

Nine Dragons

Author: Michael Connelly
Publisher: Allen & Unwin
RRP: \$32.99

Harry Bosch responds to a homicide call at Fortune Liquors in South LA. The Chinese owner has been shot to death behind the counter in a robbery.

With members of the department's Asian Crime Unit, Bosch relentlessly investigates the killing and soon identifies a subject, a Los Angeles member of a Hong Kong triad. But before Harry can close in, he gets the word that his young daughter, Maddie, who lives in Hong Kong with her mother, is missing.

Bosch drops everything to journey across the Pacific to find his daughter. Could her disappearance and the case be connected? With the stakes of the investigation so high and so personal, Bosch is up against the clock in a new city, where nothing is as it seems.

Blood Moon

Author: Garry Disher
Publisher: Text Publishing
RRP: \$23.95

Schoolies Week. With hordes of excited teenagers, you'd expect public drunkenness, the occasional punch-up, and maybe even some drink-spiking. But a bloodied corpse turns up on a rural property. Could things get any worse for the overstretched Waterloo police?

Well, yes. Toolies prey on Schoolies. A school counsellor is in a coma after a savage beating. A racist blogger starts causing trouble, and suddenly things get political. And amid all

the work pressure, Ellen Destry and Hal Challis are working on something more than a professional relationship.

A gripping police procedural, *Blood Moon* is the fifth book in Garry Disher's celebrated series of novels featuring DI Hal Challis and Sgt Ellen Destry. It reflects serious cultural issues as well as being a thoroughly entertaining, escapist read.

The Borgia Ring

Author: Michael White
Publisher: Bantam Australia
RRP: 32.95

When builders dig up an ancient skeleton in the City of London, they have no idea of the poisonous legacy they have just unleashed. For on the skeleton's finger is a beautiful emerald ring that once belonged to Lucrezia Borgia, the most powerful – and most evil – woman of the Renaissance.

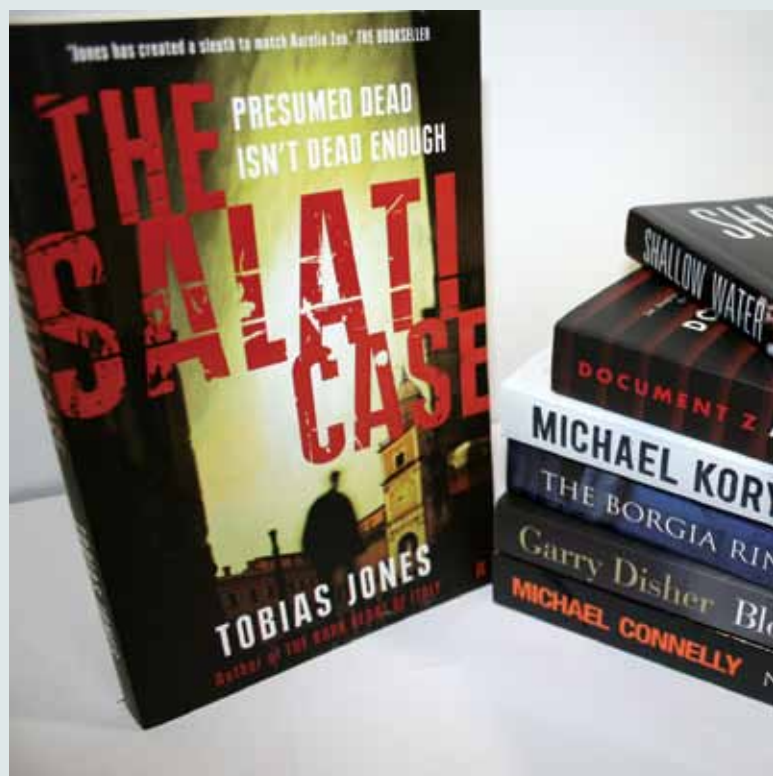
Hours later, the skeleton has vanished and one man is dead.

For newly transferred DCI Jack Pendragon, it's a first case he could have done without. And with two more gruesome deaths in quick succession, it's clear that there's a killer out there with a deadly compulsion. A killer who is drawing his murderous inspiration from a 15th-century family whose cruelty and depravity knew no limits.

