

books by simon beckett

Books by Simon Beckett have captivated readers worldwide with their gripping storytelling, intricate characters, and masterful suspense. As a renowned author in the crime and thriller genres, Simon Beckett's novels have established a reputation for weaving compelling narratives that keep readers on the edge of their seats. Whether you're a seasoned fan or new to his work, exploring the extensive collection of books by Simon Beckett offers an exhilarating journey into the darker corners of human nature and the mysteries that lie beneath the surface. In this article, we delve into his most notable works, themes, and what makes his books a must-read for thriller enthusiasts.

Overview of Simon Beckett's Literary Style

Simon Beckett's writing is characterized by meticulous attention to detail, atmospheric settings, and complex characters. His background as a journalist shines through in his precise descriptions and realistic portrayals of forensic science and criminal investigations. Beckett's stories often blend elements of psychological thriller, crime procedural, and horror, creating a unique and compelling narrative style.

Key Themes in Simon Beckett's Books

- Crime and Forensic Science
- Human Psychology and Morality
- Mystery and Unraveling Secrets
- Isolation and Survival
- Dark Past and Hidden Histories

Major Book Series by Simon Beckett

Simon Beckett's bibliography is primarily centered around two prolific series: the David Hunter series and standalone novels. Each series explores different facets of crime and human nature, offering readers diverse yet interconnected stories.

The David Hunter Series

The David Hunter series is Beckett's most famous collection, featuring a forensic anthropologist who becomes embroiled in solving complex murder cases. This series is celebrated for its detailed forensic

procedures, atmospheric settings, and character development.

Books in the David Hunter Series

1. **The Chemistry of Death** (2006)
 - The debut novel introduces Dr. David Hunter, who is drawn into a mysterious murder case in a remote village. This book sets the tone for the series with its dark tone and forensic details.
2. **Written in Bone** (2008)
 - Hunter investigates a series of disturbing deaths linked to a local community, delving into secrets buried in the past.
3. **Whispers of the Dead** (2009)
 - The detective grapples with personal loss while uncovering a chilling murder connected to his own history.
4. **The Calling of the Grave** (2011)
 - Hunter faces a race against time to solve a case involving a missing girl, confronting his own vulnerabilities.
5. **Need to Know** (2012)
 - A new investigation leads Hunter into a web of lies, with dangerous implications for everyone involved.
6. **The Restless Dead** (2013)
 - The series continues with Hunter confronting unsettling truths about his past and the case at hand.

Why Readers Love the David Hunter Series

- Authentic forensic science techniques
- Strong character development, especially of Hunter
- Dark, atmospheric settings that evoke suspense
- Complex, intertwined mysteries
- Emotional depth and moral ambiguity

Standalone Novels by Simon Beckett

Apart from the series, Beckett has authored several standalone novels that showcase his versatility as a writer. These books often explore themes of psychological trauma, survival, and the supernatural.

Notable Standalone Novels

1. **The Summons** (2013)
 - A tense thriller about a man who discovers his estranged brother's mysterious death, uncovering secrets that threaten his perception of reality.
2. **Where There's Smoke** (2014)
 - A gritty story about a firefighter confronting his past when a deadly blaze reveals shocking truths.
3. **The Sickness** (2015)
 - A chilling tale involving a mysterious illness that spreads, testing the limits of human endurance and morality.

Themes and Motifs in Simon Beckett's Books

Understanding the recurring themes in Beckett's work enhances appreciation and provides insight into his storytelling approach.

Forensic Science and Realism

Simon Beckett's background as a journalist specializing in science and crime helps him craft authentic forensic scenes, adding realism and credibility to his stories.

Psychological Depth

His characters often face moral dilemmas and emotional struggles, providing a deeper layer to the suspense and mystery.

Isolation and the Natural World

Many of Beckett's stories are set in remote or wilderness locations, emphasizing themes of isolation, survival, and the primal aspects of human nature.

Dark Secrets and Hidden Histories

His books frequently reveal buried secrets, past traumas, or hidden motives, driving the plot and character arcs.

