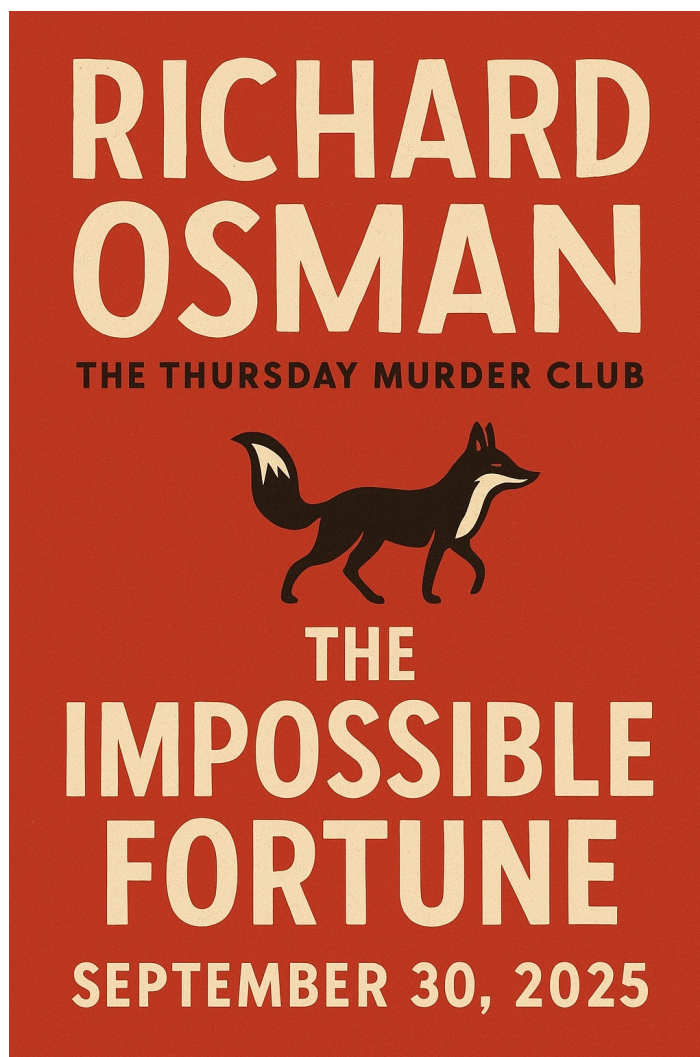


## Richard Osman: The Impossible Fortune by Richard Osman (Crime/Mystery)-Fifth in the Thursday Murder Club Series, Book 5, Penguin Books / Viking (UK edition), Hardcover, Paperback, eBook, Audiobook, published September 30, 2025

Richard Osman is a British author, television presenter, and producer, internationally acclaimed for The Thursday Murder Club series. Known for blending classic whodunit structures with

humour, emotional depth, and elderly protagonists, Osman has played a significant role in revitalising the cosy crime genre for modern readers.



Book Review: The Impossible Fortune by Richard Osman



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Richard Osman's *The Impossible Fortune*, the fifth instalment in the immensely popular Thursday Murder Club series, reaffirms the author's mastery of the cosy crime genre while subtly expanding its emotional and philosophical depth. Published on September 30, 2025, the novel reunites readers with the beloved quartet of Elizabeth, Joyce, Ron, and Ibrahim retirees whose sharp intellects and unyielding curiosity once again place them at the centre of a baffling mystery. Osman blends humour, suspense, and human warmth to deliver a crime novel that is both entertaining and reflective, proving that the series has matured without losing its charm.

The novel's central mystery revolves around an "impossible" fortune, an inheritance whose origins are shrouded in contradictions, false identities, and long-buried secrets. What initially appears to be a straightforward case of financial intrigue quickly evolves into a complex web involving historical crimes, moral ambiguity, and carefully orchestrated deception. Osman skilfully structures the plot so that each revelation feels earned, gradually tightening the narrative until the final resolution. The pacing is deliberate but engaging, allowing readers to savour both the intellectual puzzle and the personal interactions that define the series.

Characterisation remains one of Osman's greatest strengths, and *The Impossible Fortune* is no exception. Elizabeth continues to command attention with her strategic brilliance and enigmatic past, embodying both authority and vulnerability. Joyce's diary entries, written with warmth and gentle irony, provide emotional grounding and moments of humour that soften the darker aspects of the plot. Ron's blunt honesty and fierce loyalty add tension and comic relief, while Ibrahim's methodical reasoning and emotional growth deepen his role within the group. Together, the four characters function not merely as amateur detectives but as a family bound by trust, resilience, and shared purpose.

Beyond its mystery, the novel engages thoughtfully with themes of ageing, justice, and the ethics of wealth. Osman raises questions

about who truly deserves fortune and whether legality always aligns with morality. The idea of "impossible fortune" becomes symbolic, representing not only material wealth but also the emotional costs attached to long-hidden truths. Through subtle dialogue and reflective moments, the author challenges readers to consider how past actions reverberate across time, particularly when secrets resurface late in life.

Osman's trademark humour is present throughout the narrative, often emerging in the form of witty observations and understated dialogue rather than overt jokes. This lightness prevents the novel from becoming overly grim, even as it confronts serious issues such as betrayal, regret, and mortality. The author's writing style remains accessible and engaging, marked by clarity, sharp timing, and an intuitive understanding of human behaviour. The balance between humour and gravity ensures that the story appeals to both long-time fans and new readers.

Structurally, *The Impossible Fortune* demonstrates Osman's increasing confidence as a storyteller. The multiple viewpoints are seamlessly integrated, and the transitions between investigation, reflection, and action feel natural. The resolution is satisfying without being predictable, reinforcing the idea that intelligence and empathy, not brute force, are the most powerful tools in solving crimes. Importantly, the ending leaves room for contemplation rather than closure alone, suggesting that the consequences of truth are often as significant as its discovery.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, *The Impossible Fortune* stands as a strong and mature addition to the Thursday Murder Club series. Richard Osman succeeds in delivering a crime novel that is intellectually stimulating, emotionally resonant, and consistently entertaining. The book not only upholds the series' reputation for clever plotting and memorable characters but also deepens its thematic scope. For readers who appreciate mysteries infused with humour, humanity, and thoughtful insight, *The Impossible Fortune* is a compelling and rewarding read.

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