

LOVE
MURDER
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STONE'S FALL



By the author of
An Instance of the Fingerpost

IAIN PEARS

VINTAGE

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IAIN PEARS

Stone's Fall

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To my mother

Contents

1 London, 1909	9
2 Paris, 1890	243
3 Venice, 1867	429

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'A juicy mystery with lashings of

DAILY TELEGRAPH

'Engrossing and intelligent, it's the best sort of page-turner'

DAILY MAIL

'Exceptionally intelligent and entertaining'

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

'I cannot remember enjoying a book as much as *Stone's Fall*'

MALCOLM GLADWELL, OBSERVER

John Stone, a man so wealthy that in the years before World War One he was able to manipulate markets, industries and indeed whole countries and continents, has been found dead in mysterious circumstances. His beautiful young widow commissions a journalist to carry out an unusual bequest in his will but as he begins his research he soon discovers a story far more complex than he could have ever imagined...

As the story moves backwards through time, from London in 1909 to Paris in 1890, before concluding in Venice in 1867, the mystery of John Stone's life and loves begins to unravel. The result is a spellbinding novel that is both a quest for the truth, a love story that spans decades and a compelling murder mystery.

'The assurance and invention with which the novel is written are alike remarkable. Utterly absorbing and a rare delight'

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