How to Dive Into Books by Simon Beckett

For newcomers eager to explore his work, starting with the first book in the David Hunter series, *The Chemistry of Death*, is highly recommended. It introduces the protagonist and sets the tone for the series. From there, readers can follow the chronological order or pick books based on interest.

Reading Tips for Fans

- Pay attention to forensic details for a richer experience
- Note the recurring themes of morality and human nature
- Explore both series and standalone novels to appreciate Beckett's range
- Revisit books if a plot twist leaves you eager for more insights

Where to Find Books by Simon Beckett

His books are widely available in bookstores, online retailers, and libraries. They are published in multiple formats, including hardcover, paperback, eBook, and audiobook, making it easy for readers to enjoy his stories anytime, anywhere.

Popular Editions and Collections

- Complete series box sets for dedicated fans
- Special editions with author notes and insights
- Translated editions for international readers

Conclusion

Books by Simon Beckett offer a compelling blend of forensic science, psychological depth, and atmospheric storytelling that appeal to fans of crime thrillers and psychological dramas alike. Whether you are starting with his acclaimed David Hunter series or exploring his standalone novels, each book promises an immersive experience filled with suspense, secrets, and twists. As an author dedicated to authenticity and emotional resonance, Beckett's works continue to enthrall readers around the globe. Dive into his books today and discover why he remains a prominent figure in

contemporary crime and thriller literature.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some of the most popular books written by Simon Beckett?

Some of Simon Beckett's most popular books include 'The Chemistry of Death,' 'Written in Bone,' and 'The Calling.'

Is 'The Chemistry of Death' the first book in a series by Simon Beckett?

Yes, 'The Chemistry of Death' is the first book in Simon Beckett's David Hunter series.

Are Simon Beckett's books part of a series or standalone novels?

Most of Simon Beckett's books are part of the David Hunter series, though he has also written standalone novels.

What genre do Simon Beckett's books primarily belong to?

Simon Beckett's books are primarily in the crime, thriller, and forensic mystery genres.

Has Simon Beckett won any awards for his writing?

Yes, Simon Beckett has received several awards and nominations, including the Crime Writers' Association award for best debut novel.

Are Simon Beckett's books available in audiobook format?

Yes, many of Simon Beckett's books are available as audiobooks, often narrated by professional voice actors.

What is the main theme explored in Simon Beckett's books?

His books often explore themes of forensic science, human psychology, and the complexities of criminal investigations.

Are Simon Beckett's books suitable for young adult readers?

Simon Beckett's books are generally aimed at adult readers due to their mature themes and graphic content.

Where can I find the latest releases by Simon Beckett?

The latest releases by Simon Beckett can typically be found on major book retailers, his official website, and publisher announcements.

Additional Resources

Books by Simon Beckett have carved out a distinctive niche within the crime thriller and psychological suspense genres. Renowned for his compelling storytelling, richly developed characters, and atmospheric settings, Simon Beckett's works have captivated readers worldwide. Whether you're new to his writing or a seasoned fan, understanding the landscape of his publications offers a deeper appreciation of his craft and the themes that run through his novels.

An Introduction to Simon Beckett's Literary World

Simon Beckett is a British author best known for his gripping crime novels and psychological thrillers. His writing combines meticulous plotting with vivid descriptions, creating immersive worlds that keep readers guessing until the final page. His books often explore darker aspects of human nature, examining motives, secrets, and the complexities of the human psyche.

The cornerstone of Beckett's appeal lies in his ability to craft suspenseful narratives that are both intellectually engaging and emotionally resonant. His stories frequently feature forensic elements and detailed investigations, which lend authenticity and depth to his thrillers.

Key Themes and Elements in Simon Beckett's Books

1. Forensic Science and Crime Investigation

A hallmark of Beckett's novels is the integration of forensic details and criminal investigation techniques. His background and meticulous research lend credibility to his descriptions of crime scenes, autopsies, and evidence analysis.

