

Detective Rob Miller

The South Bank Murders

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Discussion Topics

The Detective Rob Miller Mysteries Follow DCI Rob Miller and his team as they investigate murders across London and beyond. Choose your book below to download the accompanying discussion guide.

Be warned! There are spoilers in the guides, so make sure you've finished reading the book first.

The South Bank Murders (Book 5)

- **Grief and Professional Boundaries:** How does the assassination of retired DCS Sam Lawrence impact DCI Rob Miller's ability to remain impartial during the investigation?
- **Institutional Corruption:** How does DCI Morris Cranshaw ("The Wolf") use his rank within Southwark CID to run a human trafficking and prostitution network?
- **The Exploitation of Asylum Seekers:** Discuss how organized crime groups preyed on unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors from local children's homes.
- **The Fatal Risks of Informants:** What does the fate of Anthony "Ant" Price reveal about the extreme dangers faced by confidential informants crossing OCGs?

- **Evidence Suppression:** Was Rob Miller justified in covertly taking Sam Lawrence's personal phone from the crime scene to prevent the case from being taken over and buried?

Discussion Guide

The South Bank Murders (Book 5) — Discussion Guide Answers

1. Grief and Professional Boundaries

- **Personal Devastation:** Retired DCS Sam Lawrence was Rob's former boss and mentor, making Sam's sudden assassination in a Clapham restaurant deeply personal. Rob suffers intense guilt for missing Sam's call to meet for a pint on the night he was killed.
- **Crossing Boundaries:** Driven by grief and a protective instinct toward Sam's memory, Rob crosses professional boundaries by withholding evidence from other departments and taking personal risks to ensure Sam's killers are brought to justice.

2. Institutional Corruption

- **The Wolf's Identity:** DCI Morris Cranshaw of Southwark CID uses his rank and access within law enforcement to secretly operate as "The Wolf," the mastermind behind an organized crime group (OCG).
- **Financial and Operational Control:** Cranshaw funnels 25% of the OCG's brothel profits into a shell company named Lupus Holdings. He uses his police authority to track police movements, direct hits, and cover up the syndicate's crimes from within the department.

3. The Exploitation of Asylum Seekers

- **Targeting the Vulnerable:** The OCG specifically targets unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) placed in local children's homes and intake facilities.
- **Coercion and Abuse:** Lacking family or support systems in the UK, these young refugees are manipulated and forced into dangerous roles as drug couriers or trapped in illegal brothels.

4. The Fatal Risks of Informants

- **Uncovering the Truth:** Confidential informant Anthony "Ant" Price discovered that the OCG was trafficking and exploiting young asylum seekers.
- **The Execution:** Realizing his handler Cranshaw was compromised, Ant reached out to his former handler, Sam Lawrence, for help. When Cranshaw discovered the meeting, he paid a hitman £10,000 to execute both Ant and Sam at the restaurant to silence them permanently.

5. Evidence Suppression

- **Securing the Phone:** Fearing that high-level corruption or outside interference would suppress the truth, Rob secretly removes Sam Lawrence's personal phone from the crime scene before other teams can seize it.
- **The Critical Breakthrough:** Rob's decision pays off when the team discovers Sam had activated his phone's voice-memo function during the dinner, capturing a two-hour audio recording of the meeting and the shooting itself.