

As good as it gets: *Peter James' latest a winner*

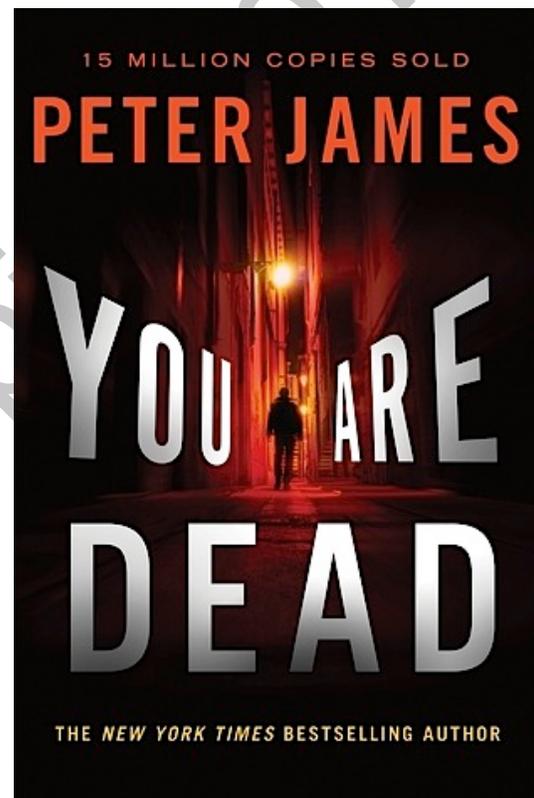
Suspended Sentences

by Jim Napier

A young woman named Logan Somerville has been abducted from her car park in Brighton; to make things worse, she's diabetic, lending new urgency to the case. When human remains are unearthed at a nearby construction site and other women are reported missing the police realise they have a very clever serial torturer and killer on their patch. His chilling trademark: the words *U R DEAD* are burned into his victims' skins. Grim enough, but the situation Detective Superintendent Roy Grace and his team face is far worse than they imagine, involving a twisted psychopath who makes Hannibal Lecter look like a poor relation. Grace's quest to find him will take the detective to new depths, and when he finally tracks him down both men will literally be fighting for their lives.

Followers of the Roy Grace series know that the detective's life is rarely straightforward. His search for the serial killer is punctuated by his long journey to discover what happened to his first wife Sandy

over ten years earlier, when she suddenly disappeared. Unknown



to Grace, she had been having an affair with one of his colleagues, an officer from London named Cassian Pewe. Now Pewe has returned to become the Assistant Chief Constable and Grace's superior officer, and Grace has learned that a woman has surfaced in a hospital in Munich, in a coma

after being struck by a taxi while crossing the street. Could this be Sandy, and if so what are the implications for Grace's relationship with his current wife and their young son, Noel?

Peter James is a consummate thriller writer, having recently been awarded the British-based Crime Writers Association's Diamond Dagger for sustained excellence over the entire body of his work.

His earlier novel *Dead Simple* is, quite simply, the finest suspense tale ever written, and in subsequent works James has gone from strength to strength. Told from alternating points of view that include the killer's, and featuring finely-honed characters in a plot that builds to a riveting climax, *You are Dead* will stay with readers long after they put the book down.

First published on *Reviewing the Evidence*, March 1, 2016.

Since 2005 Jim Napier's reviews and interviews have appeared in several Canadian newspapers and on such websites as *Spinetingler*, *The Rap Sheet*, *Shots Magazine*, *Crime Time*, *Reviewing The Evidence*, *January* magazine, the *Montreal Review of Books*, the *Ottawa Review of Books*, and *Amazon.com*, as well as on his own award-winning crime fiction site, *Deadly Diversions*. He can be reached at jnapier@deadlydiversions.com



© Jim Napier 2016