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book review...

Your guide to the latest book releases.

The Venice Conspiracy

By Jon Trace (Sphere \$29.99)

When ex-priest Tom Shaman, jaded from years in the LA ghetto, decides on a last minute trip to Venice, he receives much more than the break he had been hoping for. A brutal killer is on the loose and Tom finds himself catapulted into a series of ritualistic killings unlike anything Venice has ever seen. Enlisted by the Italian police, Tom teams up with investigator Valentina Morassi to dig deep into the city's darkest history, stretching from an ancient civilisation in 700BC and the sexual decadence of 18th century Italy to the gritty underworld of modern-day Venice. As Valentina and Tom trace the killings through the centuries, they uncover a deadly secret generations have killed to protect.

The Creeper

By Tania Carver (Sphere \$32.99)

Suzanne Perry is having a vivid nightmare. Someone is in her bedroom, touching her and she cannot move a muscle. She wakes, relieved to put the nightmare behind her until she opens the curtains and sees a Polaroid stuck to the window. A photo of her sleeping self, taken during the night and underneath the words "I am watching you". Detective inspector Phil Brennan of the major incident squad has a killer to hunt. A killer who stalks young women, insinuates himself into their lives and ultimately tortures and murders them in the most shocking way possible. But the more Phil investigates, the more he delves into the twisted psychology of this quarry, Phil realises it is not just a serial killer he is hunting but something or someone infinitely more calculating and horrific.

Islands Of Gold

By Grant Hyde (Pan Macmillan \$25)

Set in 1796, three and a half years have passed since Captain Lightfoot and his crew helped restore justice and peace to Tonga. It is time for them to return to their colony in New Holland and then on to another England. But fate plays strange tricks in this vast ocean and Lightfoot and his Polynesian crew find themselves facing an old enemy. Meanwhile, far off in the Torres Strait, a Dutch East India merchant ship is wrecked on an unchartered reef. When the captain and officers are murdered by the mutinous crew, a fortune in gold and jewels locked away in the ship's belly is up for grabs.

Dance Until It Rains

By Andrew Jobling

(Exisle Publishing \$32.99)

Dance Until It Rains chronicles the life of a remarkable lady – ex-AFL footballer Andrew Jobling's mother, Sue. It is an inspirational story of love, hope and overcoming life's obstacles and will help you to find the motivation to create a better level of wellbeing and a happier life for yourself. It delivers a treasure trove of universal life lessons, helping those who are lacking in direction and in need of self-improvement with inspiring words of wisdom. It will urge you to live fully and in the moment and to treat others with respect, kindness, love and dignity.



If you would like to win a copy of Dance Until It Rains email you name, address and best contact number to janessa@citylifemag.com.au.



Author Profile

How do you spot a cheat? Why are women considered better cheaters and what actually constitutes infidelity? All these questions and more are answered in private investigator Julia Hartley's book Infidelity: Exploring the Myths.

Exploding the Myths

IULIA HARTLEY

INTERVIEW BY JANESSA EKERT

Tell me about your book Infidelity? It represents what I have learned in over 16 years as a private investigator and also in my own life about why people cheat on each other. It is straight talk about an often taboo and very painful subject. I am not an academic and I do not deal in theories – what I have learned about infidelity, I have learned in the real world.

Why are women considered better cheaters? In my experience, when women cheat they do it with a bit more thought. They tend to be more devious, cleverer at covering their tracks you could say. Women are better at enlisting the help of others, a friend say, to provide an alibi. Men go into an affair or liaison thinking they simply will not get caught whereas women will often plan ahead to ensure they do not get caught.

How do you spot a cheat? Behaviour is often a give away. How they look at and talk with and about members of the opposite sex will usually give you a pretty good hint. If I had had a glass of wine with Tiger, Jesse or Bill I believe I could have had them pegged within five minutes.

What are some of the myths? The first is that all men will cheat given half a chance. This simply is not true, many men do not have the urge to be unfaithful in their DNA, thank God. The second is that the other woman is always cuter, sexier, younger and slimmer than the wife. In regards to this, I cannot tell you how many times I have actually seen the other woman and been left aghast at how low some men will go just for sex. The third is that people who play around tend to be good looking. This is certainly not the case in the real world.

What actually constitutes infidelity? In a word, betrayal. There are two kinds of infidelity – physical and emotional – and either one can be just as devastating.

Extract from Infidelity: Exploding the Myths

by Julia Hartley Moore, \$29.99, Exisle Publishing, available at www.exislepublishing.com.au.

"Women are very capable of having an affair as revenge when they have been deceived by their partners, more capable in fact than many men ever realise. And a woman will plan her affair more meticulously than any man; she will usually have a back-up plan and a girlfriend who will cover for her. While a woman may sometimes choose to ignore her intuition, men have suppressed their intuitive skills to the point where they rarely use them. Again, this is to a woman's advantage when covering her tracks. If you likened the sexes' intuition on infidelity to a runaway train hurtling down the tracks, a woman would sense the danger before hearing the train but a man would probably only know the train was there when it ran him over. I have often asked my clients if they would consider having an affair after the discovery of infidelity, and the answer is usually an overwhelming 'No. I could never do that.' Well, ladies, maybe you should – there is a lot of power to be gained out of sex: it works for some and it sure worked for me."

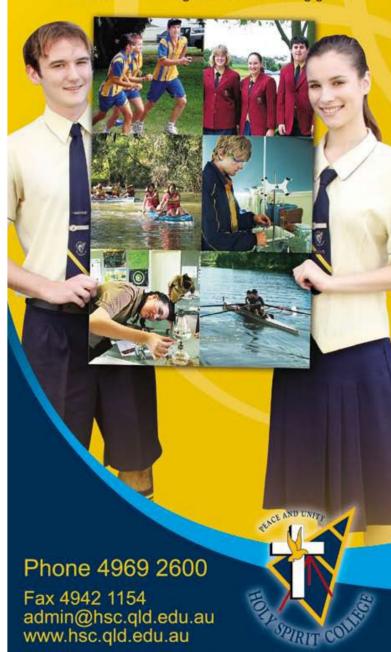


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