2. Psychological Depth

Beckett's characters are often layered and complex, grappling with personal demons, trauma, or moral dilemmas. This psychological depth elevates his stories beyond simple whodunits, exploring why crimes happen and how they affect those involved.

3. Atmospheric Settings

Many of his books are set in atmospheric locations—rural landscapes, coastal towns, or isolated environments—that enhance the suspense and mood of the narrative.

4. Dark and Gritty Tone

Beckett doesn't shy away from depicting grim realities, often confronting themes of violence, death,

and moral ambiguity.

A Deep Dive into Simon Beckett's Book Series

While Beckett's works can be enjoyed as standalone novels, he is particularly known for his series featuring forensic anthropologist Dr. David Hunter. This series has garnered critical acclaim and a dedicated following.

The Dr. David Hunter Series

1. The Chemistry of Death (2006)

Overview:

This debut novel introduces Dr. David Hunter, a forensic anthropologist living a reclusive life in a rural British town. When a murder occurs, Hunter is reluctantly drawn into the investigation, unveiling buried secrets and confronting his past.

Key Features:

- Gripping mystery with forensic authenticity
- Explores themes of grief, guilt, and redemption
- Establishes Hunter's character as a morally complex protagonist

2. Written in Bone (2007)

Overview:

Hunter is called to investigate a series of murders linked to a brutal past. The novel delves into historical crimes and the long shadows they cast.

Highlights:

- Interweaving of past and present investigations
- Rich character development
- Atmospheric setting enhances suspense

3. Whispers of the Dead (2008)

Overview:

Hunter faces a new case involving a child's disappearance, pushing him to his emotional and professional limits.

Themes:

- Child abduction and trauma
- Psychological tension
- Ethical dilemmas in forensic work

4. The Calling of the Grave (2010)

Overview:

Hunter's expertise is sought for a case involving a mysterious death in a remote area, revealing dark secrets in the community.

Features:

- Complex plot twists
- Exploration of community secrets and lies

5. The Restless Dead (2012)

Overview:

Hunter investigates a series of suspicious deaths that seem linked to a cold case, testing his investigative skills and emotional resilience.

Notable Aspects:

- Intricate plotting
- Deep exploration of Hunter's personal struggles

6. The Scent of Death (2014)

Overview:

Hunter is drawn into a case involving a decomposed body found in a forest, leading to revelations about a long-bast history of violence.

Highlights:

- Intense atmospheric descriptions
- Themes of mortality and decay

7. The Last Strand (2016)

Overview:

The latest in the series, Hunter faces a complex investigation involving a suicide that may not be what it seems, leading to a tense conclusion.

Features:

- Fast-paced narrative
- Emotional depth and resolution

Standalone Novels and Other Works by Simon Beckett

While the David Hunter series is his flagship, Beckett has also authored standalone thrillers and works outside the series that showcase his versatility.

Notable Standalone Novels

- The Calling (2015)

Not to be confused with The Calling of the Grave, this standalone explores themes of faith, obsession, and the supernatural in a rural setting.

- The Lost (2019)

A psychological thriller involving disappearance, secrets, and the search for truth.

Short Stories and Collections

Beckett has also contributed to anthologies and written short stories that expand on his themes of crime, suspense, and human psychology.

Why Read Books by Simon Beckett?

Engaging Plotlines

Beckett's novels are known for their tightly woven plots, unpredictable twists, and compelling mysteries that keep readers hooked from start to finish.

Realistic Forensic Detail

His attention to forensic science lends credibility and authenticity, making his novels appealing to fans of procedural crime dramas.

Well-Developed Characters

Readers become emotionally invested in characters like Dr. David Hunter, whose personal struggles and moral dilemmas add depth to the stories.

Atmospheric Writing

Beckett's vivid descriptions of settings and mood create immersive experiences that transport readers into the heart of each story.

Thought-Provoking Themes

His exploration of human nature, morality, and the consequences of past actions makes his works not just entertaining, but also reflective.

