



## Papercuts

*Colin Bateman*

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The Bangor Express has been around for a hundred years. Through World Wars and civil strife, it has never missed an issue, but now it's limping towards an inevitable doom and it looks like the owner has no choice but to shut it down - until London-based journalist Rob Cullen arrives on the scene. He believes that just perhaps, if he looks hard enough, he can find a way to resurrect it... what could possibly go wrong?

Lured back to Northern Ireland for the first time in 20 years by the demise of his one-time mentor, the Guardian reporter can't resist fighting for the paper where he first made his name. After all, it has been a long time since Rob had a real story to get this teeth in to... and with the Bangor Express, that's just what he's going to get.

- See more at: <http://headofzeus.com/books/Papercuts...>

## Papercuts Details

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Author : Colin Bateman

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## From Reader Review Papercuts for online ebook

### Drrn Scott says

As always brilliant. Very underrated author

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### Kelly says

It is a truth, universally acknowledged, that papercuts are the most devious and painful of cuts. They don't look like much but boy, oh, boy, do those little suckers sting.

'Papercuts' by Colin Bateman was very much like a papercut. There was nothing overtly dramatic about it, but it got under my skin. The characters became like friends to me. The stories kept me reading. The cover made me feel bright and happy.

I fell in love with the characters immediately. Their lives were not extraordinary, but they were well-written and interesting and they made me care about everything that happened to them. I wanted to see them develop as individuals, but loved that they began to gel as a team. Even the characters that you weren't really supposed to like, I liked for the depth they added to the cast.

I read that this novel was actually written as 8 individual stories and then pieced together. I didn't know this at the time, but I thought throughout that the constant flow of events and characters related to each news story really broke up the overarching plots and kept my interest throughout.

Really cannot wait to see if this one is continued.

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### Jennifer says

I have the sense that Papercuts is a novel Colin Bateman wrote as a gift to himself, a reward for churning out so many other fine reading entertainments. It seems he has gone back to his own roots good and proper with this one about a local newspaper in Bangor, County Down.

It's a great setting and I could see this running but like many first in a series (if such it turns out to be) it's not the best one, wavering sometimes on the verge of OK, with a laugh out loud quotient of only one which is well down on some of his others. There are some fine and daft bits such as the truth behind the car wash (hmmm...) and Janine the paper's dodgy advertising manager at an AA meeting. Plus some heartrending tales for our time with what happens to a netball player and the team's crackpot attempts to rescue two Eastern European sex workers. As for the ending...

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### Beruthiel says

First I thought I would give this one 3 stars because of the lack of overarching story.

But then I realized, that Colin Bateman again made me love those characters so much, they feel like family! So it deserves at least 4 stars.

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### **Sarah Woodburn says**

Aaah! Brilliant :)

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### **Jenny L says**

It seems ages since I gave any of my reading matter 4 stars! This was fabulous. Not read any Colin Bateman before, so had no idea what to expect, but loved the dry humour, the wit, the storyline and the characters. Some brilliant repartee throughout with the sort of banter you hope to remember for the future, but of course I won't! I will be looking for more to read by this very entertaining author.

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### **Doug Lewars says**

\*\*\* Possible Spoilers \*\*\*

I can't say that this is a great book but it's pretty good and worth reading. The plot is pretty simple. A gentleman from a large news organization has been suspended pending an investigation and so is persuaded to take a job editing a small local newspaper that's hemorrhaging money. His job is either to turn it around or kill it. That by itself would be pretty thin but the plot is augmented by the various incidents that he and his reporters investigate and the interesting characters they meet. Some are humorous and some less so. I can't say that I broke into laughter while reading but the story was light and a pleasant way to while away an evening.

Normally I like my endings nice and tidy but this was an exception. Actually few of the various subplots are resolved but I didn't find that as frustrating as in some novels. One gets the impression that life will somehow continue despite whatever the various characters do. Give it a shot. The author is pretty good at pacing, the dialog is well done and there was never a time I felt I had to walk away in frustration. I doubt it will ever win any literary awards but these days that may be more of a plus than a minus.

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### **George Mills says**

#### **Hits the mark again.**

Like all Collin Bateman's books leaves you wanting more and the story to continue. Still waiting for the next story from this great writer.

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### **Allan says**

I was a big fan of Bateman at the start of his writing career right up until around 5 years ago, when I just became tired of the same old formula that I saw him churning out on a yearly basis. Having got this cheaply on audio, I found it entertaining in typical irreverent Bateman fashion without being blown away. Given the sudden ending of the novel, I'm assuming that this is the first in another series, allowing him to give Dan Starkey another rest. Won't be rushing out for the sequel, but if it was available as another deal, I wouldn't discount reading it.

