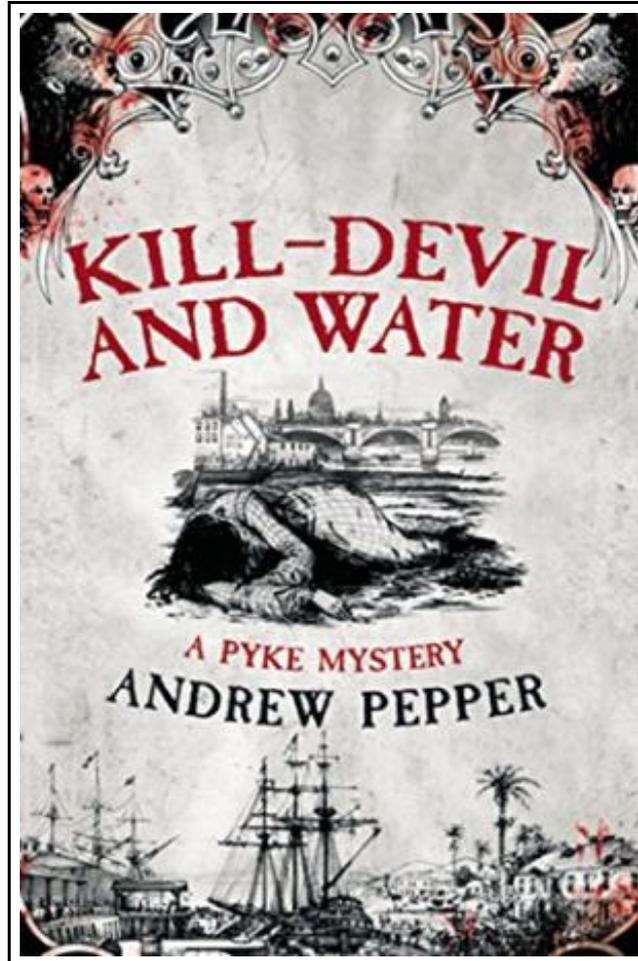


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(Junius Herman)

KILL-DEVIL AND WATER: A PYKE MYSTERY



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Phoenix. 1 Paperback(s), 2009. soft. Book Condition: New. In this third outing for Andrew Pepper's hardboiled anti-hero of mid-19th-century London (following *The Last Days of Newgate* and *The Revenge of Captain Paine*), Pyke is again in hard straits, still grieving over the death of his wife and struggling to shoulder his responsibilities as a father while in debtors' prison, having lost his home. Fitzroy Tilling, now head of the new Metropolitan Police Force, gives the former Bow Street Runner his freedom, but in return Pyke must look into the brutal death of a young mulatto woman, who was apparently working as a prostitute. Soon another woman turns up dead, and Pyke's investigation takes him from the London docks to the sugar plantations of Jamaica."Pepper continues his splendid Pyke series with another hard-edged chapter. After falling on hard times and landing in debtor's prison, Pepper's brooding antihero grabs at a chance for an early release when the head of the new Metropolitan Police Force promises him his freedom in exchange for his investigative services. He attacks his assignment with all the zeal of a man on a mission, traveling from London to Jamaica, seeking both professional and personal redemption. Pyke's often-brutal exploits are not for the faint of heart, but readers who prefer their historicals mired in the gritty reality of the times can't do any better."Booklist 384.



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