

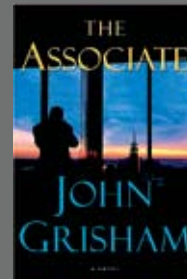
CRIME

BY IRVINE WELSH

Irvine Welsh is often referred to as the poet laureate of the chemical generation or lumbered with similarly one-dimensional tags in media sound bites. He is, however, a significant author whose fractured narratives document the social malaise and darker sides of life in the urban West. Welsh's debut novel *Trainspotting* was a considerably more thought-provoking and multivalent work than the rather pedestrian smash hit movie that it was subsequently turned into. In fact, *Trainspotting* could almost have been written by a Scottish William S. Burroughs, the legendary cult author who portrayed a callous world that cooked up the soul of man and injected it into the dark satanic mills of modernity.

Since *Trainspotting*, various brutally honest and yet entertaining and often hysterically funny novels have followed and sold by the truckload. Now, hot on the heels of his last outrageous epic, *The Bedroom Secrets of the Master Chefs*, comes *Crime*. Populated by familiar Welsh characters rubbed raw by the coruscating grind of urban life, *Crime* delves into the murky depths of child abuse. Detective Ray Lennox (first introduced in 1998's *Filth*) travels to Miami with his fiancée in order to plan his wedding. The trip is a nightmare from the get go. Lennox soon finds himself guzzling antidepressants and begins drinking (again). Miami locals also reacquaint him with an old friend, cocaine. Things really start to spiral out of control though when Lennox finds out that one of his new 'friends' has a 10-year-old daughter who's been targeted by an organised ring of paedophiles. Can the edgy Lennox trust his own instincts and save both the girl and himself? *Crime* is neither creepy nor prurient but instead complex, unsettling and even beautiful.

MORE BOOKS!



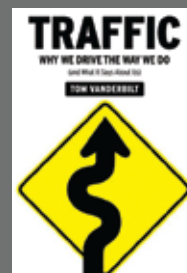
THE CANDIDATE BY JOHN GRISHAM

Hot off the press this month comes the latest novel from the legendary John Grisham. Another twist on this former lawyer's law obsessed fiction, *The Candidate* tells of Kyle McAvoy, a bright young lawyer who has a dark secret from his college days. The secret falls into the hands of the wrong people and Kyle is forced to take a job he doesn't want. At his new law firm Kyle is sucked into an illegal scheme that could send him to jail, if not get him killed. With its unforgettable cast of shady characters, *The Candidate* looks set to further cement Grisham's reputation as one of the most popular story tellers in the world.



THE POST-AMERICAN WORLD BY FAREED ZAKARIA

Newsweek editor and popular pundit Zakaria insists that this book is not about the decline of America but about the rise of everyone else. Ultimately, these two things probably amount to the same thing. *The Post-American World* is, however, a surprisingly optimistic read and examines the new wealth, power, innovation and confidence that are emerging all the way from China and India through to areas of South America, Asia and even Africa. I'm not sure that I share Mr Zakaria's amelioristic temperament but his central thesis that a political power shift and realignment is underway around the globe has to be taken seriously. All empires end eventually.



TRAFFIC BY TOM VANDERBILT

At last, the perfect book for Jakarta's motorists. Based on exhaustive research, *Traffic* examines the physical, psychological and technical factors of driving. Why do jams form? Would you be surprised to learn that road rage is good for society? Who is most likely to honk their horn at whom? Why do most crashes happen on dry sunny days? Can you gauge a nation's driving abilities by its level of corruption? *Traffic* ultimately moves beyond life on four wheels to life full stop. It shines light on our common attitudes as well as our perceptual and cognitive limits. Reading traffic may even make you a better driver.

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