

## Homicide Hunter

Ideal for those who love a tense murder mystery and who will also appreciate a taste of trucking North America style, *Ice on the Grapevine* is clearly written by someone with plenty of background in the transport industry. Subtitled 'A Hunter Rayne highway mystery', Ruth Donald's novel features tough-minded ex-homicide detective turned truck driver Hunter Rayne.

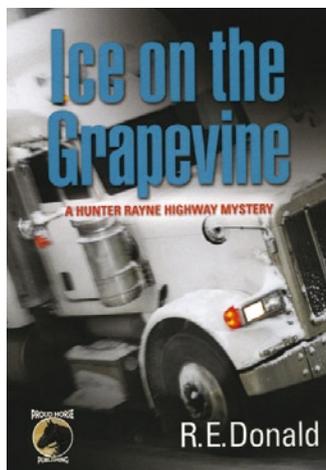
On a warm July morning in LA County, a frozen corpse turns up at a highway brake check just south of the Grapevine Pass. Hunter, who drives an 18-wheeler, is persuaded by his irascible dispatcher Elspeth Watson to help clear two fellow truck drivers who are arrested for the murder.

His job is made more difficult by the fact that the suspects, a newlywed couple, won't speak up in their own defence.

Tangled relationships – including Hunter's own – and multiple suspects emerge throughout the novel, as he butts heads with more than one officer of the law to solve the crime.

Unusually for a trucking-related novel, *Ice* is well written – Ruth Donald worked in transport for almost 30 years and has a BA in creative writing and languages from the University of British Columbia – and was a finalist for the 2012 Global Ebook Award in Mystery Fiction. **CT**

**Ice on the Grapevine**, by R E Donald. Proud Horse Publishing, ISBN 978-0-9881118-1-3. Available on Amazon, Kindle digital edition



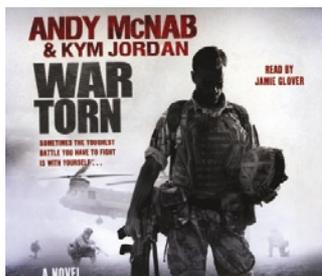
## EDITOR'S CHOICE OF THE MONTH

# A little give and take

If you want to make an interesting yet inexpensive addition to your model collection and support a worthwhile cause at the same, why not pop along to your local branch of Toolstation? The tool merchant has teamed up with Corgi to produce a model of a Royal National Lifeboat Institution Flood Rescue Team Land Rover Defender towing a D Class lifeboat.

With the apparent increase in flooding, the RNLI inland division's 250 volunteers are in more demand than ever. Like the rest of the RNLI, funding is provided totally by public donation and, for every model sold, the profit of £1.43 will go to the charity. **CB**

**RNLI Land Rover Defender and D Class lifeboat model, price £5.49. Available from Toolstation retail counters or [www.toolstation.com](http://www.toolstation.com)**



## Tour de force

If you fancy a tour of duty of Afghanistan there could be no better guide than Andy McNab. As skirmish follows skirmish in this grittily-told tale, you'll be able to taste the sand in your mouth and know what it feels like to be trapped in an armoured truck with Taliban fire hitting the outside like a rainstorm.

But what lifts *War Torn* above many similar war stories is that it's not all SAS-style heroics. Here we find ordinary troops making mistakes and lives being ended or ruined in an instant. Unusually, the action also cuts back to the drama of the wives struggling to keep things together back home.

The links and contrasts between the civilian and military worlds – just a phone call apart, yet unimaginably different – adds hugely to the tension of the battle scenes and makes this a very grown-up depiction of a very

modern conflict. **DM**  
**War Torn**, audio CD by Andy McNab & Kym Jordan. Released by Random House



## Useful overview

The latest offering in Veloce Publishing's 'Those were the days...' series covers one of the most momentous decades in the history of the UK road transport industry.

Those unsporting Europeans came along, offering trucks that had rather more market appeal than the home-grown products. Complacency meant British truck builders stood back and watched as their business was stolen from under their noses. For example, the foreign content of the BRS Midlands fleet grew from 0% to 25% during 1973.

The book is split evenly between British and European

manufacturers but, with 63 marques crammed into 96 pages, it doesn't claim to be any more than a snapshot. Less-familiar names such as Argyle and Dennison, and Vanaja and Willème, complement the more familiar badges.

Author Colin Peck, better known to us as Ryder's PR man, has put together a useful overview of those turbulent years. **CB**  
**British and European Trucks of the 1970s** by Colin Peck. Published by Veloce Publishing, ISBN 978-8458445-8, price £14.99. Available from [www.veloce.co.uk](http://www.veloce.co.uk)



## Cash-in on value

Comprising 59 albums that Cash made between the late '50s and early '90s, plus a collection of rockabilly tracks he recorded at Sun at the dawn of his career, this is almost the complete works of the Man in Black in a single box – and what a treasure trove it is. At around £120 online, it's not cheap but is exceptionally good value. **DM**  
**The Complete Columbia Collection**, CD by Johnny Cash. Released by Columbia

