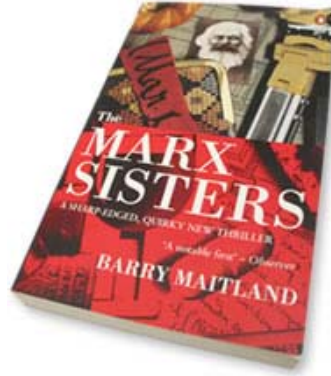


About the Books

THE MARX SISTERS

Jerusalem Lane is a little piece of Dickensian London untouched by development, its inhabitants mainly refugees from pre-war central Europe. But could elderly Meredith Winterbottom really have been killed for the politics of another age?

As DS Kolla and DCI Brock delve into the Lane's eccentric melting pot, past and present interlink in unexpected ways. What connects Mrs Rosenfeldt and Adam Kowalski to a smooth property developer and an American academic? And what is Meredith's son Terry up to? Not to mention the dottily Marxist sisters... Could this be a recipe for murder?



Shortlisted for the CWA John Creasey Award for the best first crime novel of 1994.

...one of the most intelligent, intriguing and well thought-out debut crime novels I have read for a long time. (The Times, UK)

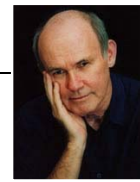
The Marx Sisters is a well-wrought, well-paced, original and elegant crime mystery. (Australian Book Review)

A clever, flavorsome debut with a particularly deft knack of pulling the rug out from under you in between chapters, just when you think you're safe. (Kirkus Reviews, US)

...his deft depiction of his idiosyncratic characters, his evocative portrayal of Jerusalem Lane and his clever use of Marxist theories and history make this nothing less than a Kapital read. (Publishers Weekly, US)

...cleverly devious, sagaciously cunning and ultimately reassuring... a pleasure to read. (Los Angeles Times Book Review)

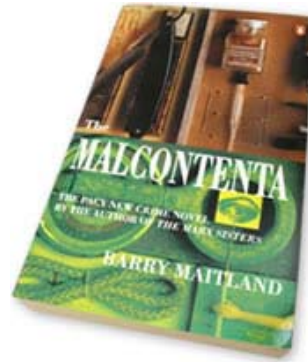
A fine morsel... There is no lack of suspects and no lack of skill in their presentation. More, please, Mr Maitland. (The Washington Times)



THE MALCONTENTA

For DS Kathy Kolla the chance to investigate the unnatural death of a physio at the exclusive Stanhope House Clinic seems the ideal opportunity to leave behind more mundane police duties. Especially when what at first seemed suicide or accidental death is clearly more complicated. A cover-up to shield the clinic's illustrious clients, or murder?

So Kolla is not at all pleased when she is abruptly taken off the case, and turns to DCI Brock for help. But their unofficial inquiries flounder in the mire of corruption as the violence behind the clinic's respectable face escalates out of control.



Joint winner of the inaugural Ned Kelly Award for the best Australian crime novel of 1995.

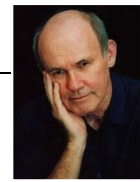
Solid procedural suspense and a serious subtext concerning the nature of corruption make this new series stand out. (Time Out, UK)

Maitland has a sure touch, and the storyline is complemented by a serious look at the issues of sexism and corruption in the police force. An engaging read. (Sunday Express, UK)

Barry Maitland's captivating The Malcontenta is one of the best-crafted, best-plotted and most convincing British thrillers for decades. (Daily Mirror, UK)

...this delightful book is at once comic and creepy. (The Scotsman, UK)

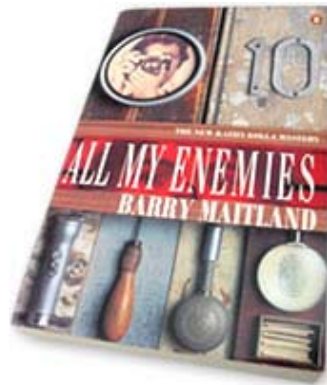
...an intricately plotted novel with some superbly portrayed characters and enough twists and turns to make Agatha Christie seem somewhat straightforward. The Malcontenta is simply a very superior example of contemporary crime writing... a book that works on many levels... (Sydney Morning Herald, Australia)



ALL MY ENEMIES

The phone call comes on a Sunday, the day before homicide detective Kathy Kolla is to start her new job at New Scotland Yard, Serious Crimes Branch. But the grotesque murder that it heralds in a peaceful London suburb takes no account of the day of rest and promises a dramatic start to Kathy's new life.