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### **Fulton Ross says**

I love Colin Bateman. No, really, I love him - his Mystery Man and Dan Starkey series are bleeding hilarious. Papercuts, in my opinion, doesn't quite live up to these previous novels. That said, I still enjoyed it, and as someone who has worked on local newspapers, the world of Bateman's Bangor Express rings true. As always, Bateman's characters are great and I enjoyed his dialogue. However, aside from the will-they-won't-they relationship between newspaper editor Rob Cullen and his sassy reporter, there is not one over-riding plot that drives the novel. This could be intentional. In local newspapers, stories appear, they're written about and then you forget about them. So here we have a skeleton found in a illegal fly-tipping site, we have the return of a world-renowned artist to his home town, a gangster makes an appearance and is then forgotten, a trafficked eastern European woman is rescued from her pimp - the list goes on. None of these strands are followed through satisfactorily - although it's clear from the ending that Bateman is already planning a sequel. That I will definitely read this sequel does, however, rather undermine my points above. But, like I said, I love Colin Bateman.

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### **[] says**

The plot had a lot of promise - set in a newspaper office in a small town with plenty of material - but it failed to deliver. The writing was not engaging and many characters were underdeveloped. The dialogue was stilted and a lot of the book seemed to focus on the potential office romance between the editor and a reporter, which was very badly written. Each chapter focussed on a new headline story, resulting in a fast paced explanation of the circumstances but failing to examine the aftermath of stories. The ending was particularly awful with a sense of build up but no real conclusion.

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### **Theresa says**

Unusually for a crime novel this is set in a newspaper office, which is a rich picking ground for a writer. The Bangor Express may be a local paper or rather a community paper as Rob Cullen, the new editor likes to remind his staff but all of human life is there in stories great and small. It is set in Northern Ireland so it's sectarianism is acknowledged but is not allowed to dominate.

This book is rather like a newspaper with several strands of investigations some of greater significance than others so it keeps the readers' interest. Why is the library holding a book amnesty? Who is Maria? Is there more to the immigrants' car washing business? And in the background is the newspaper office with all the

usual office tensions (does anyone else remember the very funny British TV series *Drop the Dead Donkey*, which was also set in a newspaper office?).

Colin Bateman's style is lively, funny and a pleasure to read. There were nice touches like the film *All the President's Men* being compulsory viewing for cub reporters (it's about Watergate for those not around at the time).

Although the book ended with an exciting incident the end itself felt abrupt. However this made an amusing holiday read and it's a 3.5 that I've capped at 3. I look forward to reading more by this author.

I listened to the audiobook ably narrated by Stephen Armstrong. This version was published 7 July 2016 but unfortunately Audible does not give the publication details so it isn't possible to add it to the Goodreads catalogue.

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### **John Martin says**

Colin Bateman has long been one of my favourite authors. I like his zany, black sense of humour. I like his humorous books, like the *Mystery Man* series, but I also liked his *Murphy's Law* books in which he wrote very gritty crime, conjured up some great characters and delivered the stories with a light touch and a sense of humour.

Now he's taken a new direction.

His newest book is called *Papercuts*, which is about the trials and tribulations of a weekly newspaper in Bangor in Northern Ireland.

I really enjoyed this book but I must declare some bias.

I worked for 30 years on mainstream newspapers. So I recognise the setting, the character types, the daily intrigue, and the thrill of the case. I also recognise the challenges: the moral dilemmas, all the personal many agendas, the legal deliberations, and the myriad egos you have to tip-toe around to get each paper out.

It took me 30 years in the business to accumulate the depth of stories that this newspaper gathers in just a few weeks. But this, clearly, is a story based in a much tougher neck of the woods than my experiences. We feared for the welfare of our editor just twice in my time -- once when a group of disgruntled bikies filed into his office and closed the door behind them, and once when we somehow upset the local vigoro association and two or three Amazon-like women insisted on a closed-door meeting with him too.

But heck this is fiction, in which art accelerates life, and I thank Bateman for transporting me to an environment that's not a million miles away from where I used to work.

It's a new venture for Bateman.

He has a new publisher and I gather he released this novel separately as eight short stories then released them together in one book. It's a mark of his skill as a writer that he tied it all together so well.

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**Ken Phillips says**

If this is your first Bateman book then you will probably enjoy it, but I can only give it 3 stars because it lacks the style and wit of all of the other books of his that I have read.

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**AIDAN P V MCGEE says****Cracking as usual**

Colin Bateman is just brilliant. A real page turner, funny, well written. I couldn't get aback to it quickly enough. Thoroughly recommended

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