Final Thoughts: Navigating the Books by Simon Beckett

Whether you're drawn to the forensic examinations in the Dr. David Hunter series or intrigued by standalone thrillers, Simon Beckett's books offer a compelling mix of suspense, psychological insight, and atmospheric storytelling. For readers seeking a blend of gritty realism and thought-provoking narratives, his works provide a satisfying and immersive experience.

As you delve into his bibliography, consider exploring the series in order to follow Hunter's development and the evolving mysteries, but don't hesitate to pick up a standalone if a particular story piques your interest. With each book, Beckett reaffirmed his reputation as a master of crime fiction, offering stories that linger long after the final page.

Embark on a journey through the dark and intriguing world of Simon Beckett's books—where every clue and every shadow reveals a new layer of human complexity.

Books By Simon Beckett

books by simon beckett: Whispers of the Dead Simon Beckett, 2022-06-14 While visiting his mentor in Tennessee, a forensics expert matches wits with a killer of terrifying skill in this acclaimed crime series. To escape the violence that nearly killed him, forensic pathologist Dr. David Hunter leaves the United Kingdom for America, returning to the Body Farm—the Tennessee research center where he once trained. David is there to find out if he's still up to the job of confronting death in all its strange and terrible forms. So when his former mentor asks David to accompany him to a crime scene, he agrees. But even David is unprepared for what awaits them in a remote cabin. The victim has been tortured, the body decomposed beyond recognition. The fingerprints seem to identify the killer, but David is unconvinced. When a second body is found, it's clear that the killer is dangerously familiar with the intricacies of forensics. Pushed deep into the heart of a terrifying manhunt, David begins to wonder if they're on the trail of a maniac who cannot be stopped.

books by simon beckett: Written in Bone Simon Beckett, 2008 When a retired detective stumbles upon the body of a young woman, incinerated along with her island cottage, forensic anthropologist Dr. David Hunter uncovers evidence of murder, along with long-hidden secrets of the isolated island community.

books by simon beckett: Where There's Smoke Simon Beckett, 2015-11-19 Some moments burn in the mind for ever. The landing is dark. Light comes from a window at the far end, enough to run by. Breath comes hard. From the stairs sound heavy footfalls in pursuit. The landing ends in a last doorway. There is no more running, only the need to hide... Imagine not knowing the father of your child. Not knowing his name. What he looks like. Or what sort of person he is. Although she is desperate for a baby, that is something that Kate Powell cannot accept. Single, independent, she likes to be in control of her own life - even if it has, somehow, become strangely shallow and meaningless. Then Kate meets a man who seems to be the answer to all her problems. But we all know appearances can be dangerously deceptive. And Kate should too. Soon her life is out her hands. And out of control...

books by simon beckett: The Scent of Death Simon Beckett, 2022-06-14 It has been a good summer for forensics expert Dr David Hunter. His relationship is going well and he's in demand again as a police consultant. His life seems to be on an even keel. But not for long. The call comes from an old associate: a body has been found, and she'd like Hunter to take a look ... St Jude's Hospital now stands empty. Slowly rotting and silently awaiting demolition, the vast, oppressive building's only visitors have been society's outcasts, addicts and dealers. And it's here that the partially mummified corpse has been discovered. Hunter is not sure how long the body has been hidden in the hospital's cavernous loft, but he's seen enough to know it's a young woman. And that she was pregnant. As the remains are removed for closer examination, a floor collapses revealing a previously sealed off part of a ward. Bricked up inside this hidden chamber are three beds. Two of them are occupied ... What other grisly secrets will St Jude's reveal? The local community is alarmed and the police need answers. For David Hunter, what began as a challenging if straightforward case is about to become a twisted nightmare threatening him and those around him.--Provided by publisher.

