



Private Investigations

Quintin Jardine

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Quintin Jardine's twenty-sixth Bob Skinner mystery sees the Edinburgh sleuth plunged into a gruelling new case in which no score will go unsettled.

Former Chief Constable Bob Skinner has uncovered his fair share of crime scenes over his thirty-year career. But few have affected him quite as much as the horrifying sight he finds stowed in the back of a stolen car that collides with his own on the outskirts of Edinburgh.

As his former colleagues investigate, Skinner takes on an unusual commission of his own.

The body count rises, motives appear, the hunt goes global, and potential conflicts surface. In his new guise, is Skinner is on the side of the angels...or working against them?

Private Investigations Details

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Author : Quintin Jardine

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From Reader Review Private Investigations for online ebook

Wendy Header-moan says

Part way through, I finally realized what has bothered me about the dialogue in this series: it's not conversational. Even when two people have known each other for a long time, you often have the feeling that one party is giving a mini-lecture. It's a way of bringing the reader up to speed on something that happened in the past, but it can be off-putting. Having said that, it obviously doesn't put me off too much, as I keep reading the books. This one, like many others, had a pretty complicated plot; I'm still not sure I understand exactly how it all developed, but it was a good read.

Elaine Tomasso says

I would like to thank Netgalley and Headline for an advance copy of Private Investigations which sees former Chief Constable Bob Skinner in his first investigative role in the private sector now that he has resigned from the police force. He is contacted by Eden Higgins, the brother of one of Bob's former girlfriends, asking him to review the police investigation into his missing £5million yacht which disappeared months before because the police have found no trace of it and have closed the case and his insurance company are refusing to pay the full amount. At the same time he has a minor collision in a car park, the driver runs off and he finds a young child's dead body in the boot of the car. "The Menu" (DCI Sammy Pye and DS Harold "Sauce" Haddock) investigate. Obviously the two crimes eventually interlock but how they do so is the meat of the book.

I thoroughly enjoyed Private Investigations and I found it so intriguing I read it in one sitting. I have read most of this series with the exception of the previous novel, Last Resort, and it is good to see the series taking a new turn. I imagine that Last Resort covers many of Bob's reasons for leaving the police but as its events are succinctly recapped early in Private Investigations it can be (and was!) read as a stand alone. The plot has plenty of twists and turns as it widens into multiple murder and financial shenanigans and with a new development in every chapter it is extremely addictive.

Bob Skinner would like to see himself as a new man with his unhappy police days behind him and time to spend with his family but investigation is what floats his boat (sorry, I couldn't resist it) and he gets involved not only in his own investigation but also the police's, much to the annoyance of the new Head Of PoliceServe, Sir Andrew Martin. There is much to dislike about Bob Skinner - it's all about him - and sometimes the first person narrative doesn't do him any favours in the likeability stakes but he's always honest and Mr Jardine does an excellent job of painting him, warts and all. I imagine it's harder to write a flawed character than a pleasant one and do it consistently. Sammy Pye and Sauce Haddock are turning into a dynamic duo with great banter and investigative nous. Throw Dan Provan into the mix and you have some very funny dialogue.

The novel does also have a serious side. Mr Jardine does not pull his punches in his criticism of the unified police service and its management style. He may call it PoliceServe but it reflects everything said about the new Police Scotland from disgruntled officers to a deeply unpopular Chief Constable.

There is something for everyone in Private Investigations, a complicated plot, an interesting protagonist, some serious points and humour, Scottish style and I have no hesitation in recommending it as an excellent read.

Elizabeth says

After twenty six books Bob Skinner is back to being a civilian. His last few years in the police have been a trial...from the Lothians (Edinburgh) to Strathclyde (Glasgow) now to the unified Police Scotland.

As with all detectives of note it does not take long before Bob is thrown into the middle of a three ring circus that has him wishing he had taken a very long holiday far away from ex colleagues and new found jealousies and suspicion.

Quintin Jardine packed so much into this book. My head was spinning trying to hold on to all the threads and, as each changed colour, grouping them in sets.

QJ has left an opening...and I would love to read more but I am wary. I don't think it worked for Rebus but Bob Skinner has so many more strings to his bow and there are so many more characters...Mario McGuire, The Menu, Lottie and Dan, Alex's new practice and the baby. I really want to know about the baby.

Maureen Moyes says

MoMo's Book Diary loved Quintin Jardine's Private Investigations and eagerly recommends this as a thrilling 5 star read

I have read most of the "Skinner" books, starting from the first one published back in the early 90s when I lived in Edinburgh. Now I live in the northern isles but am always drawn to books about southern and central Scotland.

In this instalment we find former Chief Constable Bob Skinner has moved into the world of private investigation.

Eden Higgins is Bob Skinner's first client. Eden, the brother of an ex-girlfriend of Skinner, wants him to look into the police investigation into the theft of his very expensive, luxury yacht. The police were unable to trace the very large yacht and the insurance company are refusing the pay out the full amount.

