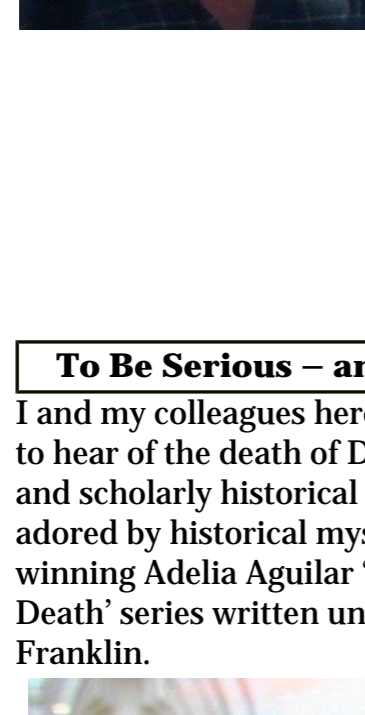
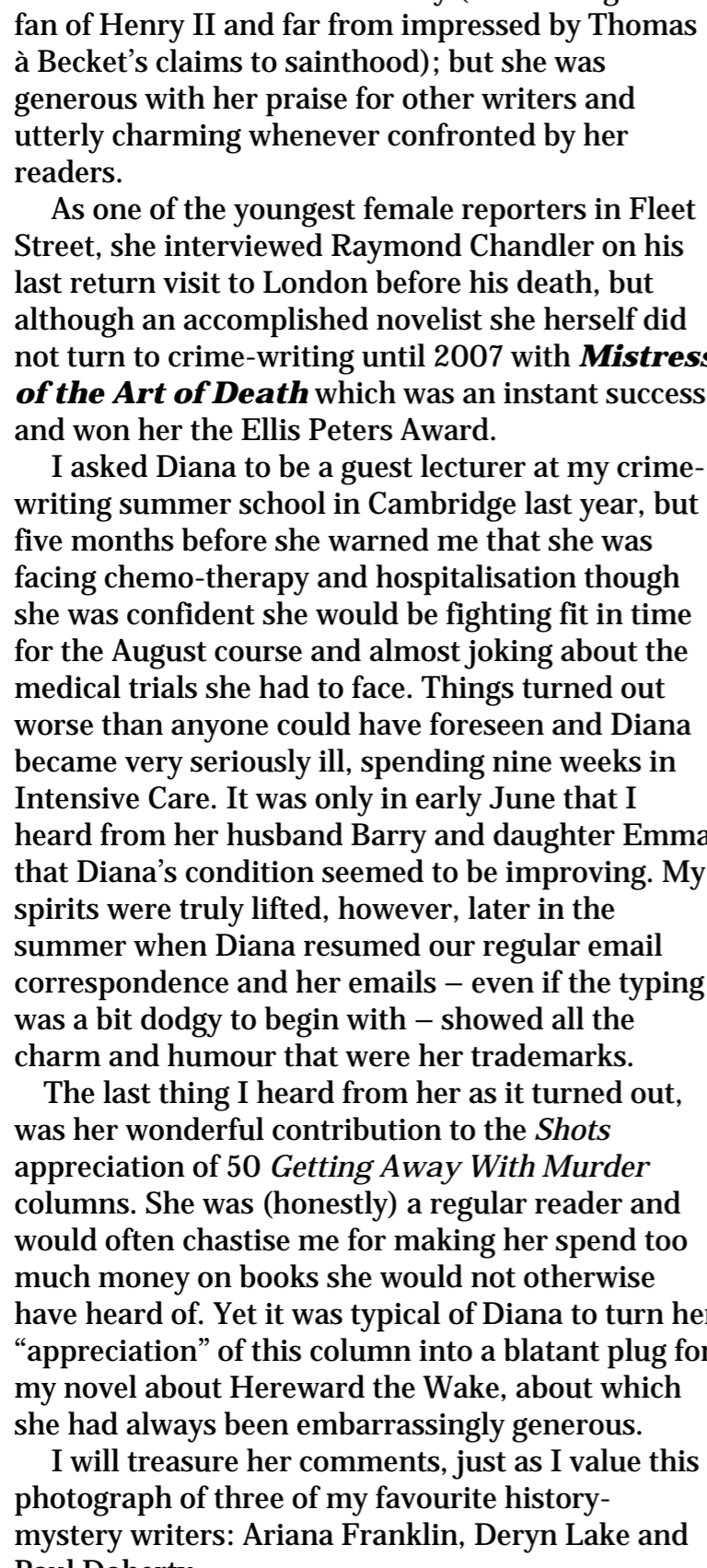


