

Indie noir



Vicky Toole with her novel, *Black Art*, which has been included in a top-100 indie book list by American literary magazine *Kirkus Reviews*. Picture: MATTHEW HOTTON (01754632)

A PRESTIGIOUS American literary magazine has named a local author's debut novel in its top 100 indie books of 2012.

Vicky Toole, who writes under the name VT Davy, was delighted that her crime thriller *Black Art* was included in the *Kirkus Reviews*' list.

Respected

'I was thrilled to receive the email telling me it had been selected,' she said. '*Kirkus Reviews* has been going since 1933 and it is well respected within the literary industry. It has always done book reviews and produced a list which is sent out to American libraries each year.'

'It's a bit early yet to notice any knock-on effects from being selected, but over the coming weeks I'm hoping

By Ed Bolla

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for more interest.'

Vicky was born in the UK and moved to Jersey at the age of three. She currently works part time as a book-keeper, and spends her afternoons writing.

'I can't really remember a time when I didn't write. I've been writing seriously since university, but until recently it's just been for my personal pleasure. It's taken quite a few years to feel that confidence and for me to be satisfied enough to put something in the public domain,' Vicky said.

Black Art took two years to finish. It is set in an unnamed British Channel Island and follows the exploits of genealogist Arty Shaw, as he attempts to unravel the family secrets of a famous

West End actress.

Arty Shaw is a hard-bitten, cynical detective in the old film noir style.

'He's very humorous and comes out with quite biting lines about the things that he witnesses and sees,' Vicky explained.

Interestingly, Vicky chose to make Arty a transgender character. He was born a woman but lives as a man.

'I think there's a paucity of literature for transsexual and transgender people,' Vicky said. 'I really wanted to write something that featured a transgender character which wasn't about the process of changing sex. I wanted to normalise it.'

'It's not in any way really relevant to the story. Arty just happens to be a transsexual.'

Black Art is available from Waterstones Jersey and Amazon.