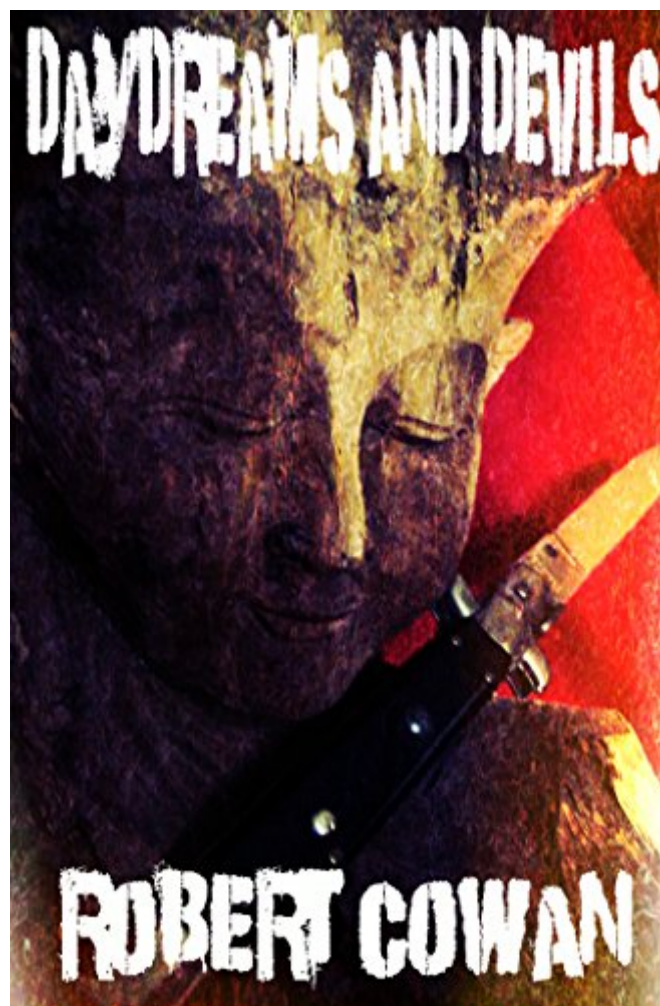


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Daydreams And Devils



Synopsis

LOCK STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS MEETS THE COMMITMENTS UK No1 bestseller 'Daydreams and Devils' blends crime, coming of age and dark humour. Vincent, with his sadistic right hand man Frankie, seeks to expand his interests with his own brand of gangland psycho terrorism. James, a young music obsessive, leaves school determined to do life his way, dreaming of glory in a gang with guitars. But as two worlds collide will dreams become nightmares? WHAT THE READERS ARE SAYING "I loved it, the imagination, the images evoked by the prose and the skill involved in bringing it all together." "plenty of action, authentically snappy dialogue, some great imagery, utterly believable, well-rounded characters and a generous helping of humour." "With shifting narrative, complex and engaging characters, and an entertaining plot peppered with occasionally acerbic humour, Cowan's sophomore offering shows none of the signs of that difficult second album." "Cowan is the master of entertaining dialogue. He allows us to connect with the characters through their rich and sometimes disgusting language." "I adored this book. It was face paced, exciting and full of humour. I couldn't wait to turn the page and finished it in a few days." PRAISE FOR ROBERT COWAN'S WORK: I don't know where Robert Cowan came from. Maybe he just appeared from a wormhole from the future. Maybe he was grown in a petri-dish and only unleashed on society when the scientists were satisfied that he wouldn't do any damage to us little people. Maybe. Probably not. Anyway, wherever he came from, he brought with him a quality book, and I'm glad he did." - Ryan Bracha, author of 'The Switched' and 'Dead man' trilogy "Cowan joins the ranks of a new breed of British novelists, telling their stories the way they want them told." - Mark Wilson, author of the 'dEadinburgh' and 'Lanarkshire Strays' series. "I have this thing about Scottish authors. There's a stack of really high quality writers putting out high grade work... And now in this list is Robert Cowan" - Keith Nixon, author of 'The Fix' and 'I'm dead again'. "The sort of dark humour Scottish writers excel at ... think Christopher Brookmyre"- Colin Wakeford, Musician "I expect many more great things coming by way of this author. I for one will certainly be the first in line to snatch them up." - Craig Furchtenicht, author of Dimebag Bandits.

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Customer Reviews

After reading *The Search for Ethan* I became an instant fan of Robert Cowan. This book only shows that he has not only further developed his craft but also expanded on his knack for getting into a character's head and relaying it to the pages. In fact, I felt like I was inside the character's heads as I read *Daydreams* and *Devils*. All the players are remarkable in their own way, but I found myself taking a shine to Johnny more than the rest. A sick part of me was also rooting for Vincent, especially during the scenes spent in supermarkets, teaching lessons in etiquette to unsuspecting customers. It is one of the few books that have brought me to that "aha" moment when all of the seemingly unconnected parts of the story come together. Very good showing by an up and coming indie author. Highly recommended.

This book will appeal to readers who enjoy gangsters and crime thrillers, as well as dark humor. It does, however, have a lot more to offer than that. There are unique and believable characters, and two intriguing story lines which keep you hooked and guessing as to when they are going to tangle. Anyone who enjoys coming-of-age style stories would also enjoy this book, not to mention anyone who thinks of themselves as a music fan. Also for fans of very British books/films. It is described as *Goodfellas* meets *The Commitments*, but felt more like *Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* meets *The Commitments*....read the complete review at [UndergroundBookReviews\(dot\)org!](http://UndergroundBookReviews(dot)org!)

recommend this book to people who like their stories brutally realistic without the airy-fairy bits. What could connect a publican bitter he'd lost his dream of becoming a professional football player, a boy who dreams of being a rock star and a particularly nasty bully/gangster? I certainly enjoyed finding out. The writing was fast paced and the dialogue gritty and realistic. This story could have taken place in the outskirts of any major British city. The observations are sharp and bring the story to life. Dark humour prevents the story becoming too depressing. There is violence in the book but it is integral to the story and the characters who enjoy inflicting pain. Beneath the violence and language there is isolation, fear, loyalty, friendship and the desire to belong. I especially liked the references to various music bands. An intriguing sharp read.

Daydreams and Devils is effectively two books in one. It's the story of a fledgling band taking its first steps on the rocky road to what its four members hope will bring fame and fortune, and it's also the story of a young man taking his own first steps in the employment of local (and extremely nasty) gangster, Vincent. Although these two main threads are seemingly unrelated at the beginning, the author skilfully alternates between them and gradually weaves them together to culminate in an edge-of-the-seat climax. Along the way, there's plenty of action, authentically snappy dialogue, some great imagery, utterly believable, well-rounded characters and a generous helping of humour. Robert Cowan clearly knows his stuff when it comes to being in a band and all the emotional turmoil that goes with it, but the gangster element of the book rings equally true to life. I only hope he doesn't have first-hand experience of that too! A highly recommended read, and I'll certainly be looking out for future books by this author.

Quite shocking and explicit at times it took me a while to get my head round the concept of the book. However, what struck me most about it in a good way from the start was the freshness of the writing. It flows really well and within the context the swearing and dark parts of the writing also fit and have their place. There is an authentic feel about these characters and their story. Had a friend not recommended this I might have never tried it but I am surely glad that I did. Having grown up with The Smiths and Morrissey there were many great passages in the book besides the dark elements and music talk. This may not be everyone's cup of tea but I strongly urge you to give this a try. It is well worth your time, especially when everything comes together towards the end. Rather inspired.

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