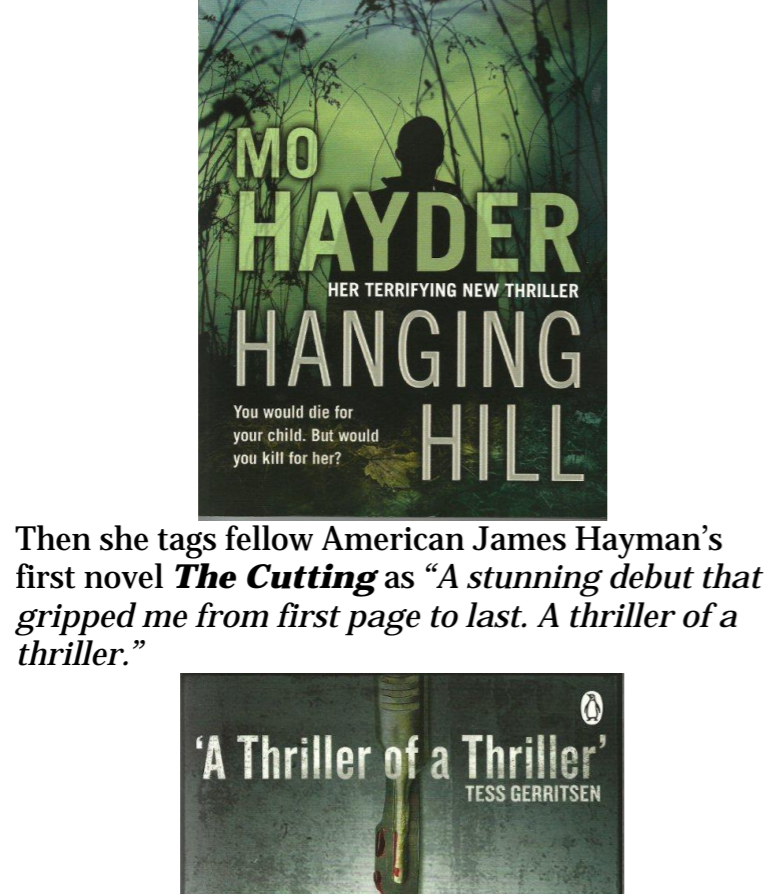
Getting Away with Murder



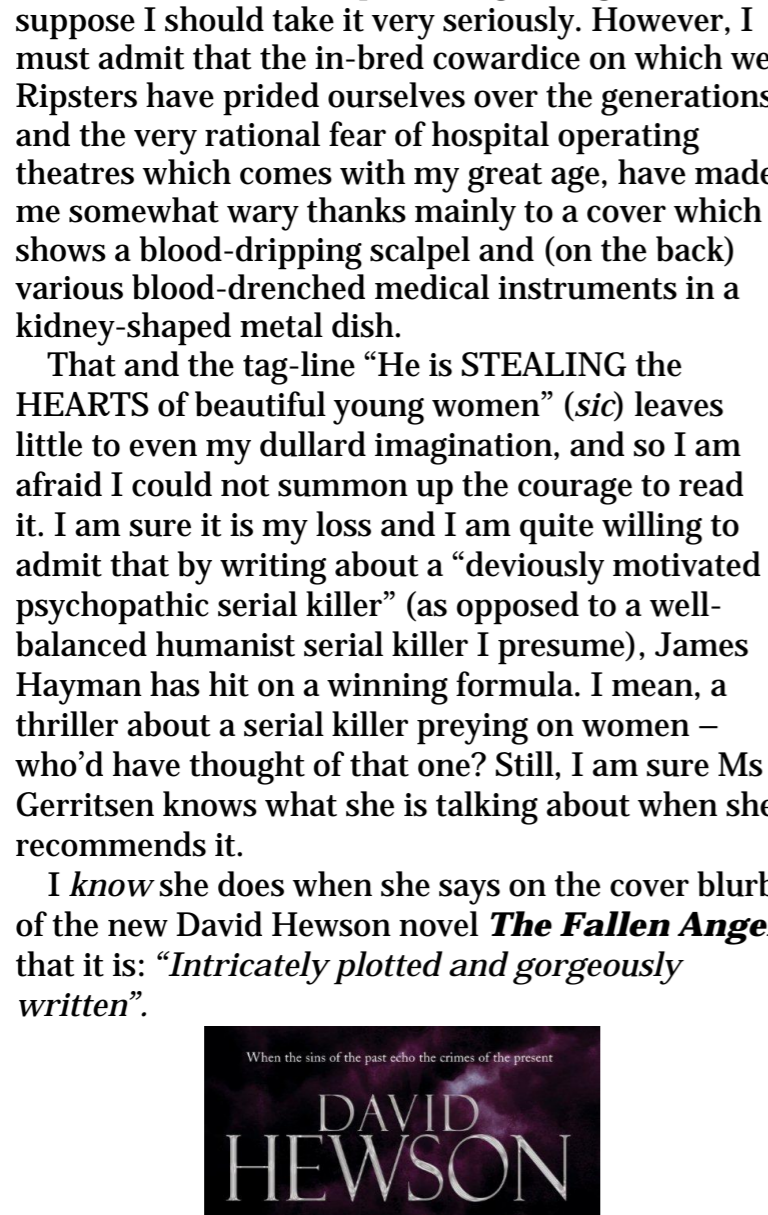
To Be Serious – and sad – For a Moment I and my colleagues here at Shots were devastated to hear of the death of Diana Norman...



