

Crime

"where a good crime can be had by all"



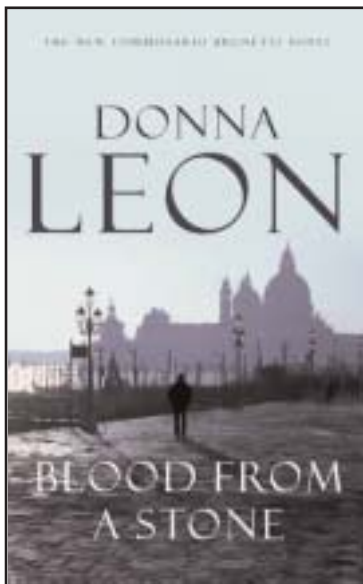
chronicle

Issue #231

April 2005

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

DONNA LEON



Blood from a Stone
320pp Tp \$32.95

The stunning new Commissario Brunetti mystery from an author whose sales continue to grow with each new book.

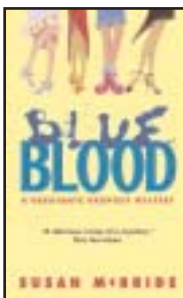
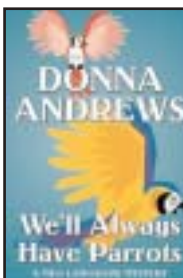
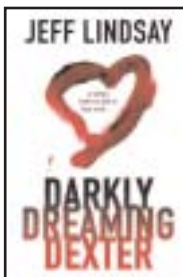
On a cold Venetian night shortly before Christmas, a man is killed in a scuffle in Campo San Stefano. The closest witnesses to the event are the tourists who had been browsing the man's wares before his death – fake handbags of every designer label. Officially termed a

venditore ambulante or *extracomunitario*, the dead man was working as a *vu cumprà*, one of the many Black Africans purveying goods outside normal shop hours and without work permits. Arriving on the scene, Commissario Brunetti's response matches that of everybody involved: why would anyone kill a *vu cumprà*? With few social connections and little money, in-fighting amongst these workers is the obvious answer. But once Brunetti begins investigating this Venetian underworld, he discovers that matters of great value are at stake within the immigrant society. Warned by Patta, his superior, to resist further involvement in the case, Brunetti only becomes more determined to unearth the truth behind this mysterious killing. However, reluctant as he is to let this event be smugly relegated to the category of 'not worth dealing with', how far will Brunetti be able to penetrate the murky subculture of Venice's illegal community? This is the 14th in this excellent series with wonderfully familiar characters, a powerful sense of place and expert plotting.

All in paperback and \$21.95 (unless otherwise priced), the earlier titles in the series are: #1 **Death at la Fenice**; #2 **Death in a Strange Country**; #3 **Anonymous Venetian**, \$18.95; #4 **Venetian Reckoning** \$18.95; #5 **Acqua Alta**, \$18.95; #6 **Death of Faith**, \$18.95; #7 **Noble Radiance**; #8 **Fatal Remedies**; #9 **Friends in High Places**; #10 **Sea of Troubles**; #11 **Wilful Behaviour**; #12 **Uniform Justice**; and coming in April in paperback, #13: **Doctored Evidence**.

If you haven't tried Donna Leon then she comes with my highest recommendation.

- Peter



HAMMETT PRIZE NOMINEES

The Havana Room by Colin Harrison (Pb 18.95)

Prince of Thieves by Chuck Hogan
(Pb 18.95, Due Sept)

The Madman's Tale by John Katzenbach
(Pb 21.95)

California Girl by T Jefferson Parker (Tp 29.95)

Playing with Fire by Peter Robinson (Pb 18.95)

DILYS AWARD

Darkly Dreaming Dexter by Jeff Lindsay (Tp 29.95)

LEFTY AWARD

(tie)

We'll Always Have Parrots by Donna Andrews
(Pb 16.95)

Blue Blood by Susan McBride (Pb 16.95)

BRUCE ALEXANDER AWARD

The Witch in the Well by Sharan Newman
(Hb 54.00, To order only)

CALAVERA AWARD

Grave Endings by Rochelle Krich
(Hb 44.95, To order only)

AGATHA AWARD NOMINEES

BEST NOVEL

We'll Always Have Parrots by Donna Andrews
(Pb 16.95)

By a Spider's Thread by Laura Lippman (Tp 29.95)

High Country Fall by Margaret Maron
(Hb 49.95 To order only)

The Pearl Diver by Sujata Massey (Hb 49.95)

Birds of a Feather by Jacqueline Winspear
(Tp 32.95)

EDGAR AWARD NOMINEES

BEST NOVEL

Evan's Gate by Rhys Bowen (Pb 16.95)

By a Spider's Thread by Laura Lippman (Tp 29.95)

Remembering Sarah by Chris Mooney (Pb 18.95)

California Girl by Jefferson Parker (Tp 29.95)

Out of the Deep I Cry by Julia Spencer-Fleming
(Pb 16.95)

ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

MON 25 APRIL

WE ARE OPEN 12 MIDDAY - 5PM



Modern Crime

Donna ANDREWS

 **We'll Always Have Parrots**

331pp Pb 16.95

A Meg Langslow mystery. Meg knew the fan convention for her actor-boyfriend's hit television series was going to be the ultimate in weird. But she came along to sell her hand-crafted weapons and so far, she was dealing well with the costumed fans camped outside and the escaped parrots and monkeys tearing up the hotel. But soon after Meg goes head-to-head with egomaniacal series star Tamerlaine Wynncliffe-Jones, the Queen B turns up brutally murdered. Now, with Michael in the running as prime suspect, Meg will go up against an all-star cast of not-even-innocent parties, hidden identities and buried motives. (American)



Linda BARNES

 **Coyote** **264pp Pb 16.95**

A Carlotta Carlyle mystery. When a mysterious woman asks Carlotta to help locate her missing immigration card, it looks to be a pretty straightforward assignment. That is, until the lady disappears, and the card turns up in the possession of another woman... who just happens to be dead. Suddenly the case is far too intriguing for Carlotta to drop and when her investigation indicates that her client was somehow connected to her inner-city little sister Paolina, Carlotta's got an even bigger stake in seeing it through. (American)

Nevada BARR

 **High Country** **300pp Pb 18.95**

An Anna Pigeon Mystery. National Parks ranger Anna Pigeon goes undercover as a waitress at Yosemite National Park to investigate the disappearance of four young casual employees. What waits for her in the snowy wilderness of the Sierra Nevada is a nightmare of death and greed. And perhaps, her final adventure... (American)

M C BEATON

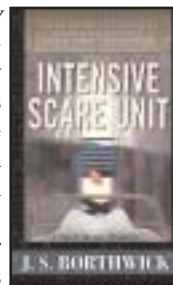
 **Agatha Raisin and the Haunted House** **260pp Pb 16.95**

Snug and warm in her Carsley cottage, Agatha has that same old feeling of boredom until a report of a haunted house sends her and new neighbour, handsome Paul Chatterton, to investigate. Suddenly, middle-aged Agatha is aglow with romance and excitement. But the glow fades fast. It turns out Paul is a cad. The victim of the haunting is a universally disliked old biddy. And the ghost is most likely someone playing a dirty trick. Then an old lady is found murdered. But never fear! For Agatha, solving a homicide is more fun than hunting a ghost. (British)


J S BORTHWICK

 **Intensive Scare Unit** **374pp Pb 16.95**

A Sarah Deane mystery #12. Crotchety, 70-something Julia Clancy of High Hope Farm feels a little wobbly one August morning. With stables to clean and riding lessons to give, the stoic New Englander ignores her symptoms and ends up in the ER with a heart attack. And a glimpse of something highly unusual will entangle Julia and her niece Sarah Deane in the murder of a hospital VIP. Now amateur sleuth Sarah needs to make her own diagnosis of Julia's revelation and sew up the case before the star witness gets a fatal visit from Dr Death.... (American)



Robert BRACE

 **Black Tiger** **320pp Pb 18.95**


It was pure luck that Lysander Dalton got up to use the bathroom seconds before someone shot his bed full of bullets. And it is pure chemistry when the ex-special ops Marine meets Valentina Mariposa. She is a sexy lawyer who will double as Dalton's bodyguard and hired gun in the search for the terrifying truth behind his bullet-riddled bed. (American)

Lilian Jackson BRAUN

 **The Cat Who Went Bananas** **200pp Hb 59.95**

A Jim Qwilleran Feline Whodunit #27. Qwilleran, prize winning reporter with a nose for crime, and his Siamese cats Koko and Yum Yum are the most unlikely, most unusual, most delightful team in detective fiction. They are back to solve their 27th case when an out-of-town actor dies suspiciously after the theft of a rare book. (American)

