

## ▶▶ Cunningham's first novel comes with a warning

FORMER Jockey Club administrator Siobhan Cunningham has her first novel published next week, but she admits only those of her one-time employers with minds as broad as Newmarket Heath will dip in.

That's once they realise the characters have nothing to do with horseracing and everything to do with "the power of sex, the misuse of that power and the carnage it causes," so says the ad material.

In fact, *David: The Penance List* comes complete with a front-cover message – "Caution, if you are faint of heart, with strong, virtuous beliefs, please do not read this book, as you will find it offensive."

Cunningham says: "I don't want



*Siobhan Cunningham: first novel not for the faint of heart*

to offend anyone, so that's why there's a warning not to read it."

Intrigued? Readers soon will be, because from the first paragraph on the first page, Cunningham bears out the publisher's blurb that this is "a visceral account of the corruptive power of sex and one man's murderous rampage [which] ushers in a high-octane world of glamour, obsession and pure evil".

Previously involved in the modelling, music, sports management and football (with Chelsea) businesses, Cunningham explains: "After lining the pockets of the rich, I decided I'd take a year out lining the pockets of the poor, which I did with the Our Forgotten Children Trust, and then complete the books I'd been writing for the past eight years."

The second aim reaches fruition in a few days' time, and website watchers can pick up on progress at [thepenancelist.com](http://thepenancelist.com).

Even before the novel was finished, Cunningham had decided that *David*, "a damaged idol, a vision of beauty and perfection that masks a dark heart and a tortured soul", and the other main characters were worthy of further attention. So *The David Trilogy* was born.

Next in the series is *Unfinished Business*, in which Cunningham promises "some horseracing shenanigans". Another warning for Jockey Club members, perhaps.