



Born Bad: Collected Stories

Andrew Vachss

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Born Bad: Collected Stories

Andrew Vachss

Born Bad: Collected Stories Andrew Vachss

From a writer whose novels have been acclaimed for their unflinching exploration of evil comes a brilliant collection of short stories—some never before published—that distill dread back down to its essence—and inject it straight into the reader's back brain. Andrew Vachss might have scissored his characters from today's headlines: a stalker prowling around an anonymous high-rise; a serial killer whose transgressions reflect a childhood of hideous abuse; an inner-city gunman who is willing to take out a blockful of victims in order to win a moment of acceptance.

Tautly written and endowed with murderous ironic spin, **Born Bad** plunges us into the hell that lies just outside our bedroom windows.

Born Bad: Collected Stories Details

Date : Published August 23rd 1994 by Vintage Crime/Black Lizard (first published August 1st 1994)

ISBN : 9780679753360

Author : Andrew Vachss

Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Short Stories, Noir, Thriller

 [Download Born Bad: Collected Stories ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Born Bad: Collected Stories ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Born Bad: Collected Stories Andrew Vachss

From Reader Review Born Bad: Collected Stories for online ebook

Adam says

I don't question why Andrew Vachss chooses to write about the subjects he writes about--he's devoted nearly his entire life to working with abused children and prosecuting sexual crimes against minors--but that doesn't change the fact that this collection of short stories is almost unbearable. The nonstop litany of sexual violence, molestation, and incest (sometimes even told from the point of view of the assailant) in each of these stories always follows a predictable arc. Horror is piled upon horror, and finally ends with some kind of brief, unsatisfying revenge. Also, the fact that in each of these stories the police and courts are portrayed as ineffectual is particularly depressing considering the fact that Vachss himself is a lawyer. On the plus side, it's refreshing to read crime fiction in which the author actually has an understanding of criminal psychology and causality. Still, I probably wouldn't recommend it to anyone I know, and I'm not sure if this collection really does the world any good or if writing these stories was simply a way for Vachss to exorcise some of his demons.

The_Mad_Swede says

In an interview made sometime in the 90s, Andrew Vachss stated that he has ONE message, one tune, and regardless of whatever instrument one puts in his hands, that's the tune he'll play. The tune in question involves child abuse and the protection of children (especially as there is a cycle where the abused can easily become the abuser in time, monsters breeding monsters in a sense).

Fully in line with his own view of his role as a writer, Vachss writes the following in the introduction to *Born Bad*: "Writing isn't my work, it's an organic extension of that work. I may not be a good writer, but I write for a good reason." It should be added that the statement is overly modest. Vachss is a good writer. Given that the material in this collection is of varying quality, as is mostly the case with short story collections, especially ones of this type where play fragments and other writings have been included, but "the good reason" (driving Vachss' writing) is far from the only thing that makes this worthwhile to read.

Vachss depicts a raw and often fairly brutal world, seen both from the victims and the perpetrators (if not at the same time). In a lot of ways, Vachss moralises a lot, but it is moralising in a fashion that is thoughtful, that actually raises the right kind of questions – concerning whose rights counts, etc.

A slightly surprising element in the collection, though much appreciated, are the four included Underground short stories. Here Vachss creates a postapocalyptic world in a convincing manner and uses it as a background to his usual tune. Well worth reading!

Lee says

This was one of my best finds - in my library used book section. Vachss' first book of collections. His ever present stories on abused kids is very prevalent. The dark, dirty side of sections in New York, makes the reader not to want to be out at night in the big city. He had a few stories about a one named character named Cross - who turned out to be his anti-hero Burke, in a favorite series of mine. If I would have read this back when it came out - I would have already begun to like Vachss....before Burke!

Dementropy says

I've dodged this author for various reasons - mostly out of emotional and psychological self-defense. However, this is where one realizes that a difficult upbringing is really a sliding scale. While not discounting what others may describe as a hard childhood ("And then they, like, didn't give me \$40 to spend at the mall! Can you believe that? It's SO unfair!"), Vachss draws stories where no amount of disbelief needs to be suspended, as the characters and experiences can be found in every walk of life, if you know where to look. This collection of short stories is probably going to take a long while to get through, as it is punctuated by showers, anything that's unrelated to the subject matter, and just staring blankly and asking myself rhetorical questions like, "Are human beings really capable of this? And how can I call them human beings after reading what they've done?"

For those who haven't encountered Vachss yet, or are entangled in other literature:

Vampires do not sparkle. There are no werewolves that change shape to profess undying love. But there are monsters, and there are demons that try to keep the world dark so that they aren't called out for what they are. They fear the light, and usually suffer from a curse that is acquired through generations. These are the stories of the people who - through any means - break those curses.

tl;dr

Do not read this book if you wish to remain blissful of human nature, and think the 6 o'clock evening news is the only place where the bad people exist, on the other side of the screen.

Juanita says

Review: **Born Bad** by Andrew Vachss.

I don't know why I'm even going to write a review on this one. I thought it was a terrible book. However, I did read it cover to cover. I figured it wouldn't get any better as I read on but what the hell I made it to the end.

There wasn't any original ideas. It was all shot stories of crime but I don't even think they were short stories. There was nothing to them. There was no real story, no characters of interest, not even a plot to consider. They were all just parts of a story that never materialized into anything but undisruptive and confusing words.

I checked some of the other reviews and there were many who rated it high. I like to know what made sense to them that I missed.

Bryce Wilson says

When you buy an Andrew Vachss novel you're helping to fight evil.

Vachss is a damn fine writer and his novels and short story have a gristle and bone toughness to him that other Crime Writers can only dream of.

Sadly, this comes well earned.