Kirsty BROOKS

 **The Happiness Punch** **387pp Pb 19.95**

Six weeks after the end of **The Vodka Dialogue** (Pb 19.95), PI Cassidy Blair is back and better than ever. Cassidy has a new client, her teenage idol, pop star Jason Wilde, who has a big problem with some lurid internet sites. She also has a new PI colleague, Ned (who she finds strangely attractive), and she meets Adelaide's porn-king and his leading thug, Mince. In an attempt to prove herself to Sam, who questions her PI abilities, Cassidy gets herself tied up (literally) in a high-speed shoot-out on a bus, a kidnapping, a drug bust and a couple of bizarre film shoots. And that is before she even begins to tackle Josie's new boyfriend, Zara's personal transformation and the latest cocktail at the Easy Lounge. With even more action and comedy, this instalment is sure to put a smile on your face while packing a punch. (Australian)

Sandra BROWN

 **White Hot** **426pp Pb 18.95**

Ten years ago, Sayre Lynch escaped from her small Louisiana hometown. Now she must return to Destiny to bury her brother, and confront her manipulative father and the painful memories she attempted to flee. Complicating her attempts to learn exactly how her brother died is Beck Merchant, her father's brilliant and canny attorney, who seems every bit as corrupt as her father. Yet despite her low opinion of Beck, Sayre finds herself irresistibly drawn to him. Tension between the workforce and management is mounting in Sayre's father's steel mill. While another hotbed of lies, secrecy and depravity smoulders and then ignites within his family... (American)

KEY

academic



banking



canine detectives



clerical



cosy/malice domestic



culinary/food



fbi



feline detectives



forensic



horse racing mystery



medical



military



native american



police procedural



political/legal



psychological



private eye



romantic suspense



sport



spy



suspense/thriller



AUTHOR'S NATIONALITY AT END OF BLURB




RECOMMENDED READING

 Ian CALDWELL & Dustin THOMASON
The Rule of Four 527pp Pb 21.95


This was my favourite read of 2004. If you liked **The Da Vinci Code** (Pb 19.95), **The Name of the Rose** (Pb 24.95) or **A Secret History** (Pb 24.95), you will probably like this. It has all the characteristics of a murder mystery but is encoded with a very dark Renaissance secret, the twists and turns of which bedazzle brain cells to levels of pure enjoyment. The authors have been best friends since they were eight, each achieving awards for history at Princeton and Harvard respectively. This book was a post-graduation project, and at its centre is one of the rarest, most complex books in the world: Coded in seven languages, the **Hypnerotomachia Poliphili** (Hb 60.00), an intricate mathematical mystery and a tale of love and arcane brutality, has baffled scholars since 1499. **The Rule of Four** brings it to life, gives it a modern context and makes tremendous reading. – *Shelley* (American)




Stephen CANNELL

 **Vertical Coffin** 335pp Pb 16.95
A nightmarish series of events sweeps LAPD's Sgt Shane Scully and his wife (and boss) Alexa into the vortex of an enormous, jurisdictional firestorm. First, a sheriff's deputy is gunned down while serving a routine search warrant. Soon thereafter, a member of the ATF Situation Response Team is shot to death, followed by the sniper murder of the Sheriff's Special Enforcement Bureau. At the request of the Mayor, LAPD assigns Shane Scully to investigate. He is given an impossible deadline to find a solution before two elite and deadly SWAT Teams kill each other off. Shane pursues his investigation in a direction that neither his chief nor his wife agrees with, and succeeds in putting himself, his loved ones, and his career in terrible jeopardy before he finally discovers the shocking and deadly truth. (American)


Kate COLLINS

 **Slay it with Flowers** 298pp Pb 16.95
A Flower Shop Mystery. Law school drop-out-turned-flower shop owner Abby Knight has been asked to be a bridesmaid by her cousin. But before the couple says 'I do', a groomsman disappears and another member of the wedding party is found dead. Abby has to hurry down an aisle of suspects to unveil the truth and make sure the bride still gets to the church on time. (American)


Clive CUSSLER

 **Sahara (1992)** 655pp Pb 19.95
1996, Egypt. Searching for a treasure on the Nile, Dirk Pitt thwarts the attempted assassination of a beautiful UN scientist investigating a disease that is driving thousands of North Africans into madness, cannibalism and death. The suspected cause of the raging epidemic is vast, unprecedented pollution that threatens to extinguish all life in the world's seas. Now, amidst the blazing, shifting sands of the Sahara, Dirk Pitt will make a desperate stand in a battle the world cannot afford to lose. Film tie-in edition. (American)


Claire DANIELS

 **Cruel and Unusual Intuition** 274pp Pb 16.95
A Karma Crime mystery #3. Dr Aurora Hart's negative vibes have returned to her in a lethal way. It is up to Cally Lazar and friends to divine who set the late doctor's aura-maker on fry. Then, just when time is running out, Cally tunes into some killer karma. (American)

Dacey DEERE


 **The Irish Village Murder** 214pp Pb 16.95
A Torrey Tunet mystery. American translator Torrey Tunet is happy to be back in Ireland after a European assignment. She is longing for a lovely peat fire in her Ballynagh cottage when she spots a forlorn child, fresh off the Dublin bus with no one to meet her. Reluctantly taking charge of delivering the child to Gwathney Hall, Torrey walks right into trouble. Historian John Gwathney has just been brutally gunned down, and the child's beautiful Auntie Megan (Gwathney's housekeeper and perhaps his lover) appears the likeliest suspect. But Torrey does not agree. She knows many eyes watch from behind the lace curtains of an Irish village and no secrets are kept for long. (American)

Jim DeFELICE


 **Threat Level Black** 373pp Pb 18.95
DeFelice's unconventional hero, FBI Special Agent Andy Fisher, returns in a chilling novel of international terror within American borders. North Korean scientists have developed a new weapon, the E-Bomb. It can render useless any electronic system within a 10-mile radius. Andy Fisher is not sure such a device actually exists, but when a terrorist group claims to have acquired it, along with a cache of deadly sarin gas, he isn't going to take any chances. (American)




John DUNNING

 **The Bookman's Promise** 469pp Pb 18.95
A Cliff Janeway novel #3. Rich with the insider's information on rare and collectible books that has made John Dunning famous and with meticulously researched detail about a mesmerising figure (the explorer, Richard Francis Burton who may or may not have played an unrecognised role in America's Civil War), this novel is riveting entertainment from an extraordinarily gifted author who is as unique and special as the books he so clearly loves. (American)


Martin EDWARDS

 **The Coffin Trail** 292pp Hb 49.95
A Lake District mystery #1. Peter Robinson, author of the acclaimed Inspector Banks series, says this novel "has all the ingredients you need for a wonderful, absorbing read: a crime deeply rooted in the past, a beautifully evoked sense of the Lake District and an interesting and diverse group of characters. DCI Hannah Scarlett is a fine creation, and it's good news that we can look forward to seeing more of her in the future." (British)


Selma EICHLER

 **Murder Can Mess Up Your Mascara** 262pp Pb 16.95
A Desiree Shapiro mystery. Certain that someone is trying to kill him, Gordon Curry, a dashing ladies' man and pharmaceutical exec, turns to Desiree for help. But before she has a chance to question his enemies, he is shot dead. And now the plus-sized PI has to polish off a killer and a slice (or three) of pizza. (American)


Aaron ELKINS

 **Good Blood** 293pp Pb 16.95
What was supposed to be an Italian vacation for forensic anthropologist Gideon Oliver and his wife, turns into a busman's holiday when their hosts' only child goes missing and nearby construction workers unearth human bones. The family awaits Oliver's conclusions with both dread and cautious hope. But along the way, he will expose some extraordinary deceptions that lay bare the long-hidden secrets at the dark heart of a highborn family. (American)

Kate ELLIS

 **The Plague Maiden** 362pp Pb 19.95
A Wesley Peterson murder mystery. When a letter arrives at Tradmouth police station, addressed to a DCI Norbert, it causes quite a stir. For although Norbert has long since moved on, the letter claims to have evidence that the man convicted of murdering the Reverend Shipbourne during the course of a robbery in 1991, is innocent. (British)


**Tom ESLICK****Deadly Kin 258pp Pb 18.95**

 *A White Mountains mystery.* When Will Buchanan's former girlfriend Laurie, sheriff of Saxton Mills, asks him to escort her 17-year-old niece Erin to an overnight hut at Zealand Falls, he promptly agrees. There the lovely Erin is to meet up with her brother Josh, who is hiking the Appalachian Trail. Although Erin's hostility disturbs Will, more disturbing is the passionate embrace between her and Josh. And when Josh mysteriously falls to his death that night, Will, Laurie and Erin are thrown into relentless mayhem, making them the quarry of an unlikely, yet familiar, killer. (American)


Jon FASMAN**The Geographer's Library****373pp Tp 29.95**

When a 12th century Sicilian cat burglar snatches a sack of artefacts from the King's geographer's library, the tools and talismans of transmutation and eternal life are scattered all over the world. 900 years later, a young Connecticut reporter finds evidence that someone is collecting them again. In the process of investigating the suspicious death of a local professor, Paul Tomm finds the dead man's heavily fortified office stuffed with books on alchemy. This novel entwines his contemporary reporting with a chain of ancient stories-within-the-story, tracking the last time each of the geographer's tools changed hands - some bought, some stolen, some killed for. It is an extraordinary debut; smart, stylishly written and full of suspense. It tempts with the glitter of antiquities and hooks with a chilling plot. (American)


