

## A Q&A With Peter May Pre-Order A SILENT DEATH Today!

### What was your inspiration for A Silent Death?

**Peter May:** I wanted to use the Spanish location, as it was somewhere that I had come to know well. But I also wanted to deal with the issue of Usher Syndrome and delve deep into the psyche of a sufferer.

### So many of your readers loved the scenes set in the Hebrides. Why did you choose to move the setting of A Silent Death to Spain?

**PM:** I have had an apartment in Spain for the last eight years. It is where I spend my winters, and where I have written my last six books. So I was keen to write about it. While I love the Hebrides, and would have wanted to set more books there, it is simply not realistic to set a series of crime stories in a place which has an average murder rate of one per century!

### Cristina's aunt Ana has Usher Syndrome, a condition which has left her deaf and blind her entire adult life. What was it like writing a character with such a unique and challenging disability?

**PM:** Writing for Ana was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do - putting myself into that dark and silent place at the heart of a deaf-blind person and trying to imagine what it would be like to interface with the world minus my two primary senses. It was a salutary experience.



### What type of research went into the writing of this book?

**PM:** I did a great deal of research on the subject of Usher Syndrome, as well as studying the structures and practices of Spanish law enforcement. At the heart of the latter was an in-depth interview with the chief of police in the area where the book is set. I also had a local adviser on cultural and linguistic matters and visited every location I used in the book.

### What are some of your favorite lines or scenes from A Silent Death?

**PM:** My favourite scenes are generally of the comedic variety - Mackenzie's first briefing with his new boss at the National Crime Agency; his underwear "emergency" when he arrives in Spain. But I also became very emotionally involved in virtually every scene with the deaf-blind Ana.

### When you're not writing, what is your favorite thing to do?

**PM:** Music is my passion, and has been since my early teens. I played in a variety of bands during my teen years and early twenties, and this past year I have devoted myself to building a recording studio at home, which is now getting plenty of work-outs.

### Who are your favorite authors? What are you reading right now?

**PM:** My early influences were Graham Greene, Ernest Hemingway, J.P. Donleavy, among others. Although not a lover of the supernatural, I am a great admirer of Stephen King, and in fact have just finished reading his latest book, "The Institute".

### If you could tell your younger "writer self" anything, what would it be?

**PM:** Don't lose faith!

### What's next for Peter May?!

**PM:** In May I am off to research my next book in the Arctic Circle. I will be writing the book this summer, and the story will see the return of a much-loved character.