For Vachss writing is a sideline, used to fund the pro bono legal work he does defending abused children. His work can be hard to read, and this collection of short stories, unfinished novels and plays and other bits of ephemera show him at his toughest. It's not exploitation though. It's almost the opposite, he wants you to know.

Steve Dennie says

A collection of short stories from the man who writes one of my favorite series, the Burke series of "urban noir." I'm not a big fan of short stories, which is why this book, along with a later collection, has sat on my shelf for many years. But I decided to give it a try. Wow, Vachss is good! Many are very short--only 3-4 pages. Vachss' trademark themes--his hostility toward child abuse and all kinds of sexual abuse, and his love for dogs (and use of them to wreak justice)--are on prominent display in these stories. If they're not, the story probably involves a criminal or someone living on the edge of the criminal world. Excellent stuff.

Larry Bassett says

I am reading short stories for a while because I am having trouble keeping the details of long stories in my mind. Short attention span maybe. Closed head injury maybe. I have recently finished reading the Burke series by Vachss and had some problem with the level of complexity as the series concluded. So I didn't enjoy the books at the end of the series as much as I enjoyed the books at the beginning. This book of short stories is nearly twenty years old – from 1994. I am pretty used to reading older books. I just finished a book of short stories that was first published in 1935. So this one is pretty new!

I am feeling like a book vigilante right now. My message: you don't need to read this book! Several years ago I picked up Vachss books because I thought his war against "freaks" – child abusers – was a just war that needed fighting. In spite of having put in some time as a frontline child abuse and neglect worker, I thought that there was something he could tell me about a solution to the problem. But as I begin to read *Born Bad*, I find mostly retaliation, retribution, revenge. I am struggling to figure out what I think we should do about evil in the world. I believe that, yes, there is evil. But I just can't accept that some people are born bad and need to be eliminated. I think things happen to create evil people, that every infant has a potential for good but that sometimes that potential gets derailed. Call me a bleeding heart liberal if you want. I think bad things happen to good people, sometimes when they are very tiny. I have a hard time buying into evil genes!

Reviewing a book is passing judgment. I gave *The Devil All the Time* two stars because I thought the violence went too far. I gave *Just Babies* five stars because I thought it was uplifting and shined a positive light on human potential. I do not favor banning books but I am trying to learn to suggest you read this one and not that one. We all have limited reading time and have to make choices. Goodreads is one resource that can help make those hard choices. But you do not see too many single star reviews for some reason.

I hate to start reading a book and then stop. But somehow I have to practice putting books down that do not help me grow. I am consciously putting this book down to make space in my life to read a book that is better for me. And I am giving this book one star as a warning to others. My input for what it is worth.

Jacob says

A surgeon wielding a scalpel and cutting into your conscience with each precise movement. Not easy to read due to content and sad truth.

Ramzi says

Large collection of short stories varying in quality but averaging somewhere between 3 and 5 pages in length. Stories themselves are all written well enough (trademark Vachss style) but only about a third of them are really interesting or developed well. Typical Vachss plotlines, half of which seems to be from the perp's pov, the other half from the avenging angel's.

Stories I liked:

Anytme I Want

Cain

Bandit (favorite)

Kidnap

Date Rape

Family Resemblance

Hostage

It's A Hard World

Plan B

Placebo

Step On A Crack

Stone Magic

Unwritten Law

Treatment

Bad Babies

Warlord

I'd recommend this to hardcore fans of Vachss only. Not much I could get here that I couldn't get out of his other "longer" work.

M says

Andrew Vachss knows about the seedy side of the world. Showing his knowledge of criminology in his stories, Vachss reminds us all that the evil can lurk right outside the door. Born Bad often showcases the nature vs. nurture argument, with tales that deviate from children who develop a predeliction for violence to broken adults who have barely survived the world. I am not usually one to follow authors, but I had to head back to the library to read more of his collections.

Al says

From a writer whose novels have been acclaimed for their unflinching exploration of evil comes a brilliant collection of short stories—some never before published—that distill dread back down to its essence—and inject it straight into the reader's back brain. Andrew Vachss might have scissored his characters from today's headlines: a stalker prowling around an anonymous high-rise; a serial killer whose transgressions reflect a childhood of hideous abuse; an inner-city gunman who is willing to take out a blockful of victims in order to win a moment of acceptance.

Tautly written and endowed with murderous ironic spin, **Born Bad** plunges us into the hell that lies just outside our bedroom windows.

A collection of dark tales from author Andrew Vachss

Shawn Bramanti says

Most reviews of Andrew Vachss' books are similar, hard material portrayed in an unflinching style. Most of his characters you would not like to meet. That being said an interesting and compelling read. I liked the mix of stories, a little horror, a bunch of science fiction, and a good mix of his more familiar cast of characters.

Anita Dalton says

I know, I always say I will never read another Vachss book and then I always do. His endings always infuriate me. All that tension, all that tight writing, all that intense noir and it ends with a big bang of nothing. I hate it and yet I keep reading.

But this time, I am so happy to say, Vachss gets almost everything right. The stories sickening, upsetting, morally depraved and just plain nasty, and every one of them has a decent ending, the sort of ending that means you don't regret having read it.

This is an excellent collection that mines all the veins Vachss is so famous for, and in a collection of 46 stories, only two or three are clunkers. That's a pretty good ratio, if you ask me.

Never mind this borderline giddy reaction - I'm just glad that my decision to keep reading Vachss has finally been vindicated.

Also less Asian fetishization. So there's that.

So I recommend this book. Truly.

Sharon Michael says

Didn't like this collection of short stories as well as the other collection I read. Some were great ... one was enough of a kick to the gut to make me put it down for a week ... there were several 'screen play' type short stories I didn't care for.

Very typical of the author's writing, however, bleak, grim and incredibly memorable.
