

mark billingham tom thorne series

Mark Billingham Tom Thorne Series: A Deep Dive into a Gripping Crime Fiction Saga

mark billingham tom thorne series has carved a distinctive niche in the world of crime fiction, captivating readers with its gritty storytelling, intricate plots, and unforgettable characters. For fans of psychological thrillers and police procedurals, this series offers a compelling blend of suspense and emotional depth, making Mark Billingham one of the standout authors in contemporary crime writing.

Who is Mark Billingham?

Before delving into the Tom Thorne series itself, it's important to understand the creative mind behind it. Mark Billingham is a British author and former stand-up comedian who found his true calling in crime fiction. His unique background contributes to the sharp wit and nuanced character development found throughout his novels. Billingham's experience in crafting narratives that are both entertaining and thought-provoking has earned him widespread acclaim in the literary world.

Overview of the Tom Thorne Series

At the heart of the series is Detective Inspector Tom Thorne, a complex and deeply human protagonist. The series follows Thorne as he navigates the challenges of solving some of the most chilling and perplexing crimes, often involving serial killers. The character's personal struggles, including his past traumas and relationships, are woven seamlessly into the crime plots, adding layers of emotional resonance.

Key Themes and Style

Mark Billingham's writing style in the Tom Thorne series is characterized by:

- A dark, atmospheric tone that immerses readers in the gritty realities of crime investigation.
- Detailed procedural elements that appeal to fans of police dramas.
- Psychological depth, exploring the minds of both criminals and those who pursue them.
- Realistic character development that avoids clichés and stereotypes.

This approach makes the series stand out in a crowded genre, offering more than just a whodunit but an exploration of the human condition under extreme pressure.

Popular Books in the Tom Thorne Series

The series kicked off with "Sleepyhead," which introduced readers to Tom Thorne's world. Over the years, Billingham has penned numerous novels that build on the character's journey and the evolving nature of crime in modern society. Some notable titles include:

- **Sleepyhead** – The debut novel where Thorne hunts a serial killer who targets children, setting a dark and intense tone for the series.
- **Scaredy Cat** – Explores the psychological impact of crime on victims and investigators alike.
- **In The Dark** – Delves into the complexities of a case involving a missing child, showcasing Billingham's talent for emotional storytelling.
- **Death Message** – A gripping thriller that highlights the dangers and moral dilemmas faced by law enforcement officers.

Each book can be read as a standalone, but they collectively offer a richer understanding of Tom Thorne's character arc and the evolving challenges he faces.

Why the Tom Thorne Series Resonates with Readers

The success of the series isn't just about thrilling plots; it's also about connection. Readers find themselves invested in Tom Thorne not just as a detective, but as a flawed, relatable human being. The series balances procedural detail with character-driven storytelling, which appeals to a broad audience.

Realism in Crime Fiction

One of the strongest draws of the Tom Thorne series is its authenticity. Billingham's background research and attention to detail make the investigations feel credible without getting bogged down in jargon. This realism helps readers immerse themselves in the story, understanding the stakes and pressures police officers face.

Complex Characters Beyond the Protagonist

Supporting characters in the Tom Thorne series are richly drawn, from colleagues to family members, each contributing to the narrative's depth. This complexity adds to the series' appeal, as it moves beyond simple good-versus-evil tropes to portray the messy realities of crime and justice.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The popularity of the Tom Thorne books led to a television adaptation, bringing the character and stories to a wider audience. The TV series received praise for its faithful representation of Billingham's vision and the strong performances of its cast.

Moreover, Mark Billingham's influence extends beyond entertainment; he has been active in promoting crime writing and supporting new authors through workshops and literary events. This engagement has helped foster a thriving community of readers and writers passionate about the genre.

