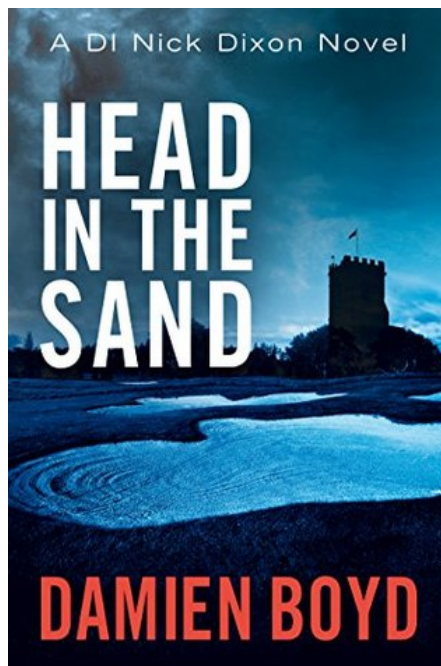




Head In The Sand

Damien Boyd

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The discovery of a severed head in a bunker on Burnham and Berrow golf course triggers a frantic race to find a serial killer that brings the seaside town of Burnham-on-Sea to a standstill.

When the connection is made with a series of unsolved murders over thirty years before, Detective Inspector Nick Dixon finds himself chasing ghosts from the past in a race against time that takes him the length and breadth of the country.

The brutal killing of an elderly man in a flat on Burnham seafront raises the stakes and, as he closes in, Dixon begins to question whether he is chasing one serial killer or two....

A fast paced crime thriller and the second in the DI Nick Dixon Crime Series, Head In The Sand follows on from As The Crow Flies, which has been described as "gripping."

Head In The Sand Details

Date : Published January 20th 2015 by Thomas & Mercer (first published October 7th 2013)

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Author : Damien Boyd

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Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction

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From Reader Review Head In The Sand for online ebook

Black Butterfly says

THIS WAS SET IN ENGLAND, A VERY ENJOYABLE WHO-DONE-IT GOOD BOOK. THE CHARACTERS WERE WELL DEVELOPED AND VERY REALISTIC. I LOVED NICK HE WAS SO SMART AND A BRILLIANT POLICEMAN. I KEPT WONDERING ARE THEY REALLY THAT POLITE TO EACH OTHER?

Jool says

I really enjoyed this mystery (the series is set in the UK). Starts out good with the very first page!

Safina Hussain says

The story is great and is well written however it is rushed from start to finish. Damien Boyd seems to lack character development in this series and so i don't think I'll be continuing (although the first book was better than this one so if you are only to read one read that!) There are a couple of excellent plot twists but it is a shame that they weren't covered in more detail.

Richard says

This is the second book in a police procedural series based in the South West, Burnham on Sea area, with DI Nick Dixon.

This is a compact story where a complicated case is solved in double quick time due to the team working all hours to get to the bottom of a murder that has a direct links to an unsolved murder some 30 years before. The writing is crisp and to the point; very little is wasted in telling this story, no padding, just the basic facts like a 60 minute crime drama.

I like the control Dixon holds over his team and the sense of group working. however the lack of personal management of his own condition leads to poor judgement and ultimately could lose him his job. This and his 'secret' relationship with one of his officers are the only narratives going other than the main plot for the murder mystery. Indeed his lack of care of his diabetes could point to Dixon having his head in the sand regarding self-control.

As a detective though he is first rate, impulsive and quick thinking. A grasp of facts and a good analytical mind lead him to move on quickly in this case and ultimately solve the murders almost single-handed. It is perhaps too soon to make firm judgements but from the evidence to date Damien Boyd has real potential to write a top ten best seller and rise to the top of the crime thriller charts.

Trish R. says

Loved it..

So, title: Head in the Sand. In actuality it's not just the title there really is a-head-in-the-sand, on the 12th hole of the golf course. Ewww. Nice way to start a story. If that doesn't catch your attention nothing will. Then there was another headless body found and the hunt was really on. And the way they went through list after list until they narrowed things down and made the arrest, only to find out the guy was innocent. Then having to start over again.

I love Dixon and his crew, and I really like the relationship he has with Jane. There's nothing romantic about it but you can still feel the closeness they share. No sex! Not even a simple kiss. Bummer.

I liked this book much better than the first one. But the first one was all about rock-climbing and I didn't understand half of what was said about that.

There was swearing in this and the F-bomb was used 30 times.

As to the Narrator: Napoleon Ryan is just fantastic. His men sound so different and the women sound so gentle and sweet, and like a woman! One reviewer said this, "You would swear multiple people were reading," and I couldn't agree more. His many voices are just amazing.

