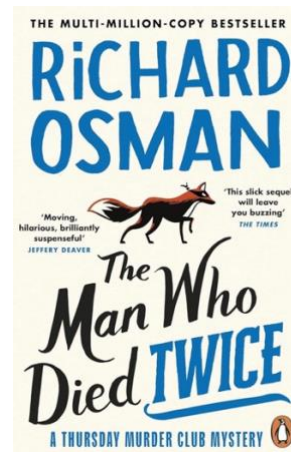


## The Man Who Died Twice by Richard Osman

October 2025



This is the second book in the “Thursday Murder Club” series, possibly conceived by Richard Osman’s visits to his mother’s care home. The club comprises a group of 4 residents from Coopers Chase, a retirement village, who take on and solve crimes using their various skills. The club’s members, Elizabeth, Joyce, Ron, and Ibrahim face a new mystery when Elizabeth’s ex-husband, Douglas (an MI5 agent), moves to a safe house in Coopers Chase. He contacts his former wife, Elizabeth, revealing that he stole £20 million worth of diamonds from the home of Martin Lomax, a middleman for several criminal organizations. The diamonds actually belong to a New York mafioso Frank Andrade and Douglas’s life is threatened as a result. He hopes to get to Antwerp, sell the diamonds, and disappear. He denied his involvement in the theft to MI5.

Ibrahim is robbed and beaten up by a youth named Ryan Baird. The attack leaves Ibrahim frightened and withdrawn. Meanwhile, Detective Chief Inspector Chris Hudson and PC Donna de Freitas attempt to build evidence against a drug dealer Connie Johnson. They question Ryan about the assault on Ibrahim but cannot prove his guilt. The police officers suggest that the Thursday Murder Club could find an alternative way to bring Ryan to justice.

Elizabeth agrees to help Douglas in exchange for information on Ryan. At Elizabeth’s request, her friend Bogdan buys a large quantity of cocaine from Connie Johnson (a known drug dealer) and hands it to Ron. Pretending to be a plumber, Ron plants the cocaine and Ibrahim’s credit card in the tank of Ryan’s toilet. After an “anonymous” call to Donna, Ryan Baird is arrested.

This is only the beginning of the story of what happened to the diamonds and the characters involved..... A story of the intelligence, determination and frailties of getting older, the value of friendship and the coming together of a group of people who still have a lot to offer!

Some comments from the Group:

“I read this book some time ago and, to be honest, I can't remember a single thing about the plot. What I do remember though (and what I love about this book and the others in the series) is:

- Ibrahim's fear and feelings of helplessness after being attacked in the street
- Elizabeth's sorrow at her husband's advancing dementia
- Joyce's cheerful "unshockability" and her annoyance at being patronised by her daughter
- The firm friendships between the four main characters, transcending background and class
- Older people using their invisibility in society to get away with all sorts of semi-legal activities

All this wrapped up in a thoroughly entertaining cosy crime mystery."

"An easy-to-read James Bondish crime story. I enjoyed the tongue in cheek style and the way he blended high crime into the lives of pensioners living in a retirement village. I thought the character of Joyce was superb and enjoyed reading her diary and of the struggle she had with her relationship with her daughter. There were many touching scenes of normal life of pensioners - The caring of grandchildren at half term, the caring of a loved one with dementia, coping with transport problems, et cetera.

However, there were weaknesses in the plot and if you can't take them with a pinch of salt, this is definitely not the book for you. The more I reflect on the story the more I like it. I think the title of the book is inspirational. Surely, we are expecting Douglas to reappear before the end of the book!

"Not particularly liking Richard Osman, I was delighted by this book which I had heard so much about (the first one and then this). A refreshing venue for a murder story and wonderful contrast in the 4 main characters. The dialogue flows – there is humour and warmth not only in the intricacies of solving murder but particularly the way the characters relate to each other. Osman does not shy away from the facts of old age and sheds a welcome and often hilarious light on the varying personalities and past professions – some of whom reached high levels of ability and intelligence. The sharing between the 4 old friends is beautifully observed, sometimes reminding me of a former group of old friends portrayed in "The Best Marigold Hotel".

"I found it quite hard to review as a stand-alone story as I have read all 4 of the Thursday Murder Club mysteries and seen the film. I can hear Richard Osman's voice telling the story – he assumes you have read the first book, and you know the characters. The storyline is long-winded and complicated and there are several twists at the end. However, I really enjoyed it and laughed out loud!"

"The book is very eloquently written with a good smattering of humour. We learn the interesting backgrounds of the characters and how each, with their varying skills and personalities, makes a valuable contribution to the whole, a former MI5 member, a nurse and a psychiatrist. As the plot unfolds, Elizabeth discovers a letter from Douglas and manages to solve the code within which leads to the discovery of the diamonds. The conclusion is good for the Thursday Murder Club and they are ready for their next adventure!"

"I started reading this book enjoying the fluid writing style and the jokiness and fun description of the characters but after the first 50 pages I tired of the vacuous nature of the story emerging. It no longer gripped me and I struggled to read it. The laddish albeit clever humour was repetitive and boring. Pointless by association and pointless by nature. Richard Osman is amusing in small doses and clearly has a popular following I can take or leave him in small measure!"

Christine Wright