Tips for New Readers of the Tom Thorne Series

If you're considering diving into the Mark Billingham Tom Thorne series, here are a few tips to enhance your reading experience:

1. **Start with "Sleepyhead"** – It sets the tone and introduces key characters.
2. **Read in Order** – While each book stands on its own, reading them sequentially helps track character development and recurring themes.
3. **Pay Attention to Character Details** – The emotional arcs are as important as the mysteries.
4. **Explore Related Works** – Billingham has written other novels and short stories that complement the Tom Thorne series.

What Sets Mark Billingham's Tom Thorne Series Apart in Crime Fiction?

The crime genre is saturated with detective series, so what makes this one unique? It's Billingham's ability to blend suspenseful storytelling with genuine emotional depth. The series doesn't shy away from the darker aspects of human nature but treats its characters with empathy and complexity. This humanistic approach elevates the series beyond simple procedural thrillers.

Additionally, Billingham's use of urban settings, often London, grounds the stories in a recognizable reality, adding to the immersive quality of the novels. His portrayal of modern policing, including the ethical and personal challenges officers face, adds layers of authenticity that resonate with contemporary readers.

Exploring the Psychological Elements in the Tom Thorne Series

A significant aspect of the Mark Billingham Tom Thorne series is its focus on psychological suspense. Rather than relying solely on action or traditional mystery tropes, the books delve deeply into the minds of both criminals and investigators.

This psychological dimension includes:

- Exploring motives behind heinous crimes
- Investigating the impact of trauma on victims and law enforcement
- Examining moral ambiguity and ethical dilemmas
- Highlighting the mental toll of crime-solving

These elements enrich the narrative, offering readers a more nuanced experience than typical crime novels.

Engaging with the Tom Thorne Series Community

For those who become fans of the series, there is a vibrant community of readers who discuss theories, favorite moments, and character insights. Online forums and book clubs dedicated to Mark Billingham's work offer opportunities to connect with others who appreciate the blend of suspense and emotional storytelling.

Engaging with this community can deepen the enjoyment of the series and provide new perspectives on the books' themes and characters.

In the vast landscape of crime fiction, the mark billingham tom thorne series stands out as a compelling and richly textured saga. Whether you're drawn to intricate mysteries, complex characters, or psychological depth, these novels deliver a satisfying and thought-provoking experience that keeps readers coming back for more.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the author of the Tom Thorne series?

The Tom Thorne series is written by Mark Billingham, a British author known for his crime fiction novels.

What is the main premise of the Tom Thorne series by Mark Billingham?

The Tom Thorne series follows Detective Inspector Tom Thorne as he investigates complex and often dark criminal cases in London, blending psychological suspense with police procedural elements.

How many books are there in the Tom Thorne series by Mark Billingham?

As of 2024, there are over a dozen books in the Tom Thorne series, with Mark Billingham regularly adding new installments to the crime thriller collection.

Has the Tom Thorne series been adapted into any TV shows or films?

Yes, the Tom Thorne series has been adapted into a TV series titled 'Thorne,' starring David Morrissey as Detective Tom Thorne.

What are some recommended starting points for new readers of the Tom Thorne series?

New readers can start with the first book, 'Sleepyhead,' which introduces Detective Tom Thorne and sets the tone for the series with a gripping and intense crime story.

Additional Resources

Mark Billingham Tom Thorne Series: A Deep Dive into Modern British Crime Fiction

mark billingham tom thorne series has established itself as a cornerstone in contemporary British crime literature. Renowned for its gritty realism, intricate plotting, and compelling character development, the series has captured the attention of crime fiction enthusiasts worldwide. This article explores the nuances of the Tom Thorne series, authored by Mark Billingham, dissecting its storytelling techniques, thematic concerns, and place within the broader crime fiction genre.

Exploring the Tom Thorne Series

Mark Billingham's Tom Thorne series revolves around the eponymous detective, a London-based police officer whose investigations delve into the darkest facets of human nature. Since the debut novel, the series has grown to encompass multiple books, each unraveling complex crimes with psychological depth and procedural authenticity.

