

# DR YES BY COLIN BATEMAN



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### **About the Author**

Colin Bateman worked as a journalist in Ireland before becoming a full-time writer. His first novel, *Divorcing Jack*, was published in 1995 and won the Betty Trask Prize. Colin later adapted the novel for a film starring David Thewlis and Rachel Griffiths. Colin is the author of many critically acclaimed novels, including several that he has adapted for the screen. He has also written several children's books including *Reservoir Pups* and *Bring Me The Head Of Oliver Plunkett*. In May 2010, Bateman won the Crimefest Last Laugh Award for his novel *The Day of the Jack Russell*. His new book, *The Prisoner of Brenda*, featuring the return of the inimitable *Mystery Man*, was published in October 2012.

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## DR YES BY COLIN BATEMAN PDF

You don't say no to Dr. Yes, the charismatic plastic surgeon on the fast track to fame and fortune. But when the wife of obscure and paranoid crime writer Augustine Wogan disappears shortly after entering his exclusive clinic, Mystery Man, the Small Bookseller with No Name, is persuaded to investigate. Business is in the doldrums for No Alibis, Mystery Man's infamous crime bookshop. And, as fatherhood approaches, our intrepid hero is interested only in a quick buck and the chance to exploit a neglected writer. But he soon finds himself up to his neck in murder, make-up and madness – and face to face with the most gruesome serial killer... since the last one.

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### Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Crime is no laughing matter

By Keris Nine

It looks like there is still plenty of life left in Bateman's Mystery Man series, so clearly the court injunction filed by the owner of the real No Alibis crime bookstore in Belfast must have failed - either that or he's got a good sense of humour. Which is good news for those who like dumb, stupid comedy writing that plays knowledgeable with the conventions of crime writing, while making fun of them at the same time. Respectfully of course, after all, crime is no laughing matter.

Here in *Dr. Yes*, our pathetic, snivelling, neurotic bookseller shows some signs of kindness and decency and even seems to develop a spine when he helps out an obscure but brilliant failed local crime author Augustine Wogan, and it's got nothing to do with the chance of getting signatures on those first editions of his out-of-print *Barbed-Wire Love* trilogy of books gathering dust in a cardboard box in the shop, nor the promise of being given the opportunity to print the unpublished sequels to his underrated masterwork.

With Augustine's wife missing after going under the knife of mysterious plastic surgeon Dr. Yeschenkov, *The Case of the Pearl Necklace* (don't ask) proves however to be a particularly dangerous one. Our

bookseller isn't going to let a busty, beautiful femme fatal distract him from his duty, or let the fact that his temperamental girlfriend Alison is pregnant prevent him from confronting a dangerous hitman and serial killer who keeps his victims heads in a hatbox - or to be more precise, it's not going to prevent him from putting Alison forward to confront those dangerous situations.

Dr. Yes and the continuation of the Mystery Man series is living proof, or at least literary proof (if literary is not too strong a term for this kind of crime fiction), that you can never get too much sarcasm, bad taste humour and stale old jokes in that grand old Northern Ireland tradition of having a laugh at things when the going gets tough. (And you have to laugh really when you see what they have for politicians in Northern Ireland). Bateman is thoroughly steeped in that tradition and the humour here is brilliant and unforced, arising out of those familiar local character types. There's still more laughs to the page than the recommended EU limit, so make sure you read this before the politically correct mob ban it or No Alibis succeed in their court injunction.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Cosy mystery/sitcom

By Cary Watson

Colin Bateman can do better than this. I've read two of his Dan Starkey mysteries, *Belfast Confidential* and *The Horse With My Name*, and they work quite well as hard-edged mysteries with a side order of comedy. In *Dr. Yes* the emphasis is on the comedy, and there's very little edge, hard or otherwise. In fact, this novel could almost qualify as a cosy mystery, and that's not something a lad-lit writer like Bateman would want. The Starkey books are definitely lad-lit, with lots of boozing, casual violence, sexism, and a hero who's lippy and self-centred. Those can be good things.

*Dr. Yes* is the third of a series featuring Mystery Man, the owner of No Alibis, a mystery bookstore in Belfast. The never named owner of No Alibis (it's an actual Belfast bookstore) finds himself investigating the murder of Augustine Wogan, a forgotten mystery writer, whose wife has disappeared after going to a cosmetic surgery clinic run by a Dr. Yeschenkov. Aided by his girlfriend, Alison, and Jeff the shop assistant, Man solves the case. This is really sounding like a cosy now, isn't it?

The plot of *Dr. Yes* is pretty generic, with only minor twists and turns. As I said, this novel's all about the comedy, and to that end Bateman makes Man a grab bag of comic cliches: he's a hypochondriac, he speaks his mind at inopportune moments, he's a coward, and he never passes up a chance to needle someone. The problem is that Bateman can't maintain a high enough level of comic writing. Bits and pieces of the book are amusing, and it's clear Bateman's a good writer, but too often *Dr. Yes* begins to sound like a mediocre sitcom. This is particularly true of the bantering between Man and Alison, which consists mostly of unfunny insults and comebacks. Their dialogue isn't mediocre sitcom writing, it's bad sitcom writing; think *Everybody Loves Raymond* bad. The best thing I can say about *Dr. Yes* is that at least Mystery Man doesn't solve his mysteries with the help of a cat. There are some lines that simply can't be crossed, even by sitcom writers.

You can read more of my reviews at [JettisonCocoon dot com](http://JettisonCocoon.com).

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Criminally insane

By keetmom

Blame it on Ian Rankin whose generous endorsement of Bateman's comic crime capers persuaded me to give "Dr Yes" a go and I am glad I did. Bateman is a quirky genius whose twisted sense of humour and killer timing is completely addictive. Seriously OTT in parts it certainly is, but this book is also very cleverly put together with useful suggestions along the way for further reading by real crime writers. Bateman is probably

best taken in modest doses and read in places where outbursts of riotous laughter won't get you evicted.

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