Kim says

A grisly discovery of a head on a golf course is investigated by Detective Nick Dixon and he finds a link to murders over 30 years ago. Another murder steps up the case- and they have got to find the killer before he gets the chance to strike again. But why is there such a gap between the two sets of crimes- is he looking for one or two killers?

This was a fairly fast paced book and second in a gripping series. I am keen to read more.

Many thanks to Amazon Publishing and Net Galley for the chance to read this one.

Elizabeth Ducie says

DI Nick Dixon is back, this time investigating a series of grisly murders stretching back decades. Together with canine companion Monty and DC Jane Winter at his side, Dixon works his way through some solid detective work, and clocks up a fair few miles on the M5, on his way to solving the case. This is a detective story of the old school, with a main protagonist who is only slightly flawed, and a satisfactory ending. I thought I'd worked it all out, but I was wrong! A most enjoyable read and I look forward to reading more in the series.

Nicholas Masters says

Thoroughly enjoyed this book. I thought the plot was excellent and the unraveling of the mystery was carried out superbly.

I just wish there could be more character development. The book is written in a very fact based manner, which doesn't allow much emotion to develop anywhere. Even when there are pivotal moments for the characters, they are carried out in a very fact based manner. I can't take anything away from the fast paced crime aspect of the novel, just wish i knew a little more about the characters and their outlooks.

Rachel Wall says

Fast paced easy read. A little too predictable to me and I got very tired of reading about getting an and out of a Land Rover LOL.

The Cats Mother says

Second in the Nick Dixon series about a Detective Inspector in a small seaside town in Somerset, solving mysteries with Jane, his colleague and lover - bit dodgy that, since he's also her boss. This one is a more straightforward police procedural, with nothing about rock climbing, like the first.

A serial killer is decapitating people with a link to a past tragedy, leaving the heads in strange places (I didn't understand the significance of the sink.)

Dixon is a good hero, despite being a bit bolshy and judgemental - he's smart but not "special" or damaged like so many crime series leads. The writing is pretty good, and the plot moves swiftly enough - I like that these books are not too long, and do focus on the detecting rather than the detective's personal life. I'm glad there are 3 or 4 more to look forward to.

Autumn Is Azathoth The Haunted Reading Room says

Review: HEAD IN THE SAND by Damian Boyd

Surprisingly, the figure of speech is literal, blazingly so. Author Damian Boyd gives Avon and Somerset Police Detective Inspector Nick Dixon a massively convoluted, crimes-in-different-eras, gritty noirish case to unravel. As his off-scene relationship with Detective Constable Jane Winter deepens, Dixon is tasked with a series of inexplicable crimes, and troubled by his diabetes.

Jillian says

It is interesting to read other readers' notions of story and character development. What I like about this series is the way it sketches in relationships and character through a narrative of police procedure. It is subtle and engaging. The narrative focuses on the police trail - and I found it gripping. The story takes us down each of the 'lines of enquiry' so we build a picture. Rather than 'red herrings' we see the elimination of possibilities, the impact of wrong conclusions.

There is enough personal life for us to understand the strengths and weaknesses of bonds within a team - the inevitability, limitations and power of them.

Boyd is a good storyteller. There is a sense of integrity - of the processes on which both Crome solutions and relationships are built - underpinning his narrative.

Jennifer says

2.75 stars.

Definitely better and a lot less boring than the first book of the series, I enjoyed this one. The mystery was interesting, the development in the romance between the H and his lady was sweet, and I'm glad I listened to Trish and stuck with it.

There wasn't any sex in this book and I liked that a lot. I also appreciate that the author doesn't mention how handsome/pretty/good looking any of the characters is every other chapter. The story telling is still sort of dry, with lots of dialogue and abrupt action, but I think I'm getting used to it. Hopefully Damien Boyd will get better and better.

James Calhoun says

Very good, but could have been excellent!!

This is a very good story. I like the plot and the mystery. It could be much improved by adding more detail to the story line. For example, Nick & Jane have dinner. What do they talk about? What are they wearing? How do they feel? I'm reading book 3 now and I don't recall at all what Jane looks like. Adding missing detail would also lengthen the novel from a couple hundred pages to 300 to 400 pages!

Vicki - I Love Reading says

Book 2 in the Di Nick Dixon Crime Series. I'm pretty new to this series, having only read book one and two so, but I consider myself quite lucky as I can dive into the rest of the series so far at my leisure. No hanging around waiting for the next one.

?I've enjoyed this book, I'm slowly getting to know characters and making my mind up of what I think of them.

?A head is found in the sand at a golf course. It's down to the team to figure out the who, why and how. And it's done very well.

?When the case seems to be linked to a case decades before the story really gets going and makes you think.

?Very well written and thoroughly enjoyable. Gorey but not to over done. A crime thriller to keep you guessing, and will keep you turning the pages.
