



## **The Killing Of The Tinkers**

*Ken Bruen*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online ➔](#)

# The Killing Of The Tinkers

Ken Bruen

## The Killing Of The Tinkers Ken Bruen

When Jack Taylor blew town at the end of *The Guards* his alcoholism was a distant memory and sober dreams of a new life in London were shining in his eyes. In the opening pages of *The Killing of the Tinkers*, Jack's back in Galway a year later with a new leather jacket on his back, a pack of smokes in his pocket, a few grams of coke in his waistband, and a pint of Guinness on his mind. So much for new beginnings.

Before long he's sunk into his old patterns, lifting his head from the bar only every few days, appraising his surroundings for mere minutes and then descending deep into the alcoholic, drug-induced fugue he prefers to the real world. But a big gypsy walks into the bar one day during a moment of Jack's clarity and changes all that with a simple request. Jack knows the look in this man's eyes, a look of hopelessness mixed with resolve topped off with a quietly simmering rage; he's seen it in the mirror. Recognizing a kindred soul, Jack agrees to help him, knowing but not admitting that getting involved is going to lead to more bad than good. But in Jack Taylor's world bad and good are part and parcel of the same lost cause, and besides, no one ever accused Jack of having good sense.

Ken Bruen wowed critics and readers alike when he introduced Jack Taylor in *The Guards*; he'll blow them away with *The Killing of the Tinkers*, a novel of gritty brilliance that cements Bruen's place among the greats of modern crime fiction.

## The Killing Of The Tinkers Details

Date : Published January 23rd 2004 by Minotaur Books (first published 2002)

ISBN : 9780312304119

Author : Ken Bruen

Format : Hardcover 256 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Cultural, Ireland, Fiction, Noir, European Literature, Irish Literature

 [Download The Killing Of The Tinkers ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Killing Of The Tinkers ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Killing Of The Tinkers Ken Bruen**

---

## From Reader Review The Killing Of The Tinkers for online ebook

### Aoife says

Perhaps I shouldn't have read this book so quickly after the first one because that made it really obvious how similar the basic plot in both books is. The only differences were that in the first book he was drinking too much and now he's drinking too much and doing coke (he also messes much more things up...)

I wrote in my review for the first novel that I hope that the novels turn in a slightly more conventional crime-novel because 'watching how Jack self-destructs via alcohol' makes a good read for one book but not a whole series. The second didn't only fail to do this, it also reads like a carbon-copy of *The Guards*. Both start with somebody asking Jack to investigate suspicious deaths. Both times Jack is reluctant at first but eventually gives in, pokes around a bit and then asks his old police-colleague for information. Both times the old colleague tells him to leave it (in the first because everybody thinks the deaths are suicides, in the second because dead tinkers are apparently not important enough for the police to care). Both times somebody doesn't like Jack poking around and sends guys to beat him up (badly). Both times that doesn't stop Jack from poking around some more and he finds a solution *somehow* (the second time the solution is very *somehow*

I still like Jack as a character and I will give the next one a try as well but I don't have the feeling of 'I need to read it NOW' I had after finishing the first book.

---

### Anna says

Pomřn? neokoukané prost?edí Irska (Galway) a detektiv - alkoholik/knihomol slibovaly netradi?ní ?tení. A toho se mi i dostalo: nestává se i b?žn?, že bych se hádala s knihou, natož abych nadávala postav? do hlupák? a tupo?. Op?t se Jack spíš motá v kruhu a práci za n?j odvád?jí jiní, zatímco on si likviduje život i jakékoliv p?átelecké svazky s p?ímo epickým nasazením.

Musím však ocenit samotný záv?r. T?ch n?kolik málo v?t, vlastn? poslední odstavec, poopravil moje mín?ní o Jackovi. Když se k n??emu po?ádnému rozhoupe, stojí to za to.