The series is often praised for its meticulous attention to detail and the author's ability to weave social commentary into the narrative. Unlike many crime thrillers that rely heavily on action and suspense, the Tom Thorne novels balance tension with introspection, offering readers a nuanced portrayal of law enforcement and urban life.

Characterization of Tom Thorne

At the heart of the series is Detective Inspector Tom Thorne himself, a character marked by a blend of resilience, vulnerability, and moral ambiguity. Billingham crafts Thorne as a layered protagonist

whose personal struggles—ranging from family dynamics to professional pressures—add depth to the crime-solving narrative.

Thorne's characterization distinguishes the series from more archetypal crime fiction heroes. His flaws and ethical conflicts resonate with readers who appreciate protagonists that mirror real human complexity. This approach enhances the series' narrative authenticity and emotional engagement.

Narrative Style and Structure

Billingham employs a third-person narrative perspective that oscillates between multiple viewpoints, enriching the storytelling by providing insight into both the detective's mindset and the perpetrators' motives. This dual perspective intensifies suspense and cultivates a comprehensive understanding of the unfolding events.

The pacing of the novels is deliberate, combining methodical investigative sequences with moments of high tension. Plotlines often incorporate red herrings and unexpected twists, which challenge readers' assumptions and elevate the intellectual engagement with the text.

Key Themes and Social Commentary

The Tom Thorne series transcends conventional crime fiction by embedding broader social issues within its plots. Themes such as urban decay, mental health, domestic violence, and systemic failure within law enforcement institutions permeate the narrative fabric.

By confronting these topics, Billingham not only crafts compelling mysteries but also invites readers to reflect on contemporary societal challenges. This dual function of entertainment and critique positions the series as both a literary and cultural artifact.

Realism and Procedural Accuracy

One of the defining features of the Tom Thorne novels is their commitment to realism. Billingham's background in television crime drama and his thorough research contribute to the authentic portrayal of police procedures and investigative techniques.

This procedural accuracy appeals to readers who seek a believable depiction of crime-solving, distinguishing the series from more sensationalist or formulaic entries in the genre. The detailed representation of forensic methods, interrogation tactics, and bureaucratic hurdles adds a layer of credibility and immersion.

Comparative Analysis with Other British Crime Series

Within the landscape of British crime fiction, the Tom Thorne series holds a distinctive position. When compared to contemporaries such as Ian Rankin's Inspector Rebus or Peter James's Roy Grace series,

Billingham's work is noted for its psychological depth and social realism.

While Rankin's novels often emphasize atmospheric settings and moral complexity, and James's work leans toward fast-paced thrillers, the Tom Thorne series strikes a balance by integrating character-driven narratives with meticulous plotting. This equilibrium caters to a diverse audience, ranging from readers interested in procedural detail to those seeking emotional resonance.

Pros and Cons of the Series

- **Pros:**

- Rich character development with a relatable protagonist.
- Authentic depiction of police work and investigative processes.
- Integration of social issues that add depth to the narrative.
- Engaging plotlines with suspense and unexpected twists.

- **Cons:**

- Occasional pacing issues, with some readers finding the narrative slow in parts.
- Complex plots may require attentive reading to follow multiple threads.
- Some may find the darker themes and graphic content challenging.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The popularity of the Tom Thorne series has led to adaptations across various media, most notably a television series that brought the character and stories to a broader audience. These adaptations have further cemented the series' status within popular culture and introduced Billingham's work to viewers less familiar with crime novels.

Moreover, the series has influenced emerging writers in the crime genre, encouraging a trend toward more psychologically complex and socially aware storytelling. This impact underscores the series' role in evolving British crime fiction beyond traditional paradigms.

Audience Reception and Critical Acclaim

Critics have generally lauded the Tom Thorne novels for their narrative craftsmanship and thematic richness. Reviews frequently highlight Billingham's skill in maintaining suspense while offering insightful social critique. Readers praise the series' capacity to evoke empathy for characters caught in morally ambiguous situations.