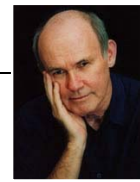
In fact, dramatic is the word when her only – improbable – lead draws her to an amateur drama group. As Kathy investigates further she is lured into a piece of theatre over which, increasingly, she has little control. And as the show unfolds, a plot of brilliant complexity is revealed, escalating with gathering suspense to a climax in which Kathy's own painfully hidden past plays a shocking role.



Maitland's writing is suspenseful, gripping and frightening. His book is seductive, getting under the reader's skin and staying there... This is a fine example of modern thriller writing. Highly recommended. (Eastern Daily Press, UK)

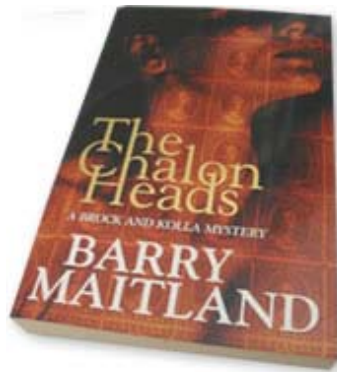
Maitland is a masterful writer of crime fiction who, like Michael Dibdin, has a remarkable ability to juxtapose genres and create a book that will appeal to fans of both hard-boiled and clue-puzzle fiction. It's a book about deception in marriages, suburban life and the theatre that works sublimely on all levels. (Sydney Morning Herald, Australia)

A well-plotted, satisfying whodunit. (The Sunday Times, UK)



THE CHALON HEADS

When Sammy Starling, a former London gangster with a passion for collecting, discovers his beautiful young wife is missing, he calls DCI David Brock for help. Ten years ago Starling's evidence for Brock in a case of police corruption put a couple of cops away – now one of them is getting out. And getting even?



As this investigation proceeds, Brock is now the one under suspicion. His team is disbanded and DS Kathy Kolla is unwillingly reassigned. But now she needs to know what links Sammy Starling's absorption in philately, her new boss's obsession with two legendary forgers, and Eva's disappearance. And how will Kolla ever find the answers to this puzzle of kidnapping, murder and revenge?

For me one of the elements that lifts a crime novel from being average to being extraordinary is the ability of the author to not only surprise me with a clever ending, but to surprise me several times over the course of the book. Maitland is just such an author. The reader is kept guessing all the way through The Chalon Heads, right up to the last page. Maitland's plotting can be compared to the best of Colin Dexter and Michael Connelly... (Deadly Pleasures, US)

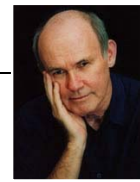
An unguessable plot, flowing writing and solid characters – forget the stamps, start collecting Maitlands now. (Morning Star, UK)

Maitland writes astonishingly well, has a wonderful ear for dialogue and sense of place, a finely attuned sense of character development and a captivating and unsettling dark side to his fiction... The Chalon Heads is significantly better than almost all the police procedural novels I've read in recent years... This novel is right up there with the best contemporary crime fiction... (Sydney Morning Herald, Australia)

...the brilliant The Chalon Heads: straight out of a top drawer that Chandler would be proud to open on deranged nights... Maitland can make the counterfeit of fiction feel real, his prose packed with the saturated detail that Henry James called "density of specification". (The Australian)

...the most satisfyingly twisty mystery of the year. (Kirkus Reviews, US)

... a crafty and well-crafted showpiece of the genre... Altogether an intricate and maze-like tale well told and well worth the telling. (Los Angeles Times)



SILVERMEADOW

Silvermeadow, the glossy, huge new shopping mall on the outskirts of London, is not what it seems. A young woman is found dead, wrapped in plastic, apparently crushed in the rubbish compactor; the most vicious bank robber wanted in England has just been seen there; and a homeless boy has also been discovered dead in bizarre circumstances.

Dark secrets are being hidden in the depths of the super-mall. And for DCI David Brock and DS Kathy Kolla of Scotland Yard, there are too many dead ends in their most frustrating and dangerous investigation yet.

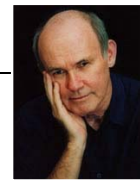


In terms of contemporary crime fiction, Silvermeadow is about as good as it gets. (Brisbane Courier-Mail, Australia)

Maitland... is a skilled plotter who knows how to pace a novel and steadily build the suspense... It's a terrific read. (Sunday Times, UK)

A clever plot and good characterisation make this an absorbing read with an exciting climax. (Sunday Telegraph, UK)

As a procedural, Silvermeadow is first-rate; as a crime thriller it is compelling; and as a reflection of contemporary life it is fascinating. (Dallas Morning News, US)



BABEL

Professor Springer, one of Britain's leading philosophers, is brutally murdered on the steps of a London university. The brilliant duo DCI David Brock and DS Kathy Kolla return to solve the crime.

