



# Untouchable

*Robert Innes*

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## **Untouchable** Robert Innes

Harrison Baxter lives on a farm with his parents, on the outskirts of the village of Harmschapel. It's picturesque, idyllic and tranquil – but Harrison is far from happy. His parent's marriage is strained to say the least and on top of that, his boyfriend, Daniel, has been mentally and physically abusing him for years. After he finds himself with one bruise too many, Harrison has had enough. But when he plucks up the courage to finally end his violent relationship, Harrison's life is changed forever when Daniel is found murdered in the most bizarre circumstances.

Detective Sergeant Blake Harte has moved to Harmschapel after his own relationship ended in tatters. But moving to a quiet village after working his way up the ranks in a city brings its own set of problems and Blake soon finds himself at odds with new colleagues who aren't used to his style of policing. But when he is called upon to investigate the mysterious and impossible murder at Halfmile Farm, Blake finds himself facing the most challenging case of his career.

So how can Daniel have been shot in a locked shed that nobody could possibly have escaped from?

Is anybody really Untouchable?

## **Untouchable Details**

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Author : Robert Innes

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## From Reader Review Untouchable for online ebook

??? Michaelle ♡?? says

3.0 Stars

I wanted to like this more; I loved the premise, the set-up sending this cop to a small village...but the execution left much to be desired. See, the "police work" was shoddy (and I know it's not the same in the UK as it is in the US, but I've read PLENTY of UK based procedural books and this AIN'T that) and honestly the characters were quite 2-dimensional.

The "romance" doesn't come into play 'til the epilogue; for the most part that kind of thing (or even fade-to-black) doesn't bother me, except for when the story itself isn't strong enough to keep me riveted. The drama was OTT and that plot was a bit ridiculous, too.

So, meh.

I'll give the second one a try but if things don't get better I doubt I'll go further.

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**Ami says**

I stumbled into Recommended Read (B+) review from Dear Author for this book -- so I decided to give it a try. Unfortunately, this came out as a big fat MEH for me.

First, the grammar/typo is atrocious. Usually I don't pay attention to grammar; I feel like I don't have the "rights" to complain of those since English is not my first language. But even I noticed the lack of proper editing for this one. Like sudden "He" with capital (H) in the middle of sentence, full stop (dot) instead of comma ... and the words "*was sat*" or "*was stood*" were really, REALLY weird to read (**edited to add:** apparently it is a British thing, so I guess I am just not familiar with it, sorry).

At first I found the mystery to be intriguing ... any murder that happens on a locked/closed room is. But then the lack of suspects (seriously, it's either A or B, that's it) and then the revelation just didn't feel like a "brilliant" closed room murder mystery. Plus I found the identity and what is being kept secret from everyone to be quite ridiculous.

I was also not too impressed with either Blake as the detective (trying to rile up the "local" by pulling ranks seem to be an a\*\*hole move) or Harrison as the (love) interest. The domestic abuse angle wasn't emotionally gripping for me as a reader so I couldn't build up sympathy towards Harrison.

Lastly, that nine-months jump didn't make the ending smoothly 'finished'.

So I don't think I'll be checking the sequel. I'm just not invested enough \*shrugs\*

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**Ulysses Dietz says**

Untouchable

By Robert Innes  
By the author, 2016  
Four stars

This is the first of Robert Innes' Blake Harte detective series. I liked it so much I bought the next two books immediately when I finished it. It is a fairly short novel, and there's the danger that this series will become like a bag of potato chips (or, as these are set in the UK, crisps); I may find myself devouring them all.

The core premise is that Detective Harte has left the big-city police force of Manchester because of a broken heart. He finds himself assigned to a small country town called Harmschapel, where everybody knows who he is, and everybody knows what everyone else is doing.

On Harte's very first day, a bizarre murder happens virtually in front of Harte and his fellow village policemen. It seems impossible, and Harte is challenged both with solving the mystery, and with finding his way into a new relationship with the men and women with whom he must work, his superior officer, and all those people who are now his neighbors. To make things more complicated, both the murder victim, Daniel Donaldson, and one of the chief suspects, Harrison Baxter, are gay.

