

## **BOOK REVIEWS – SEPTEMBER 2011**

***The Complaints by Ian Rankin – Orion Books 2009.*** From the well known 'Rebus' author. This time there is no Rebus instead the story involves the complaints and conduct department where police investigate police. This is where we meet Malcolm Fox and enjoy a very good and interesting read. Fox is given the task of investigating Jamie Breck, a dirty cop. But can he prove it. A murder occurs and Fox has to push aside his personal life, an ageing father, his sisters abusive marriage and focus on bringing Breck to justice. Be prepared to be turning pages quickly as this is another great storyline from Mr Rankin.

***The Devil Rides Out by Paul O'Grady – Bantam Press 2010.*** Well loved, this celebrity writes as he talks and it makes the book enjoyable and humorous. I enjoyed his first biography ***At My Mother's Knee*** which detailed his life up until he turned eighteen and consisted of family and funny stories of growing up in Liverpool. This second book I did find funny, especially his description and interpretation of his life and troubles, but didn't quite enjoy it as much, even though it brings his life up to when Lily Savage first appeared on the scene and he had finally found what he wanted to do with his life. There was quite a few surprises relating to his past careers and found myself warming to this very kind hearted man. It wasn't an easy journey for Mr O'Grady, and he was slightly wayward at times but he never lost his sense of humour. I can't help but think there will be a third biography as it will be interesting to read about his 'celebrity' life onwards once Lily Savage was born.

***A is for Alibi by Sue Grafton – Macmillan 1986.*** I am rather surprised that I have never read a Sue Grafton book! The British Book store used to have them all but I was always busy with other more popular authors. Well finally I have got around to the first one and enjoyed being introduced to Kinsey Millhone, Private Investigator. When Nikki Fife is released on parole after serving eight years she seeks out Kinsey's experience as she is adamant that she did not kill her husband. Kinsey accepts the case and thus starts her investigations which takes her into some dark places. I found the novel enjoyable, fast-paced and quite witty at times. Now that I have read the first one I will certainly be looking out for ***B is for Burglar*** which no doubt I will review next time. I can't believe she started in 1986 and can't wait to see if the books get better and more thrilling as the years go by.

***Blind Eye by Stuart McBride – HarperCollins 2009.*** My first experience of this author from the Granite City (Aberdeen). The thoughtful librarian busy date stamping the book warned me with one word 'gory'! And it was. Not quite my usual reading but I was attending an author night where Mr McBride was the guest author and thought I should do some research by finding out what kind of books he writes. This novel is focused on a serial killer who targets Polish migrants. We are introduced to Detective Sergeant Logan McRae at Grampain Police Headquarters. Mutilated bodies are found at building sites with the victims eyes gouged out and the sockets burned. If I tell you that's just the start, not to mention the drugs, prostitution rings and guns, you might get an idea of the books contents. Fast-paced with dry humour and very believable. With DS McRae turning out to be a likeable guy.