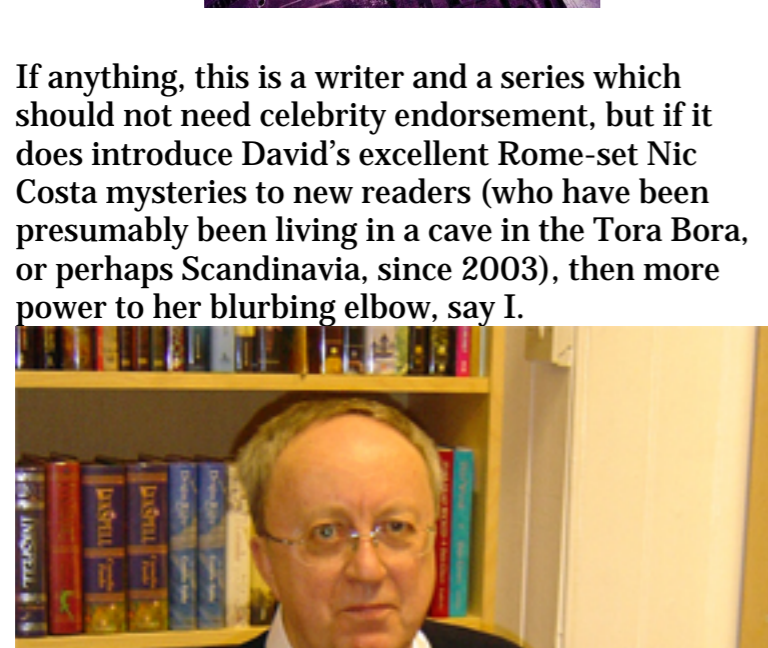
Not only was she a good writer who knew her stuff when it came to the 12th century (she was a great fan of Henry II and far from impressed by Thomas a Becket's claims to sainthood)...



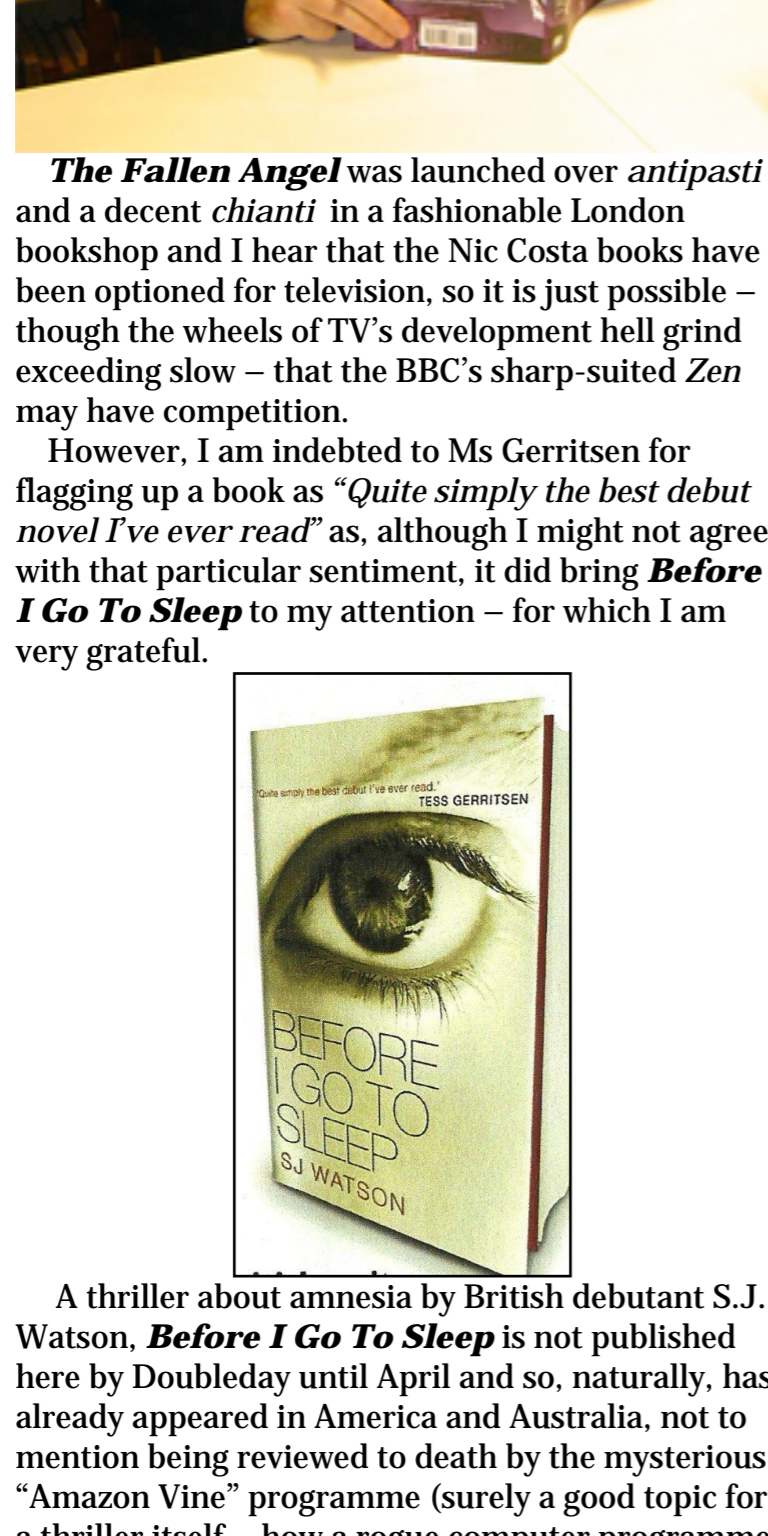
The New Recommendations Guru? It is clear that writing not one but two international best-sellers and editing or contributing to several anthologies in the space of a year...



