



## Crackdown

*Bernard Cornwell*

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## Crackdown Bernard Cornwell

Honour and drugs don't always mix in the Caribbean . . . Nick Breakspear thinks he's opted for the easy life, but acting as nursemaid for the idle rich aboard the luxury yacht Wavebreaker in the Bahamas does have its downside. Especially when you come across a bullet-ridden boat not far from the infamous drug baron's hideaway island of Murder Cay. Most people would turn a blind eye. But Nick Breakspear isn't most people. Before long, Nick and the crew of Wavebreaker find themselves caught in the middle of a drug war between two equally matched and just as deadly forces. And neither side is taking prisoners . . .

## Crackdown Details

Date : Published November 28th 2006 by Penguin UK (first published 1990)

ISBN : 9780140177251

Author : Bernard Cornwell

Format : Paperback

Genre : Fiction, Thriller, Historical, Historical Fiction, Mystery, Adventure, Crime

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## From Reader Review Crackdown for online ebook

### **Sheri says**

My grade: B+. Bernard Cornwell is such a fine writer. I've yet to read one of his books that I didn't adore the protagonist. Conversely, I often find the protagonist's love interest a tad unlikeable, and Ellen was no exception, although I did warm toward her near the end.

Nick is a fine man--competent, confident and admirable. If the book was ever in any POV other than his, I suspect we'd find every woman he meets panting after him. He has quite a bit of baggage, but he works hard to lead a life he can enjoy and be proud of.

Getting started the book was a bit slow, but I loved the sailing parts. It was shocking when it turned and they were pirated by the drug cartel. Due to a corrupt system, Nick still mostly minds his own business until he and Ellen are threatened. Then all hell breaks loose.

I enjoyed the book, although it's not even close to my favorite Cornwell.

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### **C.G. Faulkner says**

Great contemporary thriller by Bernard Cornwell.

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### **Chuck says**

This one was a new experience for me. I am a Bernard Cornwell fan but I am familiar with him as a historian writing about medieval life and particularly battles and wars. The closest Mr. Cornwell came to contemporary work was a story about the American revolution. This is a story taking place in the 1990s Bahamas starring a young British charter sail boat captain. The owner of his boat accepts a charter from an American Senator for a three month trip to help his son and daughter withdraw from cocaine addiction. The story gets complicated from there. There are some unlikely scenarios but an interesting read.

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### **Zakgirl says**

Took me a while to get into this novel. Interruptions didn't help. It was one of my bedtime reads which can sometimes be a blessing and sometimes not. This was a not. However, the ending was very exciting and kept me reading the last two chapters in one sitting. The cheesy romantic ending had me dry-reaching. I felt also that the novel was somewhat dated. My favorite descriptive sentence was:

"A stream of tracer bullets whipsawed through the smoke, and I heard the thud of boots running..." I could almost give this novel a three if it had been a daytime read so take this review with a grain of salt ;)

## **Christian says**

After having read so many of Cornwell's historical novels I was really surprised how well he is writing a contemporary thriller. When the action in the end begins to escalate in full battle I was almost expecting Sharpe and Harper to emerge out of the gunsmoke.

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## **Ross says**

Having read all of Cornwells historical novels I am going through the four books of his thriller genre. This is the third I have read and I liked it a lot. I give it a 3.5 which is a high rating for me. The plot is believable and engaging and the characters appealed to me. As with all of Cornwell's work it is very well written. Also, like the rest of his thriller group, the setting has a lot to do with sailing.

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## **Graham says**

I decided to break new ground by trying this contemporary thriller out, wondering if Cornwell would be as good with modern-day thrills and excitement as he is with historical stuff. The answer's that he is!

This is the kind of book that reminds me of DEAD CALM, an isolated thriller with plenty of evocative description in the Caribbean locales. The story moves slowly at first but, because this is a short book, it soon builds up into an engaging thriller full of suspense and sustained tension.

While things end up with an island invasion that reminded me of COMMANDO, before then we get great little snippets of action – the exploding dog is etched in my mind – lots of arguments, debate, drugs and another likeable, everyman hero. A nice, concerted effort.

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## **Linda says**

The second reading was better than the first. The senator convinces Hawkspeare to take his coke addicted twins for a real boatripe that is dangerous and action packed. The plot was not as sound as I would expect of Mr. Cornwell. The senator's son was slick. Perhaps too slick to be believable. He 'set up' the crew and his twin, and I despaired they would ever get out the drug dealer' hands. In fact some did nceot.

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## **Mike says**

An interesting standalone story describing a situation wherein a number of regular folk with no particuar axe to grind are caught up in a drug conspiracy where violence pervades. All share competency in their work and lives, but none are particularly adept in the ways of violence. I suppose the story could be described as how "everyman" or "everywoman" might respond, because the primary characters could not have extricated

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themselves by themselves. Thus there is no Richard Sharpe or his ilk to persevere and fight his way out of the mess.

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### **Millstone says**

Thoroughly entertaining read. Plot not predictable. Quality of writing high. One highly memorable comic character. It's a pity he only wrote five of these!

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### **Dick Dubay says**

#### **Excellent as always**

Bernard Cornwell has the ability to bring characters to life like no one else. From the reticent former marine to the coke addicts to the senator and all the others. He brings the action to life and it's easy to get lost and not stop reading.

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### **Jonah says**

I found this to be up there with Cornwell's other sailing-related books. If it weren't his name on the cover, I wouldn't bother even picking it up, but he never fails to deliver a good story. This one is set in the 80s, and the story revolves around the drug trade, specifically cocaine, and is set in the Bermudas. Aside from some cultural references, it has aged rather well, and you are able (mercifully) to pretend it takes place in another era, when people had smaller hairstyles and wore less pastels and shoulder pads. The sad part is, I only have a few Cornwell books left to read...

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### **Angus Pratt says**

It is hard to write well about sailing. Unless you have sailed. And Cromwell clearly has. His descriptions of the joy of sailing in the Caribbean remind me so much of days (and nights) spent in the San Juan Islands on a sailboat. The plot is great and reminds me that not all that is as it seems on the water.

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### **Bob Harris says**

I've read several of Cornwell's historical works and this is quite a deviation. The detail with which he describes the trials of foul weather sailing is totally engrossing. Storyline is wonderfully twisted and convoluted so as to capture the reader. A good read.

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### **Sam Reaves says**

Sailing thrillers have a long history as a genre, including classics like *The Riddle of the Sands* and *Dead Calm*. The amazingly prolific Bernard Cornwell has managed to squeeze a few nautical yarns in between volumes of his Sharpe military adventures and other historical novels. In this one, an ex-Royal Marine British yacht skipper ferrying rich tourists around the Bahamas is asked to baby-sit a U.S. senator's drug-addicted son and daughter on what is supposed to be a drying-out cruise. It turns out... well, no spoilers; suffice it to say that they run afoul of drug smugglers, crooked Bahamian cops, an expat Ulsterman gangster pimping to the wealthy, and other shady types. The powerful presence of U.S. law enforcement and military prosecuting the drug war looms over all. It's a pretty good yarn, with lots of sailing lore, gunplay, sneering villains and damsels in distress. Cornwell's prose is a bit breathless at times and the action calculated to be cinematic, but if he is not the greatest prose stylist in the language, he always delivers an entertaining read.

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