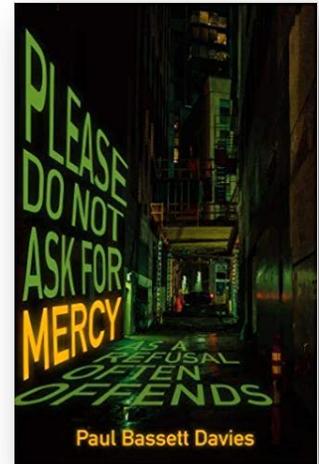


PAUL BASSETT DAVIES  
**PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR  
MERCY**

CLIENT: LIGHTNING BOOKS  
PUBLISHER: LIGHTNING BOOKS  
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**A dystopian detective story - hilarious and  
terrifying in equal measure**

Detective Kilroy is assigned to investigate a horrible murder. He's a fine cop, from the brim of his hat to the soles of his brogues, but his inquiries, far from solving the mystery, lead him into a deeper one - and to Cynthia, an enigmatic woman with a secret that could overturn Kilroy's entire world. But where is this world? It seems both familiar and uncanny, with electric cars, but no digital devices, and the audience for a public execution arriving by tram. Meanwhile, the seas are retreating, and the Church exerts an iron grip on society - and history. Power belongs to those who control the narrative. Kilroy is forced to take sides between the Kafkaesque state that pays his wages, and the truth-seekers striving to destroy it, all the while becoming increasingly besotted with a woman who may only love him for his mind - in an alarmingly literal way. Please Do Not Ask for Mercy as a Refusal Often Offends is a dystopian satire that manages to be funny and frightening in equal measure.

**PAUL BASSETT DAVIES** contributed to many of the most successful radio and TV shows of the Eighties and Nineties, writing for Spitting Image, Rory Bremner and Jasper Carrott. He wrote the screenplay for the 2005 feature animation film The Magic Roundabout and has written and produced music videos with Kate Bush and Ken Russell. He is a former creative director of the London Comedy Writers Festival. His first novel, Utter Folly, topped Amazon's humorous fiction chart when it was published in 2012. His second novel, Dead Writers in Rehab, was published by Unbound in 2017.

FICTION / THRILLER