Sales figures and fan engagement metrics reflect sustained interest, with certain installments in the series achieving bestseller status. This commercial success attests to the series' ability to resonate across demographics and maintain relevance in a competitive literary market.

The enduring appeal of the Tom Thorne series lies in its complex interplay of character, plot, and context. Mark Billingham's work continues to invite readers into a world where crime fiction serves as a lens to examine human behavior and societal dynamics.

Mark Billingham Tom Thorne Series

mark billingham tom thorne series: *From The Dead* Mark Billingham, 2010-09-09 When Donna Langford receives a very recent photo of her ex-husband in the post, she gets the shock of her life. Because she's just spent ten years in prison for organising his murder. When her daughter goes missing, Donna believes there can only be one man responsible and hires Anna Carpenter, a determined young private investigator, to find him. DI Tom Thorne worked on the Alan Langford case, so when Carpenter brings the photo to him, he refuses to believe that the man whose body was found in a burned-out car ten years before can still be alive. But when a prison inmate that he and Anna interview is viciously murdered, Thorne starts to understand that Langford is not only alive, but ready to get rid of anyone who could threaten his comfortable new life in Spain...

mark billingham tom thorne series: Death Message Mark Billingham, 2008-09-04 The seventh book in the Tom Thorne series, from bestselling author Mark Billingham. *THE MESSAGE* DI Tom Thorne has seen plenty of dead bodies in his time. But when he starts receiving sick photos of murder victims on his mobile phone, he soon realises that the next body could be his. *THE KILLER* And even when the man who has been sending the photos is tracked down, the deadly threat remains. For some, the case is all but closed, but Thorne's nightmare is just beginning. *THE TWIST* Because someone else is masterminding the death messages. The most vicious psychopath Thorne has ever faced is able to manipulate others even behind bars, and time has only deepened the deadly grudge he has against the policeman who put him away... _____ The outstanding new Tom Thorne thriller, *THEIR LITTLE SECRET*, is out now!

mark billingham tom thorne series: Good As Dead Mark Billingham, 2011-08-18 The tenth book in the Tom Thorne series, from bestselling author Mark Billingham. 'Billingham's most desperately gripping read yet' Daily Mirror Police officer Helen Weeks walks into her local newsagents on her way to work. It's the last place she expects to be met with violence, but she is about to come face to face with a gunman. The hostage-taker is desperate to know what happened to his beloved son, who died a year before in youth custody. By holding Helen at gunpoint, he will force a re-investigation into his son's death. And one man knows the case better than any other - DI Tom Thorne. As the body count rises, Thorne must race against time to bring a killer to justice and save a young mother's life. Taking place over three action-packed days, this is the fastest and most surprising Thorne thriller yet from Sunday Times bestseller Mark Billingham. 'One of the great series of British crime fiction' The Times 'A new Mark Billingham is always a treat' Susie Steiner

The outstanding new Tom Thorne thriller, *THEIR LITTLE SECRET*, is out now!

mark billingham tom thorne series: *Lifeless* Mark Billingham, 2008-09-04 The fifth book in the Tom Thorne series, from bestselling author Mark Billingham. A SERIES OF KILLINGS Three men, sleeping rough on London's mean streets, have been found brutally murdered - each victim kicked to death and found with a £20 note pinned to his chest. But were they killed at random, or were they targeted for a reason? A DEADLY MISSION Tom Thorne is posted to the same streets - working undercover, disguised as a homeless man. In a harsh and harrowing underworld, Thorne discovers the horrifying link between the homeless victims and the perpetrators of a fifteen-year-old atrocity. A RUTHLESS ENEMY Those who know are keeping quiet. But the word on these streets is that the killer is a cop... _____ Read what everyone's saying about the heart-racing Tom Thorne series: 'Literary superstar' Mail on Sunday 'Ingenious' Guardian 'Ground-breaking' Sunday Times 'Mark Billingham gets better and better' Michael Connelly 'A cracking read . . . I couldn't put it down!' Shari Lapena 'A damn fine storyteller' Karin Slaughter 'Twisted and twisty' Linwood Barclay 'One of the most consistently entertaining, insightful crime writers working today' Gillian Flynn 'The next superstar detective is already with us. Don't miss him' Lee Child

