferguson's Death Comes to Perigord

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The Paton Street Case: Corpse at the Carnival: Guest in the House: The Nose on my Face: Take Only as Directed: The Witch of the Low Tide: John Dickson Carr Pearls are a Nuisance: Max Carrados Mysteries Stain on the Snow: Maigret Takes a Room: A Murder of Quality: John le Carre Home is the Prisoner: Wings Above the Diamantina: Give the Boys a Great Big Hand: The Eye of the Needle: The Fate of the Malous: The Window Over the Way: A Night of Errors: Michael Innes green- and orange-spined issues In Spite of Thunder: I Should Have Stayed Home: Robert van Gulik The Dog it was that Died: Killer in the Rain: The Woman at Belgardo: Too Small For His Shoes: A Rush on the Ultimate: Cat of Many Tails: A Friend of Mary Rose: The Man Who Explained Miracles: Maigret and the Lazy Burglar: The New Adventures of Ellery Queen: Death of a Fat God: A Ring of Roses: Murder Clear, Track Fast: Due to a Death: Maigret and the Saturday Caller: What Happened at Hazelwood: Maigret Loses his Temper: Friday the Rabbi Slept Late: The Player on the Other Side: Is Skin Deep, is Fatal: Maigret Sets a Trap: Maigret on the Defensive: The King of the Rainy Country: The Judge and his Hangman: Saturday the Rabbi went Hungry: Inspector Ghote Caught in the Meshes:

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