

mx Night in



EASY EATS



Rigatoni with artichokes and pancetta

Serves: 4

Ingredients

- 400g dried rigatoni
- 150ml extra virgin olive oil
- 100g (1 cup) roughly chopped pancetta
- Sea salt
- ½ small brown onion, finely sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, finely sliced
- ½ tsp chilli flakes
- 4 cooked globe artichokes, quartered and stem roughly sliced
- Grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
- Parmesan
- 2 tbs chopped flat-leaf (Italian) parsley
- Freshly ground pepper

Method

Heat a large frying pan and add extra virgin olive oil. Add pancetta and sea salt and fry for 2min. Add onion, garlic and chilli flakes. Reduce heat a little and cook for about 10min. Add artichokes and lemon zest and cook for a further 3min. Meanwhile, bring a large saucepan of heavily salted water to the boil.



Cook pasta for about 8min, or until al dente. When pasta is cooked, drain, add to the sauce and toss through.

Add lemon juice, some freshly grated parmesan, chopped parsley and a grind of fresh pepper to pasta and fold through.

Spoon into four deep pasta bowls and serve immediately.

From Neil Perry's *The Food I Love* (Murdoch Books, RRP \$85).

Mince beef with chilli and basil

Serves: 2

Ingredients

- 300g mince beef
- 100g string beans, sliced
- 3 cloves garlic
- 2 fresh chillies
- 1 tbs oyster sauce
- 1 tsp fish sauce
- 1 tsp light soy sauce
- ½ cup sweet basil leaves
- 2 tbs cooking oil of your choice

Method

Roughly chop garlic and chilli together. Heat oil in a wok or pan until hot, add chilli and garlic mixture, stir for 1min then add mince beef. Keep stirring, adding oyster sauce, fish sauce and soy sauce. Stir until cooked.



Add basil leaves, mix well then remove from heat and serve with steamed rice.

Recipe by Ratipan Bunthanorm, from *Patee Thai, for the Queen Victoria Market Cooking School*.



Picture: NICOLE CLEARY

OFF THE SHELF



Crime novelist **P.D. MARTIN** turns to the FBI's criminal profiling unit to solve a mystery that is close to home

Q. Do you have grisly nightmares like your hero in *Body Count*, Australian FBI agent Sophie Anderson?

A. The story is based on a dream I had about eight years ago. In the dream, a serial killer was hunting my friends. It went for four hours – the first time I woke was 2am, and I finally woke up at 6am. What made me think of the psychic twist was later that day I discovered that one of my friends had killed themselves between 2-6am.

Q. There's a lot of TV crime shows. Are you hoping *Body Count* will be made into a show?

A. I wouldn't say no to that. Like *Medium*, mine also has a psychic undertone. I was a bit worried when *Medium* first came out. I hoped it wasn't too similar.

Q. Crime is the current flavour, but has it always been your passion?

A. It's often been a popular genre. I used to read Agatha

Christie when I was eight years old. There are a lot of crime shows and I watch most of them.

Q. Is that for research or pleasure?

A. It's both. I notice things, such as a particular fingerprint technique, or when they are conducting an autopsy.

Q. Sophie also reads Agatha Christie as a child. How much of the character is based on you?

A. There is a bit of reference there. There are some similarities. At one point in my life I was looking at becoming a detective, forensics and everything. So I look at her as if I had taken that path. It was perhaps one possible outcome for me.

Q. Why did you take a former Victorian police officer and put her in an American setting, instead of basing the story in Melbourne?

A. Because the FBI has the criminal profiling department.

They really specialise in that area. I really wanted a criminal profiler partly because that's something I was interested in. I studied psychology at uni, so I was interested in what makes people act that way, and reading a crime scene.

Q. How did you research *Body Count*?

A. I had to research the FBI a lot, so that meant reading a lot of books by FBI agents. I did a lot of forensics research, and I went over to Quantico (the FBI Academy) and had a look around.

Q. Did proof reading your copy ever spook you?

A. It's not so much when I read it back, it's when I am writing it in the first place. I'd be sitting at my computer at night, and my back was to the door so I'd keep turning around.

■ *Body Count* (Pan McMillan, \$30) is out now.

— EMILY POWER

GET IT OUT



New release

National Treasure (PG)
This 2004 movie has an outrageous storyline, but so do most thrillers. Benjamin Franklin Gates (Nicolas Cage) is third in a line of treasure seekers that includes father Patrick Henry Gates (Jon Voight) and grandfather John Adams Gates (Christopher Plummer). He gets wind of a treasure chest hidden by the founding fathers of the US – but so has his dastardly arch-rival Ian Howe (Sean Bean). Gates believes the decisive clue is on the back of the Declaration of Independence, so to protect the booty he must beat Howe in a race to steal the historic document.

Must see

Striptease (1996)
After *Ghost*, *A Few Good Men* and *Indecent Proposal*, Demi Moore was on a high. This put her back in her place. But it features her over-the-top performance in the unlikely role of a mother who turns stripper in a desperate bid to earn enough to retrieve her daughter from her ex-husband. Despite having a heart of gold, she is sidetracked by an assortment of unsavoury characters that includes sleazy Congressman David Dilbeck, played by "comeback kid" **Burt Reynolds** the year before *Boogie Nights*.

Golden oldie

Stagecoach (1939)
John Wayne appeared in 80 films before this made him an overnight success. It was also the first teaming of Wayne with director **John Ford**, which led to such hits as *Rio Grande* (1950), *The Quiet Man* (1952) and *The Searchers* (1956). Here Wayne plays the outlaw Ringo Kid, who is held in suspicion by decent folk, but proves to be their saviour on a stagecoach trip dogged by Indians. The characters on board are played by **Claire Trevor**, **Thomas Mitchell**, who won a best supporting Oscar, **John Carradine** and **Andy Devine** as the driver.

The games people play

Midnight Club 3: Dub Edition (G)

Rating: ★★★★★

● Physics is nature's way of ensuring we play by the rules. That's why arcade racing games rule, especially if you're not a top driver. In this game 100km/h hairpin turns aren't just possible – they're encouraged. You can also customise any of the 60 cars to race or just cruise the streets. Take it for a spin.
Platform: PS2, Xbox, (\$100) PC (\$80)



Star Wars: Republic Commando (M)

Rating: ★★★★★

● It's hard not to like this game. The plot rounds out episodes II and III and the squad-based combat is a welcome change of pace for the franchise. First-rate visuals are backed by a decent command system and the action is frantic, if not long enough.
Platform: Xbox (\$90)



Splinter Cell: Chaos Theory (MA)

Rating: ★★★★★

● Sam Fisher has gained a knife since his last heroics, so he's even deadlier. The gameplay and graphics that established the action franchise are still evident, but this instalment extends the scope and variety. Expect to spend a lot of time skulking in the shadows. Kill the lights and let the killing begin.
Platform: PS2, Xbox, GC (\$100) PC (\$90)

