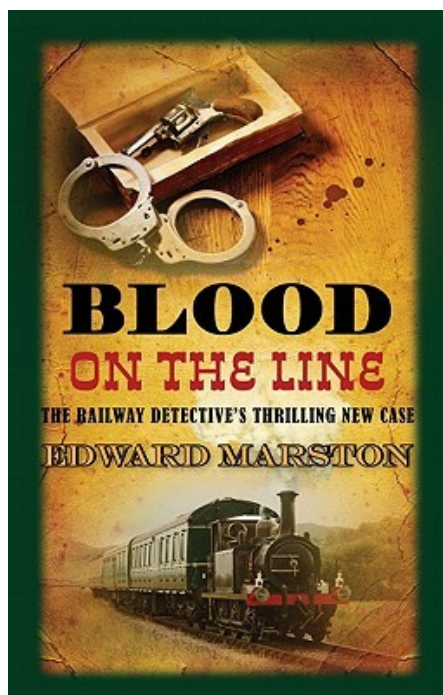




Blood on the Line

Edward Marston

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The year is 1855, and on the LNWR train to London, a criminal is being escorted to his appointment with the hangman. But the wily Jeremy Oxley, con-man, thief and murderer, has one last ace up his sleeve: a beautiful and ruthless accomplice willing to do anything to save her lover, including committing cold-blooded murder. Inspector Robert Colbeck is dreaming of his impending wedding to Madeleine Andrews as he enters Superintendent Tallis's office. When he learns that Oxley, his nemesis, has once again escaped, black memories of their shared past leave him no choice but to do his duty. No matter the cost, he must bring the murderous Oxley to justice once and for all. But Jeremy Oxley is no ordinary adversary. He knows the law is on his trail and retreats to his favourite hunting ground: the complex web of railways, sinews of empire, where he can stalk his prey. It spells deadly peril for the famous Railway Detective. With the faithful Victor Leeming at his side and the idealistic young Ian Peebles at his back, Colbeck must use all of his considerable skill to track his elusive enemy. But could Colbeck have finally met his match? A thrilling chase across two continents, *Blood on the Line* brings the fascinating world of Victorian London vividly to life.

REVIEWS "Blood on the Line by Edward Marston is another of the intriguing mysteries set in England in the late 1800's. The Railway Detective Inspector Robert Colbeck is up against his arch nemesis. Will this be a repeat of the horrors of the past crimes? This time the thief/murderer has a beautiful and wily accomplice, who complicates immensely the solving of the mystery. Of course our favorite sidekick, Victor Leeming, plays a huge part in solving the crime on the train. Railway lovers will really enjoy helping solve this one!" Bonnie Neely, Amazon Top Reviewer, 2012/08 "This is an uncomplicated plot with an easy-to-follow investigative process. Whilst the concluding chapters are expertly and concisely written, one is left feeling that Oxley may yet thwart justice and reappear in another Colbeck story." *Historical Novels Review*

Blood on the Line Details

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From Reader Review Blood on the Line for online ebook

Clare says

Not as good as previous Marston novels - and the habit of calling each other by first names grated. I am always surprised in eg Trollope and Dickens how even sometimes husbands and wives call each other Mr or Mrs and formality is paramount...

Gerry says

The eighth adventure of the railway detective, Detective Inspector Robert Colbeck, keeps up the tradition of superb thrillers from the pen of Edward Marston.

As always, well researched and with a great depth of character, Colbeck, with the invaluable assistance of his right-hand man Sergeant Victor Leeming, chases down a criminal that he has long been after, even before his days on the railway. And the reason that Colbeck is after him rankles with the detective to such a degree that it almost affects his judgement.

Colbeck and Leeming have a third policeman foisted upon them by the irritable Chief Inspector Tallis but that officer does not survive, meeting a tragic end. Tallis resigns but is persuaded to return and then joins in the celebrations when Colbeck and Leeming, after an adventurous trip to New York, eventually apprehend their man, with his lady accomplice.

There are some poignant family moments and Colbeck's romance with Madeleine Andrews runs throughout the tale.

Paul says

To date this is my favourite book in the railway detective series. This one sees Robert faced with an old foe and boy does the story keep a good pace throughout.

Sarah says

Another great mystery from Edward Marston.

Caroline says

One of the best yet! Fantastic ending.

Les Wilson says

I've thoroughly enjoyed this series. So nice to have so many good books from such a prolific writer.

Maggie Kiely says

Really enjoying series each book brings the story a bit more to life Recommended

Ipswichblade says

Another great Railway Detective story

Leigh says

This is good follow the plot story, no real surprises but a well written and thought out story that made you want to read more. 3.75 Star!

Jane says

I like trains and Victorian England. I cataloged this one at work the other day and got sucked in. It's going fast, even if it's not exactly Sherlock Holmes.

I rounded up to two stars because I actually managed to finish this - I can imagine worse books. The "mystery" is nonexistent and the writing is on par with most romance novels I've read, minus the nakey bits. Not much to recommend here.

