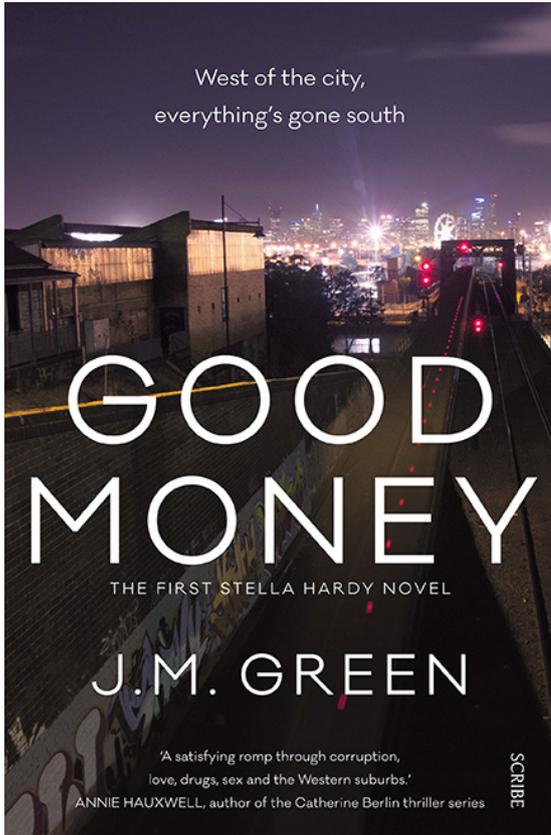


Good Money

J.M. GREEN



BOOK DETAILS

Format: Paperback

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AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

J.M. Green studied professional writing at RMIT. *Good Money*, her first novel, was shortlisted for the 2014 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript. She lives in Melbourne's western suburbs.

Introducing Stella Hardy, a wisecracking social worker with a thirst for social justice, good laksa, and alcohol.

Stella's phone rings. A young African boy, the son of one of her clients, has been murdered in a dingy back alley. Stella, in her forties and running low on empathy, heads into the night to comfort the grieving mother. But when she gets there, she makes a discovery that has the potential to uncover something terrible from her past - something she thought she'd gotten away with.

Then Stella's neighbour Tania mysteriously vanishes. When Stella learns that Tania is the heir to a billion-dollar mining empire, Stella realises her glamorous young friend might have had more up her sleeve than just a perfectly toned arm. Who is behind her disappearance?

Enlisting the help of her friend Senior Constable Phuong Nguyen, Stella's investigation draws her further and further into a dark world of drug dealers, sociopaths, and killers, such as the enigmatic Mr Funsail, whose name makes even hardened criminals run for cover.

One thing is clear: Stella needs to find answers fast - before the people she's looking for find her instead.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Phuong and Stella are friends and yet opposites. The novel begins with them estranged but soon the friendship is repaired and they work together to solve the crime. What aspects of female friendship are explored in this novel?
2. Stella's boyfriend Brophy is a former addict, now on methadone. Although he is an improvement on her previous relationship, he is nonetheless a man with issues and a complicated family situation. Is Stella making a wise choice to stay with him?
3. Stella's brother Ben is a thief and a no-hoper. Do you think she should have allowed him back into her life? Why?

REVIEWS

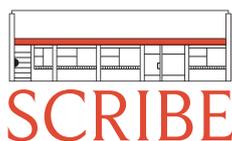
‘With a big heart, a loud mouth, a thirst for alcohol and a propensity for choosing the wrong man to love, Stella Hardy is a wisecracking flawed heroine, and a promising addition to Australian crime fiction.’

THE SATURDAY PAPER

‘[The] characters are complex, engaging and, most of all, real. You find yourself caring for them, laughing with them, and forgetting that this book is only paper-thin. The plot itself is clever and suspenseful, but it is the enigmatic and three-dimensional portrayals that make *Good Money* extra special.’ **ELIZA GRAVES-BROWN**, *LIP MAG*

‘Gritty and terrifically engaging, this hardboiled story with its matching prose had me hooked from the first page. Leading lady Stella Hardy is a charming mix of chaotic and cool. She had me grinning like an accomplice as I read. The authentic characters and dry humour lift *Good Money* to that most satisfying place — unique, intriguing, quality crime. Green is an assured and bold new author doing already what great crime novelists do — delivering a bloody good story.’ **HONEY BROWN**, **AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF *AFTER THE DARKNESS AND THROUGH THE CRACKS***

4. The family home is about to be sold and Stella’s high school bully Farquhar wants to make an offer. Stella experiences a reckoning with her past. Does she really come to terms with it or is she in denial?
5. Stella is still grieving for her father, and ultimately decides that he taught her to survive. What is it about her father that she both loves and resents?
6. There is some discussion at the moment around having characters in fiction from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Do you think the portrayal of the Chol family in the novel is sufficiently sensitive? How important do you think cultural diversity is in fiction generally?
7. The title of the book refers to the mining boom, the gangland drug trade and what else?
8. What do you make of Stella’s secret? Do you think it was a moment of lapsed judgement and that she really is repentant, or is she actually just ‘bad’ or immoral for having helped herself.
9. By the end of the book we learn Mrs Chol is now a woman of some means. Almost everyone, including Stella and Mrs Chol, have made financial gains through perhaps immoral means. What are the implications of the money issues raised in the book? What repercussions might there be from the ill-gotten gains?



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AUSTRALIAN SMALL PUBLISHER OF THE YEAR 2011, 2010, 2008, 2006