

# MR PEANUT

Adam Ross

JONATHAN CAPE

£16.99

**How close is marriage to murder?  
An exceptional debut says those  
domestic-crime figures don't lie**



Married couples, steel yourselves: this riveting first novel delves deep into three marriages, each of which has crashed into darkness.

First, David Pepin's wife Alice, obese and depressed, dies in suspicious circumstances; we know he thought of killing her, but we also know he adored her. The detectives investigating the case know something about it, too: one, the lugubrious Hastroll, has a wife who has retreated to bed full time, while the other is Sam Sheppard, real-life inspiration for *The Fugitive*, imprisoned for ten years for the murder of his wife Marilyn. This is a hugely ambitious book, a literary mystery intricately constructed so that each story illuminates the others, with the image of a Möbius strip or Escher's two-way pictures running through its heart. It's also fiercely honest about the reality of marriage, but its greatest delight is the sheer brilliance of the writing, polished like marble so it moves without friction but wholly vivid and alive. **JAMES MEDD**