

《From the Dead (ISBN:9780751540031)》

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When speaking to book groups, the author Mark Billingham displays the kind of sardonic humour that reflects his background in stand-up comedy. But his highly professional crime novels featuring DI Tom Thorne are quite unlike the humorous crime writing of such authors as Christopher Brookmyre. Books such as the latest Thorne, *From the Dead*, are odysseys into the darkest reaches of human behaviour. It's interesting that Billingham's books have a reputation for extreme violence, as they actually deal more in the purveying of atmosphere — a real sense of dread is unerringly conveyed to the reader.

内容简介

A man is burnt to death in a car in Epping Forest, the victim of professional hitmen. The evidence suggest that the dead man's wife, Donna Langford, hired the killers, and she is found guilty of conspiracy to murder. A decade passes, and just before her release from prison, Donna is sent a photo: it is that of her supposedly murdered spouse. Is he, in fact, dead? And if not, whose was the charred body in the burnt-out Jaguar? Shortly after, DI Tom Thorne is contacted by a woman, Anna Carpenter. Anna is making a living (and hating it) by working for a detective agency that cynically uses her as a 'pretend prostitute' to trap men into sexually compromising set-ups in divorce cases. Anna is on the side of the worried Donna Langford, and asks a reluctant Thorne for help. The detective is not to be persuaded — until he realises that the supposedly late Alan Langford is very much alive, and wants payback — in the worst way.

Mark Billingham is (as ever) to be applauded for the sheer readability of his work on , but his most impressive achievement is the sure-footed orchestration of tension. He avoids artificially pushing Thorne into uncharacteristic behaviour, and trusts that we will accept the familiar character tropes, delivered as effectively as ever. But if there are no surprises in the development of his main protagonist, Billingham's real achievement here is in the creation of the vulnerable, compromised tyro detective, Anna — she's a wonderful creation. --

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