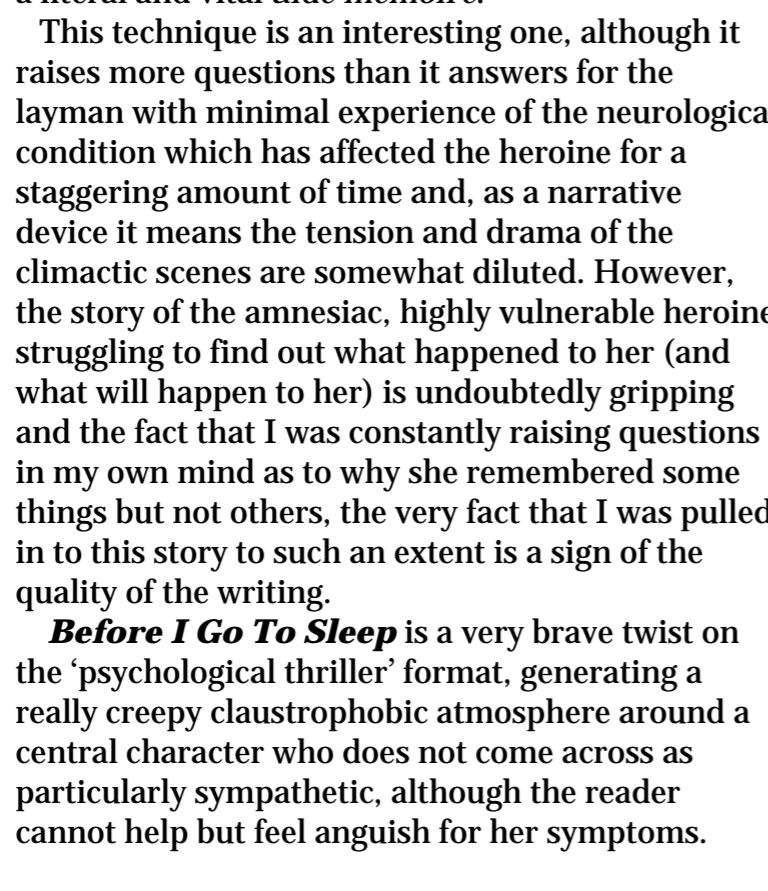
Then she tags fellow American James Hayman's first novel 'The Cutting' as 'A stunning debut that gripped me from first page to last. A thriller of a thriller.'



If anything, this is a writer and a series which should not need celebrity endorsement, but it does introduce David's excellent Rome-set Nic Costa mysteries to new readers...



The Fallen Angel was launched over antipasti and a decent chianti in a fashionable London bookshop and I hear that the Nic Costa books have been optioned for television...



A thriller about amnesia by British debutant S.J. Watson. Before I Go To Sleep is published here by Doubleday until April and so, naturally, has already appeared in America and Australia...