Innes' writing is plain, and there is a very consistent use of incorrect grammar that leads me to feel that there's a regional British dialect going on. Or, perhaps, just careless editing. Where this book shines is in the careful characterization of the people we meet throughout the narrative. The intimacy of living and working in a small town is underscored by the way that everybody immediately refers to each other by their first names. Blake picks up on this right away. Blake is also the kind of detective who depends heavily on psychological understanding of all the players in the drama. He wants to know motivation as well as what sort of state of mind everybody is in. It is Blake's ability to see past the obvious, and get to people's emotional underpinnings that makes him so good at what he does, and makes the book so very engaging.

The story is a stand-alone, but the town and its people are all set up for repeat performances as the series goes forward. Imagine Agatha Christie's Miss Marple as a thirty-year-old heartbroken gay man, and you'll have the idea. It's a good idea for a series and I so look forward to the next chapter.

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## **Eugenia says**

### **Sweet Murder Mystery...**

...3.2 Stars.....This was a fun and quick murder mystery set in a small English village. Although there wasn't a lot of detail surrounding the investigation of the crime, there was a nice "how did they kill him?" aspect that I enjoyed. Like a riddle.

No romance here, although we witness the end of several romances for the main and secondary characters. We end with a nice romantic set-up for the next book.

Like I said....very easy to read super fast.

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## **Dawn Mayhew says**

Ever read a book that doesn't have any romance or sex scenes, and is a great read?? Well, get hold of this one, as this is definitely the case with this book.

I love the character of Detective Sergeant Blake Harte., he has moved to Harmschapel to start his life again, but not sure when he arrives if he has done the right thing or not. At first, he seems to be rather arrogant, but as the story goes on, you soon realise this is a front.

Harrison, you can't help but really feel for. He has been with his boyfriend Darren for years, but more recently has been subject to both physical and mental abuse. With his parents marriage looking really shaky, he keeps everything inside and nobody knows what turmoil he is in.

On the day that Blake starts his new job, the Police are called out to Halfmile Farm (which is where Harrison lives), and when Blake and his team arrive, it is to find there has been a murder.

Now I am not going to give anything away, but I love how this book was written with solving the murder. As you turn each page, you really get to know the rest of the team working with Blake, especially who he gets on with and who he doesn't.

This book kept me hooked, as just when I thought I had everything worked out, there would be a plot twist and everything changed. I really do look forward to reading more books by this author, and in this series especially. This book had plenty of sub characters, which gives the author plenty of scope to continue this series, and although there was no love interest for Blake, things may be changing but I will have to wait for the next book to see!!

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### **Denise White says**

#### **Awesome Read!!**

This was such an awesome read...the mystery was good and I liked the characters as well...the twist had my mouth falling open...it was a story with nice developed characters...I will definitely be following this author and reading this series!!! I can't wait for the next book!!!

BTW I finished this book in one setting...I couldn't put it down!! Enough said!!

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### **Misty says**

A well thought out cozy mystery set in the English countryside with an interesting bunch of characters. I can't wait to see how Harrison and Blake's story progresses. Great debut novella, well done Mr. Innes!

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### **Cara says**

Fantastic read, a real page turner that keeps you guessing and second guessing, yet you will never come close to really guessing the twist/s! Both clever and well thought out, it leaves you wanting more whilst on the edge of your seat. I do hope the author makes a series and it would also be amazing if adapted to screen. I finished it in a day, when usually I pick up-put down-books like a yo-yo, I had to complete it and enjoyed it

thoroughly.

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### **Ashley John says**

I received a copy of this book for early review and I loved every second of it! Imagine as episode of The Bill, crossed with an episode of Midsomer Murders and you'll land at Untouchable. Blake Harte is your not-so-typical big city detective who moves to a small village, where a murder happens on his first day at work.