mark billingham tom thorne series: *The Bones Beneath* Mark Billingham, 2014-05-22 The twelfth book in the Tom Thorne series, from bestselling author Mark Billingham. 'Atmospheric, gripping . . . with a superb ending' Sunday Express The Deal Tom Thorne is back in charge - but there's a terrifying price to pay. Stuart Nicklin, the most dangerous psychopath he has ever put behind bars, promises to reveal the whereabouts of a body he buried twenty-five years before. But only if Thorne agrees to escort him. The Danger Unable to refuse, Thorne gathers a team and travels to a remote Welsh island, at the mercy of the weather and cut off from the mainland. Thorne is determined to get the job done and return home before Nicklin can outwit them. The Deaths But Nicklin knows this island well and has had time to plan ahead. Soon, new bodies are added to the old, and Thorne finds himself facing the toughest decision he has ever had to make... Tom Thorne returns in this utterly gripping, brilliantly plotted thriller. *The Bones Beneath* is Sunday Times bestseller Mark Billingham's most ambitious and accomplished work to date. 'One of the great series of British crime fiction' The Times 'Mark Billingham gets better and better' Michael Connelly

mark billingham tom thorne series: *The Burning Girl* Mark Billingham, 2008-09-04 The fourth book in the Tom Thorne series, from bestselling author Mark Billingham. A MAN WHO KILLS FOR MONEY X marks the spot - and when that spot is a corpse's naked back and the X is carved in blood, DI Tom Thorne is in no doubt that the dead man is the latest victim of a particularly vicious killer. A BRUTAL VENDETTA This is brutal turf warfare between north London gangs. Organised crime boss Billy Ryan is moving into someone else's patch, and that someone is not best pleased. A COP WHO IS PLAYING WITH FIRE And when an X is carved on DI Tom Thorne's front door, he knows the smouldering embers of this case are about to erupt into flames... _____ Read what everyone's saying about the heart-racing Tom Thorne series: 'Literary superstar' Mail on Sunday 'Ingenious' Guardian 'Ground-breaking' Sunday Times 'Mark Billingham gets better and better' Michael Connelly 'A cracking read . . . I couldn't put it down!' Shari Lapena 'A damn fine storyteller' Karin Slaughter 'Twisted and twisty' Linwood Barclay 'One of the most consistently entertaining, insightful crime writers working today' Gillian Flynn 'The next superstar detective is already with us. Don't miss him' Lee Child

mark billingham tom thorne series: *Their Little Secret* Mark Billingham, 2019-05-02 The sixteenth book in the Tom Thorne series, from bestselling author Mark Billingham. 'Hugely intelligent and authentic' *BELINDA BAUER, AUTHOR OF SNAP* She says she's an ordinary mother. He knows a liar when he sees one. Sarah thinks of herself as a normal single mum. It's what she wants others to think of her. But the truth is, she needs something new, something thrilling. Meanwhile, DI Tom Thorne is investigating a woman's suicide, convinced she was driven to do it by a man who preys on vulnerable women. A man who is about to change Sarah's life. From number one, five-million-copy bestseller Mark Billingham comes a breathless new thriller starring Thorne and Tanner that readers will devour. PRAISE FOR MARK BILLINGHAM 'One of the great series of

