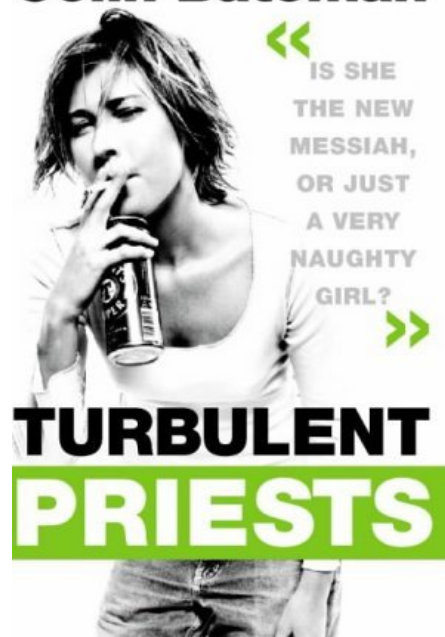


Colin Bateman



Turbulent Priests

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Dan Starkey investigates the birth of a new Messiah on a small island off the coast of Ireland. Back together with his wife Patricia and the baby -- Little Stevie -- that resulted from her affair, Dan accepts a curious commission from Cardinal Daley to investigate the tiny island of Wrathlin, where the inhabitants appear to believe that the new Messiah has been born. The child in question turns out to be a girl called Christine, and the local population has become as defensive and generally crazy as the cast of *The Crucible*. At first it's just funny for Dan and Trish, but fairly soon the mood turns very much darker. Packed with Bateman's trademark mixture of jokes, shocks and tenderness, *Turbulent Priests* is his best novel yet.

Turbulent Priests Details

Date : Published July 3rd 2000 by HarperCollins (first published December 6th 1999)

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Author : Colin Bateman

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Genre : Fiction, Humor, Mystery, Crime, Cultural, Ireland

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From Reader Review Turbulent Priests for online ebook

Jim Bartlett says

My 4th Bateman novel and I love the laugh out loud Irish black humour dialogue with original highly exaggerated and absurd characters(particularly the central character) and storylines
There is a fine balance in the writing of exaggerated characters into an exaggerated plot I find his writing curiously addictive , but I felt in this novel the story degenerated from the absurd and imaginative crime fiction into contrived rubbish. it will not stop me from reading more in the future and I take note that other readers liked the story

Susan says

If you like Bateman's other books, you'll like this one. Freelance reporter/writer Dan Starkey is off with his new wife and baby to a remote island off the Irish coast to see if the island's new baby is really the second coming... It's full of Bateman's usual very clever wit and plot.

Richard says

A journalist is contracted to investigate a small island parish where locals report the Second Coming has taken place.

This is a rip roaring comic story with strong thriller overtones.

A great read.

Katrina says

This is probably my favourite Dan Starkey book so far. Divorcing Jack was a brilliant satirical take on the Troubles and political progress since then, and his subsequent Wee Sweetie Mice and Men was as funny as Bateman can be, but the plot was just a tad too fantastical. Turbulent Priests stays true to Bateman's style of writing, but set in the more local Wrathlin Island and so Northern Irish pervades the entire book. Starkey arrives on said island with wife and baby in toe, to investigate the acclaimed Second Coming of the Messiah, a six year old girl who actually rarely features. The focus is instead the islanders, and the corrupting power that religion can create...or so I thought until the end when an entirely different reason was presented for the mania. I highly recommend this book, that had me snorting out loud for the duration.

Diane says

Action, interesting premise and phrases that made me snort with laughter. Love this guys books.

sburgwin says

Totally believable

Couldn't put it down. Read it in two sessions. First Dan Starkey novel that I've read but Will probably read the lot now.

Martin Willoughby says

Riveting, chaotic, funny, dark and terrifying. And that's just the opening chapter.

Daniela Kraml says

well starkey is no parlabane, but i really like him the more i read of him!

Jennifer says

Another Bateman chilling but madcap romp, but with Dan Starkey in a somewhat different situation in both family and environment terms. He's on Wrathlin Island off the Antrim Close at the behest of a Cardinal concerned about a new Messiah and the island cult growing up around her. I'm not sure I enjoyed it quite as much as usual, perhaps its Wicker Man-esque plot is too familiar.

Farzana says

For those of you who need to be told that Northern Irish people are funny!

Emily says

not spectacular (or just not what i'm in the mood for at the moment). but if you've ever been curious about what male, northern irish humour is like, read some colin bateman. it's this odd mix of arrogance, self-deprecation, goofiness and sly wittiness. it's damned attractive, in a weird way.

Jayne Charles says

There was an exhilarating originality about this novel - an isolated community off the coast of Northern Ireland becomes convinced one of its number is the second coming of Christ. Journalist Dan Starkey arrives

to investigate. It becomes clear that this is one of a series of books featuring Starkey, and given that I've not encountered him before it was a bit like crashing a party halfway through, but it was one where I felt welcome, and everything the reader needs to know about what has gone before is economically conveyed without disturbing the narrative. There's a lot of drinking (despite the fact that the island is "dry") and a lot of wisecracking. The humour reminded me of my husband - frequently corny to an almost unbearable degree, but amongst it some really cracking humour that makes wading through the corn that bit less painful. And you really have to applaud the one-liner at the end of chapter 20, whilst acknowledging the complexity of the scaffolding that had to be erected around it to permit it to be delivered.

I was hoping the book might bring me a tiny bit closer to understanding Northern Ireland and the whole religious divide. "Protestantism never has and never will be about religion" remarks Starkey in chapter 1. "It's about property and culture and spitting at Catholics". I was none the wiser, but that observation summed up in a nutshell everything about sectarianism that is baffling to outsiders.

I enjoyed the first half more than the second - there was a lot of good personality-driven plot and a lot of good humour. From halfway on, though, something happened. It became like a screenplay in waiting. Guns and fisticuffs and overwrought near-death experiences took over. Despite some pretty graphic action, you knew everything was going to be broadly OK: is the author really going to allow his serial character to be killed off? There are surely plenty more wisecracks to come.

Chris Logan says

A tale of the second Messiah based on a small island in Ireland. Light hearted and funny tale, well written and above all entertaining.

Gregory Totman says

Religious nutters on a booze starved island ! Crazy stuff

Alex says

Good Northern Ireland crime writing. Witty in tone with a nice undercurrent of darkness. Shades of the Wicker Man.