**Robert FERRIGNO****The Wake Up 256pp Tp 32.95**

 'The beached spook is Frank Thorpe, in limbo having recently left an American Intelligence unit after an operation went down river. The 'hard charger' was a stranger whom Frank saw mow down a young kid selling sweets at the airport and keep going without so much as a backward glance. Almost on a whim Frank decides to use all his skills and resources to give that stranger what they call in his trade 'a wake up'. Not that Thorpe intends any permanent damage, just a little tap to get the hard charger's attention, to show him how quickly the storm clouds could roll in on his little world. Unfortunately, the little 'wake up' sets up a chain reaction which ends in far more serious ramifications than Frank could ever have anticipated. And someone from his own past is out to give him a rather bigger 'wake up'. (American)


Joanne FLUKE**Fudge Cupcake Murder**

 Bakery owner Hannah Swensen just cannot keep her hands out of the batter when murder stirs things up in Lake Eden, leaving the sheriff dead, a deputy accused and a killer on the loose... While Hannah's emptying the trash, she makes a very unappetizing discovery: Sheriff Grant's body in the Dumpster behind the high school where she is teaching her cooking class. And as if that weren't bad enough, the poor man still has fudge frosting on his shirt from one of her cupcakes. The number one—and only—suspect is her brother Bill, but Hannah's not swallowing it. Includes ten original dessert recipes for you to try! (American)


Colin FORBES**Blood Storm 303pp Tp 29.95**

 Tweed and his dynamic team face one of their biggest challenges yet. The most sophisticated security systems and the most experienced counter-terrorist czars cannot stand up to a force that threatens the whole of Europe. Tweed rarely experiences fear or doubt, but is almost overwhelmed when he has to make a seemingly impossible decision about one of his own team. Loyalties are tested to the limit in this topical, fast-paced, highly tense new thriller from Colin Forbes. (British)


G M FORD**Who in Hell is Wanda Fuca?****(1995) 393pp Pb 19.95**

 *A Leo Waterman novel #1.* A soft-hearted sleuth with a rebellious streak left over from the 1960s, Leo Waterman seems to get entangled in every oddball situation, from Seattle to Puget Sound. So when he is hired to locate Caroline Nobel, an errant mob heiress with an environmentalist's heart, Leo goes with the flow leaving behind the familiar sights of Pioneer Square to follow the landscape-loving activist into the rain-soaked Washington woods. But Caroline's conscientious cohorts are dragging her deeper into the murky waters of environmental sabotage. And her hot-headed enthusiasm cannot be cooled, even after two people are brutally murdered. Caroline's on to something extremely toxic and unless Waterman can clear the air, her deadly dedication could poison him as well. (American)


Rebecca FORSTER**Silent Witness 377pp Pb 18.95**

 The inimitable DA Josie Baylor-Bates returns to defend the man she loves from the charge of murdering his own disabled stepson. Walking the fine line between lover and lawyer, trust and truth, Josie will have to race against time to prove someone is framing her client until she finds out that the last, silent witness is the most dangerous of all. (American)


Elizabeth FOXWELL (editor)**The Sunken Sailor 280pp Pb 16.95**

 *Malice Domestic presents...* 14 masters of suspense collaborate on one unpredictable mystery. Featuring: Simon Brett, Jan Burke, Dorothy Cannell, Margaret Coel, Deborah Crombie, Eileen Dreyer, Carolyn Hart, Edward Marston, Francine Mathews, Sharan Newman, Alexandra Ripley, Walter Satterwait and Carolyn Wheat. The introduction is by Anne Perry who says, "one minute you'll be holding your breath with suspense, the next laughing out loud." (American)


Jim GILMORE**Dead Rite 186pp Pb 19.95**

 When Samuel Shelton is discovered in a shallow grave, Officer Hicks is on the case. Amid the media frenzy, Hicks stays under the radar, doing things by the book, but everything comes to a shocking halt when a trail of clues leads straight to putting Hicks at the scene of the crime. Ploughing forward, now with his own reputation on the line, Hicks hurdles stalling lawyers, police protocol and a burnt out trailer home connected to Shelton's case. Fast paced and deadly, this is the story of one man's dark trip through the riches of sunny Hollywood as he struggles to keep it together. (American)


Lee GOLDBERG**Diagnosis Murder #4****245pp Pb 16.95**

 *The Waking Nightmare.* Dr Mark Sloan saves a would-be suicide victim, but her jump from a building ledge has left her in a coma. Obsessed with learning why she attempted suicide, Sloan stumbles into a manhunt for a cop-killer; one who may turn his attention to nosy physicians next. (American)

Kat GOLDRING**The Eye that is Divine****308pp Pb 16.95**

 *A Willi Gallagher mystery.* When she arrives at a Buddhist retreat, Willi has a hunch that some attendees have less-than-enlightened reasons for being here and one is determined to steal a precious gem in the monks' possession. But with no cell phones and a possible killer on the loose, Willi's caught between a rock garden and a hard place. (American)

Kerry GREENWOOD**Death at Victoria Dock****185pp Pb 19.95**

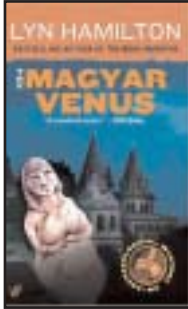
 *A Phyrne Fisher mystery #4.* Cradled in Phyrne's arms is a very young man with muddied hair. Her windscreen has just been shot out and the young man, riddled with bullets, dies in her arms. To discover the culprit behind this senseless slaying, Phyrne will have to go deep into a mire of bank robbery, tattoo parlours, pubs, spiritualist halls and Anarchists! (Australian)

**Kerry GREENWOOD****Murder on the Ballarat Train**
163pp Pb 19.95

A Phyrne Fisher mystery #3. When Phyrne decides to leave her car at home and travel by train to the country with her friend Dot, the last thing she expects is to have to use her trusty Beretta .32 to save their lives. What was planned as a restful sojourn turns into the stuff of nightmares: a young girl who cannot remember anything, rumours of vile white slavery and the body of an old woman missing her emerald rings. (Australian)

Lyn HAMILTON**The Magyar Venus**
259pp Pb 16.95

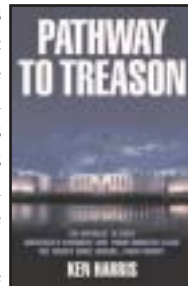
An Archaeological mystery. After the unveiling of the Magyar Venus, a carved head and torso of a woman made from mammoth ivory during the Upper Palaeolithic period, one of Lara McClintoch's friends commits suicide. Determinedly tracing the Venus's provenance to Budapest, Lara discovers a truth that arises from the secrets of the past. (American)

**Charlaine HARRIS****Shakespeare's Counselor**
243pp Pb 16.95

A Lily Bard mystery. Welcome back to the sleepy little town of Shakespeare, where secrets come to hide. Lily Bard has joined a group therapy session, determined finally to face her past. It sounds positively enlightening, until the murder of a fellow member sends a warning. But who was the message meant for and why? And who is next to fall victim to a killer's head games? (American)

Ken HARRIS**Pathway to Treason**
305pp Tp 29.95

Australia in 2020 has become a Republic with both a Prime Minister and an elected President. A crisis looms. The US wants Australia to send troops to the Middle East. The PM says 'yes'; the President 'No'. The Australian Defence Force faces a dilemma: Who to obey? Of this book, Professor Ross Babbage of the Australian National University says, "Whilst the story is fiction, the pitfalls in simply replacing the Crown with an elected President are real - this book describes them with great skill. Harris' book is a great read and also a major contribution to the debate on constitutional change." (Australian)

**Carolyn HART****Murder Walks the Plank**
322pp Pb 16.95

A Death on Demand mystery #15. Annie Darling's murder mystery cruise in the waters off her not-always-idyllic isle of Broward's Rock is going swimmingly until one of the revellers plunges overboard. And despite hubby Max's courageous rescue attempt, faux murder turns all too quickly into real-life death. As the body count rises over the next few days, intrepid crime solver Annie realises that the killer she seeks is more ingeniously efficient than most and the puzzle she wishes to unravel is, in reality, a time bomb packed with an explosive mix of arson, assault, kidnapping, robbery and homicide, naturally. (American)

Ellen HART**An Intimate Ghost**
307pp Tp 29.95

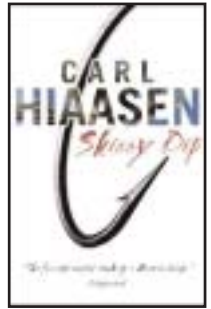
A Jane Lawless mystery. Restaurateur Jane Lawless is thrilled to be catering the wedding of some family friends, Nick and Lauren Clifford, but when Jane arrives at the wedding, she is in for a shock of a lifetime and one that could jeopardise her career. The food has been spiked with hallucinogenic mushrooms and the drug-hazed guests are engaged in reckless behaviour. When the groom takes a near fatal dive into an empty pool, an investigation begins. (American)

