



## The Payback

*Simon Kernick*

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## **The Payback** Simon Kernick

Dennis Milne is a man with a past, and a past that involves murder. A former cop, he's earned his living killing the bad guys -- drug-dealers, corrupt business men -- people who, in his opinion, deserve to die. For the past two days, he's been in Manila, waiting for his next target: a young woman who's made herself some poor life-choices, and some even worse enemies.

DI Tina Boyd is a woman on a mission. Tough, spiky and determined, she's looking for the man she holds responsible for the death of her lover. She knows he's ruthless. She knows he's dangerous. But he's in Manila, and she's determined to find and kill him -- before he kills her.

Two cops with pasts that haunt them -- and a present that could see them both dead. They are about to meet. And when they do, it's payback time.

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

## **The Payback Details**

Date : Published March 7th 2011 by Bantam Press (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9780593062883

Author : Simon Kernick

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## From Reader Review The Payback for online ebook

### Best Crime Books & More says

I am a huge fan of Kernick's after reading Relentless. I also found previous book The Last Ten Seconds was a corker of a read. With this one I feel like it was a bit flat in comparison. The story itself was okay, and we get to see Tina Boyd and her obsessions once again. I just felt it wasn't as good in comparison to his last one.

Like I said before Tina Boyd once again makes an appearance and all of her obsessions are highlighted even more in this book. She is a really good character and with the double up along with Dennis Milne they made for great lead characters. Dennis Milne has appeared in previous Kernick books but I have yet to read them. Even if you haven't read past books of his, this book can still be read as a stand alone.

The story is mainly set in Manila and as usual the story starts out at breakneck speed. This is one of the main things that sets Kernick apart from other authors. He managed to pick you up and chuck you headfirst straight into the thick of it. The pace hardly lets up throughout the whole book and as usual you will be turning the pages quicker than you can read.

The story itself was okay, but just okay. I loved the writing and the characters but just felt there was something missing with this book. I couldn't even tell you what it was, just that it doesn't read as well as some of his other books. As usual the crime scenes are gory and gritty and frighteningly realistic. This is definitely a no holds barred author when it comes to the graphic descriptions of how people die. Having said that, it is done brilliantly and just ends up drawing you further into the story.

Overall I felt a little bit mixed about this book. On the whole it was as usual a great book from Kernick, just not as good as others he has written and was lacking that usual magic sparkle. I would still recommend and look forward to reading his other books still on my to read pile!

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### Andrew says

4.5 Stars. This was by far the best book in the trilogy and introduced me to the character of Tina Boyd (who figures in her own Simon Kernick Series). I liked the way Simon merged the two different parts of the story from Dennis's end and Tina's, both taking place in different parts of the world. Dennis as a former policeman is quite a different and intriguing character. It was good how they eventually worked together in the case after an interesting introduction to each other! This book certainly moved along at pace and rounded off the themes across the three books. Plenty of tension and exciting action at the end of the book. I would certain recommend Simon Kernick as a writer! I now look forward to reading the Tina Boyd series.

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### Emma says

I love Simon Kernick. Ever since I picked up Target I have been hooked.

Don't get me wrong when I give The Payback three stars. I really liked it, but it felt very samey to his others. I know its natural to have similarities, but I felt that others I have read have been more inventive and

exciting, especially his earlier ones. They were grittier and more violent, maybe not believeable, but more possible.

I love the two characters Tina Boyd and Dennis Milne, and the two of them in the same novel was a great bonus.

Paul Wise a recurring character is the bad guy once again and finally gets his comeuppance. When this happened I thought, hold on, whats he going to do next?! I also felt it was shame to lose a major criminal and also one of his main characters...which for those avid readers have grown to love. A great end to the character, but an end none the less.

It was a fast paced, interesting plot that weaved together very well as always, which I am amazed by again, but I felt that it lacked a good oomph to it. I think his earlier ones are the best, but I will forever be grateful that I picked up Target as I love to read a good British author, especially crime.

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### **Adam says**

Well this is my first Simon Kernick book and I can't wait to read another!

I thought this book was a phenomenal read. The pace never let's up and is a real page turner. The chapters were a good length and i really felt like I knew the characters.

Highly recommended!

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### **Andrew Roberts says**

Superb.

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### **Plum-crazy says**

Now here's the thing....I really don't know what to make of this author! I read "*Relentless*" & found it disappointing, followed it with "*Deadline*" which I quite enjoyed but I then really didn't like "*Severed*" . So the question is - what would I make of this one?

Well ,I'm surprised but happy to say, I really enjoyed it! Better storyline, good characters that were already known to me & action scenes that I could visualise (most of the time).

My thinking is now that if I come across a Dennis Milne or Tina Boyd tale I'll give it a go but will probably leave standalone books alone :o)

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## **Seán Byrne says**

Another stellar book from Simon Kernick - the third in the series involving Dennis Milne. We meet Dennis again several years after the events in 'A Good Day to Die', he seems to be trying to escape the life he has been leading after so many murders and sins throughout the years. Until he gets pulled back in by a debt owed to Bertie Schagel (a fixer) who reminds him that he owes him a debt due to rescuing Dennis and helping him escape London all those years ago.

