

Detective Rob Miller

The Putney Bridge Killer

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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 Putney Bridge Killer (Book 8)

- **A Campaign of Personal Vendetta:** How did Jamie McNamara manipulate copycat murders to frame a deceased serial killer and ruin Rob Miller for his father's prison death?
- **Delusional Maternal Grief:** How did Monica Burridge's refusal to accept her son Simon's guilt lead her to masterminding new murders to clear his name?
- **Forensic Subterfuge:** What was the team's reaction to discovering that a dead serial killer's DNA was being systematically planted at new crime scenes?

- **Internal Leaks and Manipulation:** How did McNamara exploit an undercover relationship with Superintendent Mayhew to access police files and monitor database traps?
- **Climax in the Victorian Sewers:** Discuss the survival of Rob and Mayhew in the flooded sewer chamber and how the ordeal reshaped team trust and dynamics.

Discussion Guide

The Putney Bridge Killer (Book 8) — Discussion Guide Answers

1. A Campaign of Personal Vendetta

- **Motive for Revenge:** Jamie McNamara orchestrated the copycat murders as an elaborate act of vengeance against DCI Rob Miller. Seven years prior, Rob arrested Jamie's father, Patrick McNamara, for running an investment scam; Patrick subsequently died while serving his prison sentence.
- **Framing a Dead Killer:** Blaming Rob for his father's death, Jamie sought to ruin Rob's reputation and career by copying the signature method of the "Surrey Stalker" (Simon Burridge), attempting to convince the public and press that Rob had killed an innocent man five years earlier.

2. Delusional Maternal Grief

- **Refusal to Accept Guilt:** Terminally ill Monica Burridge refused to believe her son Simon was a serial killer, delusionally viewing him as a "sensitive soul" who had been framed and killed by Rob Miller.
- **Masterminding the Plot:** Driven by a desire to clear her son's name before she died, Monica partnered with Jamie McNamara to recreate Simon's murder signature—including ritualistically inserting engagement rings—to fabricate "proof" that the real stalker was still at large.

3. Forensic Subterfuge

- **Planted Evidence:** Rob's team was deeply rattled when DNA belonging to Simon Burridge—who had died five years prior—was recovered from the new murder victims.
- **Exposing the Hoax:** The team eventually realized that the killer had accessed old personal items belonging to Simon (stored in a hidden compartment behind a wardrobe in Monica's house) to systematically harvest and plant his DNA at the new crime scenes.

4. Internal Leaks and Manipulation

- **Infiltrating the Police:** Jamie McNamara seduced Superintendent Felicity Mayhew under the false identity "Tom," establishing a personal relationship with her.
- **Exploiting Access:** He used his intimate access to Mayhew to stay ahead of the investigation, leak confidential details and taunting letters to press outlets like the *Evening Standard*, and monitor police database traps.

5. Climax in the Victorian Sewers

- **The Trapping:** Jamie trapped Rob Miller and Superintendent Mayhew inside a defunct Victorian sewer chamber located beneath Monica Burridge's property.

- **The Survival and Rescue:** As the rising Thames tide began rapidly flooding the chamber, Rob and Mayhew fought to hold out against the rising water. They were rescued in the nick of time after PC Victor Trent and DCI Linden pieced the clues together and brought the armed response team to the scene.