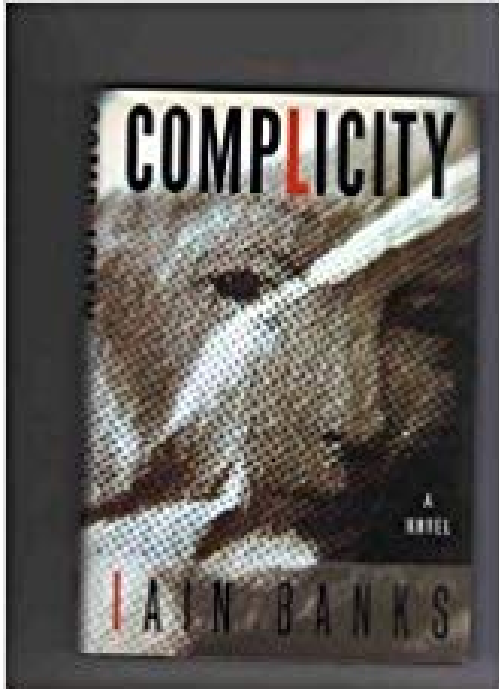


Complicity by Iain Banks



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ISBN: 0385475403

ISBN13: 978-0385475402

Author: Iain Banks

Book title: Complicity

Pages: 299

Publisher: Nan A. Talese (December 1, 1994)

Language: English

Category: Literary

Size PDF version: 1505 kb

Size ePUB version: 1530 kb

Size FB2 version: 1685 kb

Other formats: mbr txt doc rtf

Cameron Colley, a cheerfully subversive journalist, is suspected of committing a series of revenge crimes against vicious criminals and must clear his name by finding the vigilante--but the real culprit turns out to be very close to home.



Reviews of the **Complicity** by Iain Banks

Ynneig

I have a commute that's about 75minutes in the morning, maybe longer on the way back; so, I know a book is good when I'm looking forward to my commute, because that's where I do the majority of my reading. And I've been pretty anxious these last few mornings to get on the El so I could get back to reading this novel.

COMPLICITY is flawed, but strange, intriguing, and very sensual in that it feels written by a person. Does that make sense? You know, written by a warm-blooded, passionate, angry, sensitive, embittered, feeling human being, and not a little troll-bot churned out by all the terrible creative writing programs of the universities. And of course he sort of predates the MFA factory mill of dull

and dry drivel, so he mostly lucked out in that he likely would never have been drawn into academics and writing the way someone tells you you have to write in order to be published in GRANTA or whatever and be respected.

Anyway, I digress. This is a strange tale of mass murder, and those murders are all explicit, creative, disgusting, and politically motivated. Here's where I had one snag with the book. I didn't completely grasp the political message that the murders were all a foil for. Banks had one, definitely, and one message is blatantly clear--conservatives are evil, thoughtless, selfish, unfeeling f***s. And maybe that's all there is to it, but maybe I'm missing something because Banks is talking about UK politics--and as a Scots, of course.

I also picked this one up because I recently read and LOVED *The Wasp Factory*, and Iain said he thought this one was closest to it but "without the happy ending". So, of course I picked it up, and it certainly is dark and strange, but also ripe with humor moments on nearly every page. It is, however, a thriller and it fits squarely within the genre. *The Wasp Factory* was a slim volume of meanderings and wanderings and purely literary--it was a book with a plot (as nearly all books eventually are), but one that most definitely wasn't concerned with plot. So, definitely a difference between the two.

While I think the politics didn't always hit their mark in being tied to the action of this book, and while I didn't find the ending wholly satisfactory, I kind of loved this book, too, and will be reading many more Iain Banks books in the future. Always sad when you discover an author you really dig only to find out they died recently, and a tad too early at that. But at least he's got a lot of books to wade through.

caif

This is a typical Iain Banks book but no less enjoyable for that, a building tension with a fallible hero. It explores the edges of morality with a flawed central hero, the 'I' figure. Well constructed as one learns more of the relationship between the central character and the other players, making sense of confusion. A very enjoyable read.

Alexandra

Banks is hit or miss with me, His SciFi is fabulous and maybe I've read the wrong mystery/suspense novel but this one went round in circles and ended too quick. There were moments of incredible violence that punctuated the book and garnered an emotional response but went nowhere.

lubov

Banks is amazing, not two books are the same and the story is full of twists and surprises. It was very difficult to leave the book once I started.

Garr

In a word, Superb. God I am so sorry he is gone. He was, in my most humble opinion, the epitomical master of the use of the English language as a stiletto paintbrush in the creation of his murals. The only writer for whom I actually ever truly craved their next volume.

Runemane

So glad to discover this writer. This book is amazing, and near the end, I could not put it down. Great read.

Obong

Totally wicked plot, leaves you wondering the whole time and takes your breathe away when the time comes to realise who dunnit.

While still better than most contemporary fiction, this was a bit of a let down compared to the multi leveled masterpieces that our author pens as his sci fi alter ego. Very good.

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