



## The Dog Catcher

*Alexei Sayle*

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## **The Dog Catcher Alexei Sayle**

Alexei Sayle is back, with a new collection of dark, timely, and comic tales. These dazzlingly written stories cut right to the heart of the modern world

### **The Dog Catcher Details**

Date : Published April 1st 2002 by Not Avail (first published 2001)

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Author : Alexei Sayle

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## From Reader Review The Dog Catcher for online ebook

### Andrew Ives says

If you read the plaudits from Douglas Adams and the *Big Issue* inside the dust jacket, you might be forgiven for thinking this is a masterpiece of wit that Oscar Wilde could only dream of. They are lies. Whilst Alexei is clearly a clever bloke who writes well, with an occasionally amusing turn of phrase or surreal metaphor, the 'short' stories collected here already date quite badly, are consistently grubby, and managed to elicit from me only the merest of smirks, and I usually felt ashamed at myself even for those. I wouldn't say the proofreading was particularly hot either. The stories are...

*The Dog Catcher* - Strongly Spanish-flavoured smut with a dark Hitchcockian ending. 2.5/5

*Descending* - Short Tour de France tale that I quite liked but it just ended too abruptly. 3.5/5

*My Lucky Pig* - London-based, weird and short tale about a voiceover artist. 3/5

*Barcelona Chairs* - London-based story about an up-his-own-a\*\* architect. 3.25/5

*A Cure For Death* - A solid futuristic sci-fi idea marred by so much swearing at the end. 3/5

*Who Died and Left You In Charge?* - The most surreal London-based story of the lot. I almost liked this, but the ending, while funny-ish was kind of obvious. 3.5/5

*Clive Hole* - Simple London-based story of an indecisive TV exec on the edge. 3/5

*The Only Man That Stalin Was Afraid Of* - A somewhat surreal reason to set a long short story in Russia. 3/5

*The Mau Mau Hat* The longest of them all, occupying almost 40% of the book, this is quite a page-turner, with a clever idea regarding Porlock, but I found the ending unsatisfying. 3.25/5

I used to really like *Stuff* and generally always enjoyed seeing Alexei on telly. Now I'm not so sure. Sorry, mate. I like the dog on the back cover though. 3/5

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### Kris McCracken says

A decent, if somewhat uneven collection of short stories. A bit heavy-handed at time, Sayle obviously relishes exposing the absurdities of modern 'cool' culture. Very dark in tone, I particularly recommend "The Only Man Stalin Was Afraid Of" and "The Mau Mau Hat".

Very much worth checking out.

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### Henrik Andersson says

I hadn't ever read anything by Alexei Sayle until I ran across this book at the local Salvation Army second hand shop. Being a fan of his comedic TV and audio work, I was interested to see Sayle's "serious" work, if you will. I didn't really know what to expect, but after reading the opening story "The Dog Catcher" I was hooked. These stories are not "laugh out loud" funny, there are no gags or jokes, but rather very intelligent and frequently acidic observations of humanity, really not much unlike the general focus in his standup comedy or even his TV shows. I must admit I was sceptic of the long last story, "The Mau Mau Hat", which I had no idea where it was going but delivered the payoff perfectly: a worn-out life lesson we all already know but always need to be reminded of.

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### **Ray says**

A great set of short stories by Alexei Sayle, who I think is under-rated as a writer.

Plenty of laugh out loud moments and surreal meanderings

Joyful.

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### **Jim says**

Wonderfully surreal, the best of the collection is the first tale about "The Dog Catcher" who purifies an isolated Spanish town of all its stray dogs in the autumn including immoral human 'dogs'. I gave it four stars because as a whole it is not as brilliant a collection as "Barcelona Plates".

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### **Ipswichblade says**

Another excellent collection of short stories

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### **Jeremy Poole says**

Sayle does it again, cynical and eye opening, questioning and making you laugh. This is intelligent comedy at its best.

My reviews of Indie books <http://www.jeremypoole.net/blog.html>

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### **Fay says**

Funny and slightly twisted short stories. Not quite up there with Saki, but still a great book for getting plenty of odd looks on the train.

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### **Bass Tardo says**

I would recommend reading this one before reading Barcelona Plates, which is "snappier".

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### **Alex Bleach says**

Bit of a mixed bag. Some stories seem like filler, but the imagination is unrivalled.

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### **Julian says**

I have loved mr sayle's humor since I first saw him in "the young ones" British tv series. A lot of fun, slightly communist styled humor. Well recommended

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### **Hugo Costa says**

Shame My friend never gave back my CD copy of this audiobook. Eventually I had to buy the paperback as I love the title shortstory so much. "The woman came into the valley..." The first line of Alexei's reading of his own words still echo in my mind. Having holidayed in the Algarve since I was little I have grown to observing how the English no matter how little they try they never ever end up being part of an adoptive culture. The short story shows this in a most clever way. The Dog Catcher is set in Spain but it could be Albufeira or anywhere... God one from uncle Alexei Yuri Gagarin Five Year Plan Sayle. :)

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### **Jonah says**

"PATRICK"

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### **Tony Matthews says**

Very good. Definately recommend.

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### **Ryan Williams says**

Not as good as the stories in Barcelona Plates but still better than his novels. Sayle's schtick was the offbeat comic monologue, often with a touch of surrealism, which transfers well to the short story format. He can take a conceit, run with it, and quit while he's still ahead.

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