books by simon beckett: The Chemistry of Death Simon Beckett, 2007 Three years ago, David Hunter moved to rural Norfolk to escape his life in London, his gritty work in forensics, and a tragedy that nearly destroyed him. Working as a simple country doctor, seeing his lost wife and daughter only in his dreams, David struggles to remain uninvolved when the corpse of a woman is found in the woods, a macabre sign from her killer decorating her body. In one horrifying instant, the quiet summer countryside that had been David's refuge has turned malevolent--and suddenly there is no place to hide. The village of Manham is tight-knit, far from the beaten path. As a newcomer, Dr. Hunter is immediately a suspect. Once an expert in analyzing human remains, he reluctantly joins the police investigation--and when another woman disappears, it soon becomes

personal. Because this time she is someone David knows, someone who has managed to penetrate the icy barrier around his heart. With a killer's bizarre and twisted methods screaming out to him, with a brooding countryside beset with suspicion, David can feel the darkness gathering around him. For as the clock ticks down on a young woman's life, David must follow a macabre trail of clues--all the way to its final, horrifying conclusion.

books by simon beckett: Stone Bruises Simon Beckett, 2014-01-30 'Somebody!' I half-sob and then, more quietly, 'Please.' The words seem absorbed by the afternoon heat, lost amongst the trees. In their aftermath, the silence descends again. I know then that I'm not going anywhere... Sean is on the run. We don't know why and we don't know from whom, but we do know he's abandoned his battered, blood-stained car in the middle of an isolated part of rural France at the height of a sweltering summer. Desperate to avoid the police, he takes to the parched fields and country lanes but his leg is caught in a vicious animal trap. Near unconscious from pain and loss of blood, he is freed and taken in by two women - daughters of the owner of a rundown local farm with its ramshackle barn, blighted vineyard and the brooding lake. And it's then that Sean's problems really start... This nail-shredder of a thriller - like the fiction of Nicci French or Gillian Flynn - holds you from the beginning, tightening its grip as the story unfurls and shocks you with its final twist.

books by simon beckett: The Scent of Death Simon Beckett, 2019-06-25 'Masterful storytelling and macabre forensic details make his novels utterly chilling reads' TESS GERRITSEN Once a busy hospital, St Jude's now stands derelict, awaiting demolition. When a partially mummified corpse is found in the building's cavernous loft, forensics expert Dr David Hunter is called in to take a look. He can't say how long the body's been there, but he is certain it's that of a young woman. And that she was pregnant. Then part of the attic floor collapses, revealing another of the hospital's secrets: a bricked-up chamber with beds inside. And some of them are still occupied. For Hunter, what began as a straightforward case is about to become a twisted nightmare. And it soon becomes clear that St Jude's hasn't claimed its last victim . . . Chilling, visceral and masterfully paced, Simon Beckett's new crime thriller will leave you gasping.

books by simon beckett: The Restless Dead Simon Beckett, 2017-02-09 * Don't miss 'THE CHEMISTRY OF DEATH' TV SERIES - now streaming on Paramount+ * Adapted from The Chemistry of Death and Written in Bone - starring Harry Treadaway as Dr David Hunter 'Atmospheric . . . a tense, gripping read' Sunday Times It's not the dead we need to fear. . . Top forensics expert Dr David Hunter is facing an uncertain future - his career hangs in the balance and his personal life has taken a turn for the worse. So when he gets a call from Essex police, it comes at the perfect time. A badly decomposed body has been found in the mudflats and salt marshes of the Backwaters. Could it be linked to two unsolved missing-person cases? But as these desolate wetlands begin to give up their grisly secrets, more remains are discovered. With its eerie, claustrophobic sense of place, authentic forensics and explosive, heart-in-mouth moments, The Restless Dead is a masterclass in crime fiction.

books by simon beckett: The Restless Dead Simon Beckett, 2022-06-14 A forensic pathologist gets mired in the deadly secrets of an English backwater village in this "tense, gripping" crime thriller (The Sunday Times). Top forensics expert Dr. David Hunter is facing an uncertain future. His career hangs in the balance and his personal life has taken a turn for the worse. Then, he takes a call from Detective Inspector Lundy from the Essex force. Just up the coast from Mersea Island, a badly decomposed body has been found. The local police would welcome David's help with the recovery and identification—and they would especially like it if the body was identified as Leo Villiers. Leo Villiers is the adult son of a prominent regional family who went missing weeks ago, and the investigators are under pressure to close the case. Villiers was allegedly having an affair with a married woman, Emma Derby, who is also missing. The theory is that the young man disposed of his lover and then killed himself. But with the hands and feet missing and the face no longer recognizable, David has his doubts about the identity of the remains. As the remote wetlands give up ever more grisly secrets, David is slowly drawn into a toxic mire of family betrayals, provincial lies, and deadly stakes. "The Restless Dead is a deep dive into darkness. Simon Beckett's masterful