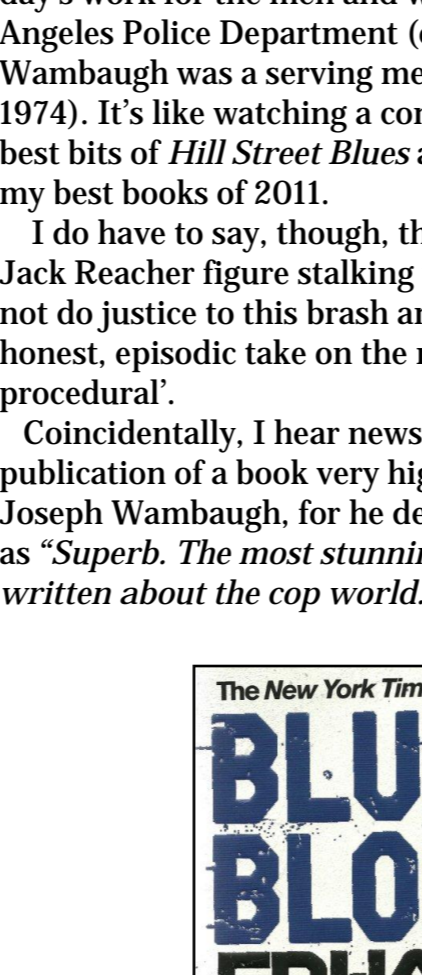
S.J. Watson (who is not, like P.D. and J.K., female) has certainly adopted a high-risk strategy for his first mystery. To begin with, it has a very small cast of characters - basically four - one of whom is a woman suffering from a form of traumatic amnesia...

GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER

February 2011 # 51

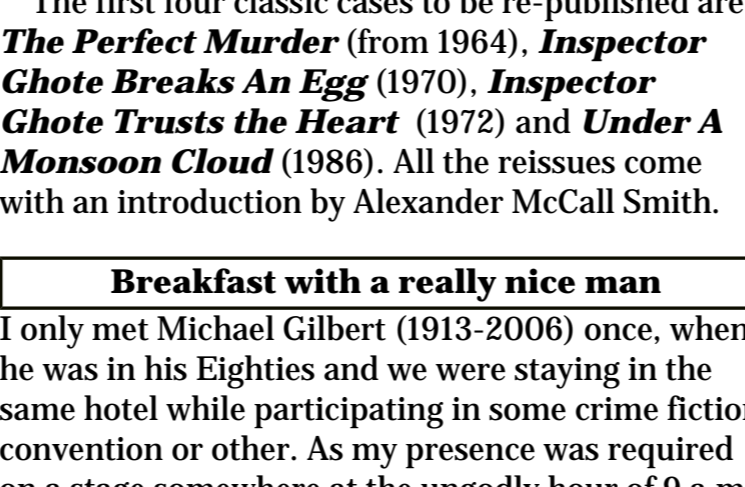
Hurray for Hollywood....

I distinctly remember raving about Joseph Wambaugh's hilarious Hollywood Stations when it was published here in 2007. For legal reasons I was not made aware of the two follow ups...



Hollywood Hills is a quite wonderful cross-section of California wackiness as observed and experienced by the regular (and some time irregular) cops stationed in possibly the craziest precinct in Los Angeles.

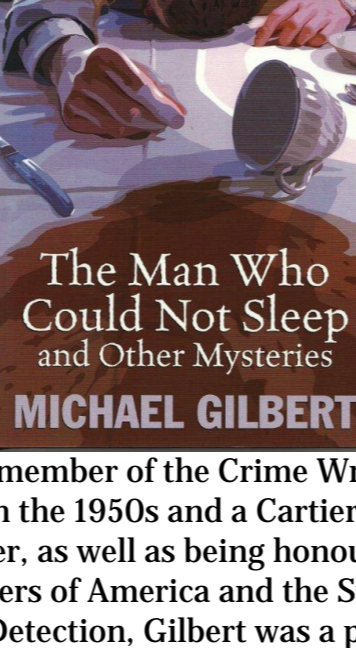
You should read it because it gives you a ringside seat at a circus parade of brilliant characters, poignant vignettes and brilliant gags...



Edward Conlon's memoir of his career in the New York Police Department, from rookie to Gold Shield detective...

Inspector Ghote Returns Revived

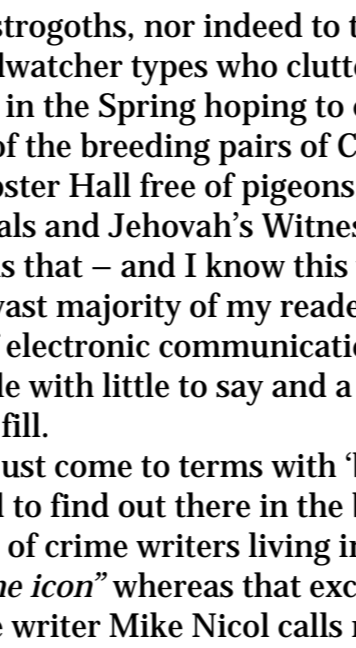
I am delighted to hear news the Harry Keating's self-effacing detective Inspector Ghote (the Magister of Mumbai) is to reappear in a new and very attractive set of reissues by Penguin in May.



