



Dark Times in the City

Gene Kerrigan

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Danny Callaghan is having a quiet drink in a Dublin pub when two men with guns walk in. They're here to take care of a minor problem - petty criminal Walter Bennett. On impulse, Callaghan intervenes to save Walter's life. Soon, his own survival is in question. With a troubled past and an uncertain future, Danny finds himself drawn into a vicious scheme of revenge.

Dark Times in the City depicts an edgy city where affluence and cocaine fuel a ruthless gang culture, and a man's fleeting impulse may cost the lives of those who matter most to him. Kerrigan's new novel is his finest yet; gripping from start to finish, powerful, original and impossible to put down.

Dark Times in the City Details

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Author : Gene Kerrigan

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From Reader Review Dark Times in the City for online ebook

Charles says

You'll assume that Danny Callaghan is the protagonist and the story will follow the typical hero's path. You'll assume when the narrative shifts from Danny's POV that it is just a brief digression. By then you'll be half way through the book and begin to realize that Danny isn't all this book has to offer. Maybe this isn't the same old road you've been down many times before. The mean streets are familiar but you're taking a different route.

AC says

My third Kerrigan novel and each is superb. For those who like the genre, I *highly* recommend these books. Absolutely authentic, gritty, complex plotting, but the author holds and pulls all the strands together with a deft hand, rich characters, depth of observation...

Patrick O'Neil says

Young thug upstarts take on the old school gangsters with a "I wanna do the right thing" ex-con caught in the middle. Decent plot, but I found the characters stereotypical - but then Irish thugs actually do tend to be in real life. I'm giving it a four because I can dance to it.

christopher Long says

Kerrigan writes no nonsense prose. His story flows and characters evolve effortlessly. His depiction of Dublin and the "Celtic tiger" that left so many behind is first rate. Everything is grey, even the worst villains are touched with a warped humanity.

Matt says

I love reading foreign crime novels, because I often have no idea if what I'm reading is cliché or not. It's very liberating.

Jeffrey Cavanaugh says

A stunning, page-turning crime thriller that captures the dark essence of the genre. I don't think a better book of this type could be written.

John Pullen says

I get pulled into Kerrigan's stories like few others. If you like crime novels with memorable characters and writing like Pelecanos or Lehane, try Kerrigan.

Rob Kitchin says

In Dark Times in the City Kerrigan gives as a good a portrayal of the relations between the new, vicious and ambitious gangsters and the older generation of Dublin's underworld, and the ordinary folk caught in cross-fire. The writing is taut, using short half page to two page scenes to drive the narrative along. The prologue is good, but then I struggled to get into the story for the first 15 pages or so. After that the pages kept turning. The reason I think I had trouble with the opening was revealed in part three of the book which jumps back in time to provide the back story as to why Walter Bennett was the target of an assassination. Personally, I think the book would have worked a little better if it had started with this section. I don't think it would have mattered if the reader wasn't introduced to Callaghan until 40 or 50 pages in as the back story grabs immediately. Kerrigan is good at writing about the police and I would have also preferred to have had more scenes involving them, particularly Bob Tidey, who looked like he was going to develop into a great character and then all but disappears. Similarly there is a sub-plot with Oliver, Callaghan's neighbour, that wasn't as fully developed as it could have been. These though are just personal plotting preferences and the book does work as is. Dark Times in the City was an enjoyable read, though for my money not quite as good as Kerrigan's other books.

Bob says

There's no question that as a crime junkie that Irish crime is, for me, among the best in the genre, whether set back during The Troubles or just later day crime. The list of too notch writers in the field goes on and on.

This one, from Kerrigan, is a dandy, an ultra violent gang story. It features a couple of really likeable good guys, one especially, caught up in a whirlwind of bad activity and more than several well drawn crime boss bosses who propel the plot forward.

If this is your thing too, it's as good as it gets.

Havers says

Der irische Autor Gene Kerrigan ist gelernter Journalist, und dass ihn die wirtschaftliche und politische Situation in seinem Heimatland umtreibt, ist den zahlreichen Beiträgen zu entnehmen, die er seit vielen Jahren für unter anderem für den Sunday Independent schreibt. Ebenfalls aus seiner Feder stammen zahlreiche Sachbücher, aber auch einige „schwarze“ Kriminalromane. Von letzteren sind mittlerweile zwei in der deutschen Übersetzung im Polar Verlag erschienen: „Die Wut“ und „In der Sackgasse“, wobei dieser bereits 2009 im Original erschienen ist.