storytelling and macabre forensic details make his novels utterly chilling reads.” —Tess Gerritsen, author of New York Times–bestseller *Harvest* “The forensics are chillingly authentic, the writing is both taut and atmospheric.” —Anne Cleeves, bestselling author of the Vera Stanhope series

books by simon beckett: *The Lost* Simon Beckett, 2022-10-11 A London detective makes a gruesome discovery that could solve the riddle of his son's disappearance in this crime thriller series debut. Det. Sgt. Jonah Colley of the Metropolitan firearms unit has been wracked with guilt for the past ten years, ever since his son went missing under his care. The tragedy broke up his marriage and left him estranged from his best friend, Det. Sgt. Gavin McKinney. But now Gavin calls him out of the blue. Desperate for help, he needs Jonah to meet him at Slaughter Quay. Jonah arrives to a horrifying crime scene where Gavin was brutally attacked and left for dead. As the only survivor, he is also a person of interest. But even while under suspicion himself, Jonah is determined to find out what happened. Uncovering a network of secrets and lies about the people he thought he knew, he's forced to question what really happened all those years ago. *The Lost* is the first book in the Jonah Colley thrillers by the award-winning, Sunday Times–bestselling author of the David Hunter series.

books by simon beckett: *Owning Jacob* Simon Beckett, 2022-07-05 After losing his wife, a man uncovers a shocking secret about the child she left behind in this gripping suspense novel from the acclaimed author. London-based photographer Ben Murray loves his wife, Sarah, and has been like a father to her autistic son, Jacob. But when Sarah suddenly dies, Ben is devastated. Though Jacob is a source of joy and comfort in this tragic time, Ben now faces the challenge of raising the boy alone. Then, while going through Sarah's old things, he finds proof that Jacob was never her child. Horrified to learn that Jacob had been kidnapped years ago, Ben sets out to find the boy's real family. But as he uncovers the truth about the family he once held dear, Ben is drawn into a web of lies, betrayal, and deadly obsession.

books by simon beckett: *The Calling of the Grave* Simon Beckett, 2022-06-14 A forensic pathologist must once again confront a twisted serial killer in the international bestselling author's "bone-chillingly bleak" crime thriller (Financial Times). When Det. Insp. Terry Connor turns up on David Hunter's doorstep, it's an unwelcome reminder of the past in more ways than one. They had once worked together, recovering the victims of a serial killer on the bleak expanse of Dartmoor in Southern England. When Terry's behavior caused a bitter rift, the partnership ended. But now the serial killer—a psychotic rapist and murderer named Jerome Monk—has escaped from high-security prison. And he seems to be targeting anyone involved with the search. David has no choice but to return to his past that is far from dead and buried—especially when he receives a mysterious appeal for help from Sophie Keller, who also worked with the recovery team in Dartmoor. As he is drawn back into Jerome's twisted world, David discovers that nothing about the original case was what it seemed. And as the maniac's bloody trail edges ever closer, David is forced to question who he can really trust.

books by simon beckett: *The Lost* Simon Beckett, 2021-11-25 A MISSING CHILD Ten years ago, the disappearance of firearms police officer Jonah Colley's young son almost destroyed him. A GRUESOME DISCOVERY A plea for help from an old friend leads Jonah to Slaughter Quay, and the discovery of four bodies. Brutally attacked and left for dead, he is the only survivor. A SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH Under suspicion himself, he uncovers a network of secrets and lies about the people he thought he knew - forcing him to question what really happened all those years ago...

