

Born Under Punches (Stephen Larkin #4) By Martyn Waites

Born Under Punches moves back and forth through time from the 80s to the early 2000s examining what has happened to a small mining town in Britain and its inhabitants during and since the miner's strike that occurred during the begin of Margaret Thatcher's time as Prime Minister. It's a well written book that draws you into the characters lives while slowly piecing the together the connections between the characters and what is happening in the two different time periods. TV and commercial work followed and he continued to act full time until the early 1990s when he began writing his first novel: a noir mystery set in the city of his birth. TV and commercial work followed and he continued to act full time until the early 1990s when he began writing his first novel: a noir mystery set in the city of his birth. Born Under Punches (Stephen Larkin #4) When someone tells me I am missing out on an author I usually check out their bibliography and if they have 8 or 10 books and have really no following and poor/average Amazon ratings it is a good indication that I should just stay away. As I digress if I haven't heard of a writer and they have a fairly respectable size catalog or their books have low ratings it is likely the masses are right the author is probably not very good. Into the forth paragraph and I have still yet to mention the book that is because I want to make it clear Martyn Waites is worth the time to invest in a new writer that you have yet to explore. While you can read these books without the others I do wish I had actually read atleast the first title to get a better feel and background for the Stephen Larkin character who helms the series. If by chance you have read the Donovan Series and if you haven't you should start you will find Born Under Punches far grittier and blue collar focused than the sometimes upscaled lifestyles Donovan encounters. Bouncing from 1984 to present day (2001ish) the story begins with a once vibrant coal mining industry town torn apart by teamster strikes that planned to bring England to a standstill and resume a more lucrative profit margin instead the government took their ball elsewhere and left the citizens jobless poor and angry. Waites has a way about his writing a raw undisturbed talent to make you fear the dark alleys quiver during the hooligan shakedowns and feel the flow of the football (soccer) match when Woodhouse takes to the pitch. Not as wordy as Stephen King but what he does use to describe a neighborhood will give as vibrant an image in your mind so much so you should need a passport to travel to Tooting London and Newcastle as you dart from location to location through the his stories. It is a genre with no boundaries this book should be passed to your mom brother aunt uncle and grandpa it is a story that anyone old enough to enjoy a good ass kicking will say thanks do you have any more of his books I can read. It is easy to call Martyn Waites one of the best contemporary noir writers in the business today but I would go so far as to say Waites is on of my top five (living) writers in the business. And so the story moves back and forth between 1984 and 2001 visiting characters in their youth and later drawing a very direct and pointed portrait of the destruction of a community. In addition to Larkin there's his unhappily married sister her long-ago flame a Newcastle footballer who was injured and now runs a treatment center for addicts his assistant various gangsters miners past and present and their kids. Paperback A novel that struggles to be realistic but that just aligns clichés of archetypal characters: the mean guys are very very mean the good guys truly don't have luck and are very very sad victims of a very very mean system, I thought the titles was quite unique and in the course of reading the book.