Sue HENRY**The Serpents Trail**
274pp Pb 16.95

An Alaska Maxie McNabb mystery. At 63, Maxie is cruising down the Alaska Highway in her brand new Winnebago camper. She has always been a gypsy at heart and with her mini-dachshund at her side, and the open road ahead, she has never been happier. But before her exploration gets underway, Maxie needs to figure out who burglarised her friend's Colorado home and why. But the closer she gets to solving the puzzle, the more it becomes chillingly clear that her friend's life is not the only one on the line. (American)

Carl HIAASEN**Skinny Dip** 475pp Pb 22.95

Chaz Perrone might be the only marine scientist in the world who does not know which way the Gulf Stream runs but he has just found a way to make a fortune out of the Florida Everglades. So when he suspects that his wife Joey is going to get in his way, he takes her on an expensive anniversary cruise and pushes her overboard. Clinging to a bale of Jamaican pot, she manages to stay alive, and is plucked from the ocean by former cop, Mick Stranahan. Joey decides to stay dead and (with Mick's help) screw with Chas until he screws himself. Carl Hiaasen takes us on a hilarious, romantic, page-turning journey through the warped politics of the human heart. (American)

**James HUSTON****Balance of Power**
434pp Pb 18.95

Off the coast of Indonesia, an American cargo ship has been seized by terrorists, its captain kidnapped and its crew mercilessly slaughtered. In Washington, a peace-loving President's refusal to punish the transgressors has enraged the sitting Congress, led by a determined Speaker of the House. An ambitious young congressional assistant, Jim Dillon has discovered a time bomb hidden in the Constitution; a long-forgotten clause that could incite a devastating constitutional crisis and plunge the country into chaos. (American)

**Greg ILES****Blood Memory** 494pp Tp 32.95

World-class forensic odontologist Cat Ferry has a stellar reputation until a panic attack paralyses her at a New Orleans murder scene. Praying the attack is a one-time event, she continues working, but when the same killer strikes again she blacks out over the victim's corpse. Suspended from the FBI task force, Cat returns to her hometown in Mississippi to regroup. Plagued by nightmares, and deeply involved with a married homicide detective, Cat holds herself together with iron nerves and alcohol, using her work as a substitute for life. But her secluded antebellum estate provides no sanctuary. When some of Cat's forensic chemicals are spilled in her childhood bedroom, two bloody footprints are revealed, setting in motion a quest to piece together Cat's past. (American)

PARKING

Spend \$50 or more at Abbey's Bookshop, Language Book Centre or Galaxy Bookshop, present your QVB parking ticket and receive a \$5 Parking Voucher. Current rates are:

QVB	
Mon-Fri (before 5pm)	\$ 10/hr (\$47 max)
Sat (before 5pm)	\$ 7/hr (\$20 max)
Sun	
(& any day after 5pm)	\$12 flat

**Roberta ISLEIB** **Fairway to Heaven****258pp Pb 16.95**


A *Golf Lovers mystery* #3. Cassie Burdette already has her hands full playing a tournament at legendary Pinehurst, North Carolina, with her formerly estranged father and grumpy boyfriend. When her friend's father vanishes, she starts poking around the fairway for answers hoping whoever made the man disappear won't do the same with her. (American)

Dean JAMES **Decorated to Death****250pp Pb 14.95**

A *Simon Kirby-Jones mystery*. Not everyone can claim both Hercule Poirot and Nancy Drew as inspiration. Of course, not everyone is a vampire sleuth from the States who pulled up stakes to live in a small English village. Even the eccentric denizens of Snupperton Mumsley might be surprised by Simon Kirby-Jones's rather unusual lifestyle. But murder is a more than adequate distraction when a visiting celebrity meets his maker—and Simon must suss out a killer... "A well-crafted mystery combines with whimsical characters to create an imaginative spoof on the classic locked-room mystery."—*Publishers Weekly* (American)

Iris JOHANSEN **Firestorm****377pp Pb 18.95**

For Kerry Murphy, the inferno is never far away. The flames of that long-ago night still burn in her nightmares: the heat, the choking smoke and the helplessness. She can never run fast enough... Now Kerry works as an arson investigator with her evidence-sniffing dog, Sam. Together they are a great team, but her life is about to change in the time it takes to strike a match. The deadly flames of her past are back, and from out of the ashes a stranger appears. Who is Silver? And why has he chosen her in the desperate race to find a killer determined to ignite hell on earth? (American)

**Stan JOHNSON** **Lethal Agent****387pp Pb 18.95**

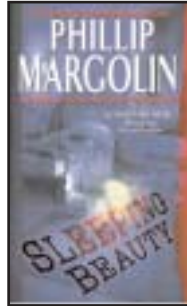
CIA consultant Aaron Korda wages a war against a faction of terrorists who plan to poison the world's pharmaceutical supplies. Without support from the American government, Korda can only rely on his wits and possibly a beautiful German spy to save the lives of millions. (American)

David LAWRENCE **Nothing like the Night****399pp Pb 19.95**

Once she had been beautiful; now she was eight days dead, her body slashed repeatedly. At first, she is just Jane Doe of Notting Hill, and then DS Stella Mooney finds a suspect. But while he is in custody, another body is discovered, butchered in the same way. It seems that Stella and her team are looking for cannibals: there are two people involved; and one of them - the dominant one - is a woman ... (British)

Phillip MARGOLIN **Sleeping Beauty** **403pp Pb 18.95**

17-year-old Ashley Spencer learned what true horror was the night a serial killer invaded her home and brutally murdered her father and her best friend. But the terror did not end there. A year after the unspeakable events, the nightmare is reawakened at the elite private school that has been a safe haven for Ashley and her mother, Terri. A new book called *Sleeping Beauty* hits the national bestseller lists; it is a shattering true account of the crimes that ripped Ashley's world apart. And now Ashley must run for her life again. (American)

**Nancy MARTIN et al** **Drop Dead Blonde****337pp Pb 16.95**

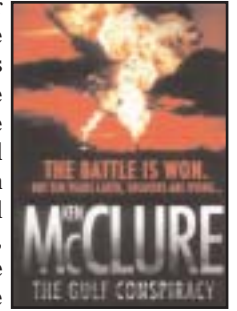
They are blondes with style, money and men falling at their feet. But now these perfect women are perfect victims. In this book, four top mystery authors - Nancy Martin, Denise Swanson, Elaine Viets and Victoria Laurie - spin four all new tales of fair-haired sirens, secrets and seduction. (American)

Susan McBRIDE **The Good Girls' Guide to Murder****353pp Pb 16.95**

A *Debutante Dropout mystery*. Website designer and high society rebel Andrea Kendrick would never have gotten involved with ego-in-pumps life-style hostess Marilee Mabry if it weren't for the underhanded machinations of Andy's upper crust mama. But thanks to Mother Cissy, Andy's donning designer duds to attend a launch party at the intolerable domestic diva's new Dallas TV studio and she is on hand to witness the celebration site go up in flames! Then a body turns up in the rubble, the victim, apparently, of some very foul play. There are more than a few nasty messes tucked away in the Mabry closet and a craven assassin who has the Big D elite quaking in their cowboy boots may soon be burying Andy in hers. (American)

Ken McClURE **The Gulf Conspiracy****315pp Tp 29.95**

10 years after returning from the Gulf War, troops stationed at the Dhahran airbase are falling sick and dying. Steven Dunbar, a medical investigator, decides to probe further and what he discovers shocks him to the core. If true, the British vaccine has harmed more men than the biological weapons it was designed to protect them against. Ken McClure writes with gripping energy. He combines his own personal knowledge and experience of biological weaponry with a fast moving, hard hitting style that delivers a stunning ride of suspense, tension and chilling realism. (British)

**V L McDERMID** **Final Edition (1991)****309pp Pb 18.95**

A *Lindsay Gordon mystery* #3. Dragged into a sordid world of blackmail, prostitution, lies and murder, Lindsay investigates the case of a former colleague jailed for killing a notorious Glaswegian journalist. (British)

D R MEREDITH **Tome of Death** **224pp Pb 14.95**


A *Murder by the Yard mystery* #4. This librarian and her reading group solve mysteries by the book. Megan Clark must unravel the mystery behind a burial site in the Palo Duro Canyon containing two corpses: one a human skeleton, the other a mummy in Comanche garb, murdered more than 100 years apart. (American)

Fern MICHAELS **Picture Perfect** **381pp Pb 18.95**


Paediatrician Lorrie Ryan has been looking forward to this camping trip with her nephew Davey. It is a chance to let the haemophiliac boy spend time away from his nervous, overprotective parents and have the adventure he has always wanted. And Lorrie will be on hand to administer Davey's daily, life-saving dose of antigen. In the thick cover of woods, she never imagines that their idyllic trip will soon become a chilling nightmare of survival. In one shocking moment, Davey disappears. A desperate Lorrie turns to the one man who can help FBI agent Stuart Saunders. Now, the hunt is on for a child growing weaker by the minute. (American)