books by simon beckett: *The Bone Garden* Simon Beckett, 2025-01-16 *THE BRAND NEW DR DAVID HUNTER NOVEL - the David Hunter television series THE CHEMISTRY OF DEATH debuts on Paramount+ on 19 Jan 23 * The dead didn't frighten me. It was the living that gave me nightmares. An atmospheric and utterly gripping mystery set in the shadows of the Welsh mountains, that will chill the reader to their very bones Driving back through Wales in a fierce winter storm, forensic anthropologist David Hunter is forced to seek shelter at a remote village in the Eryri mountains. But a one-night stop-over becomes something very different after a gruesome discovery in depths of the local forest. With communications down and the only road washed out by the storm, Hunter is unsure who - if anyone - he can trust. And as long-buried secrets begin to

emerge, he's knows that, whatever dark past the isolated community might be hiding, there's no one he can call on for help. This time he's on his own. Forensic anthropologist David Hunter is back in this pulse-pounding thriller that explores the wildness and danger of rural life and the intensity of small-town claustrophobia.

books by simon beckett: *The Scent of Death* Simon Beckett, 2019-02-21 * Don't miss 'THE CHEMISTRY OF DEATH' TV SERIES - now streaming on Paramount+ * Adapted from *The Chemistry of Death* and *Written in Bone* - starring Harry Treadaway as Dr David Hunter 'A superbly strong read' *The Times* What began as a straightforward case is about to become a twisted nightmare . . . Once a busy hospital, St Jude's now stands derelict, awaiting demolition. When a partially mummified corpse is found in the building's cavernous loft, forensics expert Dr David Hunter is called in to take a look. He can't say how long the body's been there, but he is certain it's that of a young woman. And that she was pregnant. Then part of the attic floor collapses, revealing another of the hospital's secrets: a bricked-up chamber with beds inside. And some of them are still occupied. And it soon becomes clear that St Jude's hasn't claimed its last victim . . . Chilling, visceral and masterfully paced, Simon Beckett's new crime thriller will leave you gasping.

books by simon beckett: *The Lost Free eBook Sampler* Simon Beckett, 2021-11-17 *** FREE EBOOK SAMPLER *** 'A terrific thriller from one of our finest crime writers at the top of his game.' Peter James A MISSING CHILD Ten years ago, the disappearance of firearms police officer Jonah Colley's young son almost destroyed him. A GRUESOME DISCOVERY A plea for help from an old friend leads Jonah to Slaughter Quay, and the discovery of four bodies. Brutally attacked and left for dead, he is the only survivor. A SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH Under suspicion himself, he uncovers a network of secrets and lies about the people he thought he knew - forcing him to question what really happened all those years ago...

books by simon beckett: *Written in Bone* Simon Beckett, 2023-08-24 * Don't miss 'THE CHEMISTRY OF DEATH' TV SERIES - now streaming on Paramount+ * Adapted from *The Chemistry of Death* and *Written in Bone* - starring Harry Treadaway as Dr David Hunter A killer on the loose. A murder disguised as an accident . . . As a favour to a colleague, Dr David Hunter is on the remote Hebridean island of Runa to inspect a grisly discovery. He's familiar with death in all its guises but is shocked by what he finds- a body, incinerated but for the feet and a single hand. It appears to be a textbook case of spontaneous human combustion. The local police are certain it's an accidental death but to Hunter the scorched remains suggest otherwise, And as the isolated community considers the enormity of Hunter's findings, a catastrophic storm hits the island. The power goes down, communication with the outside world ceases . . . And the killing begins in earnest.