Whilst on his way to meet Eden Higgins, Bob's car is bumped by another as he is reversing from a parking space. The driver of the other car leaves the vehicle and takes off immediately on foot. Bob Skinner then finds the body of a young girl in the otherwise empty boot of the now driverless car. Bob quickly finds himself involved in both cases.

There are many twists and turns in this fast paced instalment where each chapter brings new developments in one or other of the cases. There is reference to the changing Police Force set-up we have faced in Scotland over recent years and this fits with the bigger picture of Skinners backstory and the tension between him and some of his ex-colleagues.

The author expertly leads the reader through the investigations and has a way of bringing each character to life with enough backstory that even if you have never read any other "Skinner" book you will be able to relate to the characters and the personal and professional relationships they share with Bob Skinner. I would say that if you have never read any other Skinner book you will want to change that after you have read this

one – I am now going to go back to my bookshelf and re-read them again. If you can, then do read them in order – it adds to the enjoyment being able to follow his private life and life within the Police service.

I would like to thank Headline and BookBridgr for the ARC received prior to publication.

This review is also published on my blog - momobookdiary.com and amazon

Vontel says

Complex book, interesting phase in Bob Skinner's life and career, red herrings that look like they may be real ones...I have read some of these books off and on over the years, so it can take time for some of the old stories to bring a shade of remembrance to the current one.

In some ways, there are elements of character and narrative that cross over with the Rebus books, not the least being geography. A good read, with some mysteries not uncovered till the end. The next book looks promising, too.

Bookread2day says

I had read and reviewed only one other book by Quintin Jardine Hours of Darkness that I really enjoyed. I really enjoyed reading Private Investigations too. There is always something about Quintin books that keep me glued to the pages. I was so surprised that Former Chief Constable Bob Skinner had left the police force after thirty-years. But once a cop always a cop. When Bob is in a accident in his car. At the scene he needs police attendance and paramedics. It's a heart breaking scene, a little girl who looked to Bob about the same age as his young daughter was in a car dead. A well-constructed fast paced crime novel with believable characters.

Vicki - I Love Reading says

Wow, It still amazes me how far this series has come. I have been reading this series now over many years, and I never tire of it. I would love to see Bob Skinner as a detective series on TV.

?I have to say though with this book, it was like having a reunion with old friends. There are an awful lot of characters that have been in these books over the years, and this book seems to give you a reminder or a history lesson of some of the more memorable characters, it also helps refresh your mind as you do forget certain people as the books progress. But it was just wonderful to be back with old friends. I have loved and enjoyed each and everyone of these books, and this one is certainly no exception.

?I would say if you have not read any of the Bob Skinner series then it really is worth doing so in order. It really would add to the enjoyment of the reading, and following Bob through his personal life as well as his police Career.

?In this instalment, Bob is now a Private Investigator, no longer a police office. But come on this is Bab Skinner. You think not being a copper is going to hinder him in any way at all. After all he has a whole heap of friends on the police force, Doesn't he?

?His first PI case is to help an old acquaintance whose Luxury Boat has gone missing. I don't mean a little

pedal boat, its a 5million pound Yacht.

?How the hell can one of those go missing, well that's up to Bob to figure out, and it soon becomes apparent that his colleagues on the police force have not really done a thorough job of looking for it.

?And yes in true Bob style he is caught up in a police investigation after he has a bump in his car and the driver of the other car does a runner, It was only a little bump so what the hell made the other driver run for it, like his life depended on it.

?I can't be giving to much away so I'm not going to say any more, but if like me you do enjoy a QJ book, then this one is certainly well worth reading.

I would like to thank Netgalley and Headline for an advance copy of Private Investigations. A book like all the others I really did enjoy.

Christine Rennie says

Another excellent Skinner book and again an excellent storyline, formidable characters and a superb read. Highly recommended

Val Penny says

I enjoy Quintine Jardine's series of crime thrillers featuring his character, Bob Skinner. In Private Investigations, the 26th Skinner novel. The character has retired from the Scottish Police Force and now works as a private investigator after a thirty-year police career. Bob Skinner is on the way to answer a friend's plea for help when a freak accident gives him an unwelcome glimpse of the dark side.

I have read most of the "Skinner" books, starting from the first one published back in the early 90s when I lived in Edinburgh. Now I have moved away, but I am always drawn to books about southern and central Scotland.

Eden Higgins is Bob Skinner's first client. Eden, the brother of an ex-girlfriend of Skinner, wants him to look into the police investigation into the theft of his very expensive, luxury yacht. The police were unable to trace the very large yacht and the insurance company are refusing the pay out the full amount. On his way to meet Higgins, Bob's car is bumped by another as he is reversing from a parking space. The driver of the other car leaves the vehicle and runs off immediately on foot. Chasing him is no longer an option for the aging Skinner, who finds the body of a young girl in the boot of the car. As a result of this find, Bob becomes involved in both cases.