**Alan MILLS**

 **The Raft** 414pp Tp 29.95
Lydia and Martin Napier decide to get away from it all at a remote property in Far North Queensland. It is their chance to spend time with their eight year old daughter Ami, and also a chance to get their relationship back on track. Instead they run into cyclone weather and as the rains stop, floodwaters rise. Caught up in the dramatic rescue of a policeman and his prisoner, within hours the family find themselves marooned on the roof of an isolated farmhouse. With limited food and water, little hope of rescue, and a killer in their midst, they face the most terrifying ordeal of their lives. (Australian)


Theresa MONSOUR

 **Cold Blood** 357pp Pb 18.95
Homicide Detective Paris Murphy is as smart, as intuitive and as reckless as she was when we met her in **Clean Cut** (Pb 19.95). When she sees tall, awkward Justice Trip on television, a concerned citizen who has found a grisly clue in the search for missing bridesmaid Bunny Pedersen, Paris is sure she has seen him before. When she remembers, she is uneasy; and then her assignment to the case leads her to meet Trip, and her superb detective's intuition convinces her that he is Bunny's killer, and that their shared history puts Paris herself in jeopardy. (American)


Martin O'BRIEN

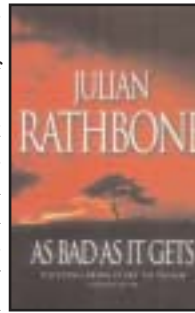
 **Jacquot and the Waterman** 403pp Tp 32.95
The Jacquot series #1. Set in the South of France, this novel follows Chief Inspector Daniel Jacquot's investigation into a series of disturbing killings, where the female victims are always left submerged in water. Ex-French National Rugby Squad player, Jacquot is a lover of the blues, good food and wine. He is disconsolate after his girlfriend leaves him, and plunges himself into the investigation whole-heartedly. A wonderful book for the Francophile, it is highly atmospheric, and full of warmth and wit. (British)


Sheila QUIGLEY

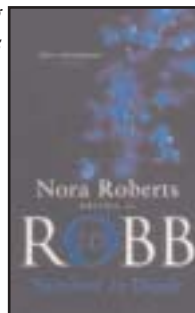
 **Run for Home** 500pp Pb 19.95
It is 1985. A man is hunted down and killed by a woman assassin known as The Head Hunter. 16-years-later, his body turns up and DI Lorraine Hunt is called in to investigate. The day the body is found, Claire Lumsdon is the victim of a violent kidnap, the fourth in a series of abductions of young girls. For Claire and her 16-year-old sister Kerry, it is the beginning of a nightmare. Convinced the police cannot help, Kerry sets out on a frantic search for her sister where she encounters a violent underworld, a 16-year-old murder and, finally, the secrets about her father which her mother hoped she would never have to face. (British)


Julian RATHBONE

 **As Bad As It Gets** 342pp Pb 19.95
Chris Shovelin is on the move again. Coming out of Mombassa where he has been checking out the unsuspecting death of a millionaire's son in a scuba accident, he has made enough money to treat himself to a safari. From a mugging in Nairobi, through meetings with lions and a Maasai warrior, to a truly scary escape from the sewer beneath Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Shovelin faces beatings, corrupt police, shootings, wild elephants and a crazed killer who will not give up. More than a worthy successor to Shovelin's acclaimed debut in **Homage** (Pb 19.95), this is a racy and entertaining thriller with emotional and thought-provoking depth, which puts it miles ahead of the rest. (British)


**J D ROBB**

 **Survivor in Death** 376pp Tp 32.95
In Death series featuring Lieutenant Eve Dallas and Roarke #20. The members of the Swisher family were murdered in their beds with brutal, military precision. The state-of-the-art security was breached, and the killers used night-vision equipment to find their way through the cosy, middle-class house. Clearly, Dallas is dealing with pros. It seems the only mistake they made was to overlook the girl cowering in the darkened kitchen. Now Nixie Swisher is an orphan, the sole eyewitness to a seemingly inexplicable crime and Eve Dallas is not good with children. (American)

**Karen ROBARDS**

 **Bait** 372pp Tp 32.95
It is a business trip that takes attorney Maddie Fitzgerald down to New Orleans, but it is hardly business as usual when a man breaks into her hotel room and tries to kill her. Barely escaping with her life, the sexy, stylish 32-year-old brunette calls the police and is unnerved by FBI Agent Sam McCabe's questions (and his good looks). She has been targeted by a hired killer, one who has eluded McCabe for years. He convinces her the quickest way to nab the assassin is to use her as bait. Maddie reluctantly agrees, and sparks fly and then ignite as McCabe shadows her. But their unexpected romance throws McCabe off his stride and puts Maddie in the hands of a killer. (American)


Michael ROBOTHAM

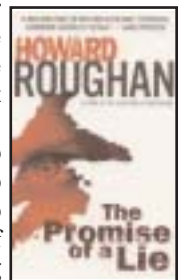
 **The Suspect** 486pp Pb 19.95
Joseph O'Loughlin appears to have the perfect life: a beautiful wife, a loving daughter and a successful career as a clinical psychologist. But nothing can be taken for granted. Even the most flawless existence is only a loose thread away from unravelling. All it takes is a murdered girl, a troubled young patient and the biggest lie of his life. Caught in a complex web of deceit and haunted by images of the slain girl, he embarks upon a search that will take him from London to Liverpool and into the darkest recesses of the human mind. Ultimately, he will risk everything to unmask the killer and save his family. *The Times Magazine* says Robotham is, "Popular fiction's Next Big Thing". (Australian)

Joel ROSENBERG


 **The Last Days** 462pp Pb 18.95
Osama bin Laden is dead. Saddam Hussein is buried. Baghdad lies in ruins. Now the eyes of the world are on Jerusalem as Jon Bennett (a Wall Street strategist turned senior White House advisor), his beautiful CIA partner Erin McCoy and the US Secretary of State arrive in the Middle East to meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (maybe his ghost). On the table: a dramatic and potentially historic Arab-Israeli peace plan, of which Bennett is the chief architect. At the heart of the proposed treaty is the discovery of black gold, deep underneath the Mediterranean, a vast and spectacular tract of oil and natural gas... The clock is ticking. Can Bennett, McCoy and the American President make peace before the Middle East once again erupts in war? (American)

Howard ROUGHAN



 **The Promise of a Lie** 417pp Pb 16.95
Nothing can prepare Dr David Remler for the shocking phone call he receives from a patient named Samantha Kent. Stunned and anxious to help, he rushes out into the Manhattan night to keep a bloody act of violence from spinning further out of control. He knows he is too involved and that his professional reputation is at stake. He has become a pawn in a very deadly game of revenge. Suddenly the focus of a criminal case that flares into an out-of-control media circus, David has only one shot to clear his name. But first he has to clear up the mystery of his patient, Samantha Kent. Just who is she? And why did she choose to involve David? Little by little, the outlines of a brilliant plot emerge and, with it, the horrifying power of a single lie... (American)



**Craig RUSSELL**

 **Blood Eagle 404pp Tp 32.95**
The first woman had her lungs ripped out. When the same gruesome ritualistic method was used again, it was clear that the same killer was responsible. But there is no precise evidence to link the two cases, except for the tantalising email. In his first crime novel, Craig Russell introduces us to a new detective hero, Jan Fabel (half-Scottish, half-German), a man of conscience and imagination. Russell has also created a richly textured scenario where the City of Hamburg plays a central role. It is a city where the old Germany combines increasingly with the new, where gangs from Turkey and the Ukraine battle for supremacy. This is a violently exciting thriller and Fabel's desperate attempt to solve the case before more victims are discovered, gradually uncovers layer upon layer of intrigue. (British)



Shelley SHORT

 **Death in the Cards 275pp Pb 16.95**
 *A Stain-Busting mystery.* Laundromat owner and stain removal expert Josie Toadfern knows her tiny town's dirty clothes and most of its dirty little secrets. But an upcoming Psychic Fair brings a brand-new mess to Paradise. The arrival of all manner of mystics and soothsayers has raised the dangerous ire of a local evangelist and his minions, as well as the more conservative citizens. Josie could not foresee that she would be the one to stumble upon the body, or that her impeccable stain-sense would embroil her in the nasty homicidal happenings. And suddenly her attempt to psych out a killer has Josie's own future looking very grim indeed. (American)


Judith SKILLINGS

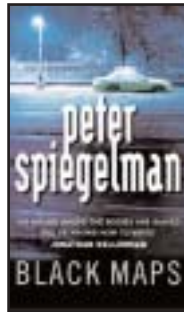
 **Dangerous Curves 334pp Pb 16.95**
A Rebecca Moore Mystery #2. Having abandoned her career as a Washington reporter to run her late uncle's classic car restoration shop, Rebecca wants peace. Then the brutally stabbed corpse of a lovely dancer is discovered in the back seat of a vintage Bentley being towed by her ex-convict workers and the cops' preferred suspects. When a second young dancer is pulled from the Potomac, Rebecca throws down her wrenches. Ignoring the advice of her admiring lawyer and the concerns of her erstwhile detective boyfriend, she goes undercover in a gentlemen's club. Embroiled in the tawdry world of flesh and fantasy, she unravels the dark secrets that have killed too many women already... (American)


