

BOOKS & DVD/BLU-RAY

By Alex Gordon

BOOKS

BONES ARE FOREVER
Kathy Reichs
Arrow £7.99

TV hit *Bones* has created more fans for Reichs' forensic anthropologist Dr Temperance Brennan. Tempe is horrified when she finds the body of a dead newborn baby in a cupboard in a seedy Montreal apartment. Two more tiny mummified corpses are also found. The trail of the missing mother takes Temp to remote Yellowknife where she and detective Andrew Ryan hit a wall of icy silence as the mystery deepens. Terrific!

STAR RATING

★9

(out of 10)

REAL MURDERS
Charlaine Harris
Orion £7.99

HER Sookie Stackhouse books were turned into TV vampire hit *True Blood*, but Charlaine first wrote a series of Christie-like mystery novels featuring small town Georgia librarian and sleuth Aurora Teagarden, an American Miss Marple. Aurora and her fellow members of the Real Murders Club meet once a month to analyse famous cases, but soon they've got all-too-real murders to solve. Also available is Aurora's second case *A Bone to Pick*.

STAR RATING

★8

(out of 10)

Note is key to mother's past

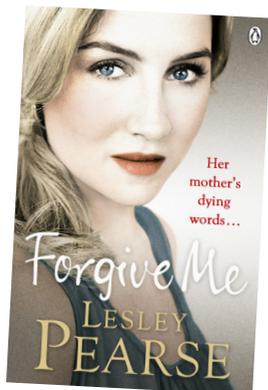
FORGIVE ME
Lesley Pearse
Penguin £7.99

GLOBAL best-seller Lesley Pearse returns with a heart-tugging tale that'll hold you in its spell.

It's the story of 20-year-old Eva Patterson, who comes home to find her mother, Flora, dead in the bath. There's a note begging: 'Forgive Me'. Until this day Eva had been happy at home with her parents and younger brother and sister, but her mother's suicide changes everything.

When Eva discovers Flora left her an artist's studio in London in her will, she realises how little she knows about her mother's past.

Flora had been a successful artist back in the '60s and has left a string of cryptic diaries, which set Eva on a trail seeking answers. She encounters a psychic who warns her to beware of a 'sleeping serpent', which she soon discovers refers to a shocking crime



in Flora's past.

With believable characters you will grow to love and a beautifully-written plot, this is another well-deserved winner.

Review by Lisa Hylton
Name another Pearse hit. Entries to Alex Gordon, Forgive competition, by Thursday, August 22.

STAR RATING

★9

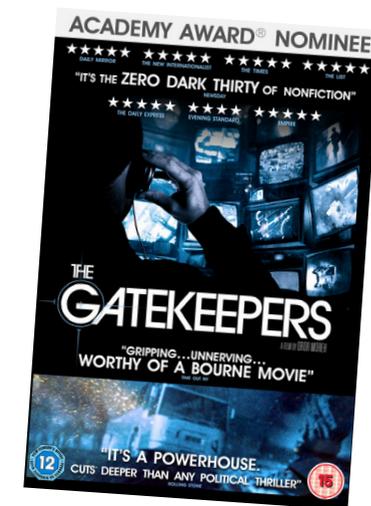
(out of 10)

DVD

THE GATEKEEPERS
Metrodome, cert 15
DVD £17.99

THIS is a brutally honest documentary about the cycle of death in the war between Israelis and Palestinians. Surprisingly, six former heads of Israel's homeland security agency, Shin Bet, talk openly about the bombings and assassinations they have ordered, and the scars Israel has suffered in retaliatory attacks. All agree that ultimately the only way to peace is through negotiation. Don't hold your breath!

Name a film set in Israel. Entries to Alex Gordon, Gatekeepers competition.



STAR RATING

★8

(out of 10)

DVD

Romance and a power game

THE WHITE QUEEN
Anchor Bay, cert 15
DVD 3-disc set £39.99

MANY thorny issues arose from the War of the Roses, the backcloth to this 10-part BBC1 bodice-ripping romp.

Purists complained the adaptation of Philippa Gregory's books was too nice and shiny for medieval times, missing the point that it's entertainment.

A historical romance packed with sex and scheming. I reckon viewers preferred Max Irons as a hunky Edward IV and Rebecca Ferguson as a luminous blonde Elizabeth Woodville without the black teeth, greasy hair and running sores that were part of life in 1464.

The fateful die is cast when, despite the houses of Lancaster and York vying for control of the English throne, young Yorkist King Edward falls passionately for lovely Lancastrian Elizabeth who won't let him have his wicked way unless he makes her his queen. This puts the cat amongst the pigeons as scheming Lord Warwick (James Frain) was planning a wedding alliance with France. Meanwhile Eddie may be lucky to hold steady,



what with Elizabeth's adversary Margaret Beaufort doing all she can to ensure the throne for her son Henry Tudor and Anne Neville being used as a pawn in her father's power game.

Name another TV historical series about a queen. Entries to Alex Gordon, Queen competition, by Thursday, August 22.



STAR RATING

★8

(out of 10)

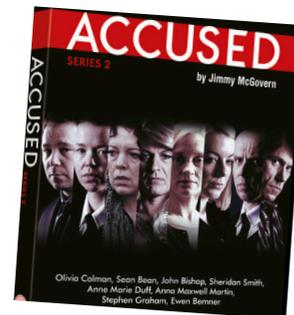
DVD

McGovern at his best

ACCUSED: SERIES TWO
Acorn, cert 15
DVD 2-disc set £19.99

TWO performances stand out in this second series of Jimmy McGovern stories about people in the dock.

Playing a mum living on a tough estate whose son is killed in gang violence won Olivia Colman a Best Supporting Actress Bafta, while macho Sean Bean stunned fans playing Simon who, in blonde wig and high-heels, becomes Tracie who's accused of murdering his/her boyfriend's wife. There's more uneasy viewing in an episode starring Sheridan Smith as Charlotte, a palliative care nurse who gives morphine to a dying woman and shortly afterwards



clammers in to the widower's bed. McGovern's gritty Northern stories won't cheer you up, but they pack a punch.

In which McGovern series did Robbie Coltrane play a criminal psychologist? Entries to Alex Gordon, Accused comp.

STAR RATING

★8

(out of 10)

DVD

WHY DIDN'T THEY ASK EVANS?
Acorn, cert 15
DVD £17.99

THIS Agatha Christie tale was re-made as a Marple mystery in 2011, but this 1980 version starring Francesca Annis, James Warwick and Connie Booth is true to the book. When Bobby Jones finds a man at the bottom of a cliff, he hears his last words: "Why didn't they ask Evans?" And so Bobby's plunged into a grand old Christie riddle.

In which historical series did Francesca star recently? Entries to Alex Gordon, Evans competition.

STAR RATING

★7

(out of 10)