---

### Daniel Sevitt says

Slightly less coherent than the first Jack Taylor with some genuinely bizarre choices. Bruen gives generous shout outs to other writers that he admires name-checking McBain and Lawrence Block and nodding to George Pelecanos at least 3 different times in the book. Oddly, though, every time he mentions Pelecanos, he spells it differently. This is not one of the characters spelling it badly, its the narrator. This may well be the worst edited book i have ever read. In many ways it feels completely unproofed and similar to a self-published manuscript. Weird.

There are huge inconsistencies and leaps of logic and an ending that is supposed to be nihilistic, but is just bonkers. I can almost forgive the whole affair for giving me suggestions for other books to read and for quoting chunks out of things like Chandler's Simple Act of Murder, but this one has me worried. I'll give Bruen another chance, but if that's as poorly presented as this, I'm done.

---

## **K.A. Laity says**

The latest Bruen I've read is actually the second Jack Taylor book, after *The Guards*. For those keeping score at home, this is when Taylor loses his teeth (mark that on your Jack Taylor Injury Scorecard, a big 50 points). I can't really explain why I haven't tried to read them in order; I suppose it's because if I made a deliberate effort to put them all in order I would read them through in one great orgy of words until they were all done and then where would I be? Probably standing on the streets of the Claddagh listening to Bruen type.

And the Gardaí would come drag me away.

So, it's better that I just read them in the order in which they cross my path, which happened with this tale of the tinkers and Taylor. He's still raggedly recovering from his flight after the end of *The Guards* and the deaths left in his wake. It's Jack, so he's managed to screw up his life even more in London and as he returns to Galway, things look bleak. Then he's asked to help deal with the killings of young tinkers because his former colleagues in the force have no interest in their world. The tinkers give him a home, his friends give him hope and he's got a good idea who might be behind all the killings.

But you know it's going to turn out badly because Jack Taylor is a magnet for nightmares. Bruen gives you a Galway that rustles with skittering shadows and malevolence. The circle of recurring characters have been sketched in by this second volume, but they grow more intricately here. Terrible things lie ahead for some and it makes the happy moments even more bittersweet. There's philosophy, poetry and too much backsliding from Jack. Bruen tells his tales with a ragged beauty, his eloquence matched only by the bleak horror.

Sure it's grand.

---

## **Shirley Schwartz says**

Noir at it's Irish best! Ken Bruen is an author of few words. His Jack Taylor books are short, succinct and directly to the point, and let me tell you, a lot happens in between the covers of his books. Jack Taylor is my new favourite anti-hero. He's a hard drinking, hard-scrabble and surprisingly literary PI who lives in Galway, Ireland. This is the second book in the series and Jack is coming back to Galway after a year in London. He left because his life was in a real mess and he had many people after his blood. He comes back to Galway still a raging alcoholic but he's also a cocaine addict. His life is a mess and he can't seem to get out of his downward spiral. As he sits in one of his favourite watering holes shortly after returning, a big gypsy walks into the bar and asks Jack for his help. Someone is killing young gypsy men in his clan. Jack comes out of his alcoholic haze and recognizes a man who seems just like himself and he agrees to help. The pace of this book will blow you away and even though it's short we get more than enough characterization and plot to keep a reader wildly turning pages. Jack is a train wreck and he'd be the first to admit it, but he is the most insightful, quick-witted PI you're ever likely to meet. It makes me wonder how spectacular he'd be if he was sober.

---

## **LJ says**

THE KILLING OF THE TINKERS – G+

Ken Bruen

Jack investigates the murder of tinkers.

I read the first three of Bruen's books together: The Guards, The Killing of the Tinkers and The Magdalene Martyrs.

I found myself needing to read these books together to see what would happen with Jack. There are references in them I know I didn't quite understand, being American, but I could feel my Irish friends nodding in the background. The character of Jack may not be particularly likeable, but he is compelling, as is the writing.

---

## **Andy says**

So he's now addicted to coke (just finished the first chapter). I'm so happy I'm not Jack Taylor.

So he has now lost most of his teeth and his balls are black and blue - I refer you to my previous sentence.

Finished it now. Not sure about these. It's great that the investigations aren't solved with the precision of a CSI investigation. But that said I'd like a little more detecting from Jack. And it's always good to have a hero that is flawed but there are limits to the level of Jack bashing I can enjoy. But I shall be reading the next one.

