

IN SHORT

Crime round-up: Bizarre, brutal and thrilling

An eccentric duo hunt a woman's killer star in this month's best read, says Marcel Berlins

Marcel Berlins

March 4 2017, 12:01am, The Times



Kill the Father starts with a woman beheaded in a park near Rome. GETTY IMAGES

BOOK OF THE MONTH

***Kill the Father* by Sandrone Dazieri (translated by Antony Shugaar)**

It's too long, complex, and its two main characters are well over the top. But all is forgiven. *Kill the Father* is absorbing, disturbing, clever, bizarre, original and brutal. The outline of the plot is simple, its execution thrilling. A woman is beheaded while walking in a park near Rome, her six-year-old son is missing. Two eccentric larger than life characters are called in to help the police inquiry: Colomba Caselli, a cop on leave still suffering from PTSD after a disastrous event, and Dante Torre, who spent many years of his youth imprisoned in a silo by a man known only as "The Father", and as a result became a profound claustrophobic. Dante believes that "The Father" has returned, decades after his own ordeal. The duo's activities lurch between genius and absurdity.

Simon & Schuster, 498pp, £12.99