



PENGUIN AND CRIME & INVESTIGATION NETWORK CRAFT A THRILLING NEW ONLINE MYSTERY

A young man is found shot dead in an empty industrial unit. The murder occurred in a tough inner-city area where there have been six fatal shootings in twelve months. The media are furious and the city clamours for action. The pressure is on. Can you find who killed Gerry Skinner – and why – before full-scale panic rips the city apart?

London, 03 November 2008... Penguin and Crime & Investigation Network announced today the launch of *Monkeys, Skulls and Crosses*, an exciting new online crime game scripted by Penguin author Michael Morley.

Building on Crime & Investigation Network's first hugely successful crime game, launched on its website in 2006, *Monkey, Skulls and Crosses* puts users into the role of detective and invites them to put their crime-solving skills to the test. CI are running a dedicated TV advertising campaign to promote the game, which was created using the highest online gaming standards and features an engrossingly intricate plot written by crime writer Michael Morley, author of the chilling psychological thriller *Spider*. With the same style and panache for which *Spider* won rave reviews, he has crafted a twisting psychological tale that will delight crime fiction and online gaming fans alike. Users will interview suspects, inspect the crime scene and hunt for clues in an effort to solve the vicious case before it's too late.

Following on the success of 'We Tell Stories' and Penguin Dating, *Monkey, Skulls and Crosses* further reflects Penguin's commitment to find fresh and innovative ways to bring stories to new audiences. Penguin Online Content Manager Ashley Wilks said, 'At Penguin we are committed not only to finding the right books for our readers, but also to finding meaningful ways to connect with them at the right time and place. With that in mind CI is the perfect partnership for Penguin's stunning crime list and in particular Michael Morley. Working closely and collaboratively with CI on the development of this game has been an exciting, challenging and satisfying experience and I'm sure that players of the game will say the same.'

Author Michael Morley added, 'It's been a fantastic privilege to be allowed to work with a publisher and a channel that are so receptive to developing new ways to entertain and reach out to audiences. I'm wonderfully impressed with how cleverly the developers have sustained the mystery, jeopardy and narrative needed for a great crime drama and am delighted to have worked with Penguin and C I to add a thrilling new twist to the good old fashioned world of who-dunnits.'

CI Marketing Director James Pestell said 'This is a really exciting development for Crime & Investigation Network, and the first time that the channel has partnered with a major publishing brand. The initiative provides our fast-growing audience with an online experience that uses the digital medium to its full potential. We're proud to have produced a game which we're confident will engage viewers and readers alike.'



Note to Editors:

About Michael Morley

Michael Morley is a former TV producer and director. He has produced a number of award-winning documentaries, including *Murder in Mind* about Dennis Nilsen. His first book, *Spider*, was published by Penguin in 2008. He lives in Derbyshire.

About the Crime and Investigation Network

Crime & Investigation Network is the only channel in the UK dedicated to true crime stories - available on Sky 553 and Virgin Media 237 and broadcasts to over 8.5 million households throughout the UK and Ireland.

To find out more about the channel and its range of programmes visit our website <http://www.crimeandinvestigation.co.uk>

About Penguin

Penguin was established in 1935 and is one of the world's leading consumer publishing businesses. Penguin publishing comprises the following imprints: Allen Lane, Fig Tree, Hamish Hamilton, Michael Joseph, Penguin, Penguin Classics, Puffin and Viking. Penguin has offices in 15 countries and is part of the international media company Pearson. Penguin is home to the most prestigious list of authors in the UK, publishing a range of award-winning, best-selling authors including Nick Hornby, Zadie Smith, Jamie Oliver, Marian Keyes, Jeremy Clarkson, Michael Moore, Melvin Burgess, Roald Dahl, Eric Carle, Madonna and Charlie Higson.

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