Martyn Waites (b. 1963) is an English actor and author of hard boiled fiction, Raised in Newcastle upon Tyne he spent his post university years selling leather coats working in pubs and doing stand up comedy: After a stint in drama school Waites pursued life on the stage performing regionally in theaters across England. Mary's Prayer was published in 1997 and Waites followed it with three novels starring the same character an investigative journalist named Stephen Larkin: Since then he has divided his time between acting and writing: 1963) is an English actor and author of hard boiled fiction, Raised in Newcastle upon Tyne he spent his post university years selling leather coats working in pubs and doing stand up comedy: After a stint in drama school Waites pursued life on the stage performing regionally in theaters across England: Mary's Prayer was published in 1997 and Waites followed it with three novels starring the same character an investigative journalist named Stephen Larkin, Since then he has divided his time between acting and writing, After concluding the Larkin series in 2003 he created another journalist troubled reporter Joe Donovan who made his first appearance in The Mercy Seat (2006): Along with his wife and children he lives and works in Hertfordshire a county north of London. {site_link} Switching continuously between 1984 and the present day the plot follows the intertwined lives of five characters all linked in various ways to the miners' strike. As the lives of the characters unfold it becomes clear the strike will have devastating repercussions: Music and writing are both arts forms but I think it is far easier to be a misunderstood or undiscovered musician then it is an author. While writing is simple you string words together to form stories and some people and make beauty in their literary symphonies. Now this is not to say people don't have opposing tastes in reading science fiction may not be a subject you care about but H. Wells is still a great writer whether you care about alien invaders or not. Good writing is good writing its about the stories we enjoy. Not because he has bad ratings or that he is misunderstood but because he is British: As Jerry Seinfeld would say Not that there is anything wrong with that. But here is a fact British music across all genres invaded the U: Sure you will bring up Shakespeare Orwell Dickens even Austin but those are classic authors dead authors, I am not saying British authors are bad just saying the transition to the U. Born Under Punches is one of Waites older works finally released in ebook format for the new age of readers and hopefully a new generation of U. This was my first delve into a non-Joe Donovan book which I believe is number four in the series: Now controlled by gangsters bookies and hooligans the town not only barely survives but similarly its residents hold on from day-to-day as it could be their last, As it seems common in a Waites' novel seemingly unattached storylines converge in the end to bring a larger picture to the reader. Instead of one storyline that follows a sole character multiple angles converge and bring together what could be nearly multiple novellas with a single shared ending, Very much like the 6th Season of Lost what could have been two separate shows that all tie up nicely in the end: His knack for dialogue gives characters a voice that can identify individually and bring their personality closer to the page. Call me foolish but romance sci-fi and fantasy all seem to be not exclusive to but very much do certain genders dominate the reader pool not so with mystery and suspense, If you are going to start reading Waites books I really would encourage the Donovan series first the writing is more polished and characters are just better, But a seasoned reader with an appetite for more will enjoy the new characters new settings and and the same grainy tales expected of his work:

Paperback Taking its title from a Talking Heads song I learned it is a song title from The Talking Heads Remain in Light album, I always love a book that makes me want to learn more on a subject and this book does that: The book follows a small group of characters through this timeline, Tony Woodhouse a former pro soccer player Tommy Jobson and various others, Waites does a great job of letting us into these lives and what has happened to them over the years. I liked it a lot and I will definitely read more in the series: Paperback When I picked this up I didn't realize it was the fourth (and final) book featuring Stephen Larkin a middle-aged investigative journalist barely hanging on to a career, Apparently the framework for the series is that he's based in London but then returns to his hometown of Newcastle for a specific purpose that forms the basis of each story: In this one he's moved back to write a book about the legacy of the 1984-85 coal union strikes and their shattering by Thatcher's policies as enacted by truncheon-wielding police, The whole enterprise is dark and quite bleak -- the promise of the 1980s has all been replaced with drab rundown buildings and lives. Youth have no prospects and are adrift in heroin and there are multiple depictions of sexual violence: As in all these types of stories there are a few who are striving for redemption but the odds are against them: All the best crime novels have a good dose of social history to them and this one leans heavily into that as it retells the breaking of the strike and knockon effects. It's all just perhaps a little too miserabilist though and the story just never quite engaged me. It really felt like a documented series of events with little suspense or narrative drive. Paperback This is my first in the Larkin series. After concluding the Larkin series Martyn Waites (b. Waites' most recent novel is Speak No Evil (2009). Music is so diverse and complex. G. Martyn Waites is an exception to that rule. S. authors not so much. Name me 5 living British authors not named J.K. Rowling that sell atop the U.S. sales charts. S. has not been taken as openly as their music. S. fans. It took me a couple chapters to get the rhythm. The chapters alternate between then and now. The Then is the Thatcher years the now is now. There is a lot of history of miner's strikes and Mrs. Thatcher. Being an American I didn't have much knowledge of this. Stephen Larkin and his sister Louise. Very very sad novel very very boring to read. Paperback.