The first four classic cases to be re-published are: The Perfect Murder (from 1964), Inspector Ghote Breaks An Egg (1970), Inspector Ghote Trusts the Heart (1972) and Under A Monsoon Cloud (1986).

Breakfast with a really nice man

I only met Michael Gilbert (1913-2006) once, when he was in his Eighties and we were staying in the same hotel while participating in some crime fiction convention or other.



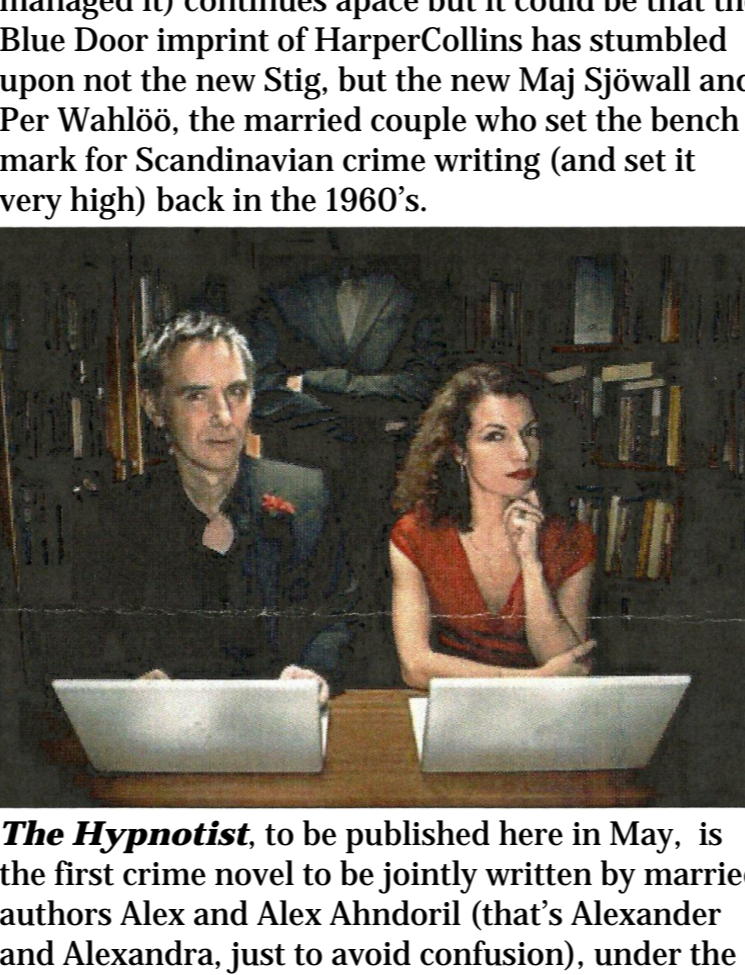
A founder-member of the Crime Writers Association in the 1950s and a Cartier Diamond Dagger winner, as well as being honoured by the Mystery Writers of America...

Praise Indeed

Needless to say, my factotum Waldo has been unable to keep a straight face or a civil tongue in his head since he read the over-generous tributes to me and this column on its 50th birthday last month.

The Very Talented Miss Highsmith

Although fluent in Old Norse - indeed, I often leave notes for the milkman in futhorc, the runic alphabet, just to keep him on his toes - I have never claimed to understand any of the archaic Scandinavian languages...



Patricia Highsmith was for many years a resident of East Anglia, living not that far from Ripstet Hall, though our paths never crossed.

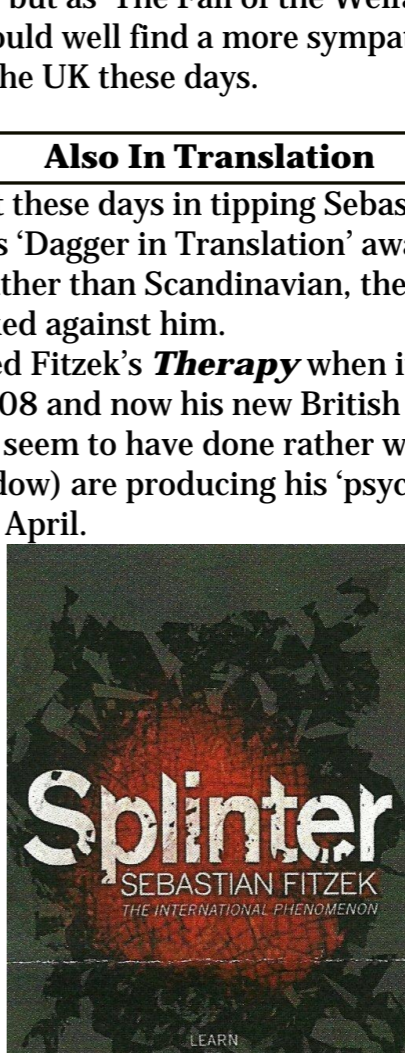
The New Per and Maj?