There are many twists and turns in this fast paced instalment where each chapter brings new developments in one or other of the cases. There is reference to the changing Police Force set-up we have faced in Scotland over recent years and this fits with the bigger picture of Skinners backstory and the tension between him and some of his ex-colleagues. Quintin Jardine leads the reader through the investigations and brings each character to life with enough backstory that even if you have never read any other "Skinner" book you should be able to relate to the characters and the personal and professional relationships they share with Bob

Skinner. But I was not as engaged by this book as I have been by most of the other Skinner crime novels that I have read. Nevertheless, even this book by Jardine is much better than most other novels, and I recommend this police procedural novel, if you enjoy this genre.

Valerie Penny

Mrs Kathy Murdoch says

I have read the whole series of Skinner novels, and by Book 26 you'd think the story lines would be wearing a bit thin - not so! The characters remain fresh and alive, and every book highlights a different aspect of Skinner's personality. No matter what 'job' he takes on (in or out of the Police Force) it's all plausible. A great book to immerse yourself in - particularly when you have personal knowledge of the geographical area and places he talks about throughout.

Gill says

This is the first Bob Skinner book I've read so that makes twenty five I've missed! However, despite being late to the game I enjoyed this book and Jardine managed to fill in some necessary past details without it being too obtrusive.

Sarah says

For me this is the Bob Skinner of old. Really, really enjoyed this book whereas some of the more recent ones I haven't enjoyed so much.

Stephanie says

Yet another pearler in the Bob Skinner series from Quintin Jardine. Former Chief Constable has uncovered his fair share of shocking crimes scenes over his thirty year police career - but few have affected him quite as much as the horrifying sight he finds stowed away in the back of a stolen car that collides with his own on the outskirts of Edinburgh.

As Bob Skinner's former colleagues investigate the mystery, Skinner is left to take on the unusual challenge of tracing a multi million - pound yacht, vanished from its mooring.

From the outside, the events couldn't seem less connected. And yet, as the body count rises, a link surfaces that could provide the key to both.

And as discord spreads within the newly unified Police Scotland, it soon will become clear whether Skinner

is on the side of the angels....or working against them.

Nolene Driscoll says

I received an ARC of this book via Netgalley in return for an honest review.

This is the first book I have read by Quintin Jardine and I mean to correct that in the near future. This book has great characters and because I have enjoyed meeting them in this book I'm curious to see what has gone on before and how they appeared in previous books.

I really liked the character of Bob Skinner and the way he interacted with his family and those around him.

This is a book that can be read as a standalone and is a good solid mystery that has a few twists and I did like the ending.

Kath says

I have read most of the books in this series, mostly in order too and have enjoyed them thoroughly. I wasn't actually aware that we had got to book 26, have to admit I'm a little gobsmacked by that as the series, to me anyway, still feels fresh.

So, Skinner is now on civvie street. He has however got all the necessary paperwork behind him to indulge in the wonderful world of private investigation. He is contacted by the brother of an ex-girlfriend of his who is having trouble with an insurance payout for a stolen yacht. On the same day he is due to meet to discuss this, Skinner is involved in a small vehicular bump in a car park and, as the driver runs off, Skinner finds something shocking in the boot of the vehicle he is fleeing from. Now involved in two cases, will Skinner work with or against his old colleagues to find solutions.

I always wonder what is going to happen to my favourite policemen when they become too old to serve. I have to admit Skinner's abdication from the Service came as a bit of a shock, but then I think I am actually a couple of books behind. Should really have played catch up prior to starting this one but hey ho! This book works very well as a stand alone as enough backstory is included so that the story and, more importantly, Skinner's relationships - both personal and professional - flow seamlessly in this book.

The story itself is interesting. There is definitely a lot going on with both Skinner's cases and it soon becomes evident that there is much more than first appears. Cracks start appearing pretty early on. Skinner once again has to juggle work with home life. Now back with his ex, he has to try and remain balanced between the two as he now has more to lose.

Pacing of the book is good. There were enough twists and turns to keep things interesting as well as holding just enough back so as not to reveal too early but, at the same time, giving the reader enough to keep them intrigued.

Characterisation is great. I love The Menu (Haddock and Pye) I keep seeing them as a bit like TinTin's Thomson Twins although I really don't know why! I've never been the biggest Skinner fan in the world. I think he thinks too highly of himself and that irks me sometimes as he comes across as a bit on the arrogant side but, he is a good investigator and he knows it and he plays to it. So, fair play.

One thing that also did distract me a little, and I see this kind of thing creeping more and more into books these days, is all the political undertones that are there regarding the Police set-up in Scotland. Mostly I try to

ignore this kind of thing, but it is a bit hammered in in this book and hard to really do completely. All in all, I enjoyed the book and it will be a good addition to a very well established series. I'm off to play catch-up whilst waiting on the next one.

I received a free ARC of this book in exchange for my honest review.
