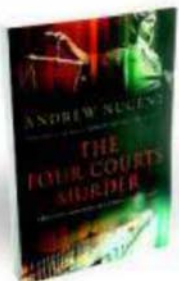


SATURDAYBOOKS



THE FOUR COURTS MURDER

Andrew Nugent

(Hachette Livre, \$32.95)

A judge in his office at court in Dublin ought to be safe from a killer, but Justice Sydney Piggott finds out the hard way that death can sneak through security. Inspector Deris Lennon's investigation reveals Piggott was not only cruel but, for a judge, had an unusual source of income. A clever, elegant tale with a variety of interesting characters and many a twist and turn. Enjoyable reading.

PAUL JOHNSON



STRIPPED

Brian Freeman

(Hachette Livre, \$32.95)

Forget baggage — the characters in Brian Freeman's latest thriller are weighed down by tonnage. Although lead detective Jonathan Stride is normal, his lover was sexually abused, as was the bad man in this piece. Stride's partner is more than she appears to be and one twist reveals a well-placed bad guy. This is ideal for an hour-long adaptation where the pace would disguise plot shortcomings.

LEE HOWARD



LISTEN

Kate Verloh

(Penguin, \$32.95)

It's 1967 Melbourne and a suburban housewife, homesick for England, walks out on her husband and four children on Christmas Eve. Fast-tracking to this year, *Listen* delves into the lives of those left behind and how the events of that day shaped them. You cannot help but empathise with all of the characters in this finely shaped novel — even Rosemarie, the mother who abandons her family.

SYLVIA VINICENC



NO TURNING BACK: MY JOURNEY

Joanne Lees

(Hachette \$35)

The murder of English backpacker Peter Falconio, for which Bradley Murdoch was convicted, is one of Australia's most infamous crimes. Lees was Falconio's girlfriend and escaped Murdoch's clutches. Her ordeal has been told in other books but this is her version of how she felt, what she experienced, the scrutiny she endured and the struggle by Northern Territory police to get to grips with the high-profile case.

RC