And speaking of Sweden, the frantic search by British publishers to find 'the new Stieg' (although those cheeky chapins on Top Gear seemed to have managed it) continues apace...



The Hypnotist, to be published here in May, is the first crime novel to be jointly written by married authors Alex and Alex Ahndoril (that's Alexander and Alexandra, just to avoid confusion).

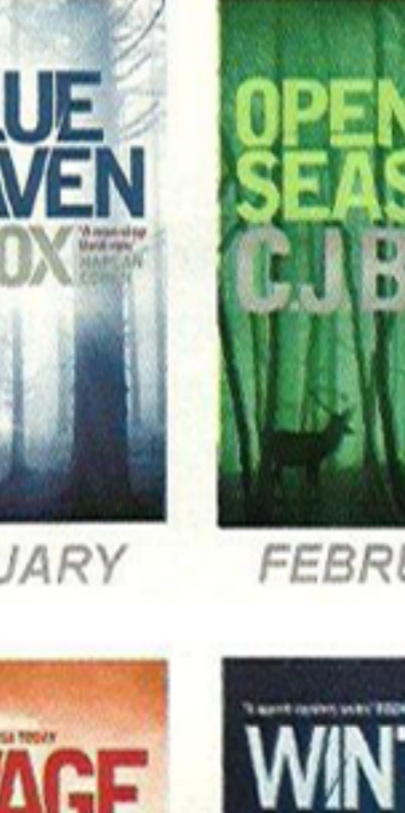
In the meantime I will have to content myself with the first instalment of Leif Persson's 'The Story of a Crime' trilogy...



Although written almost ten years ago, the substantial trilogy is based on one of Sweden's most notorious and unsolved true crimes...

Also In Translation

I feel no guilt these days in tipping Sebastian Fitzek for this year's 'Dagger in Translation' award, for as he is German rather than Scandinavian, the odds are already stacked against him.



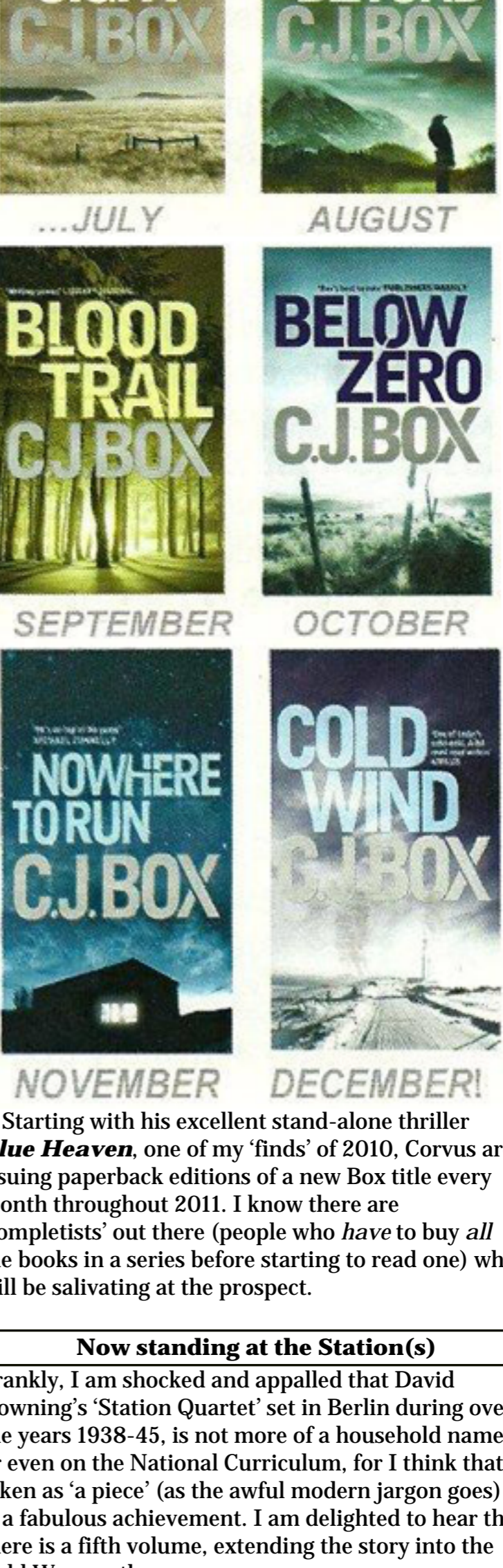
In real life, Fitzek - who bears a remarkable resemblance to misis guru Mark Lamarr - is a radio and television journalist of some repute.



