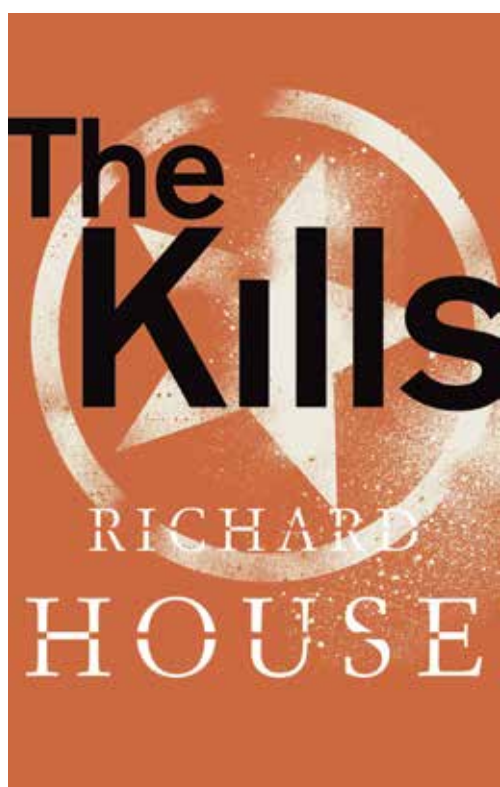




## Reader's Guide



Other novels by Richard House  
*Uninvited* (2002)  
*Bruiser* (1997)

# The Kills Richard House

Picador

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## About the author

Richard House is an author, film maker, artist and university teacher. He has written three novels; *Bruiser* (2002), *Uninvited* (2002) and *The Kills* (2013), longlisted for the 2013 Man Booker Prize.

## *The Kills*

Camp Liberty is an unmanned staging-post in Amrah province, Iraq; the place where the detritus of the war is buried, incinerated, removed from memory. Until, suddenly, plans are announced to transform it into the largest military base in the country, codenamed the Massive, with a post-war strategy to convert the site for civilian use.

Contracted by HOSCO, the insidious company responsible for overseeing the Massive, Rem Gunnerson finds himself unwittingly commanding a disparate group of economic mercenaries at Camp Liberty when the mysterious Stephen Lawrence Sutler arrives. As the men are played against each other by HOSCO the situation grows increasingly tense. And then everything changes. An explosion. An attack on a regional government office. When the dust settles it emerges that Sutler has disappeared, and over fifty million dollars of reconstruction funds are missing.

Sutler finds himself accused and on the run. Gunnerson and his men want revenge for months of abuse and misinformation. Out of the chaos a man named Paul Geezler rises to restore order, a man more involved than he's willing to admit.

And then there's the vicious murder of an American student in Italy. A murder that replicates exactly the details of a well-known novel.

## Discussion points

How would you categorise *The Kills*; do you see it as a thriller, crime novel, or something else?

How much of the story is about belonging?

Many of the characters don't seem to be in control of their lives, at what point is someone responsible for their actions, or are they victims of circumstance/their situation?

Stories are retold throughout these novels, in most fiction the idea of sharing stories and experiences is a positive thing - how is that different here?

Did the additional audio, visual and web content enhance the reading experience for you?

## Themed reading

Roberto Bolano *2666*  
Emile Zola *Les Rougon-Macquart*

## Useful links

[The Kills' website](#)

<http://www.panmacmillan.com/thekills>

[Publisher's website](#)

<http://www.panmacmillan.com/book/richardhouse/thekills>

[Interview with Richard House](#)

<http://www.litro.co.uk/2013/05/richard-house-interview/>