**Maryann Tirone SMITH**

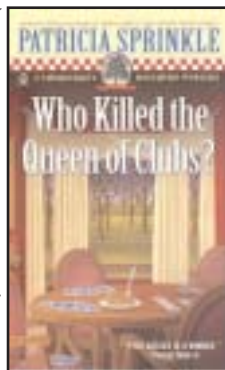
 **She's Not There 346pp Pb 16.95**
 FBI agent Poppy Rice has seen plenty of murder victims in her time. But the sight she stumbles upon during her vacation on peaceful Block Island is different. It is a naked young girl lying in the road, her face contorted in a silent scream of terror. The local authorities assume the death was drug-related. Violent crimes are not supposed to happen in this privileged enclave. And if they do, nobody talks. But Poppy is not convinced it was an overdose especially after a second girl's body is discovered. It turns out both teenagers had attended the same very expensive, very private, summer camp. That is all Poppy needs to know to start questioning the tight-lipped locals and plunge recklessly into the close-knit community's dark legacy of long-buried secrets... (American)



Peter SPIEGELMAN

 **Black Maps 419pp Pb 22.95**
Years after the personal tragedy that scarred his life, PI John March lives a twilight existence in Manhattan. He struggles to maintain a tenuous armed truce with his memories. March's latest case threatens to shatter that brittle peace: his client is a banker who is being blackmailed, and the man's beautiful wife is in the firing line. March's prime suspect is Gerard Nassouli, a monstrous manipulator who vanished years ago. Is Nassouli still a fugitive, or has the law finally caught up with him? Did he die, or was the vanishing act just one more devilish ploy? (American)



**Patricia SPRINKLE**

 **Who Killed the Queen of Clubs? 259pp Pb 14.95**
A Thoroughly Southern mystery. State bridge champion and club woman Edie Whelan Burkett has been dealt many a bad hand, but after being widowed, the only things she has to sustain herself are a job at the library and a 1,000-acre pecan grove. And just when the stress of it all seems too much, the grove's foreman dies... followed by Edie, and not by natural causes. Now, county magistrate Mac Yarbrough is on the case to prove the foreman's son innocent of murder, and figure out who is playing with a full deck and who's not. (American)


**Koji SUZUKI**

 **Ring 392pp Pb 18.95**
 Koji Suzuki is a literary star in his native Japan, where this book has sold 2.8 million copies. This is the first book in a hugely successful thriller trilogy that continues with **Spiral** (see below) and **Loop** (not yet available). It has been filmed as *Ringu* in Japan and as *The Ring* in Hollywood. When hardworking journalist Asakawa's niece dies suspiciously, he begins to investigate. When he visits a resort where she stayed with her now dead friends, the mystery only deepens. A comment made in the guest book by one of the teenagers leads him to a videotape. When he watches it, instead of a movie, he finds an odd collection of disparate images with a portentous message at the end: "Those who have viewed these images are fated to die at this exact hour one week from now." (Japanese)

Koji SUZUKI

 **Spiral 281pp Tp 29.95**
 Pathologist Ando is at a low point in his life. His small son's death from drowning has resulted in the break-up of his marriage and he is suffering from traumatic recurrent nightmares. Work is his only escape. His depressing world of loneliness and regret is shaken up when an old rival from medical school, Ryuji Takayama, turns up on his slab ready to be dissected. Through Ryuji's bizarre demise, Ando learns of a series of mysterious deaths that seem to have been caused by a sinister virus. From beyond the grave, Ryuji appears to be leading Ando towards a suspicious videotape; could this hold the answer to the riddle of the strange deaths? Or is it merely the first clue? **Spiral** is the stunning sequel to the highly acclaimed **Ring**, but can also be read as a standalone. (Japanese)

Aimee & David THURLO

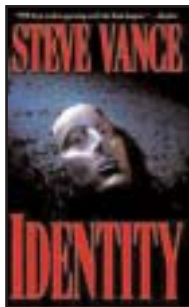
 **Wind Spirit 320pp Pb 16.95**
An Ella Clah novel. "The Thurlos hit all the right notes: they have an intriguing growing character at the centre of a series that combines fast-moving plots and a wealth of fascinating cultural information." (Booklist, the Journal of the American Library Association). A series of politically-motivated arsons plague the Navajo Nation. Ella Clah, Navajo Police Special Investigator, pursues the arsonist, but is hampered by traditionalist Navajos' fear of the chindi. Ella's near-death experience during the collapse of an old mine-shaft has many wondering if Ella has become an evil spirit. Ella searches for the only medicine-man, who knows the Sing she needs to be cleansed, but he is missing, and while she hunts for him, more Navajo homes burn to the ground. (American)

**Allan TOPOL****Enemy of My Enemy****435pp Pb 18.95**

In Syria, a downed American pilot becomes a pawn in a sinister international conspiracy. A brilliant Syrian general has orchestrated a plan to make his country a feared nuclear power, and to unite the entire Middle East against its hated two adversaries, America and Israel. To stop the threat, daring covert agent Jack Cole must convince the alluring, enigmatic Layla Gemayel to help him infiltrate the terrorist plot before the region is engulfed in chaos. (American)

Steve VANCE**Identity****337pp Pb 16.95**

Public do-gooder Dr Ansel Heywood secretly does reconstructive surgery for the Federal Witness Protection Program, including removing people's memories to create government assassins. Searching for his vanished sister upon being released from wrongful incarceration, Bobby Preston visits Dr Heywood's practice only to become embroiled in a massive, covert project that is not turning out as the government planned. (American)

**Ann WALDRON****Unholy Death in Princeton****281pp Pb 16.95**

A *Death is Academic mystery* #3. Prize-winning journalist McLeod Dulaney is back and under suspicion after she literally stumbles over a corpse packed into a garment bag. To clear her name, she must investigate some shadowy goings-on at the Princeton Seminary, where someone may have just broken the Sixth Commandment. (American)

Liza WARD**Outside Valentine** **301pp Tp 32.95**

This extraordinarily mature and gripping novel tells the before and after of a tragic event, and shows how the effects of violence can linger on. Disturbing and intense, it is a story of devastating losses and the power of love. In 1958, as the snow fell across Nebraska, a 19-year-old James Dean look-alike Charles Starkweather and his 14-year-old girlfriend Caril-Ann Fugate climbed into a stolen car and blazed into history with a string of bloody murders that would haunt America. Many years have passed since, so why does Lowell, a Manhattan antique collector, still dream of what happened? And who is Puggy, the young girl obsessed by the story of the murders, who wonders if she will ever be loved like Starkweather loved his girl? (American)

Donald WESTLAKE**Road to Ruin** **401pp Pb 16.95**

A *Dortmunder mystery*. Fans can rejoice! Readers' favourite seasoned and often hapless crook is back in this latest caper from one of America's most popular mystery authors. This time John Dortmunder and his merry band of crooks return to the scene of the crime world in an attempt to steal a fleet of automobiles that would leave the Sultan of Brunei blushing. The mark is Monroe Hall; corrupt CEO of a now defunct conglomerate, who spent more of his company's money on himself than the boys at Enron and WorldCom combined. Having escaped prosecution, Hall is holed up on his massive Pennsylvania farm, and Dortmunder, as usual, has his eyes on the big prize: Hall's vintage wheel. (American)

Stephen WHITE**Higher Authority****420pp Pb 18.95**

Featuring the hero of White's earlier novels, Dr Alan Gregory, this thriller concerns a sexual harassment case implicating a Mormon Supreme Court judge. Gregory's fiancée, attorney Lauren Crowder, is thrown into a maelstrom of violence when a sexual harassment case embroils the nation's most powerful leaders, a killer strikes and a trail of deadly secrets shows no signs of ending. (American)

Derek WILSON**The Nature of Rare Things****222pp Hb 45.00**

Featuring *Nathaniel Gye*, paranormal investigator. When, at a séance in Cambridge, Dr Gye is commissioned by a dead man to find his killer, he dismisses the incident as a clumsy fraud. It is only when Nathaniel's wife disappears during a trip to Italy that he is forced to look for connections between her disappearance and the dead man. In this dark and fast-paced mystery, long-time or first-time fans of acclaimed writer Derek Wilson will enjoy pitting their wits against the unscrupulous manipulation of the living and the dead. (British)

**Tom WILSON****Black Serpent** **446pp Pb 18.95**

For two centuries the Sociedad Serpiente has evolved into a bloodthirsty band of anti-American outcasts and now they are making their mark on the 21st century with the help of one of the world's most feared terrorists. As an assault on American soil looms, covert operative Link Anderson is enlisted to stop it in its tracks. (American)

