

A TWISTED MIND



Whilst promoting my ‘Bad Blood’ series on Redcar Market, I was often asked the same question, “Is the book set in Redcar?” The answer, of course, was no. The stories are based in Leeds. This got me thinking. Why not write a novel based in and around my new hometown? Perhaps make the book something quite different, a police procedural?

My first job after leaving school, was working as a shorthand typist at the local police station. This was in the days when bobbies rode bicycles and had a chain and whistle across their chest.

A few years later, after getting married and starting a family, I worked in the legal profession as a PA at various law firms in Leeds. I also joined the Special Constabulary, which again gave me an insight into police procedures.

In the three years I had lived in Redcar, I familiarised myself with the streets and surrounding areas, and satisfied I knew the area well enough, I rather tentatively began to write ‘A Twisted Mind’ in 2021. I chose Redcar’s Beacon to put on the front cover, as love it or hate it, The Beacon, (or vertical pier as it is known,) has become an icon on the Redcar skyline.

I’ll be the first to admit that when writing about police procedures, my comfort zone leans more towards ‘Heartbeat’ than AC-12. I still thought of women in the police as WPC’s, but of course they’re not identified by gender anymore, and are always referred to as a police officer. This was only one of the many advancements I had to familiarise myself with in the course of writing this book.

I absolutely loved writing ‘A Twisted Mind’ and enjoyed strategically placing red herrings amongst the many twists and turns. The book was an immediate success and the reviews and personal feedback I have received has been amazing.