

GOLLANCZ

P R E S S R E L E A S E

PRETEND WE'RE DEAD
£14.99

ASHES BY NOW
£4.99 (paperback)

by Mark Timlin

Publication date: 13th October

'Nick Sharman is like black coffee at 4 o'clock in the morning: very black, very bitter'
Derek Raymond

Nick Sharman is getting married - to Dawn, the ex-stripper, and down at the local nick they're taking bets on how long it will last, days or weeks.

But when he wakes up on his wedding day with a monumental hangover, Sharman gets a call from an American record company. They've had a letter from a rock star who's been dead for twenty years - and he wants his royalties.

Fresh from a wedding that's rocked South London, Sharman takes the case, Sharman takes the case. That's his first mistake....

Praise for 'Ashes by Now'

'.... grips like a pair of regulation handcuffs' The Guardian

'A whole lot of violence, humour, bad language, sleaze, sex, authentic atmosphere and very good writing' The Times

'Not American, as British as a used condom in a taxi, and graced with a pair of delightful floozies worth the fare to Wandsworth to meet' Observer

'... a reminder that South London has badlands to rival any in the US' Mail on Sunday

'Sleaze and corruption abound and the writing is as tough as ever' Daily Telegraph

'Here at last is an English crime novel with attitude. Violent, seedy, street-smart and sharp razor. Never once does it miss and hit the wall... Mark Timlin is a welcome and long overdue shock to the system.' Glasgow Herald

'... confirms his status as Britain's only convincing private eye novelist' The Face

'Full of lovely-jubbly London language... nicely toned writing' Time Out

'Timlin's prose - terse but effective, tense and witty - brings present-day London to life and is suffused with a world-weary sense of righteous vengeance' New Musical Express

'It's tightly plotted, tautly written and thoroughly recommended' Tribune

'Potent, pacy thriller... Ultra-pulp fiction but with enough energy to outpace any stirrings of good taste' Literary Review

'Why haven't I heard of Mark Timlin before? he's brilliant. He has the same acute ear for dialogue and the same ability to create a world of amorality as does the master himself, Elmore Leonard.' Western Morning News

'Tough and streetwise as Ted Lewis, chilly and uncompromising as Derek Raymond' Liverpool Daily Post

'Not to be missed' Loaded

Mark Timlin has been described as both the leading writer of new realism and the only British writer writing in the tradition of genuine pulp. He had already gained a cult following for his Nick Sharman books when they were published in paperback only, and the appearance of *Ashes by Now* in hardback last year attracted considerable attention and much praise.

With the untimely death of Derek Raymond, Mark is the only current proponent of the 'South London noir' school of crime writing. He was born and brought up in Tulse Hill and has always lived in South London. He once worked as a roadie for bands like The Who and T.Rex and as a rep for a record company before becoming a full-time writer. He is the tallest living British crime novelist at 6'.7"

In November Carlton Television is filming a pilot based upon the Nick Sharman books, starring Clive Owen as Nick Sharman, produced by Tony Garnett, and with a script by Tony Hoare, the writer of 'Minder'. It will be screened next spring.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO INTERVIEW MARK TIMLIN CONTACT LUCY RAMSEY ON 071 973 4893.