HISTORICAL CRIME**Carrie BEBRIS****Pride and Prescience****287pp Pb 16.95**

(Or, A Truth Universally Acknowledged). A *Mr and Mrs Darcy mystery* #1. *Regency England*. The Darcy's are the joyous newlyweds from Jane Austen's **Pride and Prejudice** (Pb 7.95). They have not even left for their honeymoon when they find themselves embroiled in a mystery involving one of their wedding guests. The lovely Caroline Bingley is engaged to marry a rich and charismatic American. Unfortunately, this windswept courtship is marred by many strange events: nocturnal wanderings, spooked horses, carriage accidents and even an apparent suicide attempt. Soon the whole Bingley family seems the target of a mysterious plot. Only the Darcys recognise the danger as the Austen genre of Regency romances mixes with the unearthly gothic threats of Ann Radcliffe and the Brontës. Dark forces are afoot and the Darcys must get to the bottom of the plot before the blushing bride descends into madness or worse. (American)

**Clare CLARK****The Great Stink** **359pp Hb 35.00**

Victorian London. William May returns to London after the horrors of the Crimean War. Scarred and fragile though he is, he lands a job at the heart of Bazalgette's transformation of the London sewers. There, in the darkness of the stinking tunnels beneath the rising towers of Victorian London, May discovers another side of the city and remembers a disturbing, violent past. And then the corruption of the growing city soon begins to overwhelm him and a violent murder is committed. Will the sewers reveal all and show that the world above ground is even darker and more threatening than the tunnels beneath? Beautifully written, evocative and compelling and with a fantastically vivid cast of characters, Clare Clarke's first book is a rich and suspenseful novel that draws the reader right into Victorian London and into the worlds of its characters desperately attempting to swim the tides of change. *Publishing News* says, "Not since Patrick Suskind wrote **Perfume** has a novelist so effectively made a story reek with atmosphere". (British)

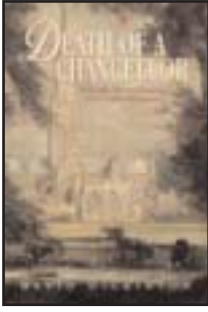


David DICKINSON
Death of a Chancellor

310pp Hb 49.95

A Murder mystery featuring Lord Francis Powerscourt. England, 1901.

Compton Cathedral is preparing to celebrate a very special anniversary: 1,000 years of Christian worship. But a few weeks before the main ceremonies at Easter, the Chancellor dies in mysterious circumstances. No one, except the doctor and the undertaker, is allowed to view the corpse. It soon transpires that the Chancellor was one of the richest men in England and his sister suspects foul play. The discreet and well bred investigator Lord Francis Powerscourt is asked to look into the case. As he paces the ancient cloisters and listens to evensong from the choir stalls, there is a truly dreadful incident: the dead body of one of the choristers is discovered, turning and turning on the great spit in the Vicar's Hall kitchen. With narrative skill and a real understanding of the period, Dickinson takes us once again into a past that is in many ways more exciting and more dangerous than our own time. (British)



Mark GATISS

The Vesuvius Club 240pp Tp 29.95



A Lucifer Box novel. Edwardian London. Lucifer Box is the most fashionable portrait painter of his day: trading bon mots with the best of them and ruthlessly exploiting his talent and dandified beauty

to enter every level of this intriguing society. From his elegant townhouse at Number 9 Downing Street (well, someone has to live there) to his vast studio in Chelsea, from the snow-choked streets of St Petersburg to the sun-bleached hotels of Mentone, life is one long, dazzling party. Of course, leading a double life is terribly fashionable and Lucifer Box is not to be outdone. For what Box's fashionable circle would never believe is that their witty, cheerfully bisexual friend is also a secret agent. Stephen Fry says "The most delicious, depraved, inventive, macabre and hilarious literary debut I can think of. More, I want more!" (British)

Laurie R KING

The Game 442pp Pb 16.95

Featuring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes. 1924, London. It is the second day of the New Year and Mary Russell is settling in for a much-needed rest with her husband Sherlock Holmes. But the fragile peace is fleeting, for a visit with Holmes's gravely ill brother Mycroft brings news of an intrigue that is sure to halt their respite. Mycroft, who has ties to the highest levels of the government, has just received a strange package. The oilskin-wrapped packet contains the papers of a missing English spy named Kimball O'Hara. Indeed, the same Kimball who served as the inspiration for Rudyard Kipling's famed Kim. An orphaned English boy turned loose in India, Kim long used his cunning to spy for the Crown. But after inexplicably withdrawing from the Great Game of border espionage, he has gone missing and is feared taken hostage or even killed. (American)

Robin PAIGE

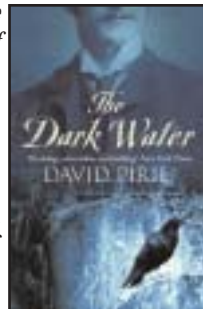
Death in Hyde Park 296pp Pb 16.95

An Edwardian mystery. Coronation Day, 1902, London. Charles and Kate Sheridan are pleased to be at the crowning of their king. But when an anarchist accidentally blows himself up with a bomb meant for the monarch, Charles and Kate turn up a number of intriguing and disturbing questions. For example, what is mysterious, beautiful Charlotte Conway, editor of the anarchist newspaper where the dead man was employed, doing in the arms of expatriate author Jack London? (American)

David PIRIE

The Dark Water 434pp Pb 22.95

Murder Rooms #3: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes. Dr Bell and Arthur Doyle are reunited once again in their quest to hunt down a criminal mastermind in a sinister tale of intrigue and violence, which reaches a terrifying and dramatic climax. Imprisoned in a dank cottage deep in the English countryside, Arthur Doyle lies half-unconscious and at the mercy of his nemesis, Cream. Gathering all his dwindling strength he smashes a window and crawls to safety. With a sharp piece of broken glass he awaits his torturer's return, but Cream has eluded him once more, leaving behind the rotting body of a local miser. More hideous crimes are yet to come as Dr Bell and Doyle move closer and closer to confronting Cream: Bell to capture the notorious villain, Doyle to avenge himself for a crime which robbed him of his future happiness. (British)



Elizabeth REDFERN

Auriel Rising 422pp Pb 24.95

Autumn, 1609. London. It is six years since the death of the much-revered Elizabeth I and the Scottish King James I came to the throne. There is no denying that London is still alive with culture, but the core is rotten, for James' court is greedy and extravagant. Since the death of alchemical magus Dr John Dee, charlatans and forgers have a free hand to trick a gullible public into buying formulas for making gold. In the wider political scene it seems that England's honour has been pawned. A peace treaty has been signed with the Catholic enemy Spain, but the stability it brings is riven by rumblings of internal discontent against the Scottish king and his advisers. There is an underlying atmosphere of fear at the court, heightened by the paranoia of King James. His alienated son and heir, the 15-year-old Prince Henry, looks on, dour, disapproving and ambitious and secretly thinking that if he were king, he would be leading an army at the French king's side, against the old enemy Spain. (British)

P B RYAN

Death on Beacon Hill 259pp Pb 16.95

A Gilded Age mystery. 1869, Boston. As governess to the Hewitts, Irish immigrant Nell Sweeney belongs to no particular caste, hers is halfway between her Irish brethren and the Boston Brahmin. But now, a double murder involves both maid and mistress and it will take cooperation by rich and poor alike to solve it. (American)

Alan VANNEMAN

Sherlock Holmes and the Hapsburg Tiara 318pp 32.95

Victorian London. In a crafty new novel featuring the world's greatest literary detective, Alan Vanneman extends the boundaries of the Sherlock Holmes canon with a knotty investigation that takes the celebrated sleuth and his cohort Dr Watson far from the cosy Victorian comforts of 221B Baker Street. They are summoned to a crime scene that, not so familiarly, seems to vanish before their eyes, as they find themselves with neither evidence nor a client. They do not want for opposition, however; not with the governments of three great empires arrayed against them. As Holmes strives to unmask his most cunning, ruthless and elusive foe, he is transported into a world of high finance rife with intrigue and crime. With a cast of characters that includes the enchanting lady of fortune Countess D'Espinou and historical greats like Winston Churchill and Cecil Rhodes as well as a poorest-of-the-poor beggar girl whom Watson adopts, Holmes follows a trail that leads ultimately and unpredictably to the fabled and fabulous lost Hapsburg tiara. (American)



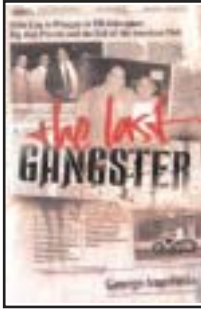
CRIME NON-FICTION



George ANASTASIA The Last Gangster

341pp Pb 18.95

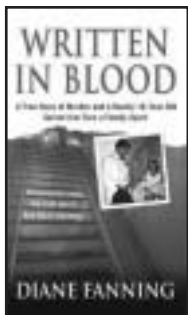
From Cop to Wiseguy to FBI Informant: Big Ron Preville and the fall of the American Mob. As a cop Ron Preville was corrupt. As a mobster he was brutal. And in his final role, as a c o n f i d e n t i a l informant to the FBI,



