



## The Crew

*Dougie Brimson*

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## **The Crew** Dougie Brimson

*This is an alternate cover edition for B005GHM820*

APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEPTIVE - as Paul Jarvis of the National Football Intelligence Unit is only too well aware. He knows that Billy Evans is no ordinary East End lad made good. He's also a thug, a villain and a cop killer. Jarvis just hasn't been able to prove it... Yet.

So when Jarvis discovers that Evans is putting together a hooligan 'Super Crew' to follow England to Italy, he feels sure he can finally put Evans behind bars - if only someone can infiltrate the Crew and get him the proof he needs.

But nothing is ever that simple. The Crew believe Evans is just out for a full-on riot. Jarvis thinks he's trafficking drugs. But Billy Evans is always one step ahead. He has another plan. And it will be catastrophic for everyone concerned.

EXCEPT HIM.

## **The Crew Details**

Date : Published December 2012 by Category C Publishing (first published November 1st 1996)

ISBN :

Author : Dougie Brimson

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## From Reader Review The Crew for online ebook

### Elizabeth Jasper says

I read Dougie Brimson's non-fiction books about football hooliganism while researching my latest novel and found them informative and helpful. I decided to give this novel a go. Plenty of insight into the mind of the football hooligan, interspersed with a gripping story that kept me interested right to the end.

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### Viktorija Faust says

One of the best, entertaining and intriguing books I read lately. Can't wait to start Top Dog.

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### Karen says

As someone who has been heavily involved in the policing and stewarding of football I found this a fantastic read. It is a great insight into the world of football hooligans but not for the faint hearted. I loved the ending too - even if it was met with an involuntary expletive! Read this and then buy Top Dog to find out what happens next...

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### Theweebarrell says

enjoyed this now looking forward to book 2

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### Kerrie says

This one is probably more for the fellas but having said that I did enjoy it. I even had a bit of empathy with Fitch (one of the baddies)!

The only thing I didn't really like about this one was the ending - not because it was badly written or anything but because it didn't end the way it should have in my head :oD Maybe that's what made it such a good read?

On the whole, it's a good insight into the hooligan culture and a bit of an eye opener :o)

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### Naomi says

This book let's you feel the characters. The hooliganism is a secondary story to the main plot but I found I wanted to keep on turning the pages. The ending was a bit blunt but what's the point of a book always finishing how you expect it to?

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## **Godzilla says**

I was aware of Dougie Brimson as a hooligan writer, but have never read his body of work up to now.

This is his first novel, and I must say it pleasantly surprised me. Perhaps my expectations were set low, and so easily exceeded, but the book rattles along at a good pace, the characterisations were realistic and involving.

I certainly didn't see where the plot was heading and it worked well. I expected a trite football hooligan story, but this delivered a lot more.

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## **Barrie Penman says**

First book downloaded from kindle (cos it was free)  
(Still Free)

Not really my interests, football, hooliganism..... but....  
Soon swept up with the momentum.

Well worth tdownloading.

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## **Tony says**

British hooligan authority Brimson turns his hand to fiction in this surprisingly readable bit of pulp about a top hooligan and the policeman with a sworn vendetta against him. The plot is fairly simple, DI Paul Jarvis of the National Football Intelligence Unit watched a fellow policeman die a few years previously in a hooligan rampage orchestrated by Billy Evans. Fast-forward a few years and Evans is a top man and a semi-respectable used car dealer. Jarvis discovers Evans is planning something big in conjunction with an England game in Italy, and tries every means possible to find out what. Part of that means putting the screws on those trusted by Evans, and soon enough, Jarvis has got a grass to go along with the undercover officer already on the scene. The story builds nicely to the climax in Italy, and has a really well setup twist at the end that'll leave you shaking your head. I didn't expect much from this book, and to be sure, it's not of the same quality as John King, but it does deliver a page-turning punch of a read.

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## **Fiona Ross says**

Gripping and pacy, a fascinating study of the hooliganism surrounding football in the UK of the 1990s and how the author's specialist police unit dealt with it. I've never read anything like this before, but it entertained me and I shall read more by this author. I didn't see the final twist.

