

BOOK REVIEWS – FEBRUARY 2019.

I Let Him Go by Denise Fergus Published by Blink Publishing (2018).

The world was shocked when little James Bulger was murdered. His mother, Denise the author, opens up her heart to re-live that dreadful, awful day when she walked into the butchers, holding her sons hand to buy two pork chops. What happened next was horrendous! The book actually starts with the moment she let his hand go to pay for the butcher meat. How the author managed to write this heartbreaking, loving story is unbelievable. You will be with her every step of the way. Poignant, honest and shocking that this could happen, but it is the truth about what really took place that day and the aftermath of discovering it was two ten year old boys that had brutally murdered little James. *(A portion from the sale of this book will be donated to The James Bulger Memorial Trust).*

The Blissfully Dead by Louise Voss and Mark Edwards Published by Thomas & Mercer (2015).

Having read a few of Mark Edwards, *The Magpies* being the best, I decided to try this book written with co-author, Louise Voss. I was intrigued by the content as the focus is on a boy band and the fascinating story of the young girl fans and just how much they get involved in following their adored band via social media. Rivalry, jealousy, not to mention fan fiction and shipping! Which simply means the fans post explicit fantasy stories in which they are involved with one of the band members. It gets out of hand when two of the fans are murdered. DI Patrick Lennon leading the case is mystified at the first murder until the second body is found and he realises fans of the biggest boy band in the world are being targeted.

He then proceeds to make the biggest mistake of his career which ends in disaster! Can he stop further killings? This is a deep insight into the entertainment world and the horrors and dangers of social media. Interesting read.

Dry Hard by Nick Spalding Published by Lake Union Publishing (*Amazon Inc*) 2019.

Have any readers ever tried to give something up, like smoking, drinking or excess eating? This book is funny as the two main characters discover after 20 years of marriage that the only thing they have in common is alcohol! They blame work related stress. It is all too easy to relax and de-stress with a bottle of wine or two or even a bottle of gin every night. Their antics are humorous if not a little over the top, the tractor incident at the start of the book especially, but, it all comes to a head one drunken Christmas day. They have ruined it for the family, yet again. More so for their teenage daughter, Holly, who is horrified. So much so that she films them in their drunken state and posts it on YouTube!! The outcome is embarrassing and horrendous. Therefore the second part of this story is all about how they sober up, win back the affection of their daughter and discover the power of social media in this day and age. Enjoyable read.