Shallow Water

Author: Stuart Black
Publisher: Sid Harta Publishing
RRP: \$24.95

Down-to-earth Aussie builder and sometime musician Brad West is a fish out of water when he marries wealthy London beauty Jemma Beckford. He finds himself with



an entrée into London's high society and the opportunity to pursue his creative desires.

But when the Beckford family patriarch passes away and Jemma is denied access to the family fortune, Brad instead finds himself caught up in a web of familial jealousy and intrigues.

Faced with a lifeless body by the side of the road in Notting Hill, a gorgeous but high-maintenance wife on a self-destructive path, littered with drugs and alcohol, and then another untimely death – this time in the shallows of the stunning Great Barrier Reef – life for Brad West is not turning out the way he expected.

Before he can make any sense of it, he's going to have to confront a few home truths about the family he's married into.

The Salati Case

Author: Tobias Jones
Publisher: Faber & Faber
RRP: \$29.99

Set in the fog of a northern Italian winter, *The Salati Case* introduces Casta, a private detective with a hard-boiled exterior and a soft centre.

Castagnetti (informally known as "Casta") is a private detective who doesn't do things by the book. He's dogged and lonely, impatient with the world of appearances and deceit.

So, when a pompous notary commissions him to verify that a missing person is "presumed dead" in order to dispose of a dead woman's estate to the other heir, Casta smells a rat. Before long he's re-opening wounds from years ago and exposing family secrets to those who have tried to suppress them.

The relatives of Signora Salati just want their inheritance, but Casta isn't the sort to content himself with "presumed dead". He likes the certainty that comes from seeing a skeleton. As the case progresses, other corpses appear and Casta realizes he's at the centre of an old-fashioned Italian whodunit.

The Silent Hour

Author: Michael Koryta
Publisher: Arena
RRP: \$32.99

Alexandra Sanabria's Whisper Ridge housed the beginnings

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were uncovered. Police investigations are re-opened and Perry begins to question his initial instincts about the case.

Document Z

Author: Andrew Croome
Publisher: Allen & Unwin
RRP: \$23.99

Canberra 1951. The Cold War is at its height. Into an atmosphere of paranoia, rumour and suspicion, Vladimir and Evdokia Petrov are among a group of new arrivals at the Soviet Embassy. Both are party loyalists, working for the MVD, Moscow Intelligence.

Yet all is not well in the new city of Canberra.

The atmosphere in the Embassy is tense and suspicious; the ambassador resents their presence, and is secretly working to have Vladimir disgraced and recalled.

Meanwhile, ASIO is determined to discover who in this new group works for the MVD.

Only three short years later, Vladimir has defected and his wife Evdokia is held prisoner at the Soviet Embassy, waiting to be transported back to Russia to face punishment or death for his crime.

of a unique programme for paroled murderers, but the multi-million-dollar piece of architectural majesty has been uninhabited for 12 years, and now stands as a strange monument to dangerous secrets.

When convicted killer, and former Whisper Ridge parolee, Parker Harrison approaches Lincoln Perry PI to look into the decade-old disappearance of Alexandra and her husband, Perry is initially mistrustful of him, but takes the case on when challenged about his attitude to prisoner rehabilitation.

Perry discovers that Harrison's approach came at the same time the skeletal remains of Alexandra's husband



The French Kissers (MA 15+)

The French Kissers is a rollicking tale of two teens who, far removed from the cool crowd, suffer the endless embarrassments and minor triumphs of their first sexual longings.

Herve (Vincent Lacoste) and his sidekick Camel (Anthony Sonigo) forever fantasize over their female classmates, but rarely go as far as actually talking to any of them, apart from mumbling a few incoherent insults.

But when Herve inexplicably catches the eye of the sweet but equally hormone-fuelled Aurore (Alice Tremolieres), he's pushed to choose between his first probable girlfriend, his unquenchable libido, and his best friend. Season commences December 26.



Nowhere Boy

Imagine John Lennon's childhood: a lonely but sharp teenager growing up in the shattered city of Liverpool. Two incredible women clash for his love – Mimi (Kristin Scott-Thomas), the formidable aunt who raised him, and Julia (Anne-Marie Duff), the spirited mother who gave him up.

John (Aaron Johnson) escapes into music, and his fledgling genius finds a kindred spirit in the young Paul McCartney. But just as John's new life begins, the truth about his past leads to a tragedy he would never escape. This is the untold story of the boy who created The Beatles. Season commences December 26.

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