Dennis is asked to kill Tina Boyd who has become a problem for a client of Schagel's - Dennis reluctantly accepts the task even though he has hesitations about killing a woman. He knows after this job he can retire in Laos. What entails is a thrill a minute, uncovering more and more behind the lies of the underworld and the cover-ups. Plenty of violence to keep you hooked, similar to all other Kernick books that I have read. Looking forward to reading more of his back catalogue.

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## **Yigal Zur says**

at the beginning i felt it is a bit cold and detached thriller starting with an killer on demand who is an ex-police with not a very clear back ground. but as the plot get speed so is the reader goes into a fascinating thriller which deal with the evil of human traffic in south east asia and with a very high level of moral stand of the author. i missed a bit the true smells and small touches from places like manila and luang prabang which stayed detached and not with real life beside of served the plot. but on the whole it is an action packed very good thriller

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## **Tanja says**

Das ist das erste Buch von Simon Kernick, dass ich gelesen habe. Er hat einen sehr leisen Schreibstil, der viel Raum braucht um auf Hochtouren zu kommen. Was an sich nicht negativ sein muss, aber für einen Thriller in meinen Augen eher unpassend ist. Nichtsdestotrotz fand ich die Story nicht schlecht, durchaus spannend erzählt. Aber die Phasen in denen irgendwie nichts passierte überwiegen eindeutig. Deshalb gut gemeinte 3 Sterne.

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## **David says**

Very good read and seems to be the end of Dennis Milne. There could however be a new main character emerging.

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## **Rob Twinem says**

Very fond of Simon Kernick as a thriller/crime writer and this does not disappoint. Yes, it has to be said there is little in the way of deep character development but what this book lacks in deep intelligent literary thought it makes up for in the ferocious action that starts on page one and does not let up until the end....so if

you want to escape from the toils and tribulations of daily life...let facebook go....forget emails...switch off the telly and settle down to good old fashioned storytelling....come on you know you want to and you will not be disappointed :)) The Payback sees the pairing of Tina Boyd and Dennis Milne in a fast and exciting romp in The Phillipines, both characters are flawed and frankly appear to put very little value on life some might even say hiding a death wish but this only notches up the action for the reader. The book is brought to a great conclusion and neatly closed some of the running storylines and themes and there is an excellent little postscript from the author.

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### **Sean Peters says**

Hi,

Another first author for me. Recently reading and really enjoying finding these exciting authors and their novels, with Allan Folsom, Vince Flynn and now Simon Kernick.

This book is very fast paced, gripping and tense, and all the characters come together.

With locations in London and the Phillipines.

Really exciting, last few chapters read today as I could not put the book down.

Now looking forward to reading his next book Relentless.

Highly recommended

regards

Sean

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### **Toni Osborne says**

Ok I admit, I am hooked after reading only two books from this author, I have been drawn from the start into the excitement of Mr. Kernick's fast moving action packed dramas. "The Payback" drags you into the gory and mystery filled action right from the first murder and with each new victim the suspense intensifies, the constant twists and turns make it a hard novel to put aside.

This latest caper set in the Philippines highlights two of Mr. Kernick's most popular protagonists: Tina Boyd, the exciting and feisty police office and Dennis Milne, a former cop who is now earning his living by accepting contract killings. A third player is Paul Wise a recurring villain, he is well known as an international crime boss and cruel pedophile.

It opens when Dennis is sent to Manila to carry out an “assignment” for his employer Bertie Schagel (Paul Wise’s right hand man), his target is a journalist. Tina is also in the city, on leave from the force with the hope of settling accounts. She has scheduled a meeting with the same journalist to gather information as to the whereabouts of Paul Wise, the man who left her for dead and killed her ex-lover. When Paul realises he is targeted by Tina, he gives the order to have Dennis eliminate her also. When Dennis realises his second target is a beautiful, innocent woman and a police officer he is unable to fulfill his boss’ wishes and knows by doing this he has put an even bigger target on himself. His only alternative is to join forces with Tina and go after the head of the snake. Their encounter is completely explosive and when you add to the mix a notorious villain you have a fast-paced and action-packed plot that is guaranteed to put boredom at bay for another day.

Mr. Kernick’s characterization is outstanding, Dennis, for one is portrayed as a cold-blooded murderer but he has so much depth and heart it is hard not to empathize with him at times, the others characters are equally well developed in their own roles. The author has provided a lot of Dennis’ back history to make this novel exciting on its own and has brought to light some loose ends from previous installments. However my gut feeling is I should have started with “A Good Day To Die”, all of his novels are definitely on my TBR list, time will tell.

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### **Silvia Molinari says**

I simply loved it. I like Kernick's style, so hooking and engaging. Once I start reading one of his books, I cannot stop. I'm glad I commute so I can have plenty of time to read, the only problem is to get off of the train at the wrong station!

I have quite a soft spot for Dennis Milne since Kernick has described him as a man with a dark past but still with a sense of the limit between what is wrong and what is right. Albeit he sometimes tends to forget this limit, his inner self knows how to lead him. And in this book he will definitely go through a lot together with DI Tina Boyd, a strong-willed detective who has not an easy past herself.

This pair is true dynamite and the plot so captivating that you will definitely look for the next Kernick's book to read!

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### **Donald says**

The first 200 pages are pretty dang good! I really like when the “good guy” is also a “bad” guy, in this case, an assassin for hire. But chapter 25 seems so unlikely that it kinda killed my buzz. The assassin goes from super tough guy, to tender hearted “nice” guy - really fast! I'd give the first half four stars and the second half one.

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