His fiction has a distinctly Hitchcockian feel to it and his six novels are said to have sold over two million copies in Europe...

Box Set

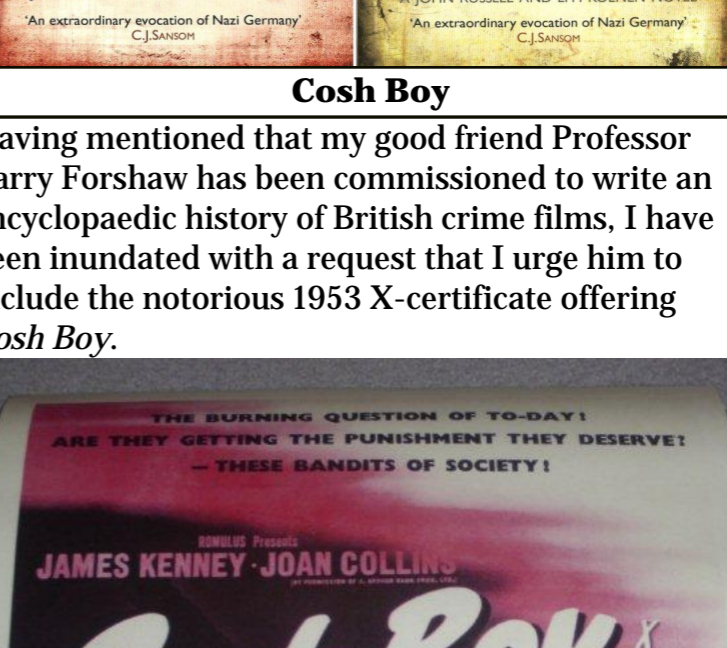
And I must mention Corvus again (the cheque, I presume, being in the post) for this year they will be producing the ultimate Box Set.



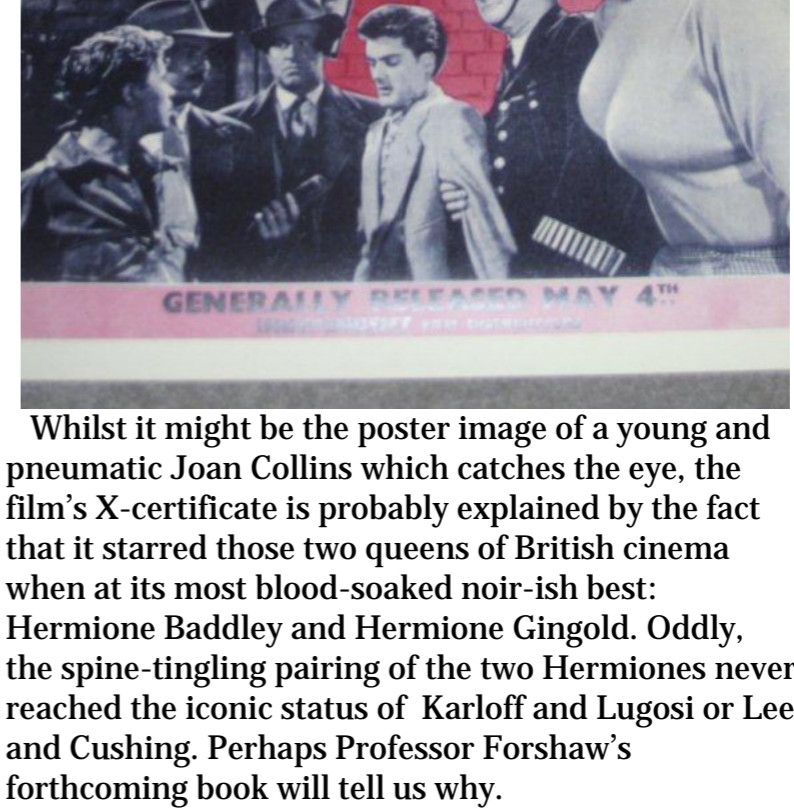
Starting with his excellent stand-alone thriller Blue Heaven, one of my 'finds' of 2010, Corvus are issuing paperback editions of a new Box title every month throughout 2011.

Now standing at the Station(s)

Frankly, I am shocked and appalled that David Downing's Station Quartet set in Berlin during the years 1938-45, is not set in a household name or even on the National Curriculum...



Cosh Boy



Whilst it might be the poster image of a young and pneumatic Joan Collins which catches the eye, the film's X-certificate is probably explained by the fact that it starred those two queens of British cinema...

And for those of you who prefer the pdf version, here it is GAWM51.pdf