Wie bereits in dem Vorgänger ist auch in Kerrigans aktuellem Roman „In der Sackgasse“ der Handlungsort Dublin. Die Immobilienblase ist geplatzt, der „keltische Tiger“ zu einem Kätzchen mutiert, die Finanzkrise

steht vor der Tür. Nicht nur das Großkapital ist aufgeschreckt, auch innerhalb der Dubliner Unterwelt haben die Revier- und Verteilungskämpfe begonnen, denn Ganoven jeder Couleur wollen sich noch ihr Stück vom Kuchen sichern. Natürlich kommt hierbei auch den eine oder andere gewaltsam zu Tode, aber das wird in diesem Milieu billigend in Kauf genommen.

Aber es gibt auch noch schwere Jungs mit einer persönlichen Moral. Bestes Beispiel hierfür ist Danny Callaghan, nach einer längeren Haftstrafe gerade frisch aus dem Knast entlassen. Acht lange Jahre hat er abgesessen, verurteilt wegen Totschlag an einem windigen Typen namens Brendan Tucker, dessen Bruder Rache geschworen hat. Aber das ist nicht das einzige Problem, das Danny hat, denn auch einer der großen Bosse der Dubliner Unterwelt ist hinter ihm her, hat er dessen Handlangern doch durch die gewagte Rettungsaktion eines Kleinkriminellen die Tour vermasselt. Danny gerät zwischen die Fronten, es scheint, alles wären alle verfügbaren Gangster nicht nur hinter ihm, sondern auch hinter den Menschen aus seinem persönlichen Umfeld her. Und plötzlich muss er Dinge tun, die er eigentlich mit seinem Gewissen eigentlich nicht vereinbaren kann, um diese zu schützen.

Wenn es um Geld, Macht und Einfluss geht, unterscheiden sich die Methoden skrupelloser Anzugträger kaum von denen der Kriminellen. Da wird gedroht, erpresst und Gewalt angewendet, um den letzten Aufrechten in die kriminelle Spur zu bringen. Diese Botschaft vermittelt der Autor in seinem Roman. Integrität, persönliche Moral und Anstand bleiben auf der Strecke, wenn es nur noch darum geht, die eigene Haut zu retten. Kein Wunder, dass sein Protagonist „in der Sackgasse“ landet.

Kerrigan fängt die Atmosphäre in der irischen Metropole jenseits der Glaspaläste ein und entwickelt ein stimmiges Panorama dieser Zeit vor dem Crash. Natürlich ist das für uns bloße Spekulation, aber so könnte es durchaus in der Dubliner Unterwelt abgegangen sein. Tempo von Anfang an, ein sympathischer Protagonist und diverse unerwartete Wendungen machen aus „In der Sackgasse“ eine spannende Lektüre.

Mike Gabor says

Danny Callaghan is having a quiet drink in a Dublin pub when two men with guns walk in. They're here to take care of a minor problem - petty criminal Walter Bennett. On impulse, Callaghan intervenes to save Walter's life. Soon, his own survival is in question. With a troubled past and an uncertain future, Danny finds himself drawn into a vicious scheme of revenge.

An excellent book. Dark and gritty. The main character of Danny Callahan is terrific. He's made his share of mistakes but is trying to do the right thing now and that is costing him. His friend Novak is also a likable character, someone you would want to be friends with. The story is told in a clear and precise manner with occasional flashbacks to fill in the backstory. The clash and differences between the new and old Irish mobsters is also very interesting. I never felt that the story lagged at any part and I found Danny Callahan's thoughts and actions to be very believable. I'm really hoping that the author brings Callahan back as there are some unresolved issues but even if he doesn't this is still a very, very good book.

Darren says

Cruelly authentic. A very fine crime novel

John Sheehan says

This is a great book, one that I would heartily recommend to any fans of Irish crime noir. This is the second of Mr. Kerrigan's fictional novels I have read (he also writes non-fiction), and I'm looking forward to reading the others.

The story is set in the Irish underworld, in the years since the financial meltdown. The lead character is just out of prison after serving time for murdering an up and coming crime boss. As he adjusts to life outside of prison while trying to stay out of trouble, he finds himself in the wrong place at the wrong time as he saves the life of a petty criminal marked for death for informing to the Guards. The story works its way to a thrilling conclusion that will have your heart pounding.

The characters are well drawn, their motivations believable, and the settings and locales are evocative of Dublin in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Tuck says

noir of modern Ireland, where the neighborhood thugs have been replaced by wanna be global mafia, but things are still personal, brutal, and Machiavellian. Lots of hard choices, horrific violence, dirty cops, conflicted excons, . super book for that.

Mikee says

Damn good book! Cold and gritty and violent, but couldn't put it down. Kerrigan is the best!
