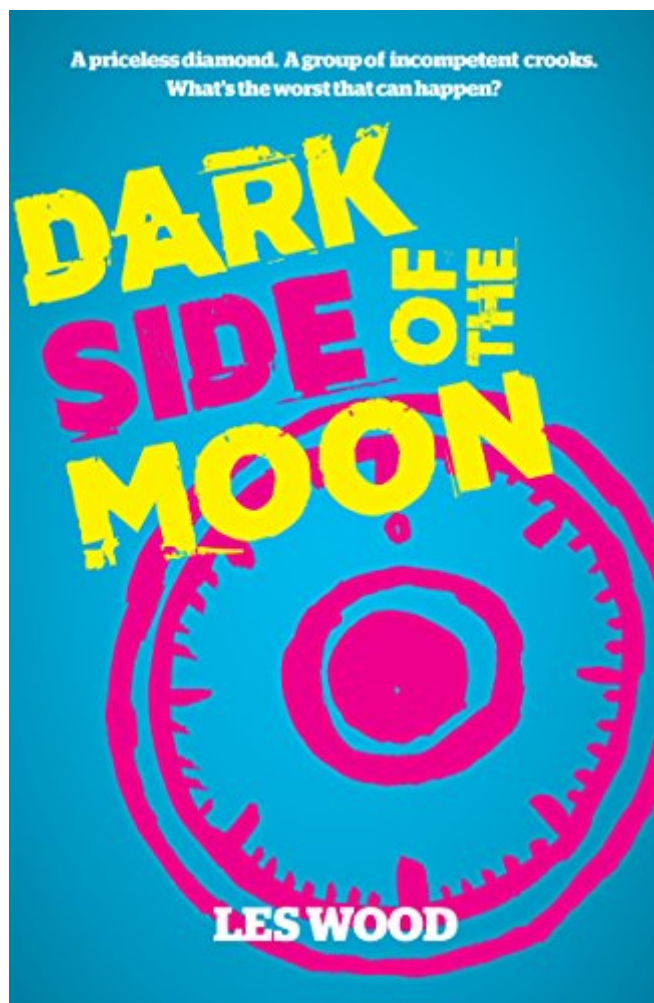


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Dark Side Of The Moon



Synopsis

A blackly comic heist novel set in Glasgow's famed underworld, reminiscent of early Christopher Brookmyre. Boddice, a crime lord looking over his shoulder for good reason, has assembled an unlikely band of misfit crooks. Their job is to steal a famous diamond worth millions, known as The Dark Side of the Moon. Despite the odds, the crew's self-serving squabbles and natural incompetence, the plan progresses. As events build to an explosive climax no one really knows who is playing who. Full of twists and turns and laugh-out-loud moments, this is a hugely enjoyable romp from entirely the criminal's point-of-view, with not a single cop in sight. Neds, drug dealers, gangsters, molls, jakes, crazy old bag ladies, racketeering, and the biggest jewel heist ever seen in the UK. Welcome to Glasgow. No Mean City meets The Italian Job in this hilarious comic noir debut, as the dark underbelly of the city's crimeland is spewed onto the page. With razor-sharp dialogue, superbly venal characters and a finely-tuned plot, The Dark Side of the Moon builds to an explosive firecracker of an ending. Douglas Lindsay, author of The Legend of Barney Thomson and Song of the Dead – Mix Irvine Welsh with Ocean's Eleven. Set in Glasgow and BANG! Dark Side of the Moon is a fun and thrilling read with moments that will have you reflecting on life, and moments when you will be giving it LOLs. A boom-bastic read. Loved it. Michael Malone, author of Beyond the Rage and Bad Samaritan

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First, if you do not know the words toady, jakey, glaikit or hirpling, get the app Urban Dictionary. Then read this hidden gem of a tragicomedy. I hope my first review of this book is not the only one it gets, as it blends comedy and tragedy marvelously. I really do not have to say more than that, so read it and trust me that you too will fall in love with the plot, the characters and the futility it represents. Enjoy!!

I picked this up with the aim of enjoying a light, humorous Scottish crime story -- after all, the cover is printed in dayglo colors and promises a diamond heist featuring "a group of incompetent crooks." And on the back, blurbs reference *The Italian Job*, mixing Ocean's 11 with Irvine Welsh, and "a hugely enjoyable romp" -- job done, eh? Well... sort of... it also references *No Mean City*, which, if you don't know, is the original classic novel of Glasgow's mean streets, and there's definitely a dark side to the story which is at odds with the upbeat packaging. The book kicks off like a Guy Ritchie movie, as a preening small time drug boss assembles his team of losers in an abandoned disco hall. There's aging hard-man collector Prentice, twin tattooists Campbell and John, homeless guy Boag, simple psychopath Leggett, and the nondescript Kyle. They're not so much a group of "incompetent crooks", so much as they are reluctant pawns in the Glasgow drug trade -- with few other prospects for making a living. They've been brought together to steal a super-duper priceless diamond, and thus classic heist plot line unfolds. Yes, there are some very amusing bits and pieces, but there's also a dark melancholy lurking from the very opening pages (which involve a dead baby). It's breezily entertaining page-turning stuff right up to the climax, in which everything starts to go haywire. However, that's when the book lost me. All of a sudden, a brutal realism takes over, and people start dying. Some of these are characters who've admitted to doing horrible deeds of violence, but some aren't -- so it's not as if there's a theme of karmic justice at work or anything like that. It's a huge tonal shift that doesn't feel particularly warranted, and it really undid the enjoyment I had taken from the rest of the story. Don't get me wrong, violence and comedy can mix just fine (see Elmore Leonard), but the type of violence and the type of comedy need to sync up -- and here they really don't.

I just finished it and I plan to edit and say more. But this is one of the best crime novels I have ever read. Character development is so good I already miss those five guys. Reviewers mention the humor but that could mislead. Many readers may not see it, as it's the strange dark humor of Pulp Fiction and Reservoir dogs. I've found very few books that lived up to the reviewer's cliché "I couldn't put it down" but this is one. The climax is amazing in its vivid portrayal, and monstrously explosive !

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