Terri Lynn says

The 8th in Edward Marston's excellent series about Detective Inspector Richard Colbeck set in 1850's England indeed have blood on the line.

Colbeck and his assistant Detective Sergeant Victor Leeming are called in after two cops get on a train with a handcuffed Jeremy Oxley who is a killer with no conscience in addition to being a thief and are confronted by a gorgeous young woman Irene Adnam who is a petty thief hoping for a better life who leaped on the train as it took off and charmed the officers. She pulls out a gun, murders one officer, then helps her lover Jeremy throw them both-one still alive- off the train to be sliced to pieces.

Oxley and Adnam head out on the run but when Colbeck finds out that Oxley is involved, he is like a dog

with a bone. Years ago, Colbeck was a well off barrister (lawyer) when a jewelry store was robbed and the owner murdered while chasing the thief who was Oxley. Only one witness-Helen Millington- agreed to testify after Robert met with her repeatedly and talked her into it. They fell in love somehow in the process which is rather a weird thing. I can't imagine falling in love with someone I only know through being pressured to testify.

Oxley tracked Helen down, abducted her, raped and tortured her then strangled her to death. This caused Robert to join Scotland Yard to hunt him down. This is also why he has not yet been able to force himself to commit fully to his ladylove, artist Madeleine Andrews. They held hands for years and now have been engaged for over a year with no date set. Robert wants to catch him more than anything.

As always, there are plenty of interesting people and situations here and watching the clever pair evade Colbert is fascinating. In the course of this, we meet a doctor who did assisted suicides in exchanged for being named in little old ladies' wills who went on the run himself and now lives with his wife under an assumed name.

As always Victor Leeming does nothing but whine and complain about spending nights away from his wife as if his penis would rot off if he can't use it daily. I get so tired of his whining and wish that Superintendent Tallis would fire him and tell him to go make a career out of having sex and making kids he can't afford.

Leeming also is mean to sweet, fresh faced Constable Peebles who idolizes Colbert, Leeming and even Tallis. When Tallis drags Peebles along on an ill-fated attempt to catch Oxley while Colbert is away, Peebles is murdered and Tallis resigns. There is a lot of feeling among these men, much honor, and you can see just how dangerous the job of protecting the public is.

Madeleine, I hate to say, is so boring to me. All she does is fawn and mope about Robert and wonder about what her role will be once married. Surely she knows she will just be your typical housewife/mother drudge. That is all she seems to aspire to anyway. Her father Caleb Andrews decides to retire and he has been reduced to a caricature in the books after the first one as if he is just a joke.

Colbert and Leeming have to follow the pair to the USA and frankly there is much in this one that is forced and very unrealistic. You'll see what I mean. Still, I love this series, including this one!

Andrew says

Blood on the Line by Edward Marston

#8 in the Railway Detective / Inspector Robert Colbeck Series

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Description

Jeremy Oxley is being transported from Wolverhampton to London to face trial for a string of offences but manages an audacious escape with the help of his lover, and two policemen are killed in the process. Superintendent Tallis at Scotland Yard is livid and Inspector Robert Colbeck is determined to catch the man, particularly as he has strayed across Colbeck's path in the past. But Oxley is adept at disappearing acts and leads the detective on a cat and mouse journey all the way across the Atlantic to New York. Will Oxley pay the price for the crimes he has committed and what lies ahead for the Railway Detective.

My View

I have now read the first eight books in this series and this would have to rank up there amongst my

favourites in this series so far. I do really like this series and there has not been one book I have not enjoyed. This is not a blood and guts series, but I do love the interplay between the main characters - Inspector Robert Colbeck, Sergeant Leeming, and the head of the newly formed Police Force at Scotland Yard, Superintendent Tallis. All three are such contrasting characters but in your own way you have to love them all. In this book we learn a lot more about Inspector Colbeck, his past and why he gave up a lucrative career as a barrister to become a policeman, as well as about a past love interest. This also explains why he is so reluctant at this stage to marry his fiancé. This book has a bit of everything - a chase, deaths, guilt, evil criminals, retribution, etc... In fact so much so that we almost lose one of the main characters, but I'll leave you to find out what I mean by this. If there was a relative weak point in this one it would be that Madeline has a more minor role than in previous books. - I missed her and Robert together!

If you have not read any of this series I strongly urge you to try them, they are quick, light easy reads and I do love the part that the early days of the Railways plays in these books, but then again I have always been fascinated by the early days of the railways!

Onward to Book 9 - he needs to write faster!

Joanne says

First time reading this series, unfortunately couldn't find number one in series. However I liked it a lot and will hopefully start from the beginning of the series . I love the whole train aspect of it it has a Agatha Christie feel to it as well. Love the characters.

Charlotte Holmans says

I found this one to be much darker than the other books in the series, but a rather exciting read! Loved it!

Mary says

Typical entry in the Colbeck series. The dialog in this series has a particular style that might drive some people mad. This is a series I have to be in the mood for.
