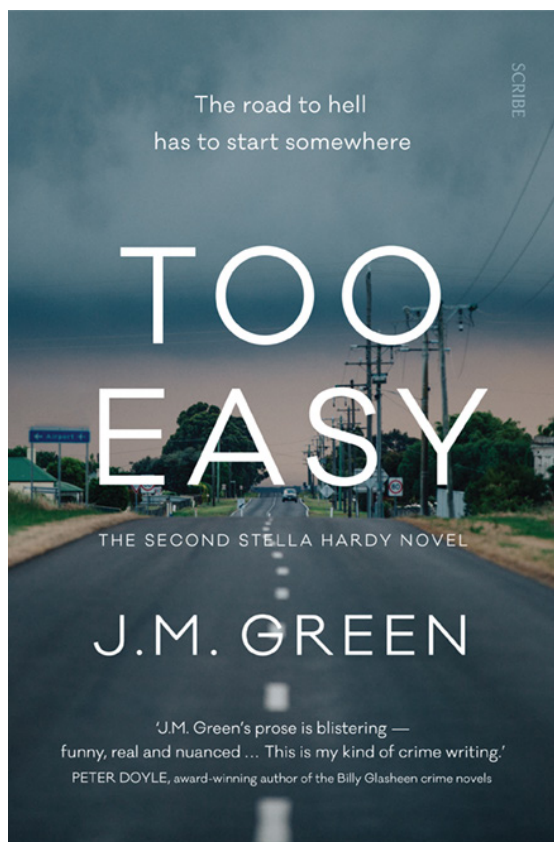


Too Easy

J.M. GREEN



BOOK DETAILS

Format: Paperback

ISBN: 9781925322026

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AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

J.M. Green studied professional writing at RMIT. Her first novel *Good Money* was shortlisted for a 2016 Ned Kelly Award, the Sisters in Crime's Davitt Award for best debut, and the 2014 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript. *Too Easy* is her second book.

Wisecracking social worker Stella Hardy returns, and this time she's battling outlaw bikie gangs, corrupt cops, and a powerful hunger for pani puri.

On a stormy Halloween night, Stella gets a call from her best friend, Detective Phuong Nguyen. Phuong has a problem. Or rather her lover, Bruce Copeland, does.

Copeland has been implicated in a police-corruption scandal, and the only person who can help prove his innocence has disappeared. The missing man is Isaac Mortimer, a drug dealer associated with the notorious motorcycle gang The Corpse Flowers. Reluctantly, Stella offers to help track him down — and it isn't long before she is way in over her head: evading bikies, drinking tea with drug dealers, and, worst of all, hanging out in the Macca's carpark with a bunch of smart-alec teenagers.

Then, when Stella discovers that local street kids are being groomed for some sinister purpose — and that a psychopath with bust face tattooed across his knuckles is pursuing her — she realises she has her work cut out for her.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. This is the second book in the Stella Hardy series. In what ways do you think Stella has changed since *Good Money*?
2. What did you think about Phuong and Stella's relationship in this one? Was their relationship strained or strengthened?
3. Food is a comfort for Stella. Did you notice how it is used as a device to mitigate moments of tension? If so, how and when?

REVIEWS

‘Stella Hardy rips through her world with wit, guts, brains and vulnerability, blazing fresh trails through the twisted urban landscapes of modern Australia. J.M. Green’s prose is blistering — funny, real and nuanced in just the right proportions. This is my kind of crime writing’

PETER DOYLE, AWARD-WINNING
AUTHOR OF THE BILLY
GLASHEEN CRIME NOVELS

‘Stella Hardy is wonderful — all over the place, like a broken compass, and yet she always manages to head in the right direction. Funny, complex, and very human, in Stella, J.M.

Green has created a character readers simply love.’ **WILLIAM MCINNES**

‘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*

4. How does the author depict refugees? Is the way they are woven throughout the narrative incidental or do you think there is a wider political agenda in the book?
5. Cuong is obsessed with ghosts, calling them ‘the friends’. Where do you think this obsession was coming from?
6. The relationship of Stella and Brophy is under strain. What do you think of Stella’s choices in dealing with this?
7. How did you feel about Stella finding the money, when a similar action had previously caused her so much torment? What did you make of her justification for what she does with it?
8. The book is set in Melbourne’s western suburbs, depicting human trafficking, homelessness, drug-dealing, violent crime, and gangs. Do you think this was a harsh portrayal of the area?
9. How does the author deal with the issue of homelessness — especially among teenagers in Melbourne?



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