British crime fiction' THE TIMES 'An unconventional literary superstar' MAIL ON SUNDAY
'Billingham is a world-class writer' KARIN SLAUGHTER 'A new Mark Billingham is always a treat'
SUSIE STEINER 'Finely paced and polished procedural, with twists and turns galore' CARA
HUNTER 'Perfectly executed and with a thoroughly unnerving twist' GUARDIAN 'Thorne is a terrific
invention' IRISH INDEPENDENT 'Mark Billingham gets better and better' MICHAEL CONNELLY

mark billingham tom thorne series: Bloodline Mark Billingham, 2009-08-06 The eighth book in the Tom Thorne series, from bestselling author Mark Billingham. When a dead body is found in a North London flat, it seems like a straightforward domestic murder until a bloodstained sliver of X-ray is found clutched in the dead woman's fist - and it quickly becomes clear that this case is anything but ordinary. DI Thorne discovers that the victim's mother had herself been murdered fifteen years before by infamous serial killer Raymond Garvey. The hunt to catch Garvey was one of the biggest in the history of the Met, and ended with seven women dead. When more bodies and more fragments of X-ray are discovered, Thorne has a macabre jigsaw to piece together until the horrifying picture finally emerges. A killer is targeting the children of Raymond Garvey's victims. Thorne must move quickly to protect those still on the murderer's list, but nothing and nobody are what they seem. Not when Thorne is dealing with one of the most twisted killers he has ever hunted... _____ The outstanding new Tom Thorne thriller, THEIR LITTLE SECRET, is out now!

mark billingham tom thorne series: Time of Death Mark Billingham, 2015-04-23 The thirteenth book in the Tom Thorne series, from bestselling author Mark Billingham. THE SUNDAY TIMES NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER DI Tom Thorne returns in a chilling mystery that will keep readers guessing until the final page. The Missing Two schoolgirls are abducted in the small, dying Warwickshire town of Polesford, driving a knife into the heart of the community where police officer Helen Weeks grew up and from which she long ago escaped. But this is a place full of secrets, where dangerous truths lie buried. The Accused When it's splashed all over the press that family man Stephen Bates has been arrested, Helen and her partner Tom Thorne head to the flooded town to support Bates' wife - an old school friend of Helen's - who is living under siege with two teenage children and convinced of her husband's innocence. The Dead As residents and media bay for Bates' blood, a decomposing body is found. The police believe they have their murderer in custody, but one man believes otherwise. With a girl still missing, Thorne sets himself on a collision course with local police, townsfolk - and a merciless killer. 'One of the great series of British crime fiction' The Times 'Mark Billingham is one of the greatest writers in any genre' Steve Cavanagh _____ The outstanding new Tom Thorne thriller, THEIR LITTLE SECRET, is out now!

mark billingham tom thorne series: What the Night Brings Mark Billingham, 2025 What the Night Brings by Mark Billingham is the latest mystery in the bestselling Tom Thorne series, and this time, a killer is targeting the police. Is it payback? And is it justified? The targeted murder of four officers is only the first in a series of attacks that leaves police scared, angry and, most disturbingly of all, vengeful. As Tom Thorne and Nicola Tanner dig into the reasons for the violence, a deeper darkness begins to emerge: the possibility that these murders are payback. The price paid for an unspeakable betrayal. To uncover the truth, Thorne will be forced to question everything he stands for. He can trust nobody, and the shocking secrets revealed by one terrible night will fracture his entire world--

mark billingham tom thorne series: The Dying Hours Mark Billingham, 2013-05-23 The eleventh book in the Tom Thorne series, from bestselling author Mark Billingham. 'Expertly crafted, with a slam-dunk ending. The Dying Hours is a terrific read' Guardian A cluster of suicides among the elderly. Such things are not unknown to the police and the deaths are quickly dismissed by the police as routine. Only one man is convinced that something more sinister is taking place. However, no one listens to Tom Thorne anymore. Having stepped out of line once too often, he's back in uniform and he hates it. Patronised and abused by his new colleagues, Thorne's suspicions about the suicides are dismissed by the Murder Squad he was once part of and he is forced to investigate alone. Unable to trust anyone, Thorne must risk losing those closest to him. He must gamble with

the lives of those targeted by a killer unlike any he has hunted before. A man with nothing to lose and a growing list of victims. A man with the power to make people take their own lives. Tom Thorne returns in Billingham's most compelling thriller to date - *The Dying Hours* is a haunting portrait of London's dark heart, and the darker heart of a twisted killer bringing terror to its streets. 'One of the great series of British crime fiction' *The Times* 'Billingham is a world-class writer' Karin Slaughter

