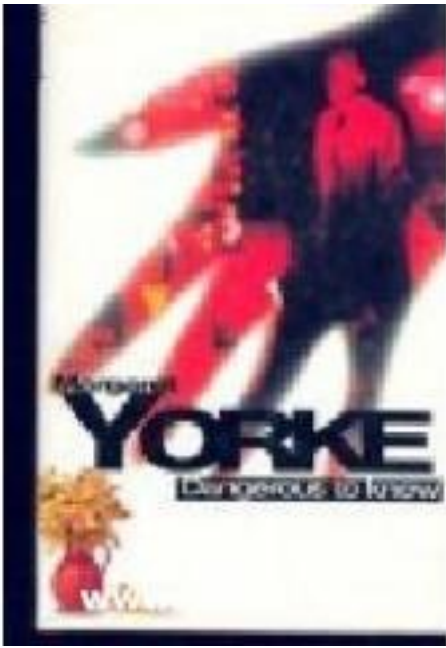


# Dangerous to Know



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From Publishers Weekly In this quiet suspense thriller, Yorke (Criminal Damage) once again deftly explores the darker side of the lives of characters who, to all appearances, could be the folks next door. Walter Brown didn't begin to hit his wife Hermione until after their two daughters had grown up and left home, but throughout their marriage he has enjoyed controlling her life, relishing opportunities to taunt her and see her "utterly broken." Hermione has begun to balk at doing "her duty" in bed, but Walter has his secret visits to prostitutes in London, where if he gets rough, it's only what they deserve. He doesn't notice that his wife is developing her own secrets: she gains a friend in a woman she meets in a cafeteria and finds work cleaning two houses, which gives her two afternoons out each week and her own pocket money. The appreciation of her friend and her employers arms Hermione to

begin to withstand Walter's relentless scrutiny and humiliating comments. She is beginning to consider that she, too, has rights when a meddlesome woman notes the changes in her quiet neighbor's routine. Although, in typical Yorke style, the story builds slowly toward its climax, events of the aftermath fully reward the patient reader. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Yorke (A Small Deceit, LJ 9/1/91, among others) has created an elegantly simple, cleverly paced novel of suspense guaranteed to keep readers on the edge of their seats. Slipping with ease inside the minds of her two main characters, Hermione and Walter Brown, Yorke paints a grimly compelling portrait of a marriage gone horribly wrong. Walter is tyrannical and unreasonable; Hermione, his emotionally battered wife, is a virtual slave to his every whim. Walter's ever-present rage is stoked when Hermione begins to show signs of change. A new friend, a part-time job--what will be next? Will Hermione find the courage to leave Walter before he explodes in truly murderous rage? As suspense builds, the reader roots for Hermione to make her bid for freedom before it's too late. Exciting to the end, Yorke's latest is highly recommended for popular fiction collections.- Beth Ann Mills, New Rochelle P.L., N.Y.Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. See all Editorial Reviews

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