books by simon beckett: *The David Hunter Thrillers, Books 1-3* Simon Beckett, 2022-12-27 The first three David Hunter crime thrillers, together in one set, featuring the English forensic pathologist and reluctant sleuth. *The Chemistry of Death* After the tragic loss of his wife and daughter, Dr. David Hunter trades his gritty career in criminal forensics in London for the village of Manham and the peaceful life of a country doctor. But a grisly murder and the kidnapping of a friend pull David back into a world he desperately wishes to leave behind . . . *Written in Bone* When the scorched remains of a body are found on a remote Hebridean island, local police are certain it's an accidental death. David, however, believes otherwise. As his investigation begins, a catastrophic storm hits the island, taking out the power. With communication cut off from the mainland, a killer is on the prowl . . . *Whispers of the Dead* David travels across the Atlantic to Tennessee to visit the Body Farm, the research center where he once trained. There, his former mentor asks David to accompany him to a horrific crime scene in a remote cabin. The corpse is unidentifiable, and the evidence is inconclusive. After a second body is found, David wonders if they're on the trail of an unstoppable maniac . . . Praise for the David Hunter Thrillers "A nice balance between forensic detail and thrilling action." —Booklist on *The Chemistry of Death* "Well-drawn characters and a highly atmospheric closed setting, this is a traditional detective . . . updated for modern tastes and with a likable detective." —The Denver Post on *Written in Bone* "This entry reinforces the author's place in the front rank of forensic crime novelists." —Publishers Weekly on *Whispers of the Dead*

books by simon beckett: The Restless Dead Simon Beckett, 2018-10-23 'Composed of over sixty per cent water itself, a human body isn't naturally buoyant. It will float only for as long as there is air in its lungs, before gradually sinking to the bottom as the air seeps out. If the water is very cold or deep, it will remain there, undergoing a slow, dark dissolution that can take years. But if the water is warm enough for bacteria to feed and multiply, then it will continue to decompose. Gases will build up in the intestines, increasing the body's buoyancy until it floats again. And the dead will literally rise . . . ' Once one of the country's most respected forensics experts, Dr David Hunter is facing an uncertain professional – and personal – future. So when he gets a call from Essex police, he's eager for the chance to assist them. A badly decomposed body has been found in a desolate area of tidal mudflats and saltmarsh called the Backwaters. Under pressure to close the case, the police want Hunter to help with the recovery and identification. It's thought the remains are those of Leo Villiers, the son of a prominent businessman who vanished weeks ago. To complicate matters, it was rumoured that Villiers was having an affair with a local woman. And she too is missing. But Hunter has his doubts about the identity. He knows the condition of the unrecognizable body could hide a multitude of sins. Then more remains are discovered – and these remote wetlands begin to give up their secrets . . . With its eerie, claustrophobic sense of place, viscerally authentic detail and explosive heart-in-mouth moments, *The Restless Dead* offers a masterclass in crime fiction and marks the stunning return of one of the genre's best.

books by simon beckett: Whispers of the Dead Simon Beckett, 2009-05-19 A field of corpses, laid out in a macabre display...A serial killer who confounds even the most seasoned profilers...A doctor whose life has been shattered by crime—plunged into the heart of a shocking investigation... In this masterful new novel by Simon Beckett, #1 internationally bestselling author of *Written in Bone* and *The Chemistry of Death*, forensic anthropologist David Hunter is thrust into his first murder investigation on U.S. soil—and his most devastating case yet. In the heat of a Tennessee summer, Dr. Hunter has come to Knoxville's legendary "Body Farm"—the infamous field laboratory where law enforcement personnel study real corpses—to escape London and the violence that nearly destroyed his life. He's also here to find out if he's still up to the job of sorting through death in all its strange and terrible forms.... Hunter will soon find his answer when he's called to a crime scene in a remote Smoky Mountain cabin—a scene as grisly as it is bizarre. The body is taped to a table. Everything about the crime scene—the wounds, the decomposition, the microscopic evidence—quickly short-circuits the tools and methods of forensic experts. Within days, Hunter knows he's dealing with a serial killer, someone intimately familiar with the intricacies of forensics. All around him, egos and hierarchies clash—from the boasts of a renowned criminal profiler to the dogged work of a young female investigator—but fate keeps pushing Hunter further into the heart of the manhunt. And the killer keeps coming up with surprises: booby-trapping corpses, faking times of death, swapping bodies—finally turning his sights on after Hunter himself.... An electrifying race against time, a fascinating journey into the world of forensic science, and a terrifying portrait of a killer in love with death itself, *Whispers of the Dead* is a thriller of the highest order.

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