It has all of the ingredients for a perfect murder mystery and I didn't crack the clues until the very head!

I'd recommend this book to anybody who loves a good head-scratching murder mystery and I'll be looking for more from Robert Innes!

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### **Linda ~ chock full of hoot, just a little bit of nanny ~ says**

DNF @ 22%

I could've muddle through the dry prose, I really could have. It lacked emotion, but it wasn't all telling/no showing. There was an attempt at showing in between all the info-dumping. But there were two things I just could not deal with:

1) The domestic abuse angle. It requires finesse and skill to tell this kind of story right, and I just wasn't feeling it here. It was very textbook. Maybe the execution of this plot line gets better as the story progresses, but I didn't have the patience to find out.

2) The grammar is terrible. Words are randomly capitalized in the middle of sentences. And Innes consistently, without fail, uses incorrect punctuation in all his dialogue. All of it.

*"I'm going to the store." She said.* - Incorrect.

*"I'm going to the store," she said.* - Correct.

This is Basic English 100.

Still, there are good bones here, considering this is the first story by this author. A better editor and some more filling in the corners, and you've got a promising story. It just isn't this story.

I can't comment on how the mystery aspect of it unfolds since I didn't get to that part before I gave up.

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### **Katrina Passick Lumsden says**

How does this have a 4.3 star average? Just...how?

First of all, the police procedures are just a joke. I understand this is a small village, but for the love of crime drama, it's embarrassing just how inept these cops are. Especially DS Harte, who's supposed to be some big shot, big city investigator. His boss, the chief or whatever, gets on his case about shit that he shouldn't be,

mainly in regards to one of Harte's colleagues, this completely unprofessional douche canoe named Gardiner who routinely disregards evidence, makes blanket assumptions, and at one point comes dangerously close to crossing an ethical and legal line in regards to questioning Harrison....but it's all okay, Harte is supposed to cut the guy some slack because Gardiner was up for the job that Harte was eventually hired for. So what does Harte do? He begins humoring Gardiner! In real life, cops like Gardiner routinely end up as subjects for IA and civil lawsuits, but I guess in the mind of Robert Innes, they're just tragically misunderstood everymen.

Secondly, the characters aren't likable. Not a single one of them. Harrison tries to be strong, and there might be an inkling that he could be, but it's never fully realized as, even when Harrison tries breaking up with his abuser, he still apologizes to him for certain things and repeatedly tries to justify the guy's abuse. There's even a point when the cops seem to feel sympathy for the boyfriend's plight and shake their heads at how tragic it was that he was turned into an abusive prick by circumstances outside his control.

Robert Innes....seriously, wtf?

Third, the solution to the mystery is ludicrous. The very idea that the guilty party spent their entire life hiding their true self from everyone save one person...? Please.

Finally, there's no romance. Like, none. You go into it thinking Blake and Harrison are going to be a thing, but nope, nothing, zilch, nada. Until the very end when, nine months later (epilogue), they might, maybe take something up...in the next book. I'm fine with zero romance as long as the story is good, but when you fail me on both counts, I won't be coming back for another go. An author's lame ass attempts at sexual tension which only serve as a catalyst for future book sales really piss me off.

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## Isabella ~Mikku-chan~ says

\*~~\*ARC kindly provided by the author to me in exchange for an honest review \*~~\*

I wasn't sure what I could expect when I started this book but damn, this is fine good crime case. This was so so good.

This great crime novel is actually one which I would recommend even to people who aren't reading gay romance normally because this is a stunning novel completely without having a romance or a gay minor storyline (for the main character).

The fact that only the investigator is gay and the suspect wasn't boring, neither was it too much and disturbing. The crime plot is built on the fact that one of the suspects is gay and was in a relationship with the victim. Also the fact that the crime was committed on the suspect's family farm. But behind the obvious there were so many secrets revealed.

