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REVIEWS

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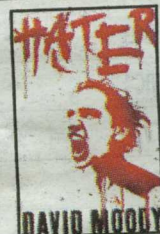
HORROR

Hater

By David Moody (Gollancz, £18.99)

★★★★☆

DAVID MOODY had been self-publishing horror novels for the best part of a decade before the mainstream publishing business took any notice. And that was only because Hollywood optioned *Hater* in 2006. The movie version of *Hater*, which is now in pre-production, will be produced by Guillermo Del Toro — the director of such international hits as *Pan's Labyrinth* and the *Hellboy* franchise — and directed by Juan Antonio Bayona, who had a hit last year with the brilliant *The Orphanage*.



It's not too difficult to see what attracted Del Toro. The concept is simple. People suddenly become terrified and attack either random strangers or even family members. The protagonist, Danny, is a civil servant in an unnamed English city (it seems pretty grim, so I'm guessing Birmingham), whose family is caught up in the random violence, which the government seems barely able to contain.

Moody's style is simple — bland, even — and his characters are only sketchily developed. But in his evocation of fear and unease and the speed with which he grips you, he brings to mind old Brit horror writer James Herbert. And that is some recommendation.

PAUL CONNOLLY

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Dewey

By Vicki Myron (Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99)

★★★★☆

HOW will Meryl Streep get over the disappointment of losing out to Kate Winslet at the Oscars? By appearing in a film about Dewey, "the small-town library cat who touched the world", which is about



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