

audio books

Murders most foul remain the nation's preferred listening (and reading). This week the winners of the Sounds of Crime best abridged and unabridged crime audiobooks of 2009 were announced at CrimeFest. Shortlisted titles included Michael Connolly's *The Scarecrow*, read by Peter Giles for Orion, and Peter James's *Dead Tomorrow*, read by David Bauckham for Whole Story Audio Books. As to the winners, for the second year running, Stieg Larsson won the abridged and unabridged awards, this time with **The Girl who Played with Fire** (translated by Reg Keeland) read unabridged by Saul Reichlin (Whole Story Audio, 18 CDs, £29.99 * £26.99) and abridged (translated by Isabel Morgan) read by Martin Wenner (Quercus, 6 CDs, £16.99 * £15.29).

As I've already recommended all these, I turned to Nicci French's **What to Do When Someone Dies** (unabridged, Whole Story Audio Books, 9 CDs, £24.99 * £22.49), a hall-of-mirrors plot that is also a moving study of bereavement and betrayal. Ellie Faulkner is told by the police that her husband and a woman who no one knew had any role in his life have died in his burnt-out car. Cue concerned

and comforting friends who all believe that unbelted canoodling in the course of a secret love affair led to the crash. But Ellie can't believe it and embarks on what even she realises must seem a deranged obsession: she takes a temporary job in the dead woman's party-running company. It's a long and winding road to the final revelation, but Tanya Rodrigues's tremulous but determined first-person narration is outstanding.

Christina Hardyment

Free audiobook download

Plus win an eReader

To celebrate the Sounds of Crime awards Times+ members can download a free audiobook of *Zoo Station* by David Downing, a gripping spy thriller set in Berlin

during the build-up to the Second World War, and enter a competition to win a complete Sounds of Crime shortlist on CD. To mark the eDunnit award for best crime fiction ebook (winner: *Beat the Reaper* by Josh Bazell), we also have a Sony Touch eReader (rrp £249) to give away.

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The Last Laugh award for best humorous crime novel (winner: *The Day of the Jack Russell* by Colin Bateman) was also announced this week. For more on the winners and shortlists, see

crimefest.com/awards