The outstanding new Tom Thorne thriller, *THEIR LITTLE SECRET*, is out now!

mark billingham tom thorne series: *The Killing Habit* Mark Billingham, 2018-06-14 'One of the great series of British crime fiction' *The Times* From multi-million-copy number one bestseller Mark Billingham comes a twisting, unbearably gripping DI Tom Thorne and Nicola Tanner thriller inspired by a dramatic real-life case. How do you catch a killer who is yet to kill? We've all heard about the signs: coldness, cruelty, lack of empathy. DI Tom Thorne knows the psychological profile of a psychopath all too well, so when pets start disappearing on suburban London streets, he sees a chance to stop a future murderer. Others are less convinced, so Thorne relies on DI Nicola Tanner to help him solve the case, before the culprit starts hunting people. The journey brings them face to face with a killer who will tear their lives apart. ----- 'A new Mark Billingham is always a treat and *The Killing Habit* hurls the reader straight into the action. Thoroughly enjoyable for being so very real' SUSIE STEINER 'Mark Billingham on superb form. A finely paced and polished procedural, with twists and turns galore and an ending that will chill your soul' CARA HUNTER 'An unconventional literary superstar' MAIL ON SUNDAY 'As ever with Billingham, a rich cast of characters and tense situations are marshalled with panache, leading to a final terrifying encounter' FINANCIAL TIMES 'Thorne is a terrific invention' IRISH INDEPENDENT

mark billingham tom thorne series: *Time of Death* Mark Billingham, 2015-06-02 Two British police detectives take on a case close to home: "One of the most consistently entertaining, insightful crime writers working today" (Gillian Flynn). One of *Entertainment Weekly's* "10 Great Summer Thrillers" Tom Thorne is on holiday with his girlfriend, DS Helen Weeks, when two girls are abducted in Helen's hometown in Warwickshire. When a body is discovered and a man is arrested, Helen recognizes the suspect's wife as an old school friend, and reluctantly returns home for the first time in twenty-five years to lend her support. As his partner faces up to a past she has tried desperately to forget and a media storm engulfs the town, Thorne becomes convinced that, despite overwhelming evidence of his guilt, the police have got the wrong man. There is still an extremely clever killer on the loose—and a missing girl who Thorne believes might still be alive . . . "Some ingenious forensic footwork. What is most impressive about the novel, however, is the astute observation of the beleaguered Bates family, who turn in on themselves as the inhabitants of the town turn on them." —*The Guardian*

mark billingham tom thorne series: *Cry Baby* Mark Billingham, 2020-07-23 'One of the great series of British crime fiction' --- *THE TIMES* It's 1996. Detective Sergeant Tom Thorne is a haunted man. Haunted by the moment he ignored his instinct about a suspect, by the horrific crime that followed and by the memories that come day and night, in sunshine and shadow. So when seven-year-old Kieron Coyne goes missing while playing in the woods with his best friend, Thorne vows he will not make the same mistake again. Cannot. The solitary witness. The strange neighbour. The friendly teacher. All are in Thorne's sights. This case will be the making of him . . . or the breaking. The gripping prequel to Mark Billingham's acclaimed debut, *Sleepyhead*, *Cry Baby* is the shocking first case for one of British crime fiction's most iconic detectives. 'Cry Baby is the perfect prequel to send us back to revel in Tom Thorne's twenty years. As if we needed reminding how good Mark Billingham is' VAL MCDERMID 'Tom Thorne is one of the most credible and engaging heroes in contemporary crime fiction. Mark Billingham is a master of psychology, plotting and the contemporary scene - making the Thorne novels the complete package. Twenty years in and better than ever' IAN RANKIN 'Mark Billingham is one the biggest names in crime fiction and one the genre's most formidable talents' PETER JAMES 'Billingham is always a must read' HARLAN COBEN

