

# THE DAVID MARK READING GUIDE

THE DS McAVOY SERIES



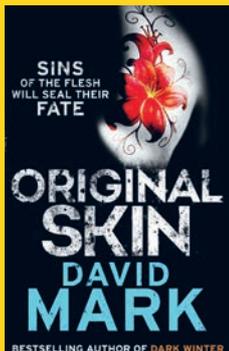
## DARK WINTER

Hull, East Yorkshire. Two weeks before Christmas an elderly man – the only survivor of a fishing trawler tragedy 40 years before – is found murdered at sea.

In a church, a young girl who is the last surviving member of a family slaughtered during the conflict in Sierra Leone, is hacked to death with a machete.

Someone is killing sole survivors in the manner they had escaped death. And it falls to Detective Sergeant Aector McAvoy of Humberside CID to find out who.

**‘An exceptional debut from an exciting new talent. David Mark is an original and captivating new voice.’ VAL McDERMID**

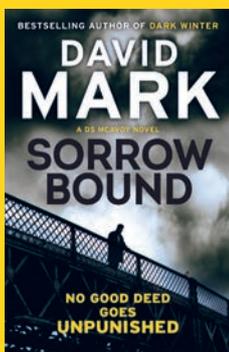


## ORIGINAL SKIN

Life is never quiet with Simon Appleyard and Suzie Devlin around. Fun-loving friends – their body markings as colourful as their sexuality – the pair's lust for life is matched only by their hunger for taboo pleasures. And life is currently anything but quiet for DS Aector McAvoy. A recent explosion in violent drug-related crime in and around Hull has seen his workload drastically increase.

But a guilty secret – born of sex, politics and the criminal underworld – has given rise to a fresh evil; one that will soon stain each of these lives, linking their fates as painfully and intricately as tattooed markings on virgin skin.

**‘Compelling . . . Richly satisfying and told with remarkable flair . . . confirms Mark as one of the darkest of the new faces in British crime writing, and not one to miss.’ DAILY MAIL**



## SORROW BOUND

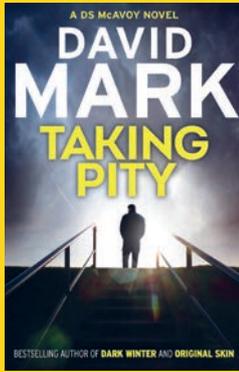
Philippa Longman is a 53-year-old grandmother at the centre of a loving family, who want nothing more than to get home from work before the storm breaks.

Roisin McAvoy is a young mother whose heart is as golden as the jewellery around her neck – a woman who is as fiercely protective of her closest friends as she is loyal to her husband.

DS Aector McAvoy is a man consumed with the well-being of others: whether it's shielding his family from the world, or protecting Hull's citizens amid an epidemic of violent crime.

But deep-seated grudges are greater than goodwill, and soon all three of these gentle souls will learn a common lesson – that bad things happen to good people.

**‘In terms of food analogies, some books are bland or subtly flavoured, while others are like a fiery curry. David Mark's DS McAvoy books are unarguably in the latter category.’ INDEPENDENT**



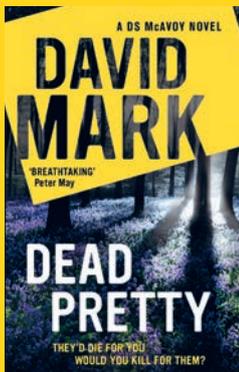
## TAKING PITY

They have taken DS Aector McAvoy's family.  
They have taken DCI Colin Ray's foundation.  
They have taken DS Trish Pharaoh's fight.

Now the ruthless criminal network that has tightened its stranglehold on Hull intends to take everything that remains from those who dare to stand in its way.

*Taking Pity* is a police procedural thriller that pulls no punches. It is the story of three officers who can take no more, and a merciless nemesis that takes no chances, no prisoners and no pity.

**'Excellent . . . Mark weaves a complicated web of deception, betrayal, and violence as the action builds to a stunning conclusion.'**  
**PUBLISHERS WEEKLY**



## DEAD PRETTY

Hannah Kelly has been missing for nine months.

Ava Delaney has been dead for five days.

DS Aector McAvoy won't let either of them go until justice can be done.

But some people have their own ideas of what justice means . . .

*Dead Pretty* takes readers deep into a crime investigation, as McAvoy struggles with a case that's leading nowhere, and the thorny issues of what right and wrong means when it comes to taking lives and saving them.

**'Breathtaking. Mark writes badness beautifully.'** PETER MAY

# ABOUT DAVID



David Mark spent more than fifteen years as a journalist, including seven years as a crime reporter with the *Yorkshire Post* – walking the Hull streets that would later become the setting for the Detective Sergeant Aector McAvoy novels.

He has written five novels in the McAvoy series, *Dark Winter*, *Original Sin*, *Sorrow Bound*, *Taking Pity* and *Dead Pretty*. *Dark Winter* was selected for the Harrogate New Blood panel, a Richard & Judy pick and a *Sunday Times* bestseller. He has recently completed a stint as reader in residence for the Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival.

He lives in Lincolnshire with his family.

# DAVID MARK

## READING GROUP QUESTIONS

THE DS McAVOY SERIES

DS McAvoy is far from the clichés of crime fiction cops: he is a devoted family man, tries not to get angry, and is very keen to do things right. Did this appeal to you? Does it feel more realistic? Are you expecting him to snap some time?

There are two hugely important women in McAvoy's life – his wife, Roisin, and his boss, Trish Pharaoh. How do you see this dynamic playing out in future stories?

The author has drawn on fifteen years of covering crime stories to try to get across the impact of violent crime on the victims. Do you think this is covered enough in crime fiction, or can it get lost in the action and the excitement of solving a puzzle?

In some of the novels, victims take matters into their own hands. Do you think 'vigilante' justice is ever justified?

The other members of the police team all get their chance to shine, from Pharaoh to Ray to Helen Tremberg. If you have read more than one of the books, what changes have you seen in them? Which of them do you most enjoy spending time with?

McAvoy is very fond of Hull, but open about its worse sides. If you know the city, are the novels a fair depiction? If you don't, do they make you want to go there? Do writers have any responsibility for casting their locations in an attractive light?

What is more important in the novels, the characters or the plot? Or are they impossible to separate? Which holds your attention the most?

Trish Pharaoh believes we are all capable of murder. McAvoy hopes she is wrong. What do you think?

If you enjoy David Mark's novels,  
you might enjoy books by . . .

Val McDermid | Peter Robinson | Stuart McBride | Peter May  
Ruth Rendell | Reginald Hill | Denise Mina | John Harvey