Professor Springer was well-known for his stand against fundamentalism, but was that reason enough to kill him? David Brock and Kathy Kolla start looking for answers in London's Arab communities, but perhaps Springer's enemy can be found closer to home. As suspicions fall on the factions within the university, Springer's colleague, the Professor of Genetics, becomes involved. Is he as dangerous and unethical as he seems?



Brock and Kolla work closer than ever before, sifting through the clues to find the real killer before further violence erupts.

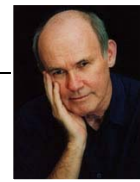
...as perfect a whodunit as you could possibly wish for. Sublime. (Crime Time, UK)

Maitland gets better and better, and Brock and Kolla are an impressive team who deserve to become household names. (Publishing News, UK)

Babel is thoughtful, erudite, humane – and highly entertaining. What more could a serious crime buff want? (Sydney Morning Herald, Australia)

...makes Babel an instant and deserved winner from start to finish. There is no doubt about it, if you are a serious lover of crime fiction, ensure Maitland's Brock and Kolla series takes pride of place in your collection. (The Australian)

Maitland has always been a notable spinner of mysteries, but his latest case continues to extend his range, depth, and mastery into Ruth Rendell territory. (Kirkus Reviews, US)



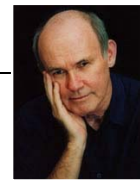
THE VERGE PRACTICE

Following the murder of his young wife, Charles Verge, world famous London architect, disappears without a trace. After four months of dead-end investigations, Detective Chief Inspector Brock and his team are called in to achieve the impossible: to find fresh leads and overlooked clues and to finally put an end to the much-discussed Verge mystery. Was this a crime of passion and has Verge escaped to Spain, or even Sydney, as the public sightings suggest? Or is Verge already dead, a victim of the murderer? From the suave world of international architecture to the backstreets of Barcelona, the only thing missing is Verge himself.



In their own often unorthodox style, DCI David Brock and DS Kathy Kolla manage to unlock the secret that has perplexed and intrigued both the police investigation and the public imagination.

With a superb ear for dialogue, and characters that grow in strength and substance in each book, Maitland's series is a firm favourite with my readers of British police procedurals, and in this case more than any others previously, we enter the minds and lives of his protagonists. This is a rich and compelling mystery that will hook new readers, while its subplot will keep established fans glued to the page. (AB&P, Australia)



Biographical Notes

Barry Maitland is the author of the acclaimed Brock and Kolla series of crime mystery novels set in London, where Barry grew up after his family moved there from Paisley in Scotland where he was born. He studied architecture at Cambridge University, and went on to work as an architect in the UK, then took a PhD in urban design at the University of Sheffield, where he also taught and wrote a number of books on architecture and urban design. In 1984 he moved to Australia to head the architecture school at the University of Newcastle in New South Wales, and held that position until 2000.

The first Brock and Kolla novel, *The Marx Sisters*, was published in Australia and the UK in 1994, and subsequently in the USA and in translation in a number of other countries, including Germany, Italy, France and Japan. It was short-listed for the UK Crime Writers' Association John Creasey Award for best new fiction, and featured the central two characters of the series, Detective Chief Inspector David Brock, and his younger woman colleague, Detective Sergeant Kathy Kolla. The sequel, *The Malcontenta*, was first published in 1995 and was joint winner of the inaugural Ned Kelly Award for best crime fiction by an Australian author. It was followed by *All My Enemies*, *The Chalon Heads*, *Silvermeadow* and *Babel*. The seventh novel in the series, *The Verge Practice*, is published in 2003. The books have been described as whydunits as much as whodunits, concerned with the devious histories and motivations of their characters. Barry's background in architecture drew him to the structured character of the mystery novel, and his books are notable for their ingenious plots as well as for their atmospheric settings, each in a different intriguing corner of London.

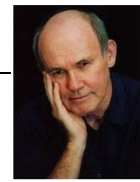
Barry Maitland now writes fiction full time, and lives in the Hunter Valley.

On the Brock and Kolla Novels

The two central characters of the Brock and Kolla novels, Detective Chief Inspector David Brock and Detective Sergeant Kathy Kolla, are relatively unusual in contemporary crime fiction in forming a male-female team, playing complementary roles in the resolution of their cases. I liked the possibilities for human tension and for giving the reader alternative points of view which they provide, with Brock the older, more experienced man and Kathy his younger acolyte in London's Metropolitan Police.

They first meet up in *The Marx Sisters*, where Kathy, in charge of her first murder investigation, unexpectedly finds herself accompanied by the Scotland Yard heavyweight Brock, for reasons that only emerge during the course of the story, and which nearly bring Kathy's career to a premature end. In the next story, *The Malcontenta*, Kathy is frustrated to be posted out of London, and enlists Brock's support to investigate corrupt practices in a naturopathic clinic in the Kent countryside involving senior police officers. From this success she is able to join Brock's elite unit within Scotland Yard's Serious Crime Branch for the next case, *All My Enemies*, in which we also learn something of Kathy's family history and the childhood turning point of the suicide of her father.

