

Chris Blackwater

October 2023

Chris Blackwater is an engineer-turned-writer. His first novel, *Emergency Drill*, set on a North Sea oil rig, was shortlisted for the CWA Debut Dagger Award and has been published by City Stone Press.



Newsletter

Let's Go Round Again

At the beginning of 2023, my original publisher, Dark Edge Press, ceased trading. It was no great surprise – they had been struggling financially for some time and the owner was in very poor health. I took back the rights and began the search for a new publisher. In March, I met up with Caroline and Jon Cole who run City Stone Press, a small but well-regarded outfit. I was impressed with their enthusiasm and signed up for a two-book deal. For various reasons, it took until September for the new version of *Emergency Drill* to appear, but here it is in all its glory!



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Emergency Drill

Available in Paperback and eBook from all major booksellers:

[Emergency Drill](#)



Caroline and Jon Cole



Bryony Best

Emergency Drill on Tour

After the book was launched I took part in a couple of interviews: one on TikTok and another on local radio. Somewhat nerve-wracking, but they both sounded ok in the end - mostly due to the skill of the interviewers, rather than the eloquence of the interviewee.



<https://www.tiktok.com/@bryonybestauthor/video/7283579285019921697>

We had another online book tour. Lots of great reviews, with some interesting and varied viewpoints. I also had a couple of lovely reviews from other writers, and Leigh Russell, author of the million-selling DI Geraldine Steel crime series posted that she “loved it”.





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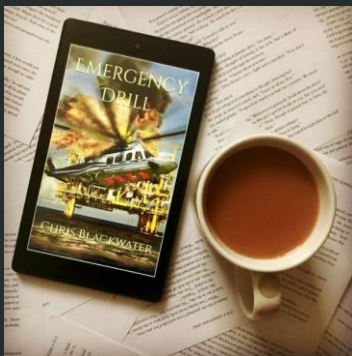
This time around, *Emergency Drill* is available to buy from your proper bookshops, not just from Amazon. It's unlikely it will be on the shelves at Waterstones yet, but they can easily order a copy for you.



I made a big effort to get my book onto the shelves of our local independent bookshops and to include them in the book promotion. I've been cycling around delivering books to those who were interested.

<https://www.tiktok.com/@chrisblackwaterauthor/video/7284251281252699424>

Bookshops of all sizes seem to be disappearing at an alarming rate. They are all struggling with rising costs and the impact of online sellers, such as Amazon. Please support your local bookshop and buy your books from them whilst you still can.





Whatever Next?

City Stone were very keen to promote *Emergency Drill* as the first book in Danny Verity, PI series. That seems like a great idea, even though Danny isn't working as a private investigator until the second book, which is entitled *Dead Crude* and is set in an Orkney oil terminal. A couple of the surviving characters from *Emergency Drill* feature heavily, as Danny investigates the disappearance of two young men connected to the terminal and the remote island of Mallach.

Dead Crude is expected to be out in the second quarter of 2024. In the meantime, I am working on the third book, provisionally entitled, *Head Hunting*. This one is set on the island of Borneo. It seems that Danny is mainly investigating crimes in places where I have worked. Coincidence? Maybe not.

Dear Reader

If you have read *Emergency Drill*, or at least skimmed a few chapters, **please, please leave a review** on Amazon, or wherever you bought it. It doesn't need to be a full-page literary critique. A couple of sentences will do:

I bought this book because it had a nice cover. Lots of bad things happen and the medic has to find out why because there's no policemen in the North Sea. It is a nice book. I liked reading it.

A Reader

Writers might have mixed views on Amazon, but it is the place most readers look to see if a book is worth reading and the more reviews there are, the more people get sent those helpful emails recommending the book.

<https://amzn.to/3YlxExk>

If you are feeling extra helpful, copy your review to Goodreads as well.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/60305850>