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## Jay Fromkin says

I thought I had an understanding of British soccer hooligans, but Dougie Brimson's "The Crew" is an in-depth novelization of the hooligan life and the police response to it. This topic seems to have dominated Brimson's writing career since 1997. Hooliganism is an odd-subculture of sport, which we've only seen in diminutive form in the United States - small riots when teams win; small riots when they lose; the occasional fight at a baseball or football game. But British hooliganism, and European hooliganism as far as that goes, is fighting for the sake of fighting, territorialism in the extreme, more like American gang culture. Perhaps it's the popularity of football, the xenophobia of the hooligan class, and the geographical proximity but historical separation from Europe that makes British hooliganism abroad legendary. That's also what forms the framework for "The Crew." From street fights among hooligan crews in Britain, the book broadens out to fears of a hooligan invasion of Rome - on behalf of an Italian fascist group - to interrupt an England-Italy international match. With an informant inside a British hooligan crew, England's National Football Intelligence Unit (NFIU) works to reign in the hooligans, stop an international incident, and connect hooligan leader Billy Evans to an incident years earlier that resulted in the death of an NFIU officer and the near-fatal beating of NFIU Detective Paul Jarvis. Throughout the book, Jarvis and Evans match wits as the England-Italy match approaches. Brimson maintains the suspense throughout, from beginning to the surprising end. Don't worry if you don't like football (soccer); that's not what the book's about.

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## L.R. Currell says

Brilliant. I'd give this book four and a half stars if I could. The story is very easy to follow. I didn't think Evans character was solid at first but by the end of the book I got it. Using this story as a sort of prelude (it isn't exactly) into Evan's character being the protagonist in the next is a great idea.

I kind of lost touch with the whole exporting cars idea. I would have to go back and re read it again to fully comprehend. I am a fast reader so I normally get the main Crux of the book and can miss things on occasion. Saying that I got the fact that Evans got away by covering his bases. Even if I didn't put all the pieces of the puzzle together, I still got the big picture.

A great read, I put it down a couple times but was anxious to pick it up again. I liked the cat and mouse game of the cops and the hooligans. Very well written for a nice, relatively easy read.

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## Book Addict Shaun says

Now this is a book that I've wanted to read for a long time, but never got round to. So I was very happy to have finally read it over the past few days. It's one of those books however that I don't think needs a massive review, and with nearly 450 reviews on Amazon alone I don't know what else I can say that hasn't been said before. First published in 1999, you can find out more about it's conception over on Dougie's website here. Very interesting to see how the book came to fruition. I read a few hooligan books when I was younger but this is the first fictional book I've read.

It's an absolutely brilliant book and one you don't need to be a huge football fan to enjoy, yes football is part of it but it's so much more than that. There's a lot of reviews over on Amazon from female readers who have read and really enjoyed this book. Some scenes are a bit brutal, but to be honest anyone going into the book not expecting that is a bit naive. For me having grown up witnessing and watching violence in films and real

life it doesn't offend me in the written form. That said, the violence is absolutely necessary to the book and isn't just thrown in for the sake of it. Plenty of swearing also which I don't bat an eyelid at but I know some people complain about it in books which is baffling.

The book is full of twists and turns, and as for the ending, I'm reeling and can't wait to read Top Dog when my review tbr is less staggering, especially as it's now a film. I know a few people were disappointed by the ending of this book but I'm certainly not one of them. All through the book my opinions changed about each of the characters. At times I liked them, at others I couldn't stand them. You get to see both sides: the hooligans and the police attempting to uncover what they have planned in Italy. The police have no idea however just what Billy Evans has planned. You can really feel the frustration that Paul Jarvis has trying to take Evans down and the hatred he has for him is so strong.

All very realistic and believable it's a very hard hitting and thought provoking read. And I don't think there's many people more qualified to have written a book like this than Dougie Brimson. The writing is incredible.

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### **Beth says**

This novel follows a desperate attempt by the police to pin down Evans, the assumed leader of one of the country's top firms and the lengths they'll go to, to get him. They convince (read coerce) an arrested hooligan to go in as an informant, hoping to get more evidence on Evans and finally be able to convict him. The police know something huge is going to happen on this trip to Rome but they just can't work out what it is.

This novel is as much as thriller as anything else, with copious amounts of violence (necessary) and expletives (even more necessary), the picture created is bleak and the conclusion is so clever well, I would love to say more but that would ruin the ending for others wouldn't it? This novel may have took its time to convince me but by the end I was desperate to know what happened next and am looking forward to buying the sequel. Despite me obviously enjoying this novel because I'm interested in the subject matter, I think it would appeal to others too.

Awesome novel, appealing subject matter, just great

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### **Qfreak says**

This isn't my usual read, but it was free on Amazon. I was sucked in within a few pages and couldn't wait to see what happened. The last couple of chapters were a bit strung out I found, but other than that I really enjoyed it, and will happily pay for the follow up.

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