As the stories have continued, through *The Chalon Heads*, *Silvermeadow*, *Babel*, and now *The Verge Practice*, the relationship between the two detectives has gradually evolved, with Kathy becoming more self-confident and Brock more dependent on her insights and tenacity. Both Brock, divorced, and Kathy, single, have had relationships with other people during the



series, which also features a number of other regular characters both within and outside the police force, but it is the bond between the two main players which provides the central dynamic of the stories.

Each book is set in a different part of London and its surrounds, where I grew up and which I now return to as a partial stranger. I like to think of the detectives waiting for us at the start of each story, ready to lead us into a new and maybe unexpected part of the city. I have always loved the strong part that atmosphere and a sense of place play in crime fiction, and my architectural background contributes to that. The buildings and laneways are, for me, another set of characters in the books.

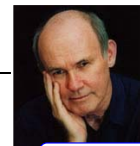
The crime gives the detectives entry into the secret corners of the city, and also opens up the private activities of its people. Each book has a particular theme based around some obsessive interest of the characters - naturopathic medicine in one book, philately in another, amateur theatre in another, and so on. Researching these obsessions is for me one of the most intriguing parts of writing the books.

On the process of writing

My great-grandparents were weavers in a croft on the west coast of Scotland, and I often feel that the process of writing must be similar to what they did - trying to create a rich, coherent and completely convincing pattern out of words, ideas, characters and events. I think that the crime mystery novel is a particularly good vehicle for this, with its inherent demands for structure, pace and resolution. The detective (or in my case detectives, for my central characters, Brock and Kolla, form a team) is the reader's guide into the mystery, working forward in time through the investigation and at the same time backwards through the history of the other characters. There will be false trails certainly, but these should not be spurious tricks on the reader, but instead should be integral to the story, revealing some partial truth along the way. It is rather like an archaeological dig, working down through the layers of time until finally the whole story is revealed. It's nice if this final revelation is surprising, perhaps shocking, but it must also seem somehow right and inevitable.



When I'm writing my stories I, like the reader and the detectives, am not certain what I'm going to discover. At the end of my initial period of plotting and research, perhaps three to six months, I have certain probabilities in mind, but it isn't until I'm actually writing that the full possibilities of the story become apparent to me, and it may not be until the very end that I discover the full and final picture. That makes the process quite hair-raising, because it isn't always clear that there is going to be a really satisfying answer at the end of the day, and sometimes I despair of finding it. I like it when a reader tells me, 'I reckoned I'd got the answer around page 200; then the detectives came to the same conclusion about page 250, and I thought, I beat you to it. But then I realised there were still 50 pages to go, and we must both be wrong.'



Where to purchase the books

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Order

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Deleted: Brock and Kolla novels from your local or online bookstore, or check out the ordering information on the following publishers' websites:¶

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USA : . Arcade Publishing, www.arcadepub.com¶
Australia : . Allen & Unwin, www.allenandunwin.com, and www.crimecity.com.au¶
Italy : . Meridiano Zero, www.meridianozero.it¶
France : . Editions du Masque – Hachette Livre, www.hachette.com¶

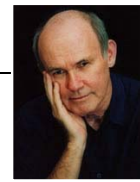
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The Malcontenta from Louis Braille Books, www.louisbrailleaudio.com¶
Babel from Bolinda Audio, www.bolinda.com¶



Latest News

This year Barry has been on a book signing and speaking tour in Europe and the United States, and at the Melbourne Writers' Festival at the end of August, and the Brisbane Writers' Festival in early October. His latest book, *The Verge Practice*, was released in Australia in September 2003.

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Inspiration for writing *The Verge Practice*

I once interviewed the Scotland Yard detective who arrested the British government minister, John Stonehouse, who staged his own death on a Florida beach in 1974 and was finally caught in Melbourne. It was a fascinating story. What would drive a prominent public figure, at the height of his career, to disappear? In *The Verge Practice* the vanishing celebrity is a famous London architect, Charles Verge, whose young wife is found stabbed to death. Presumably Verge has murdered her, or has he? As another character points out, if you wanted to disguise a murder, one way would be to kill the victim's wife also, and make it look as if the victim had fled.

The hunt for the missing man leads Brock and Kathy into the rivalries of architectural practice and design, both in London and in Spain, where Kathy searches for clues, and trouble, among the landmarks of Barcelona. During my earlier career as an architect I had the good fortune to meet a number of architectural stars and great characters, and I really enjoyed setting a story in their world.