---

## **Richard White says**

Very good. Would recommend.

---

## **Johnny says**

Finally. The book where I finally get what the big fuss is about. The two other books by Ken Bruen that I've read, I either didn't like (AMERICAN SKIN) or was a little underwhelmed (THE GUARDS: good but not great).

This novel finds a balance between character and setting. The tone, details, and humanity shine from the gutter. The unapologetic approach to the hero is exactly what hardboiled writing is all about.

And to top it off, Bruen has thankfully limited the amount of pop culture and music references and chose to concentrate on the story. Not the plot mind you. The "mystery" that the story is supposedly about is incidental, taking up the last fifteen pages. However, the rest of the book is a study in loss and desperation.

If Bruen can combine the strengths of this book with an actual plotline, rather than the loose drunken stagger

of a plot in this book, he has it in him to write a crime novel that is truly a classic. Maybe he has. I will keep reading Bruen and see where it takes me.

---

### **Mike Sumner says**

I guess Jack Taylor is akin to marmite. You either love him or dislike him. Well, I love marmite, so there it is. Ken Bruen's clipped, staccato writing style pervades a brooding Irish landscape - windswept, rain-lashed Galway where Taylor has returned with a cocaine habit and little else after a year spent in London, apart from befriending Keegan, a DS in the Met, who is not averse to straying into criminal activity if the end justifies the means. Just as well for Jack when Keegan turns up unannounced in Galway. You would want Keegan on your side. Particularly when Jack is approached by Sleeper, a recognised king amongst tinkers. He wants Jack to find out who has been ruthlessly killing young travellers and dumping their bodies in the city centre....

This is raw, gutsy stuff. Jack hasn't changed his habits since being thrown out of the Irish Gardai. He drinks to excess almost daily and continues with his cocaine habit, albeit to a lesser degree. Laura helps to steer him away from a path of self destruction, for a while... And yet, beneath that hardened exterior beats a good heart. If he has a 'wedge' he will share it with the needy. Cross Jack at your peril.

This is the 2nd in the Jack Taylor series and I love it as much as *The Guards*.

Sláinte !

---

### **Josh says**

Continuing on from *THE GUARDS*, my rereading of Ken Bruen's penultimate series continues to bare fruit with *THE KILLING OF THE TINKERS* being another top read.

Jack progresses from mere alcoholic with a good natured if somewhat destructive personality to a full blown drug addict - coke the poison which pumps it's devilishly smooth disguised death in his very veins. It adds another affliction to the already well afflicted - and that's part of the charm isn't it? Jack's not meant to be a nice man, he's not meant to be the copper you run to. No. He's the bloke at the bar you go to when the bottom of the barrel has turned you down. Yet, he gets results - and in *THE KILLING OF THE TINKERS* he does just that.

Of course, this wouldn't be a Bruen novel if some claret didn't get spilled along the way. Enter a serial killer hell bent on murdering tinkers (oh there's a nice wee twist to this one) and a deranged maniac taking heads off swans and Jack's got a bit on his plate - plus the drinking and drugging, as well as the odd relationship with a lass and befriending a cop from London. Despite Jack being pulled in so many directions, Ken Bruen keeps it all on point, allowing each thread to overlap and merge with no another to form a greater narrative.

*THE KILLING OF THE TINKERS* is a fantastic sophomore outing for Jack Taylor.

Review first appeared on my blog: <http://justaguythatlikes2read.blogspot.com>...

**Felix Zilich says**

? ??????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??-???????, ?? ?????? - ?? ??? ? ?? ??? ?????? ????????. ?????????? ?? ??????? ??????  
? ?????? ?????????? ??????, ??????? ?????? ?????? ? ???... ?????? ??????????. ?????? ??? ?????-????? ? ?????? ??????  
????????? ?? ?????????? - ?? ??? ?????? ?????????? ? ??????, ?? ??? ? ?????????? ??? ( ?????????? ??????  
??????) ?????? ? ?????????? ??????????. ??? ???? ???? ???? , ?????? ?? ?????????? ? ?????? ??? ??????,  
?????? ???? ???? ???? ???? ?????: ??????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??? ?????-???????

