



# A Suitable Job for a Woman: Inside the World of Private Eyes

*Val McDermid*

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## **A Suitable Job for a Woman: Inside the World of Private Eyes** Val McDermid

"But down these mean streets must go a man who is not himself mean, who is neither tarnished or afraid."

When Raymond Chandler wrote these words in his classic *The Simple Art of Murder*, he drew a blueprint for the male private eyes who descend from Philip Marlowe to populate the world of crime fiction.

But what if the private eye is a woman? And what if she is not a character in a novel but a real, working investigator testing not only the meanness but the absurdity of life on seamy streets? Who will tell her story?

Enter Manchester's Val McDermid, herself a skilled writer of the P.I. novel but for years a professional journalist. In an effort to plumb the real world of working women--and throw new light on her own craft--she has interviewed women private eyes from both sides of the Atlantic and assembled their stories with an eye for the absurd and a keen grasp of the gritty nuts and bolts of the profession.

As fascinating as fiction, *A Suitable Job for a Woman* is, in the words of Edgar-winning author Nevada Barr, "a concise and eye-opening trek through the competence, humor, and humanity of women."

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