

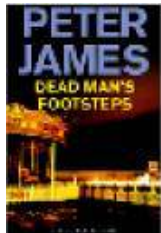


DEAD MAN'S FOOTSTEPS

by Peter James
Macmillan
rrp \$32.99

For ne'er-do-well Ronnie Wilson, 9/11 serves as an opportunity to disappear and reinvent himself. Five years later, the grisly discovery of a woman's remains in a storm drain send Detective Superintendent Roy Grace on an international investigation. At stake is another woman's life. James deftly controls the suspense in a pleasing thriller.

IN A WORD: Gripping



HIGH POTENTIAL

by Ber Carroll
Macmillan
rrp \$32.99

Katie Horgan's legal career is on the rise, but her love life is stalling. Enter brilliant, handsome Jim Donnelly. Sent to Ireland for work, Katie befriends the quirky Mags, traces her family and yearns for Jim. When disaster strikes, everyone's true colours are revealed. There's a lot happening here, but Carroll avoids confusion and melodrama.

IN A WORD: Compelling



THE DAWN PATROL

by Don Winslow
Random House
rrp \$32.95

Boone Daniels – one of the worst character names ever – is a surfing Californian PI with a team of colourful colleagues all waiting for the wave of a lifetime. Boone's latest case involves one dead stripper, one missing stripper, Hawaiian gangs, human trafficking and ghosts from the past. Winslow's laidback approach appeals and Boone's a great character.

IN A WORD: Gnarly



AIR KISSES

by Zoe Foster
Michael Joseph
rrp \$32.95

Hannah Atkins is beauty editor at *Gloss* magazine and thrives in a superficial world until being unceremoniously and embarrassingly dumped by her boyfriend. Determined to restore her name and dignity, Hannah adopts a manifesto of hardcore rules, all of which she begins to break. Can she be redeemed and prevail? Of course she can, for this is chick-lit.

IN A WORD: Cosmetic

THE SECRET FRIEND

by Chris Mooney
Michael Joseph
rrp \$32.95

Darby McCormick's investigation into the deaths of two students leads the Boston CSI agent to Malcolm Fletcher, once with the FBI and now wanted for murder. When a third student goes missing, Darby begins a deadly game with a disturbing foe. This journey into the darkness of the human psyche is often terrifying, but worth taking.

IN A WORD: Sinister

PITCH BLACK

by Alex Gray
Sphere
rrp \$32.99

DCI Lorimer returns . . . hooray! Lorimer has barely settled in after a holiday when Kelvin FC's new star midfielder is brutally murdered and his wife is nabbed trying to scarp. It all seems straightforward for Lorimer until a local referee and the club's star signing are also dispatched. There's a serial killer on the loose and plenty of lies, tensions and menace.

IN A WORD: Goal!

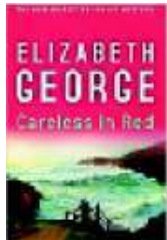
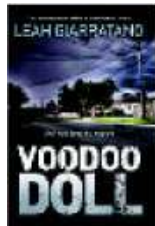


VOODOO DOLL

by Leah Giarratano
Bantam
rrp \$32.95

Terrific crime fiction led by a strong female character. Sergeant Jill Jackson is freshly promoted and part of a taskforce investigating a crime gang operating in southwest Sydney. Soon the team members realise they're on the trail of a psychopath, and his victims hold the clues. Absorbing from go to whoa, Giarratano never lets up the pace or tension.

IN A WORD: Gritty

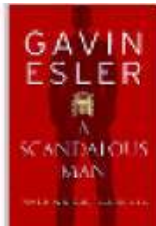


A SCANDALOUS MAN

by Gavin Esler
HarperCollins
rrp \$32.99

Politician Robin Burnett is powerful, bright and has pals in Downing Street, the White House and the CIA, until a sex scandal scuppers his career. Amid the corruption, lies and ambition, Esler provides a fascinating insight into the pursuit of power and his scenarios involving political relationships, between people and countries, feel utterly credible.

IN A WORD: Ruthless

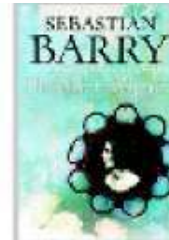


THE PALACE OF STRANGE GIRLS

by Sallie Day
HarperCollins
rrp \$29.99

Summer, 1959, and the Singletons are holidaying in Blackpool. Jack Singleton has much to consider, including aloof, ambitious wife Ruth, sickly daughter Beth, teenage daughter Helen and a secret from the wartime past. An intriguing story unfolds as the ramifications of each character's behaviour are realised. This is quite a family holiday.

IN A WORD: Revealing



CARELESS IN RED

by Elizabeth George
Hodder & Stoughton
rrp \$32.99

Three months after his wife's murder, detective Thomas Lynley is walking Cornwall's South-West Coast Path when he sees a cliff climber fall to his death. Then he meets a young woman whose personal history before the age of 13 is unknown. These events propel Lynley and colleague Barbara Havers into a world of murder and revenge. Good rainy day reading.

IN A WORD: Mysterious

THE GIRL WHO STOPPED SWIMMING

by Joshilyn Jackson
Hodder
rrp \$22.99

Laurel Hawthorne's doing a fine job raising her daughter in an open household. Things go awry with the appearance of the ghost of 14-year-old neighbour Molly, who drowned in Laurel's pool. With the help of her eccentric sister, Laurel investigates Molly's death, uncovering sinister truths she thought had been long forgotten. Creepy and clever.

IN A WORD: Chilling

THE SECRET SCRIPTURE

by Sebastian Barry
Faber & Faber
rrp \$32.95

Nearing 100, Roseanne McNulty has spent most of her adult life in Ireland's Roscommon mental hospital, which is about to close. As Roseanne talks to psychiatrist Dr Grene, their respective journals detail a shocking, yet beautiful story about the character of a country and a life devastated by ignorance, yet also marked by love and hope. Wonderful and moving.

IN A WORD: Sublime