

MARK ELLIS

CREATOR OF WORLD WAR II DETECTIVE, FRANK MERLIN

Bill Spence, Bookshelf, The Yorkshire Herald

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

47

Weekend

BookShelf
with Bill Spence



Roller-coaster ride for crime novel reader

DEATH IN MAYFAIR by Mark Ellis
(Accent Press, £8.99)

It is 1941, war is raging and Britain stands alone against Hitler until December that year when Japan invades Pearl Harbour and America enters the war.

London is being bombed and is often a cover for dangerous criminal gangs to cause even more havoc.

Inspector Merlin of Scotland Yard finds he has to investigate two possible murders, a young girl whose body is found hidden in rubble and the sudden death of Laura Curzon, a famous film star, who

could have committed suicide, but there are also several people who had a motive to kill her.

In his investigations Merlin uncovers rogue film moguls, movie stars, gangsters and some very nasty people who hate women and need money quickly.

The author draws his characters from all levels of society and in this thriller some of them in high places have influence over some members of the police so Merlin is certainly heading for danger and certain unpopularity; war and crime are terrifying companions.

These first-rate crime novels pull no punches and the reader is in for a real roller-coaster ride.

This is the fourth in the Frank Merlin novels and those who like their thrillers and crime novels a little more sophisticated than most will enjoy reading these greatly.

