

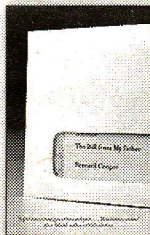
## In the Dark

by Deborah  
Moggach  
Vintage, £7.99

The attractive  
and recently  
widowed  
Eithne Clay  
runs a

London boarding house with the help of her teenage son and the maid. As the First World War progresses and it becomes harder to survive, Eithne despairs about the future. It is only when she is swept off her feet by the charming and mysteriously wealthy Mr Turk that life becomes bearable again, although all is not what it seems. The plot is not particularly original but the characters are richly drawn, their strengths and weaknesses masterfully revealed. An immensely evocative work.

Jo Caird



## The Bill from My Father

by Bernard  
Cooper  
Picador, £7.99

Even readers  
with no  
knowledge of  
Bernard

Cooper's novels will find themselves sinking comfortably into his memoirs. Broadly chronological but moving frequently from recent experiences to childhood memories and back again, *The Bill from My Father* tells the story of a family's tragedies and absurdities without a trace of sentimentality. His inviting style makes us believe that we are seeing something of him that wasn't quite intended. The anecdotes he relates might have been mundane in isolation but collected together they make this book difficult to put down. JC

Saturday Telegraph Review 8/3/08