

A Dark Matter

Author: Peter Straub
Publisher: Orion
RRP: \$32.99

Spenser Mallon led a group of young students to witness a brutal, ritual murder 40 years ago. The survivors never recovered. Now it seems he's back.

The charismatic and cunning Mallon is a campus guru in the 1960s, attracting the devotion of, and demanding sexual favours from, his young acolytes.

After he invites his most fervent followers to attend a secret ritual in a local meadow, the only thing that remains is a gruesomely dismembered body – and the shattered souls of all who were present.

Years later, one man attempts to understand what happened to his wife and friends by writing a book about that horrible night. Through this process, the survivors are able to examine the unspeakable event that has bound them in ways they cannot fathom, and has haunted all of them though their lives.

As the old friends try to come to grips with the darkness of the past, they find themselves face-to-face with the evil triggered so many years earlier.

Caught

Author: Harlan Coben
Publisher: Orion
RRP: \$32.99

Seventeen-year-old Haley McWaid is a good girl, the pride

of her suburban New Jersey family, captain of the lacrosse team, headed off to college next year with all the hopes and dreams her doting parents can pin on her.

But her mother wakes up one morning to find that Haley never came home the night before. Three months quickly pass without word from the girl, and the community assumes the worst.

Wendy Tynes is a reporter on a mission, to identify and bring down sexual predators via elaborate – and nationally televised – sting operations.

Working with local police on her news programme, *Caught in the Act*, Wendy and her team have publicly shamed dozens of men by the time she encounters her latest target. Dan Mercer is a social worker known as a friend to troubled teens, but his story soon becomes more complicated.

Caught tells the story of a missing girl, the community stunned by her loss, the predator who may have taken her, and the reporter who suddenly realizes she can't trust her own instincts about this case – or the motives of the people around her.

Making it Happen

Author: Peter Sheahan
Publisher: William Heinemann Australia
RRP: \$34.95

Got a great idea? Who cares? "The world does not need more ideas; it needs more people who know how to act on their ideas," says Peter Sheahan, a 29-year-old CEO of two multimillion-dollar businesses.

"Too many people believe they



merely have to think positive thoughts and millions will fall out of the sky into their laps."

Having once cleaned toilets in a pub, this self-made man knows better. Building on his first-hand experience and research into human behaviour, Sheahan outlines the five competencies we need to master if we are to turn our good ideas into great results.

He shows individuals how to take their ideas, package them correctly and convince someone to part with his or her valuable time and money in exchange for them.

With real-world case studies and practical advice, *Making it Happen* will enable its readers to stop dreaming and start doing.

The Weed that Strings the Hangman's Bag

Author: Alan Bradley
Publisher: Orion
RRP: \$32.99

Murder, mystery and puppetry come to the 1950s village of Bishop's Lacey in the sequel to Flavia de Luce mystery *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*.

Flavia is the precocious,

pig-tailed girl-detective and amateur poisoner. The next novel in the series opens with the unlikely phrase "I was lying dead in the churchyard", spoken – astonishingly – by Flavia herself. And, then, the plot thickens, culminating in a funeral watched by the de Luce family on a new-fangled invention called television.

In between, Alan Bradley weaves a hauntingly nightmarish and quintessentially English tale in which the arrival of a travelling puppet show, featuring the macabre Punch & Judy – along with Mr Punch's terrifying nemesis, the hangman, Jack Ketch – foreshadows a grisly murder.

This death harks back to an even nastier crime centred upon the village's ancient rotting gibbet, or gallows.

The Hopeless Life of Charlie Summers

Author: Paul Torday
Publisher: Weidenfeld & Nicolson
RRP: \$32.99

Hector Chetwode-Talbot, Eck to his friends, has left the army after a rather nasty moment in Colombia. From a privileged



the financial crash looming, however, Eck begins to ask himself if they are so very different.

Thereby hangs a tail

Author: *Spencer Quinn*
Publisher: *Allen & Unwin/Arena*
RRP: \$23.99

In the sequel to the bestselling *Dog On It*, Chet and Bernie are plunged into the dog-eat-dog world of pure-bred dog shows when pampered pooch Princess and her owner are abducted.

Bernie Little and his canine companion, Chet, are private investigators. Both have had some setbacks in life but together they make up a team like no other.

The pair is hired to investigate threats made against Princess. What seems like a joke turns serious when Princess and her owner are abducted. And to make matters worse, Bernie's on-again, off-again girlfriend, reporter Susie Sanchez, disappears too.

When Chet gets separated from Bernie, he tries to put the pieces together, find his way home, and save the day.

background, he is slightly at a loss as to what to do next, when he is approached by old army pal Bilbo Mountwilliam. Bilbo runs an investment fund company and persuades Eck to join it.

On a golfing trip to France with his friend, Henry Newark, Eck first meets Charlie Summers, a fly-by-night entrepreneur who is hiding out in France after a "misunderstanding" with Her Majesty's Customs and Revenue.

Charlie's latest scheme is to import Japanese dog food into the UK. Henry casually mentions that Charlie should "look us up" if he is ever in Gloucestershire.

But not only does Charlie Summers look Henry up, he also arrives with his suitcase, intent on staying with the Newarks and relaunching his dog-food business in their area. With

win a book!

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Beneath Hill 60

Below the trenches of the Western Front in World War I, another war was taking place, a deadly game 30 metres down, played out between thousands of troops. These were not infantrymen, but miners. Their goal was to tunnel under the opposing lines to destroy the German enemy from below.

Unfortunately, the Germans had the same idea and were digging in from the other side. More than 4,585 Australian miners took part in this secret subterranean war, fighting under conditions that terrified even the most hardened infantryman on the surface. Their extraordinary story has never been told on screen. Season commences April 15.



Accidents Happen

The debut feature from Australian writer/director Andrew Lancaster was runner-up in the Audience Award at the 2009 Sydney Film Festival. *Accidents Happen* is a brash and moving comedy about family, fate and misfortune in 1980s American suburbia.

Fifteen-year-old Billy Conway has been witness to a series of freaky accidents, including one that fractured his whole family. Always the good boy, Billy takes up with the neighbourhood troublemaker, and the ensuing collision of truth and self-discovery may be just what his family needs to move on. Stars Geena Davis, Harrison Gilbertson and Erik Thomson. Season commences April 22.

win a movie pass!

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