

# THE GrEaTeSt BoOk abOuT POLICING Ever WRITeN...

**OUT NOW!**

**"WHAT do you think the police actually do? If you watch a lot of telly, you probably think we spend all day roaring about in our souped-up cars, kicking down doors and shooting people. That is, when we're not unravelling murder mysteries while listening to classical music and swanning round in old Jags.**

I'm not sure I thought it was going to be quite that exciting or glamorous when I joined up, but I certainly had visions of nicking lots of criminals and keeping the streets safe.

It turns out, it isn't quite like that. This is a diary of my working life over the last year or so, together with one or two other bits and pieces that have caught my eye. My name isn't PC David Copperfield, but I am a real policeman, and everything you'll read here has happened to me.

Some of it (actually, most of it) might not sound all that dramatic. That's kind of the point: being a policeman in modern England is not like appearing in an episode of The Sweeney, Inspector Morse or even The Bill, sadly. No, it's like standing banging your head against a wall, carrying a couple of hundredweight of paperwork on your shoulders, while the house around you burns to the ground.

Thousands of officers are struggling while your money's wasted and the crime books are cooked in ways that would make Gordon Ramsay proud. I love my job, especially the bit where I get to chase after thieves and arrest them. After all, that's why I joined. The problem is, I hardly ever get to do that." (PC David Copperfield, 2006)

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