Preville was deadly. This is his story, the story of the last days of the Philadelphia mob and of the clash of generations that brought it down once and for all. By the 1990s, Preville, an old-school workhorse, found himself answering to younger mob bosses like Skinny Joey Merlina. Spoiled, cocky, and careless, the young, up-and-coming gangsters were hungry for the media's attention and the public's recognition. Gone were the days of loyalty and discretion. Convinced that the honour of the "business" was over, Preville became the FBI's secret weapon in an intense and highly personalised war on the Philadelphia mob. (American)

Diane FANNING Written in Blood

405pp Pb 16.95

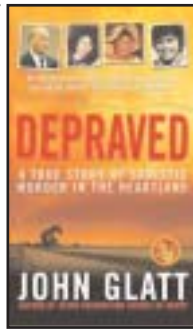


Michael Peterson was an army brat-turned-marine, he saw combat in Vietnam and returned a decorated soldier. An avid reader, his dreams of being an acclaimed novelist came true. His desire to find love was fulfilled when he married brilliant executive Kathleen Atwater, the first female student accepted at Duke University's School of Engineering. The Petersons seemed the ideal academic couple: well-respected, prosperous and happy. All that came crashing down in December of 2001, when Kathleen apparently fell to her death in their secluded home in an exclusive area of Durham, North Carolina. A dramatic trial followed in the explosive final chapter of a life that no novelist could ever have conceived... (American)

John GLATT Depraved

241pp Pb 16.95

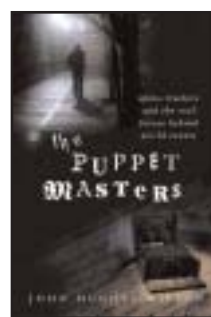
A True Story of Sadistic Murder in the Heartland. John Edward Robinson was a 56-year-old grandfather from rural Kansas. An entrepreneur and Eagle Scout, he was even honoured as Man of the Year at a Kansas City charity.



Masquerading as a philanthropist, he promised women money and adventure. For 15 years, he trawled the Web, snaring unsuspecting victims. They were never seen again. But in the summer of 2000, the decomposed remains of two women were discovered in barrels on Robinson's farm, and three other bodies were found in storage units. Yet the depths of Robinson's bloodlust did not end there. For authorities, the unspeakable criminal trail of Slavemaster was just beginning... (British)

John HUGHES-WILSON

The Puppet Masters 479pp Hb 49.95



Spies, Traitors and the Real Forces behind World Events. The author is a recently retired British Colonel who argues that Military Intelligence - not prostitution - is the world's oldest profession, although

the two often overlap. From the prostitute in Jericho who hid Joshua's spies, to the infamous KGB 'honey traps' that ensnared CIA agents, ladies of the night appear with salacious frequency in spy history. Secret intelligence networks were the key to success for all the great statesmen and generals from Caesar and Genghis Khan to Cardinal Richelieu and George Washington. With radio, telephone and email, the mechanics of espionage have been transformed. The vast agencies spawned by the Cold War have now been reinvented for the 'war on terror'. Against this history of espionage, Hughes-Wilson investigates the "monumental intelligence failure" of 9/11 and describes the progress of the undercover war against Al Qaida. A riveting read. (British)

Helen MacDONALD Human Remains

220pp Tp 34.95

Episodes in human dissection. Bone collecting, body snatching and the politics of the trade in human remains are a gothic tale still h a u n t i n g contemporary life. This book tells the scandalous story of how medical men



obtained the corpses upon which they worked before anatomy was regulated in Australia and Britain. Moving back and forth between Britain and the island penal colony of Tasmania, the book examines an era when convicted murderers received the double sentence of both death and dissection; the poor who died in hospital were routinely turned over to the surgeons for study; and men traded in human remains, including those of Aboriginal people. Helen MacDonald is an award-winning historian and Postdoctoral Fellow at the Australian Centre, University of Melbourne. (Australian)

Damian MARRETT Undercover

242pp Tp 27.95



Damian Marrett was just 19 years of age when he joined the Victoria Police in 1986 as a somewhat reluctant recruit. Four years down the track, he was handpicked to work in a covert capacity for the Drug Squad. A further six years

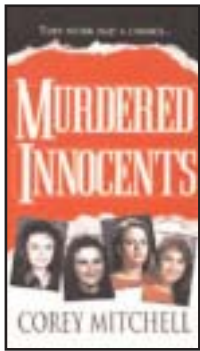
working undercover, and Marrett had played a major role in up to 50 operations. The young detective was responsible for some of the biggest drug busts in Australian law enforcement history. His infiltration of the previously impenetrable Griffith Mafia, codenamed Operation Afghan, is still regarded as Australia's most complex covert sting operation. It lasted for an exhausting nine months and throughout that time Marrett was compelled to stay in character as knockabout drug dealer Ben Gleeson. Not only did he have the bad guys under surveillance, the bad guys were returning the favour in kind. After months of subterfuge, Afghan concluded in a tense stand-off in country NSW. Marrett's penetrating yet darkly comic insights into undercover work reveal a style of policing that is often shrouded in secrecy. Told with grim humour and astonishing candour, this is Marrett's own remarkable story. (Australian)

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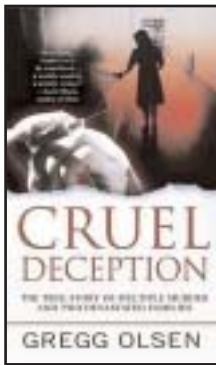
Murdered Innocents

429pp Pb 16.95

On 6 December 1991, fresh-faced teens Jennifer Harbison and Eliza Thomas began to close up the Austin, Texas yogurt shop where they worked. They were joined by Jennifer's younger sister Sarah and her friend Amy Ayers. Less than an hour later, all four girls were dead, apparently the victims of a fire. But closer examination revealed that they had been bound and gagged, sexually assaulted and executed. It was the most horrific crime the peaceful college town had seen since the infamous University of Texas tower shootings in 1966. (American)

Gregg OLSEN
Cruel Deception

371pp Pb 16.95



In and out of hospitals since birth, angelic nine-month-old Morgan Reid finally succumbed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Morgan's Texas-born mother Tanya, a nurse and devoted wife, pulled up stakes with her grieving husband Jim and moved on. It was the best way to put the past behind them. Until their son Michael, a boy who by all accounts was terrified of his mother, began showing signs of the same affliction that stole the life of his baby sister. First, the suspicion: Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy. Then, Tanya was charged and convicted with felony child abuse of her son. She was later tried and ultimately convicted for first degree murder of Morgan. It would become a landmark trial that unfolded in a series of reversals and bizarre twists of

fate as it gradually revealed another side of Tanya Reid, of her own troubling childhood and the dark secrets that drove a woman to the cruellest deception of all... (American)

Sgt Randy SUTTON (editor)
True Blue

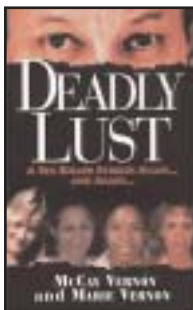
298pp Pb 16.95



Police Stories by those who have lived them. After September 11, 2001, Las Vegas Police Sergeant Randy Sutton began soliciting writing from law enforcement officers. His goal? To bridge the gap between the police and those they serve, with a book that offers a broad and thoughtful look at the many facets of police life. Hundreds of active and former officers responded from all over the United States. Sutton culled the selections into five categories: The Beat, Line of Duty, War Stories, Officer Down and Ground Zero. This is the result, a collection of funny, charming, exciting and haunting stories about murder investigations, missing children, bungling burglars, car chases, lonely and desperate shut-ins, routine traffic stops, officers killed in the line of duty, and the life-changing events of September 11. In these stories, the heart and soul behind the badge shines through in unexpected ways and may help change the way we think about the deeply human realm of police service. (American)

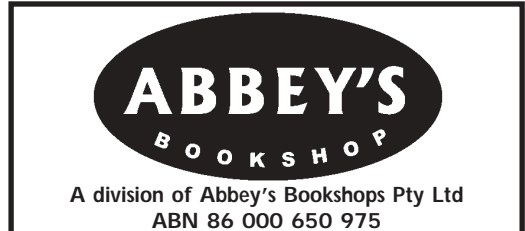
McCay & Marie VERNON
Deadly Lust

346pp Pb 16.95



29 November 1988, Anita Stevens climbed into a stranger's vehicle, thinking to turn a quick trick to fund her drug habit. She was the first to die. Over the next six years, six more prostitutes would fall victim to the same phantom killer, slain by gun, blunt objects, a strangler's noose - and the murderer's bare hands. His signature was the obscene poses in which he arranged his half-nude victims. Frustrated by false confessions, investigators sifted through a myriad of suspects until a murder in Asheville, North Carolina led them to the real killer - William Darrell Lindsey. Twice-married, a father of five, Lindsey had drifted across the South for years. Wherever

he went, rape and murder followed. He admitted to seven sex slayings, but experts believe that the death toll was somewhere between 12 and 20. Here is the chilling true story of a fiend whose sadistic lust was the most depraved addiction of all. (American)



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