mark billingham tom thorne series: *The Tom Thorne Collection, Books 2-4* Mark Billingham, 2020-07-23 Available together for the first time at a special price, the classic, thrilling,

groundbreaking books 2-4 in the iconic Tom Thorne series by No.1 Sunday Times bestseller Mark Billingham. '[Thorne] is one of the most compelling figures in contemporary crime fiction' DAILY MAIL 'Billingham is always a must-read' HARLAN COBEN ----- SCAREDY CAT A vicious killer follows his victim home and strangles her in front of her child. Across London a second body is discovered at the back of King's Cross station. And these grisly events eerily echoes the murder of two previous women, stabbed to death months before on the same day. DI Tom Thorne sees the link and comes to a horrifying conclusion: two killers are way more deadly than one . . . ----- LAZYBONES It's only ten days since Douglas Remfry's release from prison, having served seven years for rape, and now he's dead: naked on a bare mattress in a grubby north London hotel room. Someone knew he was coming out. Someone wanted to mete out some punishment of their own. And when a second sex offender is found dead, DI Tom Thorne knows he has a vicious vigilante on his hands . . . ----- THE BURNING GIRL X marks the spot - and when that spot is a corpse's naked back and the X is carved in blood, DI Tom Thorne is in no doubt that the dead man is the latest victim of a particularly vicious killer. But when an X is carved on Thorne's own front door, he knows the smouldering embers of this case are about to erupt into flames . . .

mark billingham tom thorne series: The Murder Book Mark Billingham, 2022-06-09 TOM THORNE IS BACK . . . AND SO IS HIS WORST NIGHTMARE A gripping, grisly read. Mark Billingham is a terrific crime writer' ---- ANTHONY HOROWITZ Tom Thorne has it all. In Nicola Tanner and Phil Hendricks, Thorne has good friends by his side. He finally has a love life worth a damn and is happy in the job to which he has devoted his life... He has everything to lose. Hunting the woman responsible for a series of grisly murders, Thorne has no way of knowing that he will be plunged into a nightmare from which he may never wake. And he'll do anything to keep it. Finally, Thorne's past has caught up with him and a ruinous secret is about to be revealed. If he wants to save himself and his friends, he must do the unthinkable. PRAISE FOR MARK BILLINGHAM 'Mark Billingham is a master of psychology' Ian Rankin 'Fast-paced and twisting' Paula Hawkins 'At the very least it should reach the shortlist of this year's Booker prize' The Times

mark billingham tom thorne series: Buried Mark Billingham, 2008-09-04 The sixth book in the Tom Thorne series, from bestselling author Mark Billingham. A MISSING BOY Teenager Luke Mullen was last seen getting into a car with an older woman. No one can understand why he has disappeared. His father - a former police officer - knows all too well that the longer he is missing, the more likely he is to turn up dead. A TERRIFYING VIDEO Then Luke's parents receive an anonymous video. It shows their son, eyes wide with terror, as a man advances towards him holding a syringe. A RACE AGAINST TIME DI Tom Thorne recognises a psychopath when he sees one. And the scene on the tape chills him to the bone - he knows that a child's life hangs in the balance, and that every minute counts... _____ Read what everyone's saying about the heart-racing Tom Thorne series: 'Literary superstar' Mail on Sunday 'Ingenious' Guardian 'Ground-breaking' Sunday Times 'Mark Billingham gets better and better' Michael Connelly 'A cracking read . . . I couldn't put it down!' Shari Lapena 'A damn fine storyteller' Karin Slaughter 'Twisted and twisty' Linwood Barclay 'One of the most consistently entertaining, insightful crime writers working today' Gillian Flynn 'The next superstar detective is already with us. Don't miss him' Lee Child

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