Also it had underlining a depressing topic which is hard to deal with. But this gives the whole book its thrill, the suspense. :)

The main character, Blake Harte, is such a nice character. I instantly had a connection to him. :) He is... confident and a bit cocky sometimes in the book but always with a kind heart. He is also really attractive.

Who doesn't want to explore this handsome, hot character actually? I really was captured also was I so happy about his behaviour as a kind-hearted investigator but also as a bad ass colleague who isn't hesitant to say when he is pissed off – still in a charming manner even when his words can be really harsh. xD

What I also liked was the fact that the story included “new” aspect, even if those are small things. I really liked the fact Blake is smoking a e-cig instead of the “traditional” ones, it is naturally put in the story. Charming is the book also because of its british spelling of the words, the behaviour and acting of the character. :)

I will definitely read the next novel in the series and I hope that maybe Blake get's a light love interest in further books. :) He is so sweet, maybe we see the unexpected soon. It would rise the tension and it maybe pepps some cases up when there are conflicts of interests. :)

Review originally posted on my blog with added content Mikku-chan / A world full of words

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### **Laura says**

Untouchable introduces readers to Detective Sergeant (DS) Blake Harte, who is new to the small village of Harmschapel. A town that may appear quiet, but gives Blake quite a welcome. Blake is faced with a seemingly impossible to solve murder on day one. First day on the job and BAM! He gets a body in a locked shed! Who could have killed the man when he was safely locked away? This baffling mystery with a classic whodunit feel kept me guessing til the end.

After his relationship ended in lies, hurt, and humiliation, Blake decides to get away from everything he knows. He needs a change! So off he goes into the middle of nowhere for a new job position far, far away from his cheating ex-boyfriend and reminders of his broken heart. A new home filled with new colleagues, new jealousies, and a new town history to learn and uncover and master. Plus one hell of a mystery to solve while trying to find his way around the land and the people. I've always been a sucker for an outsider trying to find his/her way into a new place or crowd. And I like this town and cast of characters so far. There are townies to root for and boo at! :) Everyone from unhappy co-workers to gentle hearted suspects to goats named Betty play a part in this guessing game!

I enjoyed the quiet way this mystery has about it. The characters and place are introduced in a clear, full of life style. It's realistic and simple with dashes of hurt and humor. I can't wait to see the town's layers and secrets come to light as I move through the series. I'm looking forward to spending more time in Harmschapel with DS Harte.

Hope you give this one a try. It's a steal at just 99 cents! I already have book two ready to read.

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### **Marcella says**

This is the debut novel of Robert Innes.

Harrison Baxter is in his early 20's living on a farm with his parents in the small town of Harmschapel. Harrison feels trapped. Between his parents, who have a very strained relationship and his boyfriend, Daniel, who has been mentally and physically abusing him for a couple years, he just wants to be free from it all. He gets a partial wish when Daniel is unexpectedly murdered on his parents' farm.

Detective Sergeant Blake Harte finds himself in Harmschapel after transferring there in hopes of a new start after he discovers his boyfriend in bed with another woman. He wants to focus on work to avoid the pain of his ex-boyfriend's betrayal. However, his first day on the job will prove to be quite the challenge. First, he is already experiencing some friction with at least one of his colleagues. He is used to living in a big city where things are done a little differently. He has to learn quickly to be a team player to avoid alienating his colleagues.

Second, his first assignment is a murder under very interesting circumstances. The victim is shot in a locked shed with only one way in or out.

What a fantastic debut from Robert Innes. I was at the edge of my seat from start to finish. The murder mystery had me engaged in the story. I felt like I was one of the Detectives helping them to trying to figure the who and most definitely the how of this very interesting murder. It has been a long time since a book has left me at a loss for words. Just WOW!!

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### **Anke says**

Well, this was something different, for sure. But it was wonderful and I can't wait for the second book! Great writing, great storyline, great characters - and somehow it reminded me of Sherlock Holmes:)

And yes, this book was without a love interest and without any sex scene and you know what? It was totally captivating and I loved it.

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