? ?????????? -????? ??????? ?????? ??? “?????????????”. ?????? ?????-????????? ?????????? ????, ????  
????? ????, ?????? ?????? ?????? ?? ??????. ??? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??? ?????? ?????? ??????????  
????? ??????, ?????? ??? ?????? ?????????? ? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ???, ??? ?????? ?  
????????? – ??? ?????? ?? ??-?????????. ?????? ?????? ?????? ???, ???, ?????? ???? ??? ?????? ?  
????? ???? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ? ??????; ?????????? ???, ??? ?????? ???, ?????? ?????????????? ?  
?????????????.

??? ?????? ? ?????? – ?????? ?? ??????? ?????? ?? ???????, ?? ???????, ?? ?????? ? ?????? ?????? – ?????????? ? ??????  
????????? ??????. ???? ???? ? ??????. ???, ???, ???, ?????? ??????. ???? ?? ?????? ?????? ??????  
??????, ??? ?? ???, ??????, ??? ??????

## Geoff. Lamb says

The term 'procedural' has, for some, a taint to it. Routine, churner, etc. Not so the Jack Taylor stories written by Ken Bruen. Jack is a former (read dismissed) Garda, often submissive to the demons drink and drugs. Jack has a keen eye for trouble, his own and that of others. Unlike so many fictional 'tecs, Jack is well-read. Every Jack Taylor story interweaves books and music that inform his life.

Some authors are 'name droppers', slipping the names of authors, poets, singers etc as 'evidence' of the character's "sophistication". Credit, then, Ken Bruen whose references are intrinsic to the story or to painting Jack's history.

"Killing' is rich (as are all of the Jack Taylor novels) in such literary and musical references.

Astral Weeks - Van Morrison  
I Saw A Stranger - Tommy Fleming  
No woman, no cry - Bob Marley  
Living next door to Alice - Jive Bunny  
Sunday morning coming down  
Angel of Harlem - U2  
Just another town - Johnny Duhan  
Bend It - Dave Dee  
Changes - Phil Ochs

The Countrywoman - Paul Smith

Gore Vidal - Fred Kaplan  
House of Leaves - Mark Danielewski  
To Bedlam and Partways Back - Anne Sexton  
Satan Wants Me - Robert Irwin  
Jernigan - David Gates  
Chester Himes - James Sallis  
The Angels Will not Care - John Straley  
Kiss Tomorrow Goodbye - Horace McCoy  
The Simple Art of Murder - Raymond Chandler  
Wonders of the Invisible World - David Gates

---

### **Mark says**

The second book in Bruen's "Jack Taylor" series (following the Shamus-winner THE GUARDS) picks up with ex-Garda Taylor returning from London in even worse shape than when we last saw him (hard to believe) and asked to help find out who's been murdering Galway's gypsies. THE KILLING OF THE TINKERS is literate, darkly poetic, melancholy, and absolutely brutal. You can almost wring Irish Whiskey out of its pages.

---

### **Heidi Gonzalez says**

What do you know another drunk detective...but unlike Harry Hole, from Redbreast by Jo Nesbo Jack doesn't go on the wagon. In fact he is so deeply under the wagon I'm surprised he functions. Every time he wakes up without a hangover he is stumped. Fast paced, hard hitting and dark this Irish mystery can leave you scratching your head if you don't know or can't pick up some of the slang. I'm really trying to like Jack but it's difficult, he is almost beyond redemption in his spiral downward. Even his friends are a quirky mess.

Jack is approached by the head of the Gypsy's to help solve the murders of several of his kin because the police don't seem to care. Of course this plunges Jack into a crazy and unfortunate series of events that leaves him even more broken, and on the edge. I don't feel sorry for Jack and by the end of the book I am almost starting to like him. I'm not really sure about this series...I guess I will have to take a few more books about Jack for a spin before I make up my mind.

---