“This series kickoff is an embarrassment of riches: Holmesian sleuthing, political satire, and [a] droll comic study of a prickly late bloomer.”—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“The sights, smells, and colors of Laos practically jump off the pages of this inspired, often wryly witty first novel.”—Denver Post

“A wonderfully fresh and exotic mystery. . . . If Cotterill . . . had done nothing more than treat us to Siri’s views on the dramatic, even comic crises that mark periods of government upheaval, his debut mystery would still be fascinating. But the multiple cases spread out on Siri’s examining table . . . are not cozy entertainments, but substantial crimes that take us into the thick of political intrigue.”—The New York Times Book Review

“In Siri, Cotterill has created a detective as distinctive as Maigret or Poirot.”—Orlando Sentinel

“The Soho Press crime series . . . has done mystery connoisseurs everywhere a favor by adding Colin Cotterill to its publishing list. The author gives us exotic locations; a world that few of us know well; crisp, intelligent, and often-witty writing; and, most of all, a hero unlike any other.”—The Philadelphia Inquirer
Laos, 1975. The Communist Pathet Lao has taken over this former French colony. Dr. Siri Paiboun, a 72-year-old Paris-trained doctor, is appointed national coroner. Although he has no training for the job, there is no one else; the rest of the educated class has fled.

He is expected to come up with the answers the party wants. But crafty and charming Dr. Siri is immune to bureaucratic pressure. At his age, he reasons, what can they do to him? And he knows he cannot fail the dead who come into his care without risk of incurring their boundless displeasure. Eternity could be a long time to have the spirits mad at you.

For more information, visit www.colincotterill.com

From the Trade Paperback edition.

My Personal Review:
Colin Cotterills The Coroners Lunch proved to be a gem of a find and a treat of a read. Its a bit hard to classify this book because while it deals with serious themes of murder and corruption, it is also written in almost light hearted and witty manner, full of irreverent humour, and with a slight mystical overtone. But once you start The Coroners Lunch, it is really hard to put this book down: swiftly paced with a few disparate subplots that seem unconnected, The Coroners Lunch was completely unputdownble.

Set in Laos (once part of Indochine) and in 1975, The Coroners Lunch follows the fortunes of Dr. Siri Paiboum, a Paris trained doctor, who joined the communist party and who has been fighting with them in the jungle, for the sake of the love of his life, his wife Boua. When the novel opens, the fight is over, the communists have won and Siri is now a 70-something year old widower, who is entertaining hopes of a well deserved retirement. Of course things dont go according to plan: because of a lack of trained professionals (most seemed to have fled the country), Siri is informed that he is now the states only coroner even though he knows next to nothing about performing autopsies. Knowing that declining the privilege is not an option, our reluctant coroner soon finds himself fitted up less than properly equipped morgue and the help of one nurse, Dtui (who is fortunately quite intelligent) and an amiable man of all jobs, Geung, who has Downs Syndrome. Together all three seem to shuffle along adequately and happily. That is until the wife of an important official turns up dead at the morgue. The husband claims that his wife probably died of food poisoning (she liked eating raw fish), but something about the ladys death troubles
Siri -- the rush to pronounce her death an accidental one, and the claiming of her body before a proper autopsy can be performed, together with Siris vision of the dead womans spirit (yes, the doctor sees ghosts), convinces Siri that the lady was murdered. Siri is determined to discover who murdered the lady and why, but before he can get around to investigation further, hes called upon to perform another autopsy (this time one that could have serious international consequences), and then later to investigate a series of bizarre deaths up North. Suddenly it seems to be raining dead bodies -- or could someone be trying to keep Siri from further investigation the death of the important officials wife...

Ive been rather lucky lately: nearly every book Ive picked up to read, Ive found to be well written, clever, witty and a really enjoyable read. In fact Im beginning to wonder when this string of good luck will wear out! The Coroners Lunch was one of my lucky finds. And I do hope that Kirkus review that claims this book to be the first in a series is right: Im already counting the months to the next Dr. Siri installment. Simply everything pleased about this book: from the clever, mystical storyline; to the witty and humourous prose style; to the completely engaging and likable protagonist, Dr. Siri Paiboum. Brilliantly building on the suspense by mounting one subplot on top of the other, Colin Cotterill cleverly leads us deeper and deeper into the heart of the novel. So if youre looking for a completely absorbing, engrossing and engaging read, look no further: The Coroners Lunch is it. One of the best reads of the year.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
Coroners Lunch by Colin Cotterill - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!